

## The Office of International Research and Development/Virginia Tech Hosts International Locust Biopesticide Workshop

From 8-10 December 1999, the Office of International Research and Development (OIRD) at Virginia Tech was pleased to host an international workshop concerning its ongoing mission and leadership role in the *Development of Biopesticides for Grasshopper and Locust Control in Sub-Saharan Africa Project*, a \$2 million five-year initiative funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Africa Bureau. Participants in the conference came from Senegal, Eritrea, Kenya, Ethiopia, France, and Canada representing such institutions

as the Direction de la Protection des Végétaux, the Unité de Recherche en Lutte Biologique Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA) Campus International Agropolis de Montferrier-Baillarguet, FAO LOCUSTOX, the International Center of Insect Physiology and Ecology, the USDA-ARS Collection of Entomopathogenic Fungal Cultures (ARSEF) Plant Soil & Nutrition Lab, Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa, ACDI/VOCA, the USDA-ARS European Biological Control Laboratory, and DLZO-EA.



**Faustin Diatta (center), Director of the Direction de la Protection des Végétaux in Senegal, focuses on biopesticide research results presented during the conference.**

Workshop participants presented their research in a number of areas, including locust migration patterns, biopesticide application, and liquid fermentation for germination of spore control cultures, using a wide range of multimedia formats available at Virginia Tech. These presentations illustrated the remarkable achievements the project has so far yielded and pointed out many potentially viable areas for further research. The overall project objective is to develop biopesticides to control grasshoppers and locusts using pathogens found

naturally in the African environment and to commercialize these alternatives as an alternative to synthetic chemical pesticides in Africa. The consortium of three Africa-based international institutions and two US partners is led and managed by OIRD/Virginia Tech. Dr. Larry Vaughan, an entomologist with OIRD, coordinates the technical program. The success of the workshop and project results were formally recognized at a reception hosted for the conference participants by Dr. S. K. De Datta, Director of OIRD.

## Perspectives

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

What should Virginia Tech's International Program look like in the new millennium? Who should shape it? What kind of institutional changes are warranted to make Virginia Tech connected more and better with the rest of the world?

All of these questions have more than one answer. However, the goal and the objectives of international programs with time-line are to be clearly delineated before any adjustments are meaningful and impactful.

If we review the background information on the Commonwealth of Virginia, we find the following issues worth noticing. The international export from the Commonwealth is nearly 12 billion. The number of international students in the campuses not only bring in other cultures to our Commonwealth but also bring in significant dollars. Virginia Tech may increase s/much outreach and international involvement for greater impact in the Commonwealth. This enhancement of programs must be well-targeted and focused. It will also

require strong outreach involvement to bring about the private sector group, the Commonwealth staffers, and the Virginia Tech faculty and administrators to work together. How it will benefit students of Virginia Tech? The answer lies, we need to expose Virginia Tech faculty to broaden their international experience. This faculty experience will then directly benefit the students by learning a real-life experience and examples shared by the faculty.

Another significant expansion is inevitable which is in the distance and distributed learning. Virginia Tech is in the mainstream of electronic revolution. The courses to be offered electronically should not only increase in number but should interest greater international clientele. This is one way to share knowledge with other countries and improve Virginia Tech's visibility internationally.

In order to achieve these and other objectives in international programs, Virginia Tech's reward system should be

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# Notables

## Faculty Involvement Around Campus

### College of Business

**Djavad Salehi-Isfahani**, Associate Professor and Chair of Economics, has been involved with the Economic Research Forum for the Arab Countries, Iran and Turkey (ERF) since its inception in 1993. This organization is based in Cairo and is part of a network of regional research organizations supported by the World Bank and the donor community to enhance economics research capacity in the developing world. He serves on the Advisory Board of the Organization. Under the ERF umbrella, last summer he headed (with two other economists from the region) a project aimed at training researchers and government officials in the use of survey data for policy analysis in human resources and poverty. The project was funded by the World Bank and the Italian Government and has conducted workshops in Cairo, Istanbul, and Tehran.

### College of Natural Resources

**James E. Johnson**, Professor of Forestry and Associate Dean for Outreach and Extension in the College of Natural Resources, traveled to Bled, Slovenia, in October to attend the Fourth International Union of Forestry Research Organizations (IUFRO) Extension Forestry Symposium. Johnson has been chair of the IUFRO Extension Forestry Working Party since 1994 and hosted the third symposium at Virginia Tech in 1998. While in Slovenia, Johnson gave the symposium opening and closing addresses, moderated a technical session, conducted a business meeting, and presented a paper entitled "Organizational Evaluation of Natural Resources Training Needs." **Professor Jim McKenna** from Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences is escorting 13 students for a semester of study at the University of Orange Free State in Bloemfontein, South Africa. The Tech students will complete a full semester of class work toward their degree. As part of an exchange program, **Mrs. Hua Dan**, a freshwater mussel biologist working at the Freshwater Fisheries Research Institute in Wuxi, China, has come to the College of Natural Resources to learn about mussel propagation. She and fisheries professor Dick Neves are also collaborating to translate a manual on the freshwater mussels of China into English. **Harold W. Wisdom**, Department of Forestry, published a paper entitled, "Welfare Effects of Trade Liberalization," in the journal, *Wood and Fiber Science*. The paper is the product of work performed by Wisdom as part of a long-term project between Winrock International and the Philippine Department of Environment and Natural Resources. **Wolfgang G. Glasser**, Professor of Wood Chemistry in the Department of Wood Science and Forest Products, spent Fall 1998 at Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan. He was sponsored by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS). During his 4-month stay in the Division of Forest and Biomaterials Science, he gave a series of 24 lectures on naturally-occurring polymers and composites which highlighted his own work of the past nearly 30 years. **Hiroyuki Matsumura** of the Daicel Chemical Company of Himeji, Japan, recently completed a 2-year visiting scientistship in the Biobased Materials/Recycling Center's laboratory of

Department of Wood Science and Forest Products. During this time Mr. Matsumura explored novel reaction systems with cellulose. The results of his research produced 3 publications and a patent application on cellulosic nano-composites.

### College of Architecture and Urban Studies

**Robert Dyck**, a professor in Virginia Tech's Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, recently traveled to Slovenia to participate in an awards ceremony at which he received the University of Maribor's Document of Honor. The award is Maribor's highest honor and was presented to Dyck by the University's Rector, Prof. Dr. Ludvik Toplak. Dyck was nominated by the Senate Commission of the University of Maribor for this award in recognition of his cooperative teaching and scientific research over the past fifteen years with Maribor faculty. One of the outcomes of this work was the publication of *Self-Transformation of the Forgotten Four-Fifths* (Kendall-Hunt, 1997, 1998), co-authored by Dyck and his colleague Prof. Dr. Matjaz Mulej, of Maribor's School of Business and Economics, with a number of chapters contributed by other Maribor faculty. **Shelley F. Martin**, a faculty member in the Department of Architecture, was invited to present the paper "The Present Event: Antonioni and the City" at The Centre for Film Studies, University College in Dublin, Ireland at the Cinema and the City International Conference. The work is included in a small number of presentations which were selected for publication. **Joseph L. Scarpaci**, a professor in the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, was appointed to the editorial board of *Cuartilla Informativa*, a bilingual, monthly newsletter about restoration efforts in Old Havana and Cuba. Dr. Scarpaci is the first non-Cuban appointed to the editorial board. Scarpaci also presented a paper at the IV Encuentro Internacional de Conservación y Patrimonio Cultural sponsored by the Cuban Ministry of Culture.

### College of Human Resources and Education

**Dr. Ann A. Hertzler**, Professor of Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise, presented "Family vs. College Campus Food Patterns" in the Crossing Borders: Food and Agriculture in the Americas session of the 1999 Joint Meetings for the Association for the Study of Food and Society (ASFS) & The Food Choice Group held at Ryerson Polytechnic University in Toronto, Canada. **Rosemary Blieszner** is the invited keynote speaker at the 10th International Conference on Personal Relationships, sponsored by the International Society for the Study of Personal Relationships and International Network on Personal Relationships in Brisbane, Australia in June 2000. Her presentation is: "'A Family is a Circle of Friends Who Love You:' Circles and Cycles of Close Relationships in Old Age". **Curtis Finch**, Professor of Vocational and Technical Education in the Department of Teaching and Learning spent, July as a Visiting Research Fellow at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga, Australia. **Marcie Boucouvalas**, Professor of Adult Learning, delivered "Toward a Civil Society: Balancing autonomy and homonomy: Developing a research agenda and action plan," as opening plenary session for A Century of Adult Education Experiences: What are the lessons for the future, an international conference at the University of Uppsala, Sweden.

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### College of Arts and Sciences

**Professor Harold McNair** of the Chemistry Department gave a series of seminars this past summer on his research at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland, University of Neuchatel, Switzerland and the University of Messina, Italy. Professor McNair has established a joint research effort in the chromatographic characterization of food products with **Professor Giovanni Dugo** of the University of Messina. Already three graduates of Messina have spent a year of research work at Virginia Tech and this summer **Kevin Schug**, a second year chemistry graduate student at Virginia Tech, spent one month doing research at the University of Messina. **Jeff Corntassel**, Assistant Professor of Political Science, was recently awarded an International Summer Faculty Fellowship by CEUT. This fellowship enabled Jeff to attend the 17th Session of the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations in Geneva, Switzerland as a delegate from the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. **Stephen Baehr**, Professor of Russian, has been named Editor of Slavic and East European Journal. Baehr also gave a paper on "Alchemy and Eighteenth-Century Russian Literature" at the VI International Conference on Eighteenth-Century Russia at the University of Leiden, Netherlands, in July 1999. **Dr. Heide Witthoef**, an Assistant Professor of German, taught The French, German, and Swiss Engineering Profession and Education, Past and Present. Two weeks of instruction were supplemented by a two-week trip abroad to visit partner institutions of Virginia Tech in France, Switzerland, and Germany. Dr. Witthoef also presented a paper entitled "Roland Emmerich and the Blockbuster Phenomenon" at the Millennium Film Conference in Bath, UK, during July 1999. **Professor Leo Piilonen**, Department of Physics, gave an invited talk at the Fifth International Workshop on Resistive Plate Counters and Related Detectors held in October 1999 in Bari, Italy. Piilonen reported on Virginia Tech's key role in the Belle experiment located at the High Energy Accelerator Research Organization laboratory (KEK) in Tsukuba, Japan. **Sharon P. Johnson**, Assistant Professor of French, presented her paper: "Blurring the Boundaries of Rape and Rapture in Maupassant's 'Une Partie de Campagne': A Narrative of Uncertainty" at the 25th Annual Colloquium in Nineteenth-Century French Studies in London, Ontario Canada. **Donald E. Mullins**, Department of Entomology, spent a week in Bamako, Mali, in January of 1999 at the Central Veterinary Laboratory assisting with training personnel and helping set up equipment and pesticide analytical procedures for an Environmental Quality Laboratory. The laboratory will monitor pesticide formulations used on Malian crops, provide pesticide residue information on crops primarily destined for export to the United States and Europe, and conduct studies on pesticide residues in Malian soil and water. **Dr. Uwe Tauber**, Assistant Professor of Physics, spent six weeks at the Technical University of Munich, Germany on research collaborations with Dr. Erwin Frey (Harvard University / TU Munich), Professor Dr. Franz Schwabl (TU Munich) and Dr. Jaime Santos (TU Munich). At the Heinrich-Heine University in Dusseldorf, Germany, **Dr. Beate Schmittmann** and Dr. Tauber spent a week to work with Professors Hans-Karl Janssen and Haye Hinrichsen on the

dynamics of nonequilibrium systems. **Dr. Douglas Pfeiffer**, Department of Entomology, was appointed co-chair of the Albania site for CRSP. He went to Albania in October to get projects back on track after the delay caused by the recent war in Kosovo. The specific goals of the fall trip were to set up email for three Albanian sites for cooperators at three institutions (the Agricultural University of Tirana, the Plant Protection Research Institute at Durrës, and the Fruit Tree Research Institute at Vlore), to start a local bank account to support the program, and to work with the Ministry of Agriculture on administrative details of the project. His other international experience includes three trips to the Ukraine in 1999 where he headed a project to write a fruit IPM manual for the western Ukraine. **Linda Arnold**, Professor of History, on leave this academic year in Mexico City, gave a series of conferences at the Colegio de Michoacán in Zamora, Mexico in November. At the invitation of the Government of the Federal District in Mexico City, she has also catalogued and produced indexes for the Justice section of the Federal District Historical Archive. **Charles L. Taylor**, Professor in Political Science, and Professor Dr. Hans-Dieter Klingemann of the Free University in Berlin, organized a conference on Albanian politics at the Wissenschaftszentrum in Berlin during December.. Participants included the President of Albania, other officials of that government, and scholars from the Albanian universities. The conference featured papers on political parties, electoral behavior, and government formation in the context of the post-communist elections. The revised papers will appear in a new volume in the series Founding Elections in Eastern Europe.

### College of Veterinary Medicine

**Dr. Marie Suthers-McCabe**, Extension Specialist in Human-Companion Animal Interaction at the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine made a presentation on family violence and pets before a group of Japanese dignitaries gathered at a People, Animals, Nature Inc. Conference in Philadelphia. Suthers-McCabe's presentation concerned the link between domestic violence, child abuse and animal abuse and provided information on the development of programs to provide housing and care for the pets of victims of domestic violence who have sought safe refuge. **Dr. Dagmar Waberski**, from Hannover,

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**The University Abroad** is prepared by the Faculty and Staff of the Office of International Research and Development (OIRD) at Virginia Tech, Outreach Division of the Office of the University Provost

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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 had to be saved for another time due to space constraints.

## Notables *continued from page 3*

Germany, is on the faculty of the College of Veterinary Medicine. She won an Alexander Von Humboldt Fellowship to engage in collaborative research. Her area of endeavor is to uncover some of the molecular bases for the interaction of sperm and egg in fertilization. **Dr. Thomas J. Inzana**, Professor of Microbiology and Director of Clinical Microbiology, presented seven papers at the Haemophilus, Actinobacillus, Pasteurella 99 International Conference held in South Africa. His papers focused on *Haemophilus somnus* and *Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae*.

### College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

**Dr. Charles C. Stallings**, Professor of Dairy Science and Extension Dairy Scientist, recently presented a paper titled "New Developments in Dairy Feeds" to the Fourth Annual Mid-East Regional Soybean Conference in Istanbul, Turkey. **Dr. Brian Storrie**, Professor of Biochemistry, collaborated with the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) on research concerning new evidence on how bacteria kill cells and possible new tools for delivering drugs to cells. The 12th International Congress on Nitrogen Fixation was held in Iguazu Falls, Parana State, Brazil. Both **Dr. William E. Newton**, who gave the opening Plenary lecture, and **Dr. Dennis R. Dean**, Professors of Biochemistry, were invited speakers at this meeting. **John Crunkilton**, Associate Dean and Associate Director of Academic Programs, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, appeared on a panel at the National Association of International Educators Regional Meeting to share the progress of the student exchange program with the University of the Orange Free State in Bloemfontein, South Africa. They sent 10 students to Virginia Tech in Fall 1998 and Fall 1999. Virginia Tech sent seven students in Spring 1999 and plan to send 13 this Spring 2000.

## Perspectives *continued from page 1*

continually reviewed and modified to bring the best faculty to get connected globally.

Some, if not all, these changes may be welcome by the University Community. Others may be perceived as unwelcome and even unnecessary changes. Virginia Tech may need to decide how much adjustment is needed to make a "globally engaged university." It will not require many more studies or task force reports but implement an actions agenda with a definite time line. Investments in the future is needed now otherwise the lost opportunities may negatively impact on students opportunities in the new millennium.

## Webbing the Wide World of Gender and Development from Blacksburg and Northern Virginia

OIRD's Program on Women in International Development offers several resources to the collegiate community: on-line graduate instruction; lectures to graduate and undergraduate courses; graduate advising and fieldwork experience; and an international dimension to gender equity activism on campus. Recently, the program's director, Dr. Sarah Hamilton, has developed an on-line graduate module: "Gender and Economic Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, and Asia." This six-week course will begin March 20, 2000, offered through the Northern Virginia Graduate Center, as well as through the Women's Studies Program and the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning at the Blacksburg campus.

The anticipated audience for this course will include traditional graduate students and professionals working in the Washington area who seek state-of-the-art scholarship and learning experience in policy-oriented analysis of international development theory and practice. Using web-based entry to both "mainstream" and "alternative" international development institutions, students will use knowledge gained through readings, discussions, and their own experiences to critique selected institutions' approaches to gender equity in economic development and the often-unstated theoretical assumptions to these approaches. Each student will also choose, based on individual interest, a particular gender-and-development issue and country or region for a project in which the student will analyze relevant theoretical perspectives, policies, institutional stakeholders, practical approaches, and results of development interventions for the targeted population and institutional players. Students will make policy recommendations based on their analysis and will cast a role for themselves in their recommended course of action.

Dr. Hamilton aims to create a stimulating on-line learning environment by selecting readings that incorporate the full range of scholarly and practitioner critiques of development policy and practice, by providing study questions and activities that will further engage students with the policy issues treated in this literature, by introducing students to the wealth of virtual knowledge of development theory and practice available through web-based technologies, and by scheduling on-line interactive discussions. This course module fills a current void in the curriculum, and provides one of OIRD's most important contributions to internationalizing the curriculum.

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