

Virginia Tech Has a New Provost



Mark McNamee began as the new provost on August 10. He was recently dean of the division of biological sciences at the University of California-Davis. McNamee's program at UC Davis administered nine undergraduate majors in biology with more than 3,600 students and twelve graduate programs with more than 500 students. His division also oversaw the biotechnology program, the life sciences informatics program, and campus-wide centers in neuroscience, animal behavior, popula-

tion biology, genomics and genetics and development.

"Considering the future direction of the university and Dr. McNamee's record of scholarship and academic experience, I know he is well suited for leadership at Virginia Tech," said Virginia Tech President Charles Steger.

Since 1993, McNamee has overseen the academic unit at UC Davis, where he was responsible for programs in biology. Prior to that he was chair of the department of biochemistry and biophysics from 1990-93.

"I am thrilled by the opportunity to work at Virginia Tech. I am impressed by the quality of the programs as well as the direction the university is heading. The university has or is developing

leadership in so many areas that have tremendous potential—such as information technology, biotechnology, many engineering disciplines, and many other areas across a broad range of disciplines. Tech seems to be in the right place at the right time and can take advantage of those dynamics," said McNamee.

As university provost, McNamee is the university's chief academic officer responsible for all of the undergraduate, graduate, off campus, and research programs of the university.

"We were impressed with Dr. McNamee's understanding of the unique role for the nation's land-grant research universities. He has a well-seasoned perspective about universities. I was particularly impressed with his appreciation for the role of the arts and humanities in sustaining the academic vigor of a robust modern university," added Steger.

Peter Eyre, dean of the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine and chair of the search committee, became quite familiar with McNamee's work and reputation. According to Eyre, "The search committee was struck by the unqualified high regard his colleagues have for him. He has made tough decisions at UC Davis, but his colleagues still have tremendous respect for him." McNamee worked to merge eight academic departments into six while head of all the biological science programs.

McNamee earned his B.S. degree in chemistry from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1968 and his Ph.D. in physical chemistry from Stanford University in 1973. He was a postdoctoral associate at Columbia University from 1973-75. He joined the UC Davis faculty as an assistant professor in 1975. He and his wife, Carole, have three children.

Perspectives

*From the desk of Dr. S.K. De Datta,
Director of the Office of International Research and Development (OIRD), Outreach Division,
Office of the Provost, and Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences*

With the installation of Dr. Charles E. Steger as President in January 2000 and the selection of scientist/administrator Dr. Mark McNamee as the new Provost, Virginia Tech has geared up to become a world class university with a goal of becoming a top 30 research University. What is the role of OIRD in this momentous mandate? Let us review OIRD's past performance before discussing the future. Over the past ten years, OIRD has grown from a single faculty and two staff funded by the Commonwealth to an entity encompassing nine faculty and six staff supported primarily by donor-funded projects. During the same period, OIRD has served all university colleges and taken advantage of opportunities to involve a large number of faculty and a significant number of students, most of whom have been graduate students.

OIRD coordinates the university's technical assistance and international collaborative research and educational activities in developing countries, exchanges knowledge and technologies with other developed countries, and assists in incorporating international dimensions into the teaching, research and outreach

missions of the university. OIRD accomplishes this mandate primarily through garnering and managing donor-funded projects.

Given this mandate, it is natural that over the last ten years OIRD has involved many faculty from the Colleges of Natural Resources and Agriculture and Life Sciences. The international donor community is primarily responding to need-based expectations from the developing countries where the United States has had a tremendous advantage over other developed countries. OIRD has expanded beyond this focus and achieved marked success in involving other areas of Virginia Tech's strengths that lie in the other six colleges. For example, OIRD has involved the College of Arts and Sciences in the USAID Global Bureau-funded Integrated Pest Management Collaborative Research Support Program (IPM CRSP); the Sustainable Agricultural Natural Research and Environmental Management CRSP; and the Community-Based Natural Research Management (CBNRM; USAID Senegal Mission-funded); Development of Biopesticides for Locust and Grasshopper Control in Sub-Saharan Africa (USAID Africa

Notables

Faculty Involvement Around Campus

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences is entering its fourth year of international exchange programs for undergraduate students. During Spring Semester, 10 Virginia Tech students and **James McKenna**, Professor in Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences (CSES), traveled to the University of the Orange Free State in Bloemfontein, South Africa for a semester-long academic experience. This Fall Semester, 12 Orange Free State students will be coming to Virginia Tech with a faculty member in Agronomy. A second exchange is with the University of West Indies (UWI) in Trinidad and Tobago. Two Virginia Tech students attended UWI over Spring Semester and were accompanied by **Ozzie Abaye**, Associate Professor in CSES. **Ross Byers** went with a group of midwestern fruit growers on a tour of Northern Island (New Zealand) Tree Fruit and Grape Industries from February 19–March 4 and brought back information on the health and vitality of the New Zealand fruit industry, the availability of new cultivars, spray equipment technology, retail and wholesale marketing, and organic fruit and vegetable production and packaging. **Diane Relf**, Professor of Horticulture, gave a talk on “Effect of plants and green environment on human beings” at the 38th Conference of the German Society for Horticultural Science on March 2 in Osnabrück, Germany. On March 5, she spoke on “Human Issues in Horticulture” at Movium, the Centre for the Urban Environment, at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in Alnarp, Sweden. And on March 6, she presented two lectures on “Therapeutic potential of horticulture and effect of plants and green environment on human beings,” to a graduate class in Department of Landscape Architecture also at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences. **Brian Storrie**, Professor of Biochemistry, was a consultant to the Center for Molecular Biology at the University of Heidelberg in Germany during the first year of an international Ph.D. program in Molecular Cell Biology from the summer of 2000 through the summer of 2001. This experiment in German university education bypasses the normal German university requirement for a Diplom degree (a US master-like degree) before beginning graduate work. Storrie taught two tutorial sessions in cell biology for this program in May.

College of Architecture and Urban Studies

Building Construction professor **Flynn L. Auchey** presented a paper in Loughborough, UK in July on his work with PRISM (Project Risk, Identification, and Selection Model), entitled “Successful Project Procurement using the PRISM Model.” PRISM is a web-based project that can be used by company management to pre-qualify construction projects prior to allocating significant resources to bidding projects. From May 21-June 28, adjunct professor of Landscape Architecture and Biology Professor **Arthur Buikema** and Entomology Professor **Richard Fel** taught a course entitled “Tropical Ecology,” which looked at the comparative ecology of the Southern Appalachians and Costa Rica using neotropical migratory birds as the link between both systems.

Architecture Professor **Humberto Rodriguez-Camilloni** headed up “The Majesty and Mystery of Peru,” a 13-day tour of Peruvian ruins, ancient art and artifacts, and the flora and fauna of Peru from June 25-July 7. Architecture Professor **Jack Davis** and Associate Dean for Outreach and Professional Program **Bob Dunay** took alumni and faculty members to the Center for European Studies and Architecture in Riva San Vitale Switzerland July 15-20 for a program called International Architecture & Design (IAD). Now in its sixth year, IAD is a continuing education course for architects and designers who enjoy a first-hand view of the historical and contemporary forces shaping the design professions in the international setting. Professors **Larkin Dudley**, **Jim Wolf**, **Gary Wamsley**, and **John Rohr** at the Center for Public Administration and Policy presented papers at the Public Administration Theory Network Conference in Leiden, the Netherlands on June 25-26. Landscape Architecture Professor **Terry Clements** and Architecture Professor **Marcia Feuerstein** led “The Landscape and the City,” an interdisciplinary summer travel program in Western Europe from May 14 to June 9. She was also a delegate at “edra32,” the annual conference of the Environmental Design Research Association, at The University of Edinburgh, Scotland from July 1 - July 7. There she also gave a presentation titled “Locating Questions - Questioning Locations” on graduate and undergraduate architectural thesis studies and designs as research. **Bob Dyck**, Professor of Urban Affairs and Planning (UAP), organized a panel discussion for the World Planning Schools Congress held July 11-15, 2001 in Shanghai. The topic was “A Comparison of Globalization and Sustainability Issues in Beijing, Shanghai, and the Pearl River Delta.” In late July, Dyck also participated in a meeting with David Peat, Director of the Pari Center for New Learning, in Pari, Italy to discuss a new book that Dyck is cooperating on regarding sustainability and economics. Architecture Professor **Marco Frascari** at the Washington-Alexandria Architecture Center served as an external examiner for the end-of-year review at the Architectural Association in London, England. Architecture Professor **Warren Kark** has been responsible for the development of the campus master plan for Isik University, to be constructed in Sile, Turkey, located approximately 60 km west of Istanbul. During spring semester, architecture professors **Mike O’Brien** and **Heiner Schnoedt** team-taught an architecture class on Building Technology. The classroom, students, and professors were “split” between locations—some in Blacksburg with O’Brien, and others with Schnoedt at the Center for European Studies and Architecture (CESA) in Riva San Vitale, Switzerland. Lectures were streamed to CESA from Blacksburg. CESA students sent back digital photographs and sketches from their site visits of Swiss construction sites, which Professor O’Brien in turn used for the class in Blacksburg. **Jesse J. Richardson, Jr.**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, spent six weeks in June and July in France, Spain and Switzerland as part of the inaugural Environmental Semester Study Abroad program at VT’s Center for European Studies and Architecture in Riva San Vitale, Switzerland. Richardson, along with Waldon Kerns and David Lamie from the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, taught students during a tour of France and Spain from June 23-June 30 on land use, agritourism and environmental issues. From July 2-July 30, Richardson taught the students UAP 4374, Land Use and the Environment. This course, a regular offering in the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, was modified for the study abroad

program to allow students to compare land use and environmental issues and policies across continents. **Joseph L. Scarpaci**, Professor in the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, led the College of Architecture and Urban Studies' first alumni trip to Cuba on March 1-10, 2001. A similar trip will be held over Spring break in 2002, and a portion of the alumni program fees will be earmarked for student scholarships during the regular Cuba study abroad program for VT students. In July, the academic literary magazine *Lingua Franca* named his coauthored book, *Havana: Two Faces of the Antillean Metropolis* (Chichester, Wiley) to its "breakthrough book" list. This comes on the heels of an American Library Association's "Choice" Book Award. The University of North Carolina Press and the Casa de las Américas (Ministry of Culture, Cuba) will publish an updated second edition of the book in 2002.

College of Arts and Sciences

History Professor **Linda Arnold**, at the invitation of the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters at the Universidad Autónoma de México, presented two special lectures for faculty and graduate students on Mexican archival research and resources on May 18 and June 22. Arnold, who has nearly thirty years of archival research experience, is recognized in Mexico as an expert on holdings in many public and private archives. **Jacqueline Bixler**, Professor of Foreign Languages and Literature, has made three recent trips to Mexico. The first, in December 2000, was to sign an MOU for an exchange program with the Universidad Veracruzana in Xalapa. The second, in May 2001, was to present a series of lectures on dramatist Emilio Carballido at the Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León in Monterrey. And the third, in July 2001, was to present a paper on two contemporary Mexican female playwrights at the IX International Conference on Latin American Theatre, in Puebla. The conference also included a presentation of the Spanish translation of her book, *Convention and Transgression; the Theatre of Emilio Carballido*, which was published in March 2001 by the Universidad Veracruzana." **Bob Bodnar**, Professor of Geology, gave two presentations in May in Oporto, Portugal. The first, on May 2, was an invited keynote talk at the European Conference on Research on Fluid Inclusions on "Fluid inclusion studies of extraterrestrial samples." On May 5, he spoke at a special celebration of Oporto as the European Cultural Capital for 2001. The theme was "The Future of the Future," and Bodnar spoke on "The Search for Water and Life in the Solar System." Professor **Belinda King** of the Department of Mathematics gave plenary lectures on the design of reduced order controllers at the 25th South African Symposium on Numerical Analysis and Applied Mathematics at the University of Stellenbosch in Stellenbosch, South Africa, April 9 - 11 and at the conference on Plurality in Distributed Parameter Systems at the University of Twente, Enschede, the Netherlands, July 2 - 6. Professor **John Lee** of the Department of Computer Science, as the IEEE Computer Society representative to the Governing Board of the International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP), represented the United States at the IFIP Council meeting in Anacapri, Capri, Italy on March 5-9, presenting reports on US activities related to Digital Libraries, Entertainment Computing, and the History of Computing. He also represented the United States at the IFIP Technical Committee meeting on the Social Impact of the Computer in Namur, Belgium on May 18-20, and presented reports on US

activities related to Codes of Practice and Intellectual property rights. Also at Namur, as a guest of Namur University, he participated in the 25th Anniversary of the Department of Computer Science celebrations in a panel session on the "Governmental Management and Control of the Internet," giving a presentation on "US Attitudes towards Governmental Management and Control of the Internet." **Elizabeth Struthers Malbon**, Professor of Religious Studies in the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, presented a paper entitled "Christology Refracted: What the Markan Jesus Says Instead" to the International Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature meeting in Rome, Italy, on July 11. On May 30th, **James E. McGrath**, Professor of Chemistry, presented the following invited lecture at the Europolymer Conference 2001: "Polymeric Electrolyte Membrane Nanocomposites," which was held in Gargnano, Italy, May 27 - June 1, 2001. In June, History Professor **Amy Nelson** conducted archival and library research in St. Petersburg and Moscow, Russia on the Russian Society for the Protection of Animals, a nineteenth-century Humane Society that was loosely affiliated with other European Animal Protection organizations. **Joseph Pitt**, Professor of Philosophy, delivered a paper, "The Dilemma of Case Studies," at the International Workshop on Critical Issues in Science and Technology Studies, held in Graz, Austria at the Institute for Advanced Studies on Science, Technology, and Society, June 7-9, 2001, where he also participated in a panel on "Teaching STS." He delivered another paper, "Against Meaning," at the 12th International Biannual Meetings of the Society for Philosophy and Technology, held at the University of Aberdeen in Aberdeen, Scotland from July 9 -11, 2001. Pitt was also the respondent to a series of papers in a session entitled "Joseph Pitt's Philosophy of Technology" at the same meetings. **Donald J. Shoemaker**, Professor of Sociology, was a visiting Professor of Sociology at the University of the Philippines, Diliman campus, for the Spring, 2001 semester. While at UP, Professor Shoemaker team-taught a course on deviant behavior, worked on two research projects (one concerning campus organization conflicts, the other on patterns of youth deviance in Metro Manila), and worked as an advisor to graduate students in sociology. **Howard E. Sypher**, Professor and Head of the Department of Communication Studies, taught an undergraduate class on "Communication and Change: International Perspectives" in Paderno del Grappa, Italy, as part of the Consortium of Business Schools program through the University of Kansas in March and April, 2001. In March 2001, Sypher also lectured in Finland and gave the keynote address on "Communication, Technology and Change" at the Finland Virtual University Seminar at the University of Jyväskylä in Jyväskylä, Finland. **Beverly Davenport Sypher**, Professor of Communication Studies, has been studying the use of radio to assist widely scattered communities in the Amazon in maintaining and strengthening cultural ties. **Neels Van der Schyf**, Research Associate Professor jointly in the Peters Center of the Department of Chemistry and the Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology (VA/MD Regional College of Veterinary Medicine), has been a visiting professor in the College of Health Sciences at Potchefstroom University in South Africa since 1996 and travels there once a year. When Professor Van der Schyf travels to South Africa later this year in October, he will continue work on collaborative projects with colleagues at Potchefstroom University, oversee graduate student research there, and present a number of seminars. **Janell Watson**,

Professor of French, organized and led the VPI & SU summer study abroad program in Paris, from July 27 - August 2, 2001. Sixteen undergraduate students from VT received course credit for studying French language and culture at the Alliance Française, and for participating in educational excursions in and around Paris.

College of Business

Robert D. Jewell, Assistant Professor of Marketing, recently presented a paper on “Resolving Conflicting Findings on the Effects of Self-Referencing: The Role of Informativeness” at the Fourth International Research Seminar on Marketing Communications and Consumer Behavior in La Londe, France, June 5-8. The purpose of the paper was to reconcile conflicting findings from the consumer behavior domain of self-referencing. **Jay Lambe**, Professor of Marketing, presented a paper entitled “An Integrated View of Brand Alliances” at the Marketing Science Conference in Wiesbaden, Germany on July 6. Brand alliances are an increasingly occurring form of marketing strategy, which involves two or more companies combining their brands in a joint marketing effort. An example of a brand alliance is MSNBC—Microsoft and NBC’s network, cable and internet news and entertainment venture. Lambe’s co-author is Dr. Anton Meyer, who is the chair of the marketing department at Ludwig Maximillians University in Munich, Germany. Lambe’s paper examines the mechanisms that determine brand alliance performance and suggests areas for future research. Dr. Lambe has been conducting brand alliance research with Dr. Meyer and Ludwig Maximillians University for almost two years. They have been surveying and interviewing German companies that engage in brand alliances, including Lufthansa, Bogner, and SAP. On June 28, in Glasgow, Scotland, **George Morgan**, Suntrust Professor of Finance, presented a technology briefing for the “Connect Scotland” conference entitled, “Wireless Broadband: Coming? or Going?” The presentation gave an overview of the fixed wireless broadband markets, the possible market niches being fought over, and prospects for the future given the failures in the United States of several broadband and wireless companies. The audience included engineers, business executives, academics, and technologists from the thriving “Silicon Glen” area of the U.K. From May 14 – July 1, Morgan and **Dilip Shome**, Professor of Finance, led a successful seven-week residential study abroad program entitled “Finance and Technology in the UK and Ireland” with main base in London. This was the first time that a Pamplin program (open to students from across the university) was organized around homestays for students on a summer study abroad program. Students took a course on science and technology in Victorian Britain from University College London faculty as well as a course on international finance while visiting dozens of sites of cultural, political, economic, and intellectual importance.

College of Engineering

The Industrial and Systems Engineering department has hosted or co-sponsored an annual international Flexible Automation and Intelligent Manufacturing (FAIM) conference for the past eleven years. This year’s FAIM conference, on July 16-18, 2001, was hosted by Dublin City University in Dublin, Ireland. Over 100 refereed papers were presented by authors from more than 25 countries. These papers represented a global and balanced view of contemporary research from academia and industry. The FAIM

2001 conference promoted the state-of-the-art in manufacturing research by focusing on two key issues—automation and intelligent manufacturing. The FAIM conference is rather unique in that it presents an integrated picture of these two issues rather than focusing on a single technology. **Kimberly Ellis**, Professor of Industrial and Systems Engineering, is conducting research for Ericsson in Sweden and in Lynchburg, Virginia. These projects involve the development of decision support systems to improve production planning decisions in electronics manufacturing. During Spring Quarter 2001, **Brian Kleiner**, Professor of Industrial and Systems Engineering (ISE) and Coordinator of ISE International Programs, orchestrated an intensive one-week visit to France for 20 ISE students enrolled in the ISE Senior Design course. These ISE seniors met to discuss on-going collaborative projects with students from Ecole des Mines de Nantes focusing on engineering design and had the opportunity to visit several sponsoring French industries. **John G. Casali**, **Joel Nachlas**, **Russell Meller** and **Subhash Sarin** also advised teams of students in France. **Pat Koelling**, also a Professor of Industrial and Systems Engineering, serves on the Advisory Board of the Industrial Engineering Department at the Universidad Politecnica de Puerto Rico. During Spring Quarter 2001, he traveled there to advise two teams of ISE seniors who worked on a joint project with students from the University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez. The teams worked on projects for Intel Corporation. **Scott McCrickard**, Assistant Professor of Computer Science and Engineering, won the Brian Shackel Best Paper Award for his paper “Evaluating Animation in the Periphery as a Mechanism for Maintaining Awareness” at the International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP) Conference on Human Computer Interaction (INTERACT 2001). The conference was held in Tokyo, Japan, on July 9-13. While in Japan, McCrickard visited Advanced Telecommunications Research Institute International in Kyoto and Honda R&D in Tokyo about potential collaborations. Also during Spring Quarter, **Joel Nachlas**, Professor of Industrial and Systems Engineering, taught a course on Reliability Theory at the Ecole Supérieur de Nice Sophia Antipolis (at the University of Nice), and at Vienna Tech in Vienna, Austria. Assistant Physics Professor **Mark L. Pitt** presented an invited overview talk on “Strange Form Factor Experiments at Jefferson Lab” to the “Workshop on Hadron Form Factors” held from April 17 - 19 at the Physikzentrum Bad Honnef in Bad Honnef, Germany. This was a meeting of researchers devoted to the structure of subatomic particles from both the theoretical and experimental points of view. **Hanif D. Sherali**, the W. Thomas Rice Endowed Chaired Professor of Engineering in the department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, was invited to present a seminar and to interact with faculty on various research projects at the King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals, in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, May 17-24, 2001. His seminar was entitled, *Solving Discrete and Continuous Nonconvex problems to Global Optimality*. **Tonya Smith-Jackson**, Professor of Industrial and Systems Engineering, traveled to Ghana, West Africa in January to conduct research and interviews of Industry Trade Workers in Accra-Legon. She conducted research with faculty and students at the University of Ghana-Legon to gain information on cultural differences in risk perception interpretation of colors and symbols used to communicate hazards in occupational settings. **Gary Robinson**, Professor of ISE, presented an invited lecture at the International Seminar on Hearing Protection, Centro Brasileiro De

Sequaranca E Saude Industrial in Sao Paulo, Brazil on April 4. The lecture was based on a paper written by Robinson and **John G. Casali** entitled, "Technological trends for hearing protectors with special attention to comfort and communication." **Bill Sullivan** and **Eileen Van Aken**, both Professors of Industrial and Systems Engineering, wrote a paper entitled "Equipment Replacement Decisions and Lean Manufacturing" that was presented in June at the 2001 Flexible Automation and Intelligent Manufacturing Conference in Dublin, Ireland. During Spring Quarter 2001, Van Aken traveled to Belgium and Poland to teach workshops on performance measurement and team-based work systems for the Royal Flemish Engineers Association in Antwerp, the Center for Quality Management in Brussels, and the European branches of Coca-Cola and M&M Mars in Poland. She also visited Brazil to continue her collaborative work with faculty at the University of Sao Paulo. The Physics Department announced June 4 that Professor **Royce Zia** won an Alexander von Humboldt Research Award for his work in the area of theoretical condensed matter physics, a discipline devoted to the understanding of the cooperative behavior in systems with large numbers of constituent particles. The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, located in Germany, grants up to 150 Research Awards annually to foreign scholars with internationally recognized academic qualifications.

College of Human Resources and Education

Rosemary Blieszner, Professor of Human Development, presented a paper, coauthored with Karen Roberto, Director of the Center for Gerontology, at the meeting of the International Network on Personal Relationships in Prescott, Arizona, June 29-July 3. Blieszner chaired several committees from 1997 to 2001 that were responsible for drafting documents and transition plans related to the merging of INPR with the International Society for the Study of Personal Relationships; after recent affirmative votes by both memberships, the merged society will begin operations in June, 2002. **Janet Johnson** and **Claire Cole Vaught** coordinated the Dr. Joan Curcio International Women's Leadership Conference at St. Hilda's College, Oxford University, in July. The conference was in memory of Dr. Joan Curcio, a late faculty member in Educational Leadership who was a national leader in the area of women in educational administration. **Janet Walberg Rankin**, Professor of Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise, gave a presentation on "Carbohydrate and Performance of Intense Exercise" at the Gatorade Sports Nutrition Symposium, in Guangzhou, China on June 8, and at Shanghai, China on June 11. She also gave the following presentations: "Oxidation Rates of Macronutrients at Rest and during Exercise," "Benefits of Carbohydrate-rich Diets in Weight Loss Programs for Athletes," and "Value of Carbohydrate in High Intensity Exercise" at the International Health Symposium: Life Quality and Physical Activity in Rosario, Argentina, June 15-19.

College of Natural Resources

James E. Johnson, Professor of Forestry and Associate Dean for Outreach and Extension, traveled to Arras, France in June. While there, he assisted Public Works Canada and the Canadian Heritage Conservation Program with management planning and the development of an ecological monitoring program for two Canadian national parks in northern France. The government of France donated the parks to Canada following World War I, and they have

been maintained ever since as cultural resources. Johnson has worked for many years assisting the U.S. National Park Service with forestry issues related to the management of Civil War and Revolutionary War battlefield parks, and the project with the national parks in France was an extension of that work. **Jeff Marion** presented an invited talk, "Determining the Ecological Footprint of Recreation Activities to Support Management Decisions," at the "Human Use Management in Mountain Areas" conference in Banff, Alberta, Canada on June 13. The conference was sponsored by Parks Canada and had substantial international attendance. **Rien Visser**, Assistant Professor of Forestry, presented a paper at a workshop on "New Trends in Forest Harvesting in Mountainous Areas" held in Ossiach, Austria from June 14 - 17. The workshop included two extensive fieldtrips that showed new, low-impact harvesting equipment, and focused on cable logging, for which there is a great need in the southeastern United States.

College of Veterinary Medicine

Professor **Ansar Ahmed**, of the Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology, presented a paper on "Estrogens affect patterns of apoptosis and promote autoimmunity in normal mice" at the 5th International Congress of the Immunology of Diabetes Society February 14-16, in Chennai (Madras), India. He was also the keynote speaker at the "B cells and Autoimmunity" meeting at the International Congress of Immunology satellite meeting at Bergen, Norway, July 18-22. The title of his address was "Sex hormones, Immunity and Autoimmunity."

Centers, Institutes, Labs, and Other Units

Bioinformatics experts from the Virginia Bioinformatics Institute at Virginia Tech and the European Media Laboratory (EML; in Germany) have joined forces to develop software for simulating biochemical networks. The transatlantic project goes by the name of COPASI (COMplex PATHway SIMulator) and marshals a powerful arsenal of simulation and analysis methods, putting it ahead of comparable research programs available at present. According to **Pedro Mendes**, Research Scientist at VBI and the person heading

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

the COPASI project along with Ursula Kummer of EML, the new software will enable experimental biochemists around the world to simulate complex metabolic processes in cells without taking the time to master the enormous mathematical and computing skills currently required. The 2001-2002 academic year will be a transitional year for the University Office of International Programs (UOIP). During the coming year, **Christine Jarchow** will be in the position of interim director.



Perspectives *continued from page 1*

Bureau-funded); the College of Engineering in the USAID-funded Natural Resource Management Inter-CRSP; India Greenhouse Gas, and CBNRM projects; the College of Business in the Moscow Technology Incubator and Support for Agricultural Restructuring in Albania (SARA) projects supported by the USAID Missions in Moscow and Tirana (Albania); the College of Human Resources in the Peanut CRSP project; and the College of Architecture and Urban Studies in the Systems Approach to Regional Income and Sustainable Assistance project. In addition, OIRD involved the University library and a lawyer for the SARA project in Albania.

Over the last ten years, OIRD has successfully participated in \$75 million in grants, contracts and cooperative agreements, of which \$57 million has been garnered for Virginia Tech. In implementing these projects in 35 countries, OIRD works with a large number of land grant universities, the USDA, private sector groups, and NGOs. It involves several international centers and agencies, as well as a large number of host countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, Eastern Europe, Russia, and Ukraine. OIRD has been actively involved in other developed countries' research organizations, such as Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique in France and CAB in the United Kingdom. This newsletter features all eight Colleges of Virginia Tech. One of OIRD's websites is bilingual—in English and French, to serve French-speaking Africa.

OIRD faculty members have complimentary expertise, specific geographical and global experience, and language facility in speaking French, Spanish, Russian, Italian, German, Portuguese, Japanese, Indonesian and several other local languages in devel-

oping countries. These language facilities give OIRD a tremendous advantage over other land grant university international programs.

OIRD is expanding its involvement in international IT initiatives utilizing Virginia Tech's vast resources in IT areas, such as the Blacksburg Electronic Village (BEV). It will expand in the international biotechnology areas by leveraging current and future donor-funded projects.

For the past ten years, OIRD has managed, with the Graduate School, a university-wide certificate program on Graduate Specialization in International Development. A committee representing all eight colleges and the Graduate School oversees this program.

We believe OIRD has helped in the University's past efforts in garnering research dollars and in the College of Agriculture's ascent to the rank of top five in garnering research dollars in the land grant system. OIRD is ranked by the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC) in the top five in garnering international agriculture programs funded by the USAID.

In summary, OIRD is proud of its accomplishments over the last ten years. More importantly, OIRD has an ambitious plan to engage the resources of all university colleges and centers to pursue opportunities to garner research dollars which will contribute to the overall goal of the university to become a top 30 research university. This will in turn help the faculty to enrich their international background and allow them to share these experiences in the classroom. Some students—particularly graduate students—should be able to participate in site research with graduate research assistantships. Wherever funding permits, OIRD will engage undergraduate students in gathering international experience. It is absolutely essential that all students at Virginia Tech have some international exposure in the classrooms. This can be done by providing a large number of faculty with some international experience which can be shared in the classroom. Each faculty involved in these international efforts must show scholarship so that they are rewarded through definable outputs of high quality.

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