



VIRGINIA  
TECH

# Global University

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## Perspectives

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



Virginia Tech is well underway in implementing its international strategic plan, which has been approved by the administration and the Board of Visitors. This plan feeds in to the university's strategic plan for 2006-2012, which was presented to the Board in June. In the university plan, outreach and international programs are redefined as part of the "engagement" domain.

For the international piece in the university plan, each college at Virginia Tech has developed its own plan with a strong commitment to international programs. To implement the strategic plan, new resources have been proposed which will have some set-aside funds to enhance Virginia Tech's foreign language teaching capabilities. We expect some new resources will be directed to enhance our education abroad programs. For that, we shall not only grow in the number of students we plan to send for education abroad, but we also plan to diversify destinations around the globe. The Education Abroad office is installing software to enhance our capability in database management as well as in the tracking of students while they study abroad. Additionally, Virginia Tech's

*see Perspectives, page 4*

## President Steger, Rector Davenport Attend India/Tech IT Program Graduation

### Sookhan Ho

On April 1, 26 students in India received degrees from Virginia Tech as a result of an unusual partnership between the university and one of India's top business schools.

The students received a master of information technology from Virginia Tech and a postgraduate diploma in systems management from the S.P. Jain Institute of Management and Research in Mumbai. The graduation ceremony, held at the S.P. Jain Institute, was attended by Virginia Tech President Charles Steger, Board of Visitors Rector Ben Davenport, Pamplin College of Business Dean Richard E. Sorensen, and other university representatives.

The students have received 35 job offers, with salaries above the industry average in India, according to Sunil Rai, a professor and chair of the program at S.P. Jain, which stresses management leadership and has established

partnerships with major information technology companies in India that provide guidance on current practices and technology.

Launched in fall 2004, the graduate program in India is an extension of Virginia Tech's award-winning Master of Information Technology (VTMIT) program, which offers business and engineering courses wholly online for full-time professionals. The India program, however, combines online instruction with face-to-face classroom instruction by faculty members that include Virginia Tech professors who travel to India to teach.

The original goals for the VTMIT included making it available internationally, for it to be "broadcast without boundaries," said Tarun Sen, associate dean for graduate and international programs at the Pamplin College of Business, which runs the program for the university.

*see India, page 3*

## Dean Schurig – Investing in Internationalization at the Vet School

### Miriam Rich

The Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine (VMRCVM) is the only one of Virginia Tech's eight colleges that does not have undergraduate students. Yet, it is no different from Tech's other colleges in its active pursuit of international collaboration. Dean Gerhardt Schurig sees to that. "There is so much to learn and so many possibilities for interaction in the international arena," he asserts.



Dean Gerhardt Schurig

"It's good for students to get out there and see how things are done in other places. It's good for them to learn that there are different ways of doing things and understanding things," says Schurig.

But, we're talking about the vet school here, and an animal is an animal, is an animal, right?

Not exactly. Different cultures approach animals differently, and there are many

*see Schurig, page 8*

## Virginia Tech launches new graduate engineering program in Egypt

**Karen Gilbert**

A new graduate engineering program in Egypt now serves the Middle East and North Africa region. Virginia Tech is offering master's and Ph.D. degrees in electrical engineering, computer engineering, and computer science to students in Egypt. Nine students participated in the program's first semester. The number of students enrolled is expected to double this spring.

The Virginia Tech-Middle East and North Africa (VT-MENA) program is being hosted by the Arab Academy for Science and Technology (AAST) at its Alexandria Campus (<http://www.AAST.edu>). It is also supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and endorsed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

VT-MENA is treated as an "extended campus", much like Virginia Tech's Northern Virginia campus. Classes are taught face-to-face in Egypt or using videoconference communication with faculty at Virginia Tech.

Sedki Riad is the director of international programs for the College of Engineering and the director of VT-MENA. He works closely with faculty and deans to strengthen the international



The Arab Academy for Science and Technology curriculum and related extra-curricular educational experiences. Riad is a professor of electrical and computer engineering (ECE) at Virginia Tech.

For students from Egypt, participating in VT-MENA costs less than traveling to and residing in the United States to obtain a graduate degree in engineering. The program provides access to Virginia Tech's programs. It also affords new opportunities for women and professionals in Egypt.

Three Academy for Science and Technology faculty, Mohamad Abou El-Nasr, Ibrahim Imam, and Mahamed Khedr, traveled to Virginia Tech on sabbatical last semester. Allen MacKenzie, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering at Virginia Tech, taught in Egypt last fall. The other two instructors at AAST were Ayman Abdel-Hamid and Waleed Fakhr. Dennis Kafura, professor of computer science and department head, and Tim Pratt, professor of electrical and computer engineering, taught VT-MENA courses from Virginia Tech by videoconference. Ayman Abdel-Hamid and Mohab Mangoud from the Academy for Science and Technology were on sabbatical at Virginia Tech this spring, and Lynn Abbott, associate professor of electrical and computer engineering, taught in Egypt in the spring semester. Bill Tranter, the Bradley Professor of Electrical Engineering, and Dennis Gracanin, assistant professor of computer science, taught the VT-MENA videoconference courses this spring.

## OIRED Sponsors International Biodiversity Symposium

More than 100 biodiversity conservation and agricultural researchers and development specialists from around the world came together at the 1st International Biodiversity Conservation in Agriculture Symposium to discuss and learn how wild biodiversity can be conserved in agricultural areas around the world. The Symposium was held in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic from May 31 to June 2. The goals of the symposium were to better understand the importance of biodiversity, explore how biodiversity conservation can be integrated into agricultural development activities, and demonstrate why biodiversity conservation is essential to sustainable development.

The Symposium was sponsored by two Virginia Tech Office of International Research, Education, and Development (OIRED) programs: the Integrated Pest Management and the Sustainable Agricul-

ture and Natural Resources Management Collaborative Research Support Programs, with support from the U.S. Agency for International Development and the PUNTACANA Ecological Foundation.

Keynote addresses included Magnitude and Overview of Global Biodiversity Loss - Jeff McNeely, World Conservation Union, Ecoagriculture: Integrating Agriculture and Biodiversity Conservation - A Landscape Perspective - Sara Scherr, Ecoagriculture Partners, Biodiversity - What is it and Why is it Important? - Jon Erickson, University of Vermont, and Biodiversity, Agriculture, Markets, and Trade - Paul J. Ferraro, Georgia State University.

More information on the symposium including abstracts and presentations from presenters can be found on the SANREM CRSP website at [www.oired.vt.edu/sanremcrsp/other/biodsymposium.php](http://www.oired.vt.edu/sanremcrsp/other/biodsymposium.php).

### 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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## Tech Launches Global Sustainable Agriculture and NRM Program

Virginia Tech's Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resources Management Collaborative Research Support Program (SANREM CRSP) recently awarded nearly \$6 million in long-term research funds to five projects addressing sustainable agriculture and natural resource management in 11 countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The goal of SANREM CRSP is to improve livelihoods and the sustainability of natural resources management in developing countries by providing decision-makers in developing countries with improved access to data, knowledge, tools, and methods of analysis that will enhance their capacity to make better natural resources management decisions. The five funded research projects will use participatory research methods to link sustainable natural resources management with the social and economic concerns of local people who depend on the natural resources for their livelihoods. Although each project is independent, cross-cutting themes that the projects address include: technology integration; good governance; economic policy and enterprise development; social and institutional capacity building; biodiversity conservation and environmental services; and globalization, vulnerability, and risk. All projects seek to improve stakeholder livelihoods via the development, cataloging and transfer of technologies for increased income generation, stakeholder empowerment, enhanced resource management, strengthened local institutions, improved market access for small-holders and communities, and sustainable and environmentally sound development.

The research projects are being conducted by a consortium of

approximately 40 U.S. and foreign universities, International Agriculture Research Centers, non-governmental organizations, and private sector partners. The five funded long-term research projects and their lead investigators and institutions are:

- ◆Decentralization Reforms and Property Rights: Potentials and Puzzles for Forest Sustainability and Livelihoods, Dr. Elinor Ostrom, Indiana University
- ◆Developing A Participatory Socio-Economic Model For Food Security, Improved Rural Livelihoods, Watershed Management, & Biodiversity Conservation In Southern Africa, Dr. Alex Travis, Cornell University
- ◆Watershed-based Natural Resource Management in Small-scale Agriculture: Sloped Areas of the Andean Region, Dr. Jeff Alwang, Virginia Tech
- ◆Adapting to Change in the Andean Highlands: Practices and Strategies to Address Climate and Market Risks in Vulnerable Agro-Eco Systems, Dr. Corinne Valdivia, University of Missouri-Columbia
- ◆Agroforestry and Sustainable Vegetable Production in Southeast Asian Watersheds, Dr. Manuel Reyes, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

The SANREM CRSP project is managed by Virginia Tech's Office of International Research, Education, and Development with funding by the U.S. Agency for International Development. Additional information on the SANREM CRSP program is available at: <http://www.oired.vt.edu/sanremcrsp>.

### India, *continued from page 1*

Virginia Tech's joint venture with S.P. Jain is unusual, Sen said. Though several U.S. schools have helped foreign universities launch educational programs, most have not offered their own degree programs abroad. Such an initiative, Sen noted, extends and builds on an institution's engagement in international programs.

"Our own students have been participating for many years in study-abroad programs led by our faculty. Foreign students have long been coming to Virginia Tech to study. And some of our faculty members have done teaching stints at universities abroad," Sen said. "It is natural and perhaps necessary, given the state of technology today, that we also reach out and offer our degree programs in other countries." Doing so, he said, enhances the university's visibility and may bring more foreign students to the campus to earn other degrees.

Sen believes that "broadcasting" education without boundaries may be particularly appropriate in information technology - a global business. "The IT industry needs people with the skills and knowledge to perform effectively in many parts of the world, he said. By offering our IT programs abroad, we are helping to increase the number of people who are educated and trained in information technology and U.S. business and management concepts, and who also understand the cultural aspects of doing business in their home countries." A globally trained workforce, he said, helps U.S. technology companies, most

of which are looking overseas to enhance their revenues and profits.

Other Virginia Tech representatives who traveled to India for the ceremony were S. K. De Datta, associate provost for international affairs; John Dooley, vice provost for outreach and international affairs; Glenda Scales, associate dean for distance learning and computing in the College of Engineering; and Gene Fife, a Virginia Tech alumnus and retired chairman of Goldman Sachs International.

In addition to attending the graduation ceremony, the group also visited the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in New Delhi, the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research in Mumbai and IIT in Chennai to discuss undergraduate exchanges and research as well as other collaborations. The group also visited the Ashok Leyland company in Chennai, and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University in Coimbatore, where Virginia Tech has a biotechnology project funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development. In Chennai, President Steger hosted a reception and dinner for Virginia Tech alumni.

De Datta, who directs the Office of International Research, Education, and Development, and Dooley went on to Bangladesh to meet with Bangladesh president Iajuddin Ahmed and review a Virginia Tech project in pest management that is also funded by USAID.

## Tech Professor Orden Plays Role in WTO Negotiations

Trade is a potential stimulus for development and has been an objective of the on-going negotiations to bring the world's poorer countries more fully into a rules-based multilateral trading system. The "Doha Round" of World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations was launched in late 2002 and will end this year.

During the past three years, the WTO talks have been the focus of research and policy education by Agricultural and Applied Economics professor David Orden. On full-time leave from Virginia Tech at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in 2003-2005, Orden returned to the classroom last spring, while continuing to hold a joint appointment as an IFPRI Senior Research Fellow.

Agricultural reforms are widely seen as the linchpin that will determine the degree of trade liberalization achieved in the Doha Round of negotiations. Early in the negotiations, key developing

countries targeted the agricultural subsidies of wealthy countries as a critical arena from which reforms had to emerge. Research by Orden and his colleagues has demonstrated that trade liberalization has positive effects on development and poverty, when countries that have a comparative advantage in agriculture are penalized by restricted market access.

Orden has traveled around the world making presentations at policy conferences and workshops in Africa, China, South Asia, and Europe, and in Washington, D.C. One of his projects demonstrates that nearly 2 million farm people in Pakistan could be lifted above the poverty line by the increase in cotton prices that would occur if subsidies and trade barriers were completely eliminated. But, Orden warns, this round of WTO negotiations will not deliver anything close to that level of trade reform.

## Perspectives, *continued from page 1* .....

involvement in the Atlantic Coast Conference has allowed it to collaborate with these universities in international education.

In the international strategic plan, we proposed that there will be at least five regional strategies in the most important regions of the world, consistent with the globalization of opportunities and international collaboration. Among the five regional strategies, one is already in place, and has been for about 12 years—the Center for European Studies and Architecture (CESA), in Riva San Vitale, Switzerland. A number of education abroad programs have been offered at CESA. A faculty development program was initiated in 2005 that included faculty members from different colleges. Also in 2005, CESA hosted a retreat for the board of visitors.

The second most advanced regional strategy is operational at the Center for Caribbean Education and Research (CCER) in Punta Cana, the Dominican Republic, and serves the Caribbean region. A recent highlight was a semester-long program of six courses taken by 12 Virginia Tech undergraduate students. Joseph Scarpaci from the College of Natural Resources at Virginia Tech has provided leadership in implementing this 18 credit-hour course of study. Brian Mihalik of the Hospitality and Tourism Department in the Pamplin College of Business taught a two-week course at the CCER. And, in late May/early June, OIRED/Virginia Tech hosted a *Biodiversity Conservation in Agriculture* symposium with funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development. The symposium was co-hosted by our USAID-funded IPM and SANREM CRSP projects, managed by OIRED, and co-sponsored by the Punta Cana Ecological Foundation. It attracted nearly 100 participants from around the world.

In late March and early April, a delegation led by Virginia Tech President Charles W. Steger and Rector of the Board Ben

Davenport, and including the Chair of the Virginia Tech Capital Campaign for University Development Gene Fife, Vice Provost for Outreach and International Affairs John E. Dooley, Dean of the Pamplin College of Business Rich Sorensen, Associate Dean of the College of Engineering Glenda Scales, and me, went to India primarily to attend the graduation ceremony for 28 Tech graduates receiving Masters in Information Technology (MIT) degrees through a joint program with the S.P. Jain Institute for research and management. I coordinated the logistical arrangements and scheduling of visits to universities and institutes throughout the country. We continue to work on collaborative programs in India and China.

Most recently, Antonio Nieto, assistant professor in the mining engineering department, and I visited Guanajuato, Mexico to discuss the possible establishment of Virginia Tech's Americas Center for Education and Research (VT-ACER) with the University of Guanajuato as the principal collaborating partner with CONACYT (Mexico's National Science Foundation equivalent) and the State of Guanajuato as funding sources. Substantial progress was made during our visit toward establishing the center in Latin America. We visited the Rector of the University of Guanajuato, Dr. Arturo Lara Lopez, and the Governor of the State of Guanajuato, the Honorable Juan Carlos Romero Hicks.

The business model will be different for each center since the CESA model is not appropriate to other regional centers. The most important criteria in establishing these centers will be to articulate a clear vision, to encourage scholarship as we develop program priorities, and to look at the sustainability of the center. We believe that the implementation of the international strategic plan will help in enhancing global connectivity for Virginia Tech to become a truly world-class university.

## First Semester-long Program Held at Caribbean Center

Virginia Tech's first semester-long program at its Center for Caribbean Education and Research (CCER), "Culture, History and Environment in the Dominican Republic," commenced January 14, 2006 with 12 students. The program consisted of 18 semester hours taught by six VT faculty in two-week modules. Classes and dormitories for these programs are located at the Punta Cana Biodiversity Center in the eastern Dominican Republic, with which Virginia Tech has signed a Memorandum of Understanding.

Faculty from biology (Jerry Via, Karen Duca), geography (Lisa Kennedy, Joseph Scarpaci), Foreign Languages and Literatures (Antonio Fernández), and Wood Science (Tom Hammett) taught this semester.

As part of a service-learning project for Scarpaci's Geography of Middle America class, students worked with Dominican teachers of English in a private and a public school. The schools are located in Verón, a shanty town a few miles from the Biodiversity Center. Teams of three students took public buses to the schools twice a week. Scarpaci brought down two overhead projectors that form part of the English classes. Michelle James-Deramo of VT's Service Learning Center was instrumental in getting photocopies of the classroom English textbooks so the Virginia Tech students could plan and coordinate with local instructors.

Students discussed their experiences on the VT Blacksburg campus as part of Scarpaci's state-side version of the Geography of Middle America.

### College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

#### Brannan in Mali As Part of USAID Project

Kevin Brannan, Research Associate in the Department of Biological Systems Engineering, was in Mali in February and March as part of a USAID-funded project in collaboration with scientists from Mali, Senegal, and Gambia, and from the University of Hawaii. The team investigated methods to improve water management, increase carbon sequestration, and ensure food security for small-holding farmers of the Sahel.

#### Harper Works in Jamaica on Pig Project

Allen F. Harper, Extension Swine Specialist at the Tidewater Agricultural Research and Extension Center, participated in the *Partners of the Americas - Jamaica Pig Project* in February and March. While in Jamaica, he visited pig farms to assess current farm pig manure practices, conducted group and individual advisory sessions, and developed recommendations for future directions in manure management.

### College of Architecture and Urban Studies

#### Hirt Spends Summer Conducting Research, Outreach in Southeast Europe

Sonia Hirt, Assistant Professor of Urban Affairs and Planning, is spending the summer conducting research and outreach activities in Southeast Europe. She is examining the characteristics of suburban forms that have developed in the outskirts of Sofia, the Bulgarian capital, and Belgrade, the capital of Serbia and Montenegro, since communism ended in 1989. She is also building relationships with faculty from Sofia State University and the University of Belgrade.

#### Breitschmid Serves Visiting Professorship in Munich

Assistant Professor of Architecture Markus Breitschmid served a visiting professorship at the School of Architecture at the University of Technology in Munich, Germany (Technische Universität München). Breitschmid was in residency in Germany during the second semester of the European academic year 2005-2006. While in residence at Munich, Breitschmid taught at the Institute for Design Methodology and conducted research on the Bavarian architecture historian and theoretician Richard Streiter.

#### Russ Cargo Leads NGO Workshop in Bahrain

A workshop in Bahrain, "Volunteers for Change," featured Russ Cargo, Co-Director of the Institute for Governance and Accountabilities, as the keynote speaker and facilitator for a series of workshops for NGO leaders. The conference helped to strengthen the capacity of NGOs in Bahrain and included such topics as volunteer management, fund raising, and board roles and responsibilities, and was held at the Shaikh Khalifa Institute of Technology in Muharraq, Kingdom of Bahrain. Cargo also spent time in February and March assisting in the development of the governance capacity of Arab Civitas, an alliance of Arab countries engaged in civic education programs.

### College of Engineering

#### Clark Speaks in India on Microwave Processing Materials

Materials Science and Engineering Department Head David Clark was an invited speaker at the INFO-US Workshop on Microwave Technology for Materials Processing in Mumbai, India in February. Internationally known for his work in microwave processing materials, Clark spoke to a global audience on the use of microwave energy for crystallizing glasses and for waste treatment and recycling applications.

#### Librescu Serves on Symposium Advisory Boards

Liviu Librescu, Professor of Engineering Science and Mechanics and Affiliate Professor of Aerospace and Ocean Engineering, served as a member of the International Advisory Board of the First International Symposium on Design Modelling and Experiments of Adaptive Structures and Smart Systems (DeMEASS I) in July in Turin, Italy, and will serve on the International Advisory Board for the Third International Conference on Structural Engineering, Mechanics and Computation to be held in September 2007, in Cape Town, South Africa. He was also invited by the Department of the Aerospace Engineering of La Sapienza the University in Rome, Italy,

to spend one month this summer as a visiting professor, to continue ongoing research activity with the members of that department. Reports on that research have been presented at the International Congress on Thermal Stresses in Vienna in July 2005. Librescu has been appointed a Distinguished Visiting Professor at the La Sapienza University in its Department of Aerospace Engineering, and has received a research grant to collaborate with Italian scientists at that institution.

### **Puri Speaks at Combustion Design Workshop**

Professor Ishwar Puri of the Department of Engineering Science & Mechanics gave a plenary talk at the International Workshop on the Role of Combustion Diagnostics in Design and Control in January. He was also one of the conveners of the workshop.

## **College of Liberal Arts and Human Science**

### **Wemhoener Teaches Writing to Medical Professionals in Tanzania**

Jane Wemhoener, a professor of English, taught a Professional Writing Workshop in Moshi, Tanzania, for medical professionals at Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre in collaboration with Duke University Medical Center last summer. The course was co-taught with Mark Armstrong, also of the Department of English. Wemhoener has been invited by the Commonwealth of Virginia to participate in the *International Education Summit: Virginia in 2015* with the purpose of developing input and direction for a strategic plan for future international education initiatives in Virginia's schools.

### **Saffle Working on WWII "War Children" Account in Finland**

Last fall, Sue Saffle, professor of English, attended two conferences in Finland and one in Sweden to meet with former Finnish "war children": survivors of World War II who were shipped from Finland to Sweden for safety's sake. Saffle is collaborating on an English-language account of these war children and the impact transportation had on their subsequent lives and on Finnish culture. She was invited to return to Finland and Sweden this summer to conduct more interviews.

### **Natter Hosts Social Theory Consortium**

Wolfgang Natter, professor of Political Science and ASPECT (Alliance of Social, Political, Ethical, Cultural Thought), was host to the 7th annual meeting of the International Social Theory Consortium in May, held at the Hotel Roanoke. The conference theme was "Theorizing Power in the post 9/11 World." For more information, see <http://www.aspect.vt.edu/>.

### **Harrington and Becker Become Co-Directors of Riva Spring Program**

Trudy Harrington and Andrew Becker, Department of Interdisciplinary Studies and Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, became co-directors of the Spring Semester Undergraduate Program at Virginia Tech's Center for European Studies and Architecture in Riva San Vitale, Switzerland. They will coordinate the academic course, the faculty, select the students, and plan the academic trips during the semester. This program is run by the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, but, as the curriculum is designed to fulfill core requirements, it is open to students from any college and any major. Harrington and Becker are currently the directors of a summer program at the center, scheduled to run again in summer 2007.

## **College of Natural Resources**

### **Burkhart Speaks in Canada On Post-harvest Forestry**

Harold E. Burkhart, University Distinguished Professor and Head of the Department of Forestry, was the keynote speaker for a Conference on Post-Harvest Stand Development held in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada in January. His keynote provided an overview of developing growth and yield models for managed forest stands, with emphasis on installing and maintaining long-term field studies and on incorporating data from a host of sources for calibrating reliable stand simulators.

### **Kennedy Leads Habitat Field Trip in Dominican Republic**

Lisa Kennedy, Assistant Professor in Geography, participated as an instructor in a Spring 2006 Virginia Tech semester abroad

in the Dominican Republic in January and February held at the PUNTACANA Ecological Foundation. Kennedy took students on an 8-day field trip to explore Dominican habitats, including tropical broadleaf cloud forest, pine-forested highlands, and semi-desert environments. Kennedy, the undergraduates, and two graduate teaching assistants, Arvind Bhuta and Amos Desjardins, carried out a small research project in the high-elevation pine forests.

Kennedy has also begun a project in paleotempestology, which focuses on the reconstruction of prehistoric hurricanes, in coastal lagoons of the Dominican Republic. Kennedy and graduate student Amos Desjardins are studying lake sand deposits which can be dated and the record of hurricane frequency can then be tied to oscillations in large-scale climate phenomena, and used to help predict future hurricane landfalls.

## **Pamplin College of Business**

### **Mihalik Leads Study Abroad Class in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic**

Brian Mihalik, Associate Dean of the Graduate School and Professor in the Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management, organized and led two three-credit hour classes to the Punta Cana Biodiversity Center in the Dominican Republic. Ten undergraduate students studied sustainable tourism development and the impacts of mass tourism on the environment. Four MBA students also engaged in a Graduate Consulting Practicum class and undertook an Airport Exit Survey of departing international visitors who visited the Punta Cana region.

### **Khan Speaks on Hospitality**

Mahmood A. Khan, Professor of Hospitality & Tourism Management at the Northern Virginia Center, was an invited speaker at the International Summit on Service Excellence held in January in New Delhi, India. His presentation was on "Service Delivery Processes: An Insight into Excellence in Hospitality Industry." He was invited to serve on the editorial board of the *Journal of Services Research*. He presented a module on marketing and sales for hospitality and tourism management for MBA students

enrolled at the SP Jain Management Center, in Dubai, UAE in February, served as external examiner for a Ph.D. dissertation at the University of Delhi, India, was invited by the University College of Technology and Management in Malaysia to serve as external examiner, and continues to serve on the Board of Trustees of the International College of Hospitality Management, an affiliate of the Cesar Ritz Institute in Switzerland.

#### **Poppo Presents in Spain, China**

Laura Poppo, Pamplin professor in the Department of Management, made several presentations of papers around the world last summer, including: “The Influence of Uncertainty Reduction and Emotion on Relational Norms in Younger and Older Buyer-Supplier Relations” at the 5th International Workshop on Strategic Alliances: Governance and Contracts, in Barcelona, Spain, and two papers discussing governance issues in China’s newly emerging economy at the Academy of Management meetings in Hawaii in August.

## College of Science

#### **Carlier Gives Seminars in Hong Kong**

Paul Carlier, Associate Professor of Chemistry, spent three weeks at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) in December and January. Carlier met with students and faculty in the departments of Chemistry and Biology at HKUST and gave two invited seminars. Carlier is an Adjunct Associate Professor of Chemistry at HKUST and has a long-term collaboration with the university on drug therapy for early-stage Alzheimer’s Disease.

#### **Renardy to Lecture in Shanghai**

Michael Renardy, professor of Mathematics/Science has been invited to present a series of ten lectures on the Mathematical Analysis of Viscoelastic Flows at Fudan University in Shanghai in July 2006.

## Centers, Institutes, Labs and Other Units

#### **VBI’s Sobral Forging Collaboration with Latin American Institution**

Professor Bruno W. Sobral, Executive and Scientific Director at the Virginia Bioinformatics Institute (VBI), along with VBI faculty have been spearheading a collaborative initiative with FIOCRUZ, one of the leading research institutes in public health in Latin America. The purpose of this collaboration is to forge a partnership between both institutions that will take advantage of complementary strengths in biomedical research.

#### **James-Deramo of Outreach Developing Community Service Summer Exchange**

Michele James-Deramo, Director of the Service-Learning Center, has collaborated with her counterparts at Tecnológico de Monterrey in Mexico to develop a bilateral summer exchange that focuses on community service. She visited Monterrey to meet her colleagues, finalize program details, and visit the communities where the Virginia Tech students will volunteer while they are in Mexico. The program will host six students from Monterrey during the first summer session while sending an equal number of Virginia Tech students to Mexico during this same period.

#### **IDDL’s LaBoone Gives Presentation in Saudi Arabia on Distance Learning**

Emet LaBoone of the Institute for Distance and Distributed Learning was invited to deliver two presentations at Effat College in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. He spoke at the college’s *Fourth Annual Symposium on Learning & Technology: Bridging the Divide* on “Improving Teaching and Learning at a Distance” and “Creating Effective Tutorials with Multimedia.” The symposium provides a forum for educators to disseminate information related to current and future innovations in the use of educational media and technology within the teaching and learning process.

#### **Evans of Capital Region Gives Land-Use Planning Talk in China**

Gary Evans, director of Virginia Tech’s natural resources distance-learning consortium for the Capital Region, presented the opening lecture at the Sino-U.S. Training Program of Land Use Planning in Chengdu, Sechuan Province, China, last November. He spoke about the history of America’s public lands from the colonial period to the present. After the conference, Evans and Mark Schaffer with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, traveled to the Jiuzhaigou National Nature Reserve and Huanglong World Heritage Site along the northern edge of the Sechuan Province border. China and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) are working together to develop tourism in this region with planning focusing on preservation of the unique Tibetan cultures and mountainous ecosystems.

#### **Libraries Working with Other Universities on Dissertation Archive**

Virginia Tech has developed a partnership with universities in Brazil, Germany, and South Africa, as well as in the U.S., to develop a prototype of the first international digital archive of electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs). It is also working with Florida State University and Georgia Tech. Virginia Tech leads the world with its ETD initiative and was the first university to require graduate students to submit their theses and dissertations electronically, beginning in 1997. The results of the international ETD archive prototype test will be presented at the 9th International Symposium on ETDs in Quebec City in June. Project leaders are Gail McMillan, Director, Digital Library and Archives; and, Kamini Santhanagopalan, a graduate student in Computer Science.

## Schurig, *continued from page 1*

immigrant communities in the United States with a variety of views on what is best for their pets. Also, vet students here can learn a great deal by studying how other societies deal with animal-borne diseases, which may not be present in the United States, but may get here eventually, such as bird flu.

For this reason, Schurig believes, providing students and faculty with international study opportunities is tremendously

important. Long before he was dean of the college, Schurig worked to make this a reality.

In 1996, Schurig collaborated with faculty at the Universidad Austral de Chile (Austral University) and the University of Chile in Santiago to set up an exchange program. This program provided an opportunity for senior vet students in Chile to come here and gain experience in American teaching hospitals, as well as for Tech students to gain such experience in Chile.

In November of last year, VMRCVM, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and the College of Natural Resources signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Austral University which further solidified the relationship. As part of the agreement, Austral University established an honors program for

undergraduates in which selected fourth-year honor students are eligible to participate in undergraduate research projects at Virginia Tech over several months. They then return to AU, and those students who demonstrate outstanding performance are considered for admission to an appropriate

Virginia Tech Ph.D. program.

By providing opportunities for junior faculty from Austral University to study and earn a Ph.D. here, Schurig says, "we

are building their professoriate of the future."

As much as Virginia Tech is already doing, Schurig cautions that "if we want to be really serious about internationalization, the university would need to provide colleges extra full-time employees to specifically devote to international expansion."

"Furthermore," he suggests, "we should have a program wherein we invite top people from the ministries of agriculture and health, for example, to attend special symposia or courses here. You'd be connecting with the top movers and shakers who would be inclined to send professionals from their institutions to complete doctorate degrees here and return to their countries in leading positions. This would be a good investment."

Until that time, Schurig will do his

part to continue to promote international opportunities for faculty and students at the VMRCVM. International exposure not only expands vet students' horizons, it also provides them with additional job opportunities. "We have graduates who work for the Food and Agriculture Organization [of the United Nations], the Pan American Health Organization, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, to mention a few," Schurig says.

"Our vision is to extend our efforts and provide even more exchange opportunities for our students."

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**Gerhardt Schurig** has been Dean of the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine since 2003, but has been a professor at the VMRCVM since 1978. His research interests include brucellosis - an infectious disease that is passed from animals to humans. He is the inventor of the "B. abortus strain RB51 vaccine," the only official USDA vaccine for cattle Brucellosis and one used by many countries in Brucellosis eradication programs. He has spoken at numerous international conferences on this subject. He speaks fluent Spanish and German.

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