

Course Explores Application of Geophysics in Geotechnical Engineering

by Lois Stephens

In response to requests from member organizations, Virginia Tech's Center for Geotechnical Practice and Research (CGPR) recently provided a forum to answer questions about the application of geophysics in geotechnical engineering.

On May 15–16, project engineers and other engineering staff from 10 states gathered on the Virginia Tech campus for classroom and field demonstrations on Geotechnical Applications of Geophysical Methods.

The course content was developed in response to requests from CGPR members for information and guidance on applications and limitations of various geophysical techniques available to geotechnical engineers in practice. **Matthew Mauldon**, faculty member in the geotechnical engineering program at Virginia Tech

and graduate student, **F. Alex Rutledge**, developed the guidance document that evolved into the short course.

The morning session on the first day covered electrical methods including ground-penetrating radar surveys, and electrical resistivity and electromagnetic surveys. The focus of the afternoon session was on seismic methods such as refraction, reflection, and wave surveys.

On the second day, four professional geophysical service providers conducted 50-minute demonstrations of a geophysical method covered in the classroom the previous day. This interactive work included equipment explanations and data acquisitions with field displays.



Project engineers attending Geotechnical Applications of Geophysical Methods interact during a field demonstration offered by one of the four participating geophysical service providers.

Charles J. Smith, executive director of the Center for Geotechnical Practice and Research, managed the course development. "According to our course evaluations, the combination of the comprehensive manual, field demonstrations, and classroom study was exactly what the participants wanted, and they were pleased with the content and delivery," said Smith.

"One of the center's missions is to raise the knowledge base of practicing professionals, and it was rewarding to be able to transfer this knowledge and

fulfill the needs expressed by our members," Smith added.

Rudi Luyendijk, assistant director of Continuing and Professional Education, and program coordinator **Holly McCall** facilitated the logistics of the course.

The Center for Geotechnical Practice plans to offer a course on state-of-the-art practices in ground improvement in December. For more information, contact Smith at cjs@vt.edu or 540/231-5052. ■

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Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center Winds Up First Year

by Susan B. Felker

“It has been a hectic, exciting, year,” says **Teresa Hughes**, marketing manager for The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center, Virginia Tech’s new on-campus hotel and conference center. “Since the ribbon-cutting on July 10, 2005 when the first guests checked into the hotel, there hasn’t been a dull moment.”

The first conferences began immediately, soon followed by a new class of Hokies and their families arriving for orientation. Special events and VIP guests kept the hotel staff hopping.

First year statistics include over 20 wedding receptions, 76,056 meeting participants, and 34,008 reception participants. These guests consumed 13,100 breakfasts, 37,438 lunches, and 27,630 dinners, while thousands more enjoyed meals at Preston’s Restaurant and the Continental Divide lounge.

At the same time, The Inn provided lodging for several famous guests, including television talk show host George Stephanopoulos, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, Tech alum and football star Michael Vick, and talk show host Montel



Williams. NASCAR driver Richard Petty stopped in for lunch. And of course Ty Pennington and the “Extreme Makeover Home Edition” crew made The Inn their local headquarters while they were in town taping the makeover of Carol Crawford-Smith’s Blacksburg home during November and December.

Local merchants decked The Inn’s halls for “Fashions for Evergreens,” the first contest for best Christmas tree decorations. Winners were two local companies, Always Peddlin and first runner-up Best Wishes.

For more information on The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center, visit the website at www.innatvirginiatech.com. ■

Center for Power Electronics Systems Conference Draws 230 Participants

The Center for Power Electronics Systems’ (CPES) annual conference was held at The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center on April 23–25. Sponsored by the CPES Industry Partnership Program and the National Science Foundation (NSF), the conference is the forum for CPES to share research results with its industry partners and showcase the research performed throughout the year to the power electronics community at large.

CPES is a National Science Foundation Engineering Research Center established in 1998 with five partner

universities—Virginia Tech, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, North Carolina A&T State University, and University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez—and more than 80 industrial partners representing a broad cross-section of the power electronics industries. The center includes 30 faculty members and more than 200 students. With funding support from NSF, industry, and government, the center’s annual research expenditures exceed \$10 million. Their scope of research spans all the major disciplines and applications in power electronics. ■



The Center for Power Electronics Systems’ annual conference included a tour of their research lab located on the Virginia Tech campus.

photo: Rick Griffiths

International Engagement Grows Through Symposia

by Barbara Lyon Bennett

Virginia Tech's National Capital Region (NCR) sponsors international symposia to build opportunities to expand the university's discovery, learning, and engagement in the international arena.

Symposia topics are selected to: identify emerging research topics that are particularly suited to an interdisciplinary and international response; to link Virginia Tech faculty with key international partners; and to build on the resources Virginia Tech has and is developing in the National Capital Region.

This past March, the *Euro-Atlantic Symposium on Critical Information Infrastructure Assurance* was organized by Professors **Saifur Rahman** and **Mohamed Eltoweissy** of the Advanced Research Institute (ARI) in Virginia Tech's National Capital Region, in collaboration with Professor **Bernhard Haemmerli** of the HTA Applied University in Luzern, Switzerland. The goal of the symposium was to set the stage for a Euro-Atlantic partnership to better identify, prioritize, and address key workforce development and research issues in the core area of Critical Information Infrastructure Assurance.

"This symposium was an excellent example of intent of the NCR sponsorship. We brought together experts from seven countries, and from

business, government, and academia to look at a problem, critical information infrastructure assurance, that is truly international in scope and interdisciplinary in nature. We believe that because of Washington D.C.'s status as a major international city, we are in a good position to nurture international cooperation among researchers through collaborative workshops like this one in Riva," reports **Nick Stone**, NCR deputy director.

Twenty-five experts and thought leaders from Europe and the United States were invited to attend. Participants from the United States represented the following organizations: Applied Physics Laboratory, Johns Hopkins University; Georgia Tech Information Security Center; NASA Goddard Space Flight Center; Naval Research Laboratory; and the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Participants from organizations in Europe represented France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, and Switzerland.

Other Virginia Tech participants included **Denise Orden**, associate director for operations, NCR; **Barbara Bennett**, associate director, Outreach Program Development, NCR; **Manisa Pipattanasomporn**, post-doctoral associate, ARI; **Sarah Channing**, public



Participants in the Euro-Atlantic Symposium on Critical Information Infrastructure Assurance gather for a reception in the gardens at the Center for European Studies and Architecture in Riva San Vitale, Switzerland.

relations specialist, ARI; **Roberta Russell**, Department of Business Information Technology; **Scott F. Midkiff**, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering; **Denis Gracanin**, Department of Computer Science; and **Janine Hiller**, Department of Finance, Insurance, and Business Law.

"The true value of this year's symposium will become evident as relationships and projects develop," notes **Jim Bohland**, executive director of the NCR management team. "The 2005

symposium, *Computational Methods in Drug Design*, has already generated several research positions shared between Virginia Tech and Georgetown University and has fostered development of a new degree program co-sponsored by the two universities."

"Ultimately these symposia support all dimensions of the university's mission and enrich Virginia Tech's opportunities for engagement. They inform research initiatives, enrich faculty teaching, and ▶▶4

International Engagement Grows Through Symposia

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develop outreach strategies that engage the university's students, faculty, and resources in a global context," explains **Jeri Childers**, director of Outreach Program Development at Virginia Tech.

The 2005 and 2006 symposia were held at Virginia Tech's strategically located Center for European Studies and Architecture in Riva San Vitale, Switzerland. This location in the heart of Europe is a venue that appeals to both national and international participants.

Riva is used year round as a home base for Virginia Tech international studies and, as scheduling allows, is a strategic setting for special events and conferences. Semester-long programs are hosted at Riva through the Colleges of Architecture and Urban Studies and Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. This summer the center is the site for the Conference on European Education, sponsored by Outreach and International Affairs and the School of Education at Virginia Tech. ■

Virginia Tech Hosts Annual Meetings of Virginia Academy of Science

by Shelly Jobst

More than 900 students, teachers and university professors attended the 84th annual meeting of the Virginia Academy of Science (VAS) and the 65th annual meeting of the Virginia Junior Academy of Science (VJAS) at Virginia Tech's Blacksburg campus on May 23–26. The meeting began with a picnic for the students followed by a presentation on ancient volcanoes in Virginia by **James Beard**, Ph.D. and curator of earth sciences at the Virginia Museum of Natural History in Martinsville, VA.

Students in grades 7 through 12 applied to present research at the annual meeting, and their papers were accepted under stringent guidelines.

During the conference, students from across the state gave oral presentations to a panel of judges and an audience of peers and teachers, competing for society awards and category placement. Presentation sessions covered all disciplines of science including agricultural, chemical, physical, mathematical, engineering, social, and biological sciences.

More than 125 awards were given to students in each of the subject areas, and Virginia Tech awarded \$2,000 scholarships to three future Virginia Tech students who presented outstanding research papers. The Thomas H. Jones Scholarship was presented by **Richard G. Oderwald**, associate dean

for the College of Natural Resources to **Holly Stainback** from the Chesapeake Bay Governor's School. **Abby Hughes**, also from the Chesapeake Bay Governor's School, was awarded the Booker Scholarship for entering freshmen in the College of Science by **Jerry H. Via**, assistant dean for the College of Science. **John Crunkilton**, assistant dean for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, presented **Amanda L. Thomas** from Prince Edward County High School with the John Lee Pratt Scholarship.

The VAS meeting included a reception hosted by Virginia Tech President **Charles Steger** at the Inn at Virginia Tech ►►6

Orchestra Forum Held in Cleveland in May



photo: Kelly Obenauer

An Orchestra Forum participant teaches her composition to musicians of the Cleveland Orchestra (*above*). Attendees wrote musical compositions

during a session led by **Jon Deak**, associate principal bassist and creative education associate of the New York Philharmonic.

The Orchestra Forum was developed by **John McCann** and **Maureen Carruthers**, project director and program manager of Virginia Tech's Institute for Cultural Policy and Practice. It was designed to provide orchestras engaged in the process of artistic and organizational revitalization with opportunities to share their insights into new and effective practices, learn from each other and reinforce each other's experimentation, and further stimulate their own thinking by introducing them to creative leaders from other fields. ■

Service-Learning Expo Honors Outstanding People and Projects

The Virginia Tech Service-Learning Center celebrated its 11th Annual Expo on April 28 at the Graduate Life Center. The Expo showcases outstanding community service, service-learning, and action-based research projects from the academic year.

This year's event featured 28 poster exhibits representing activity in the Colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Architecture and Urban Studies, Business, Engineering, Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, Natural Resources, and Science, as well as the Graduate School, the Honors Program, the Corps of Cadets, and Scholarships and Financial Aid.

Cosby Rogers of the Department of Human Development was the 2006 Outstanding Faculty Award recipient. Rogers teaches the service-learning course, Multicultural Education, for the Department of Teaching and Learning. Rogers said that service-learning provided her pre-teaching students with an opportunity to extend learning beyond the classroom to participate in experiences "that often take them outside their cultural comfort zones, whether flat-footing with West Virginia coal miners or working with a non-English speaking preschool child."

The Rachel Parker-Gwin and Louis Gwin Service-Learning Award, named for the Service-Learning Center's benefactors in recognition of innovative

and sustained service to the community, was given to four students: **Jennifer Jackson**, **Ennis McCreary**, **Katie Perkins**, and **Brandi McKee**.

Jackson was the founder and president of Students in Free Enterprise, which provides financial literacy programming for youth at Clayton Estates Trailer Park and clients of the Women's Resource Center.

McCreary was the first Writer's in Residence through the Department of English's MFA outreach program to local schools. She has since been named the graduate coordinator for this program, and has continued to work on community projects that link children with creative writing.

Perkins participated in the Stroubles Creek Watershed Initiative in the Water Resources Research Center for four years, organizing pond clean-ups for student and community groups, and collecting data for the Center's ongoing research on the health of the watershed.

McKee interned in the Service-Learning Center as the founding



Alice Duehl, education coordinator for Refugee and Immigration Services and Josh Schaefer, an engineering student at Virginia Tech, study one of the 28 exhibits displayed at the annual Service-Learning Expo in April. Schaefer was instrumental in recruiting up to 12 engineering students each week to travel to the Maple Grove Apartments, site of the Pilot Street Project.

on-site coordinator for the Pilot Street Project, an English Language Learning Center based at the Maple Grove Apartments.

The Service-Learning Center also recognized 62 students, nominated by their course instructors or service-learning site supervisors, for outstanding work in their service-learning or Literacy Corps tutoring

projects, and four community partners. The partners recognized were **Alice Duehl** of Refugee and Immigration Services; **Chris Shackelford** of Jacksonville Center for the Arts; **Charles Hammond** of Second Harvest Food Bank; and **Paul Little** of Wilson Avenue School. ■



Michele James-Deramo (left), director of Virginia Tech's Service-Learning Center, presents the 2006 Outstanding Faculty Award to Cosby Rogers of the Department of Human Development for her outstanding course on multicultural education. The award was presented during the Service-Learning Expo in April.

Finding Home: A Personal Reflection on a Semester of Foster Care Volunteerism



Elizabeth Hart was a student in the course, Ethical Leadership and Social Responsibility, during the spring semester. A significant element of her service-learning project with the Department of Social Services involved planning an appreciation dinner for 100 foster care families. In addition to gaining valuable experience in her chosen career field of event planning, Hart acquired new insights that were meaningful to her personally.

Nothing is more powerful than emotional strength. What is extraordinary about community service is that our activism is often best stimulated by our hardest afflictions. I believe the truest value of service is our ability to act in opposition to what would otherwise be defeats in our lives. The value of community service is in the transformation of weakness into power, not only for our personal renewal, but in order to strengthen others.

This philosophy has strategically guided my choice of service activities throughout my life. However, I never imagined that my service-learning project for the Ethical Leadership course would be so closely paired to my passions, my personal life, and the skills that I could best provide.

I was assigned to volunteer at the New River Valley Department of Social Services in Christiansburg. Initially, I worked up to 10 to 15 hours promoting foster care awareness and helping to recruit families to provide homes for adolescent teenagers in our region. I then took on a specific project that dealt directly with my area of study—philanthropic special event planning. It became my task to coordinate a dinner to show the appreciation of the “valiant efforts” of foster care parents who are stepping up in

the community by opening their homes to children who have faced turmoil and displacement.

I learned that children needing foster care are not just those who are up for adoption at birth. There are children who have lost parents to illnesses, who have no guardians because their parents are incarcerated, and who are in need of new homes because they have left abusive households.

This particular service organization, the Department of Social Services, meant so much to me because in 1985, I was given up for adoption. While I awaited legal adoption by the parents with whom I now live, I was cared for by foster parents.

When I became of legal age, I searched for my biological family. The Department of Social Services in my hometown processed so much paperwork for me in an attempt to reunite us. Unfortunately, I could not be reconnected with my parents. This realization was a difficult one for me to overcome. However, working on this project with a parallel department has truly helped me understand the entire process behind my adoption that I would never have known otherwise. I also learned that the Commonwealth of Virginia

has over 8,000 children in the foster care system. Consequently, Governor **Mark Warner** declared May as Foster Care Awareness month in an attempt to bring attention to this growing issue in Virginia.

I am no longer upset that I may never reunite with my parents. Instead, I feel extraordinarily lucky to have had amazing foster care parents and adoptive parents. I brought a unique perspective to the social services workplace, and I truly became emotionally involved in the effort to help other kids have the opportunities for family as I did. I believe it is our responsibility to the world to help others overcome situations that we have already experienced and from which we have grown. To find our passions and to use that as strength is what will propel our best intentions into actions—in our personal lives, in our community, and in the business world.

I am grateful for the experience that I have had with the Department of Social Services’ Foster Care Program. I better understand myself, and a part of society that I knew existed, but hadn’t fully understood. I could truly put my heart and the power of emotional connection into my service-learning activity. ■

Virginia Tech Hosts Annual Meetings of Virginia Academy of Science

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and Skelton Conference Center, and the closing session was the Sidney S. Negus Memorial Lecture presented by **Patrick J. Michaels**, a research professor of environmental sciences at the University of Virginia.

The VAS is the fifth largest state, region, or academy of science in the U.S. It was founded in 1923 to promote the civic, academic, agricultural, industrial, and commercial welfare of the people of Virginia. VJAS is a national model for the new and renewing state junior academies and has been ranked among the top three in the nation for more than two decades. Through VJAS and other programs, VAS reaches more than 40,000 Virginia middle and high school students annually. ■

Promising Middle and High School Students from Region Honored

by Susan B. Felker

Virginia Tech's Educational Talent Search (ETS) recognized 33 of the region's most promising young scholars at the Talent Search Students of the Year banquet on the Virginia Tech campus on May 22. Guest speaker was former program participant, **Christine Brogdon**.

The awards program honors the Talent Search Students of the Year chosen from among

the middle and high schools the program serves. Counselors from Virginia Tech, **Joe Lyle**, **Sarah Wells**, **Henrietta Marshall**, and **Alan Bagby** as well as program director **Tom Wilson** presented the awards.

Each ETS counselor chooses students from schools where he or she works with pupils to help them improve their grades, cultivate academic interests,

and plan for a college education. Students are chosen based on academic performance (including GPA, strength of classes taken, and/or overall improvement); participation in program activities such as monthly meetings at school, Saturday sessions at Tech, and visits to colleges; and commitment to the goals of the Educational Talent Search program.

Educational Talent Search is a federally funded educational opportunity program designed to encourage low-income and/or potential first-generation college students to graduate from high school and to attend college. Virginia Tech administers the program for the region along with Upward Bound, a program specifically for high school students. ■

Program Prepares Future Dietitians

Fifteen interns began their nine-month journey through the Dietetic Internship Program at Virginia Tech last August. This program helps develop the skills necessary to become registered dietitians and provides eligibility for the registration examination. Through their work in various facilities, the interns provide programming to citizens of Virginia throughout the year.

The Dietetic Internship Program has been in existence for more than 10 years and currently has interns located in both Northern Virginia and the Blacksburg region. **Carol Papillon**, MPH, RD, a faculty member in the Department of Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise provides direction for the program. **Susan Moore**, MS, RD, directs the Northern Virginia site.

The Virginia Tech Dietetic Internship Program's primary mission is to prepare confident, competent entry-level dietitians while meeting the goals of the American Dietetic Association's Standards of Education. The program considers unique personality, interests, knowledge,

and skills in planning experiences for each intern. Supervised practice in each of the primary components of clinical, community, and foodservice management is included in the curriculum.

The program prepares interns for emerging trends through scheduling them for both depth of experience and exposure to a variety of settings. Unique practice settings include diabetes self-management centers, worksite wellness programs, universities, schools, cooperative extension programs, various associations, and correctional facilities. The Virginia Tech Dietetic Internship Program seeks to train dietitians

who are experts in working in various settings and competent in effectively impacting diverse populations. The program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education of the American Dietetic Association.

Successes of the program include a 94% pass rate on the registration exam compared to a national average of 84%. Of recent employers of internship graduates, 78% indicated they were above average or superior compared to other entry-level dietitians they have hired.

All indicated they would hire another Virginia Tech Dietetic Internship Program graduate. Satisfaction level of program graduates remains high with 100% indicating they would recommend the program to prospective interns.

To learn more about the Virginia Tech Dietetic Internship Program, please contact Carol Papillon at 540/231-8769, or e-mail: cpapillo@vt.edu, or by visiting the program's website at www.hnfe.vt.edu. ■



Recent graduates of the Dietetic Internship Program at Virginia Tech pose with the directors of the program, Carol Papillon (front, left) and Susan Moore (front, right). Participants developed the skills to become registered dietitians and became eligible for the registration examination.

Inside OPD

Welcome to...



Robert "Andy" French

conference registration specialist for Continuing and Professional Education



Holly Wimmer

conference registrar for Continuing and Professional Education

Congratulations to...



Debbie Alvis

former accounts payable specialist for Outreach Program Services, who has been promoted to program accountant



Scott Farmer

former associate director for Outreach Technology Services, who has been named director of Outreach Information Services



Brian Gittens

former associate director for Outreach Program Services, who has been named senior associate director for Business Operations and Strategic Initiatives



Jack Lilly

associate director for Continuing and Professional Education, who has been named interim director for Continuing and Professional Education



Beth Loar

office manager for the English Language Institute, who was named Virginia Tech staff employee of the week for June 5-9



Robin McCoy

former program accounting manager, who has been promoted to finance and program accounting manager



Dawn Stoneking

former conference registration manager, who has been promoted to operations manager



Layne Ricketts

assistant manager of Outreach Information Services who is a nominee for the university's Presidential Award for Excellence

Best Wishes to...



Rudy Luyendijk

assistant director of Continuing and Professional Education, who has accepted a position as director of the Advanced Technology Environmental and Energy Center in Bettendorf, Iowa.



This newsletter is published quarterly by Outreach Program Development, 702 University City Boulevard, Virginia Tech, Mail Code 0272, Blacksburg, Virginia 24061.

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Continuing and Professional Education

Center for Organizational & Technological Advancement (COTA)

English Language Institute

Service-Learning Center

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