



# VIRGINIA TECH Global University

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

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## Perspectives

From the desk of  
Dr. S.K. De Datta,  
Director of OIRED  
and Associate Dean  
of the College of  
Agriculture and  
Life Sciences



It has been four months since the Office of International Research and Development (OIRD) added the international education component to create a combined unit called the Office of International Research, Education, and Development (OIERD). In this combined unit, our charge is to serve the University community in all three missions of Virginia Tech. Armed with this new mandate, OIERD is branching out to broader issues which are of interest to the entire University community.

For example, OIERD recently received a small grant from USAID's Association Liaison Office for University Cooperation in Development (ALO) based in Washington, D.C. to engage in a gender equity enhancement project in Bangladesh in cooperation with the University of California, Davis and Dhaka University in Bangladesh. Virginia Tech has a distinguished history of involvement in Women in Interna-

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## Virginia Tech Supports International Programs

Miriam Rich

International programs at universities across the nation, including Virginia Tech, are feeling the effects of budget cuts. These universities are discovering, however, that in order to be competitive domestically, they must meet standards of global excellence. They must expand their outreach, not contract it.

As Virginia Tech President Charles Steger has noted, "Because of the speed and facility of global communications, funding organizations can go anywhere in the world. The new standard of excellence

is 'world class.' It is for all practical purposes relatively easy to secure the best talent wherever it may reside."

One way Virginia Tech can meet the world class standard is to maintain its programs already considered best in the world—wireless communications, power electronics, and polymer science—and expand others that can attain this level. Steger says, "Universities that have large-scale research programs are able to quickly take advantage of emerging opportunities. They also have the ability to assume

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## Professor John Browder Captures Rare Slice of Rainforest Land Use in Brazil

Sarah Newbill

When Urban Affairs and Planning Professor John Browder returned to the Brazilian state of Rondonia last summer, he wasn't sure what statistics would be uncovered as he and a research team re-surveyed farmers who participated in his 1992 Rondonia Agroforestry Pilot Project (RAPP). The original project, made possible by a grant from the John and Teresa Heinz Charitable Trust, surveyed several hundred farmers who were some of the first to colonize the region. Displaced at the time by the government's focus on less labor-intensive crops, many of these coffee farmers migrated north, lured by the promise of free land to keep them from fleeing to the already crowded cities. Farmers were given 240-acre plots, but many were in valuable virgin rain forests with terrain they were not used to working in.

In the pilot project, 50 out of the total 240 farmers surveyed were chosen to receive free seedlings and education on the possible benefits and importance of replanting trees on their land that had



Urban Affairs and Planning Professor John Browder poses with a farmer on an agroforestry plot in Rondonia, Brazil.

already been 'slashed and burned.' The 50 farmers set aside a small portion of their land for these agroforestry plots in which to grow the seedlings, while the rest of the farmers in the survey served as the experimental control. "That's what RAPP was all about – to test whether or not it was possible for farmers with very little capital and very little technical supervision to plant trees and maintain those trees in agroforest plots over a 10-year period,"

See *Rainforest*, page 4

## Center for European Studies and Architecture Undergoing Reorganization

Susan Felker

Due to the importance of improved global understanding, university administrators are restructuring Virginia Tech's Center for European Studies and Architecture (CESA) in Riva San Vitale, Switzerland, with the goal of making the center part of the educational experience for more undergraduate and graduate students.

"CESA can be invaluable to the university community, so I have taken steps to consolidate its financial footing; to focus administration of its programs; to ensure better communications between the center and the Blacksburg campus; and to undertake a significant program of maintenance and improvement," said C. Clark Jones, vice provost for Outreach and International Affairs. The restructuring was prompted by the resignation late last year of former director Thanasi Moulakis.

According to Jones, a three-pronged approach will be used to integrate CESA more effectively within the university. Ron Daniel, associate provost for undergraduate programs, will assume additional duties as academic director of CESA on a half-time basis; and Paul Knox, dean of the College of Architecture and Urban Studies, will serve as "lead dean." Daniela Doninelli will be on-site managing director, responsible for day-to-day operations in Switzerland. An operations liaison will work in the Office of International Research, Education, and Development under S. K. DeDatta, OIRED director. The entire operation reports to the vice provost for Outreach and International Affairs.

University Architect Scott Hurst will supervise maintenance repairs to the centuries-old villa that houses CESA. Most maintenance needs relate to weatherproofing and will help to cut heating costs.

## Assistant Undergraduate Admissions Director Lee Drowne Retires

Susan Felker

When Lee Drowne first became assistant director of undergraduate admissions in 1991, Virginia Tech's international student recruitment program was modest, peaking at 75 freshmen from other countries in 1988. State budget cuts the following year caused the elimination of active recruitment, and by 1994, the number of freshman from abroad had dropped to 45.

In an era in which Virginia Tech graduates must compete for jobs in the global marketplace, lack of experience in living and working with people from a variety of cultures can be a distinct handicap.

Drowne, who retired earlier this year, was determined to turn those numbers around—and succeeded. In 2002, 289 undergraduates from other countries enrolled at Virginia Tech, helping to enrich the educational experience for students from the United States. According to Charles Steger, preident of Virginia Tech, "International involvement is imperative to the success of our university."

After learning what peer institutions were doing to enroll international students, Drowne became convinced that an aggressive recruitment program was essential for Virginia Tech to compete for top international undergraduate students. She developed a plan that utilized new strategies to build on existing practices for increasing international enrollment without expensive foreign travel.

"I would like to see the aggressive international student recruitment effort continue," Drowne says. "The student body benefits so much from the cultural enrichment brought to the campus by our international undergraduates."

### 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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### VT Professor Directs Darwin Project

Virginia Tech Botany Professor Duncan Porter took this slide of an algae specimen at Trinity College in Dublin. This is one of the specimens that Charles Darwin shipped back from the Galapagos Islands. Porter directs the Darwin Correspondence Project based at Cambridge University, which involves transcribing, editing and publishing more than 14,500 letters written and received by Darwin. The project recently received a Queen's Anniversary prize for Higher and Further Education.



## Professor Discusses Research Program in Australia

Bob Smith, associate professor and director of Virginia Tech's Center for Forest Products Marketing and Management, was invited to Australia to discuss the forest products marketing education and research program at Virginia Tech by the Australian National University in Canberra and the University of Melbourne. Poised to double its wood output by the end of this decade, Australia is investigating possible options for developing its own forest products marketing research and education program.

After reviewing a number of models from around the globe, the joint committee from the two universities asked Smith to make a presentation about Virginia Tech's forest products marketing program to the joint faculty of both universities, the Forest and Wood Products Research and Development Corporation (Australia's national wood products research authority), the National Association of Forest Industries, and the Australia Forest Growers Association.

"Australia's forests will double by the end of the decade," explains Smith. "Australia needs to develop the personnel to market the timber harvest, and chose Virginia Tech's program as its model."

While in Australia, Smith attended the Australian Forest Plantations 2002 Conference. He also visited the campuses of the University of Melbourne and the Australian National University, where he lectured to a senior level forest policy class on the wood science and forest products program at Virginia Tech. "It was helpful to interact with numerous faculties and compare research interests and teaching philosophies," Smith said.

"The entire trip allowed me to better understand the forestry issues affecting the southern hemisphere and their impact on the trade of forest products, which is a substantial part of the global economy today," the Virginia Tech professor continued.

Smith's expertise includes forest products marketing and management, treated wood/lumber products, timber bridges, and hardwood lumber. Smith, a Fulbright Senior Specialist candidate, has given presentations and been involved with projects in Chile, England, Germany, Russia, Mexico, Canada, Australia, Malaysia, Finland, and the United States.

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greater risk and the potential for greater return on investment."

Virginia Tech's Strategic Plan ("Proposed Goals to be Achieved by 2010 with Objectives to be Achieved by 2005-06") supports this market necessity of being internationally viable.

"International" issues are not listed as a separate category of pursuit; these issues are incorporated as sub-goals in every area: research and scholarship, graduate education, undergraduate education, and outreach.

Under "Research and Scholarship," the Strategic Plan states that the university will "increase research and scholarship in the international dimension of each discipline." Many areas of study already incorporate an international dimension: the International Forestry Center facilitates research and extension in international forestry; the Center for Global Electronic Commerce seeks to promote research on global electronic systems of commerce; the Center for Energy and the Global Environment supports research on environmental sustainability worldwide—these are just three examples. The university-wide Office of Research, Education, and Development (see "Perspectives" column) continues to pursue additional research projects, which currently operate in 28 countries around the world. Over the last year alone, it expanded its portfolio by 45 percent.

Under "Graduate Education," the Strategic Plan states that the

## OIRED Awarded Grant for Gender Equity Program in Bangladesh

Virginia Tech's Office of International Research, Education, and Development (OIRED) is committed to advancing gender equity issues internationally. Due to this expertise, the office was recently awarded a grant from the Association Liaison Office for University Cooperation in Development (ALO) in Washington, D.C., to participate in a gender equity enhancement program in Bangladesh.

This project will be implemented by faculty from Virginia Tech, the University of California, Davis and Dhaka University in Bangladesh.

Since 1974, Virginia Tech has provided leadership in Women in International Development (WID) projects in the U.S. and numerous developing countries.

university will "develop reciprocal international exchange programs for graduate students." Virginia Tech currently offers 30 bilateral reciprocal exchange programs, sending and receiving students from, for example: the Università della Svizzera Italiana in Switzerland, the Universidad San Francisco de Quito in Ecuador, and Kansai Gaidai in Japan.

Under "Undergraduate Education," the Strategic Plan states that it will "increase participation in study abroad and international internship opportunities by 10%." Last year (the most recent year for which statistics are available), 700 Tech students studied abroad. According to Dan O'Brien, Assistant Program Director of International Education, "this compares very favorably with other universities our size, and in terms of dollar resources and staff, this is excellent."

Under "Outreach," the Strategic Plan states that it will "increase involvement of faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students in collaborative international technical assistance activities." The impressive array of international activities engaged in by Virginia Tech faculty (chronicled in this newsletter) involve faculty and students at all levels.

"Now, more than ever, world events show the importance of being engaged constructively on an international level," says Virginia Tech Provost Mark McNamee. "Universities are in an excellent position to promote international understanding, and Virginia Tech, in particular, is committed to this path."

## Public Service Programs Helps Rural Businesses Enter International Marketplace

Virginia Tech's Public Service Programs (part of University Outreach and International Affairs) is working with federal and state programs and with experts in the field to help businesses make the leap to successful export operations. According to Chad Miller, Tech's international economic development specialist, a lecture series and two seminars are being offered this year. Late last year, Public Service Programs cosponsored a trade mission to Mexico for small businesses.

Public Service Programs also collaborates with Pamplin College on the course, "Development of International Marketing Plans," in which teams of MBA students spend a semester developing international marketing strategies for companies in Virginia.

**International Standards** - Compliance with international standards and specifications is the first step toward building export trade in a number of industries. Public Service Programs, American Electric Power (AEP), the Virginia Department of Business Assistance, and the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center will cosponsor a series of ISO 9000 network presentations in Roanoke and at the Corporate Research Center.

ISO 9000 is a quality management certification program in international standards that are essential for successful international trade. The International Organization for Standardization

(ISO) developed the standards. Seminars will be June 20, September 19, and December 5 in Roanoke and June 27, September 26, and December 19 in Blacksburg.

**Rural Export Initiatives Seminars** - Businesses can learn the specifics of export procedures, thanks to a grant awarded to Public Service Programs by the U. S. Department of Commerce's Commercial Service Rural Export Initiative. The grant will fund two seminars, one at the Southwest Higher Education Center in Abingdon on Sept. 4 and the other in Charleston, W. Va. on Sept. 5. The seminar in Abingdon will also feature a supplemental afternoon program on opportunities stemming from the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

**Trade Mission to Mexico** - A third initiative held last fall gave businesses and economic development specialists from the Appalachian region an in-person introduction to the Mexican export market. Virginia Tech and the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) organized a five-day trade mission and workshop in Mexico to educate representatives from small- and mid-size businesses and government officials about exporting to Mexico, and to help them find customers.

The multifaceted program to help Virginia businesses enter new markets is part of Virginia Tech's overall effort to stimulate economic development worldwide.

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says Browder.

The most recent grant from the Geography and Regional Science Division of the National Science Foundation implemented last summer enabled Browder and his team to return to Rondonia to conduct a follow-up survey evaluating how all 240 farmers used their land over the past decade and how the 50 farmers responsible for their agroforest plots were faring. "The project represents the first major long-term survey of rural producers whose decisions determine the fate of the Amazon's rainforests. Nobody's ever done a systematic survey of the same sample within a population that I'd heard of, especially these colonists who are new residents from other parts of Brazil who have come into this different environment and tried to carve out a life for themselves," says Browder.

Out of all 240 original survey participants, the team found 126 who had remained on the same property. "We saw some turnover due to what we call farm failure – farmers who simply ran out of land, cleared all the forests, expended all

the nutrients and soils, and ended up with empty landscapes basically. We also found there's a lot less forest . . . typically they'll take out the forests first because that's a quick form of cash," Browder explains. Researchers also found the lots were being subdivided, with the number of lots now at 280. This reduction of lot size is also contributing to more loss of forest land.

Out of the 50 farmers chosen to grow agroforest plots, the team was able to identify 33 who were still maintaining them. Browder says that most pilot projects like this are considered successful if 50 percent or more of the original participants are still involved.

According to Browder, the follow-up survey shows that agroforestry is viable despite the fact that only a few of the farmers were able to market the products growing on their plots. He says the farmers see value in leaving the land alone with trees growing on it because of its less labor-intensive qualities and future potential. "They are willing to hold on to those plots and allow them to recover into secondary forests, because they perceive they have value because of the timber

elements inside them." He also mentions that farmers don't enjoy clearing the forests. "It's hard labor and dangerous work. Agroforestry is not only a way to potentially generate income for households and thereby serve a development objective, but it also could be an agent for conservation or forest restoration." Randy Wynne, a remote sensing specialist in the forestry department, is now testing this hypothesis by analyzing satellite images of Browder's study sites covering the past 10 years, and measuring the spectral changes in the land on each farm.

Browder says that many of the 50 farmers in the experimental group had expanded their agroforest plots, and farmers living in close proximity to these farmers had picked up some of this tree-planting behavior. "We're anticipating the project will become a vehicle for natural forest regeneration – the farmer wanting to protect the trees that have value and allow other trees to grow around them. My research focuses on monitoring those kinds of questions, and continues to focus on the changing dynamics within these rural households."

## College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

### Gibson; Graduate Students Present at International Conference

Jerry D. Gibson, associate professor and extension specialist in agricultural and extension education, is currently serving as co-membership chair for the Association for International Agricultural and Extension Education (AIAEE). The 2003 AIAEE Conference was held on April 9 through 12 in Raleigh, North Carolina. Gibson and two graduate students presented a poster presentation entitled "How Virginia Extension is Collaborating with High Schools and Youth Programs in Hampton to Prepare Youth for the Workforce."

### McDaniel Leads Exchange Program to Trinidad and Tobago

Alan McDaniel, associate professor of horticulture, accompanied three students to Trinidad and Tobago in early January as part of a student exchange program with the University of West Indies (UWI), which will send students to Virginia Tech for the fall semester. The goals of this program, now in its fifth year, are to give students an opportunity to enroll in courses not typically offered at their own university and to gain international experience.

### Nickerson Speaks on Dairy Cow Health in Brazil

Stephen C. Nickerson, professor and head of the dairy science department, presented a keynote paper on the role of antibiotics at the Second PanAmerican Congress on Milk Quality and Mastitis Control in Ribeirao Preto, Brazil. A book co-authored by Nickerson, which was recently translated into Portuguese, was also introduced at the conference. This was a global effort among members of the Brazilian Mastitis Council, commercial dairy companies, and the National Mastitis Council of the U.S. to improve the suitability and safety

of milk and dairy products for consumers.

### Stallings Presents Dairy Cow Nutrition Seminars

Charles C. Stallings, professor and extension dairy scientist, presented seminars on dairy cattle nutrition and worked with consultants to plan dairy programming in Romania, Turkey, Egypt, and Jordan. These activities were sponsored by the American Soybean Association (ASA) and are part of a continuing effort to expand markets for soybean and soybean products.

## College of Architecture and Urban Studies

### Auchey Offers Risk Management Research Results in Australia

Building Construction Associate Professor Flynn L. Auchey discussed the results of risk management research on the PRISM (Project Risk Identification and Selection) Model in Melbourne, Australia at the Project World Conference on October 21 through 25, 2002. The presentation resulted in a request for a second presentation at the University of New South Wales in November. This collaboration resulted in elevating the quality of the model and contributed to the receipt of another research contract to further the development of the PRISM model for the

Horizon Foundation.

### Carmin Focuses on EU Environmental Concerns

Urban Affairs and Planning Assistant Professor JoAnn Carmin recently co-edited a Woodrow Wilson monograph "EU Enlargement and Environmental Quality: Central and Eastern Europe and Beyond," based on a conference she helped organize last spring. She also received the 2002 Best Paper Award from the Organizations and the Natural Environment Interest Group of the Academy of Management for co-authoring the paper entitled, "The Interpretive Basis of Action: Identity and Tactics in Environmental Movement Organizations."

### Dyck Publishes on Slovak Architect; China

Robert Gilkey Dyck, professor of urban affairs and planning, has a chapter entitled "Plecnik's Ljubljana: Classical Urban Design Revisited" in the exhibition catalog *Joze Plecnik and Ljubljana: the Architect and his City*, published in German, English, and Slovene for the International Exhibition at the Stadtmuseum Graz on January 12 through March 31. Dyck also has a chapter with Wei Huang, entitled "Hyperurbanization of China's Pearl River Delta," in a two-volume publication entitled *Emerging Issues in the 21st Century World-System*.

### Miller Serves on Jury to Judge Designs for Saudi University

Patrick Miller, landscape architecture professor, was invited to serve on a prominent international jury to judge a competition for the design of the new King Khalid University in Saudi Arabia in December, 2002.

### Old Santa Fe, Argentina, Survives Thanks to Rodriguez

Architecture Professor Bert Rodriguez started developing a master plan nearly 25 years ago for the historic ruins of Old Santa Fe, Argentina. The

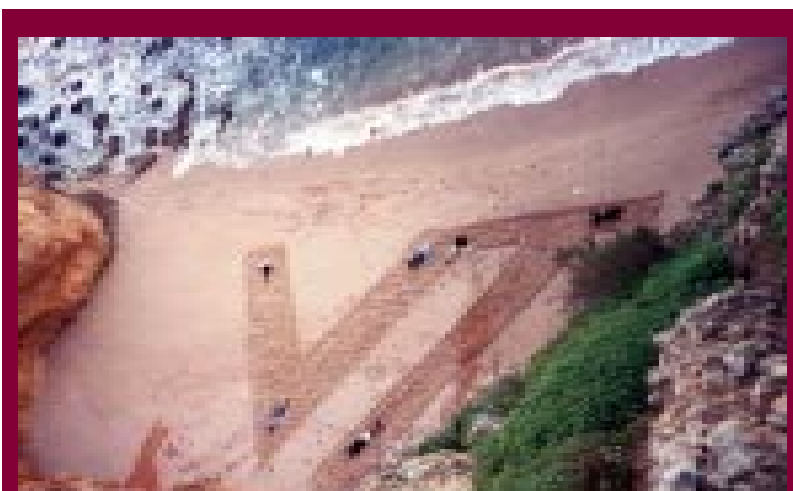


Photo courtesy of Joyce Beliveau

Building Construction Assistant Professor Walid Thabet and Professor and Department Head Yvan Beliveau accompanied 17 students on a study abroad trip to Spain over winter break to study Spanish construction, architecture, and history. The tour included a day trip to Portugal, where the students created a VT logo on a Portuguese beach. Several students posed with the logo to show the size of their creation.

implementation of this plan has saved these ruins from total destruction from heavy rains and severe flooding. The director of the Ethnographic Museum in Santa Fe recently sent a word of thanks to Rodriguez along with recent pictures of the excavated town, now a public museum.

### Rodriguez-Camilloni Presents Paper in Madrid

Architecture Professor Humberto Rodriguez-Camilloni presented a paper entitled "Quincha Architecture: The Development of an Antiseismic Structural System in Seventeenth Century Lima" at the 1st International Congress on Construction History held in Madrid, Spain in January. The event was organized by the Instituto Juan de Herrera of the Escuela Técnica Superior de Arquitectura de Madrid, with the collaboration of the Construction History Society of London and the American Society of Civil Engineers.

### Schnoedt Discusses Future of Urban Form in Venice

Architecture Professor Heinrich Schnoedt delivered a presentation titled "Three aspects of the future of urban form - a speculative discourse," at the 8<sup>th</sup> Architecture Biennale, in Venice, Italy.

## College of Arts and Sciences

### Floyd Presents Research in Strasbourg

Mathematics Professor William Floyd gave a talk on "Subdivision rules, circle packings, and rational maps" at the GT3 Seminar at the Institut de Recherche Mathématique Avancée, University Louis Pasteur in Strasbourg, France on February 17. The expository talk, which was based on joint research, showed how a simple example could be approached using different methods in discrete conformal geometry.

### Minic Speaks in Canada; Attends Workshop in Leiden

Djordje Minic, Assistant Professor in the Physics Department, was an invited visitor and colloquium speaker at the Perimeter Institute in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada in October, 2002, and an invited visitor for a week-long workshop on string theory and



Photo courtesy of Howard Feiertag

Hospitality and Tourism Management (HTM) Instructor Howard Feiertag traveled to Hong Kong in January to conduct workshops for Hong Kong Polytechnic University for the Advanced Hotel Management Winter Program. Feiertag and several other Hospitality and Tourism Management faculty had dinner in Hong Kong with a group of local Virginia Tech alumni. Pictured at the dinner are (from left to right) Kaye Chon, Ph.D. '90; Alex Chu MS '81, Ph.D. '87; Diana Chu, 12 year old daughter of Alex and Eliza Tse Chu; Feiertag; Pam Weaver, HTM Professor at VT; Giri Jogaratnam, undergraduate degree '86, MBA '88, Ph.D. '96; Eliza Ching-Yick Tse, MS '82, Ph.D. '88; Ken McCleary, HTM Professor at VT; Stanley C. Tang, Ph.D. '95; Jesse Ho, Ph.D. '93; Terence Chan, Ph.D. '93.

cosmology at the Lorentz Center, International Center for Astronomy, Computer Science, Mathematics and Physics in Leiden, The Netherlands in November, 2002.

### Tauber Addresses German Physics Society Group in Dresden

Physics Assistant Professor Uwe C. Tauber presented an invited talk, "Dynamic phase transitions in diffusion-limited reactions," at the annual spring meeting of the German Physical Society, Division of Condensed Matter Physics in Dresden, Germany on March 24 through 28. The conference was held in collaboration with the Physical Societies of Austria and The Netherlands.

## College of Engineering

### Bøhn Sets Up International Multi-University Design Project

Mechanical Engineering Associate Professor Jan Helge Bøhn visited Germany and Sweden in February to set up a collaborative research project funded by General Motors (GM). The object is to have a multi-disciplinary, multi-university student team collaborate with GM engineers world wide, using

state-of-the-art collaborative and engineering software systems to redesign and optimize car seats for GM vehicles. The anticipated project duration is late April through September.

### Folz on World Congress Committee; Folz and Clark to Edit Proceedings

Diane Folz, senior research associate in materials science and engineering, served as the assistant technical chair of the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Congress on Microwave and Radio Frequency Applications in Sydney, Australia in September, 2002. Folz and Materials Science and Engineering Professor and Department Head David Clark are editing the proceedings for the meeting. Folz will also serve as the technical chair for the 4<sup>th</sup> World Congress slated for October, 2004 in Austin, Texas.

### Kiran Lectures in Britain, Germany, and France

Chemical Engineering Professor and Department Head Erdogan Kiran was invited to present a talk on "Polymer modification in dense and supercritical fluids-A pathway to microstructured materials" at the University of London School of Pharmacy on December 2, 2002. He also visited the Imperial College and the University College, London.

On December 5, Kiran was the keynote lecturer at the physical chemistry department at the University Bochum in Germany, where he gave a talk entitled “High pressure miscibility and phase separation in polymer solutions.” He presented a seminar on polymer solutions at high pressures on December 6 at the physical chemistry department, University of Dortmund. Kiran also spoke on “high-pressure polymer crystallization in supercritical or dense fluids” at the 6th International Symposium on Supercritical Fluids in Versailles, France on April 28 through 30.

#### **Meller Named to International Colloquium Planning Committee**

Russell D. Meller, associate professor of industrial and systems engineering, is on the planning committee for the 8th International Material Handling Research Colloquium to be held in Graz, Austria in June 2004. The IMHRC is held every two years and brings together material handling researchers from around the world.

#### **Nachlas to Teach Course in Nice, France**

Joel A. Nachlas, associate professor of industrial and systems engineering, will present a graduate level course in June on reliability theory at École Supérieur d'Ingénierie de Nice Sophia Antipolis (ESINSA)—an engineering school attached to the University of Nice in France.

#### **Smith-Jackson Conducts Ergonomics Workshop in Brazil**

Industrial and Systems Engineering Assistant Professor Tonya L. Smith-Jackson conducted a cultural ergonomics workshop in Recife, Brazil for the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Brazilian Ergonomics Society Meeting in September, 2002.

#### **Anbo Wang Elected Examiner for the Chinese Academy of Science**

Electrical and Computer Engineering Professor and Director of the Center for Photonics Technology (CPT) Anbo Wang was recently elected overseas examiner for the Chinese Academy of Science. The elected examiners help the Academy review proposals requesting significant amounts of funding. Thirty-three professionals were elected. Wang also presented an invited paper, “Op-

tical Fiber Sensors for Energy-Production and Energy-Intensive Industries,” at the SPIE Photonics Asia conference in Shanghai, China on October 15 through 18, 2002. In the paper, he presented a review of the sensor research that is being conducted at CPT.

### **College of Natural Resources**

#### **Johnson Presents Paper on Agroforestry in Chile**

Forestry Professor James E. Johnson traveled to Valdivia, Chile on November 9 through 18, 2002, where he presented a paper entitled “Agroforestry Opportunities and Constraints in Cape Verde: Comparing the Views of Farmers and Technical Assistance Providers” at a conference sponsored by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) and the Forestry Research Institute of Chile. Johnson also visited with faculty and administrators at Austral University in Valdivia, where the College of Natural Resources is developing a cooperative agreement for student and faculty exchanges.

#### **Mortimer Speaks on Standards for Conserving Forest Biodiversity**

Michael J. Mortimer, assistant professor of forest law and policy, presented a lecture at the History and Forest Biodiversity Symposium at the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium on January 13 through 15. Mortimer's topic was “Forest Regulations in the United States: Evolving Standards for Conserving Forest Biodiversity.” The meeting was jointly hosted by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), Ghent University, and the Flanders Forest Service.

### **Centers, Institutes, Labs and Other Units**

#### **Laubenbacher Presents at International Conference on Systems Biology**

Reinhard Laubenbacher, research professor for the Virginia Bioinformatics Institute, presented a poster entitled “A Computational Algebra Approach to the Identification of Gene Regulatory Networks” at the Third International Conference on Systems Biol-

ogy in Stockholm, Sweden in December, 2002.

#### **Sobral Discusses Data Tool Integration and Interoperation in Life Sciences in Tokyo**

Virginia Bioinformatics Institute (VBI) Director Bruno Sobral made a presentation titled “Data Tool Integration and Interoperation in Life Sciences: Examples from Pathosystems and Challenges” at the Life Sciences Grid Mini-Symposium in Tokyo on March 3 through 7. In addition, he participated in a Swiss/American workshop at the Swiss House for Advanced Research and Education (SHARE), on March 26 through 27.

#### **Phi Beta Delta Inducts New Members; Promotes International Programs**

The Virginia Tech chapter (Gamma Omega) of Phi Beta Delta, Honor Society for International Scholars, inducted 28 new students, six faculty/staff, and four honorary members at a ceremony on April 9. It presented International Service Awards to Arnold Schuetz and to two students, Ali Etebari and Gresilda Tilley-Lubbs. The guest speaker was Josiah Tlou. The chapter supported international initiatives throughout the academic year, including participation of a VT student at the annual PBD conference at the Universidad de Las Americas in Puebla, Mexico. The chapter is also preparing to host the regional PBD conference in November 2004.

### **College of Veterinary Medicine**

#### **Suzuki Makes Presentation in Japan on Host Resistance Against Infections**

Yasuhiro Suzuki, associate professor of biomedical sciences and pathobiology, was invited to make a presentation at the 2nd Awaji International Forum on Infection and Immunity in Japan. The forum focused on the mechanisms of host resistance against viral, bacterial and parasitic infections. The title of his talk was “Host resistance against cerebral toxoplasmosis.” He was one of 12 scholars invited to present at the meeting.

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tional Development (WID) programs and projects. Since 1974, Virginia Tech has provided leadership in WID projects within the United States and in numerous developing countries. In 1978, Virginia Tech received a Title XXII grant focused on helping faculty aid U.S. efforts to alleviate world-wide hunger. These included specific objectives involving WID. The new ALO grant to Virginia Tech will help increase the credibility and stature of the WID programs of our University.

A recently submitted proposal to the USAID Mission in Egypt has a strong biotechnology component. If OIRED/Virginia Tech is successful in obtaining this grant, a substantial portion of the funds earmarked for biotechnology programs will engage the faculty of Virginia Tech and our partners from university communities across the United States. Two other proposals were submitted to the same mission. One was led by the IBM Consulting Division, and the other by Texas A&M University Systems. Virginia Tech is a full partner in both of these submissions.

Currently, OIRED is taking the lead on behalf of Virginia Tech to write a World Bank supported loan project on social risk mitigation in Turkey. The proposal is being written in collaboration with the Center for Public Administration and Policy (CPAP) at Virginia Tech, the Center for Food and

Nutrition Policy, the Institute for Public Policy Research—an entity of VT in Northern Virginia—and the Urban Institute, based in Washington, D.C. The scope of this project includes gender and nutrition; monitoring and evaluation; public administration; economic modeling; gender education; and policy modeling. Other competitors for this project are private sector groups in the U.K., France and Canada. In other words, Virginia Tech is short-listed with some of the best private sector groups world wide.

In the international education arena, the Education Abroad Program is strengthening the educational agenda by making some strategic decisions. The program is challenged due to security concerns following 9/11 and the ongoing war in the Middle East. OIRED is determined to increase the number of VT students who participate in the education-abroad experience. This will happen by continuing to write grant proposals to increase the resource base, as the state budget is substantially reduced on a recurring basis. In the meantime, OIRED has put out a request for proposals for a small-grants program on a one-time basis to bring in newer faculty to participate in the Education Abroad Program.

Other opportunities in the international education arena that OIRED wishes to expand are in international information technology (IIT) and biotechnology and

biosafety issues. These two areas have huge potential for growth with excellent donor funding. Virginia Tech must make strategic decisions to position itself for international donor funding. It is further envisioned that OIRED may be involved in the operation of the Center for European Studies and Architecture (CESA) based in Riva San Vitale, Switzerland.

With the current amount of restructuring in colleges, departments, and administrative units, and major changes in the top leadership of Virginia Tech, it might take some time to implement all that OIRED plans to do for the University's international programs. Nevertheless, OIRED faculty and staff are well motivated and determined to forge ahead to implement the University's strategic plan for international programs. They are committed to making the program one of the best in the country and to contributing to the vision of making Virginia Tech a truly world-class university.

Consistent with the restructuring of the recently formed OIRED, we have combined two former University newsletters, *University Abroad* (a former OIRD publication) and *Global Network* (a former University Office of International Programs publication) into the single university-wide newsletter *Virginia Tech: Global University*. This new newsletter represents our commitment to Virginia Tech's vision of becoming a world class university.

**Office of International Research,  
Education, and Development**

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