



Phillip Mattson from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security addresses participants during the conference on Advanced Personal Protective Equipment: Challenges in Protecting First Responders.

Conference Addresses Challenges In Protecting First Responders

First responders and those involved with their protection gathered on campus in October to explore the use of personal protective equipment and new technologies to help shield emergency personnel in hazardous situations.

Emergency medical crews, firefighters, and police officers, as well as researchers, manufacturers, and government personnel who test and set standards for personal protective equipment participated in Advanced Personal Protective Equipment: Challenges in Protecting First Responders at The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center.

The three-day conference was sponsored by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health's National Personal Protective Technology

Laboratory (NIOSH-NPPTL) and Virginia Tech's Grado Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering (ISE).

"Disaster and emergency responders today sometimes face unknown situations because of emerging threats, such as chemical and biological warfare, as well as more common threats such as accidents that result in hazardous materials spills," said **John Casali**, Grado Professor of Industrial and Systems Engineering and director of the Auditory Systems Laboratory at Virginia Tech.

"The protective equipment first responders use must be safe, easy to apply and use, guard against incident threats, and comply with federal—and in some cases—international standards," reported Casali.

Casali initiated the conference under contract to NIOSH and in collaboration with **Jeff Lancaster**, research assistant professor in the Grado Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering.

Speakers included **Philip Mattson** of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Science and Technology Directorate; **Robert Newman**, Deputy Assistant to Governor Mark Warner for Commonwealth Preparedness; and **Jeffrey Stull**, President of International Personnel Protection, Inc.

Topics included incident response to terrorist bombings, personal protective equipment standards, new equipment technologies, as well as demonstrations of equipment. ■

"I have been involved with apparel personal protective equipment for the fire service for many years, and found the conference to be at a level appropriate for experienced personnel. The topics were well selected and the presenters were well prepared. The facility (hotel, conference room, catering service) was fabulous—you are fortunate to have such a place as part of your university."

—Ron Fornatora, Montgomery County, MD, Fire and Rescue Service

INSIDE

From the
Director

2

ACC First
International
Education
Conference

3

Service-
Learning

4

Principals
Attend Institute
Technology
Capital
Access Forum

5

Hampton
Roads
Center

6

Calendar

7



From the Director

Our excitement in beginning a new year is fueled by thoughts of possibilities—and by our reflection on the past year and the broad impact of our faculty and staff through their programs and services. Virginia Tech has a strong tradition and strong programs,

thanks to the vision and contributions of so many across our colleges and campus centers in Virginia and around the world.

As we review the accomplishments of the past year, we in Outreach Program Development are proud to extend the research, teaching, and outreach scholarship of the faculty at Virginia Tech.

- ◆ You help us deliver some 480 programs to more than 35,000 participants annually, making Virginia Tech the leader in non-credit educational offerings in the state.
- ◆ Programs are held throughout the world with sites in Canada, Mexico, England, France, Germany, India, South Africa, Switzerland, Italy, the Netherlands, and China.
- ◆ Facilities include the new on-campus complex, The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center, and The Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center.
- ◆ Last fiscal year, more than \$1.3 million in instructional payments were delivered to faculty in support of their outreach program efforts.
- ◆ More than \$570,000 in program surplus revenue was distributed to colleges and departments for essential expenditures such as graduate assistant salaries, travel, and equipment purchases.
- ◆ Research grants, contracts, investments, and gifts totaled more than \$3.76 million.

- ◆ New Technical Assistance Programs were offered as a university-approved alternative to faculty consulting. These short-term partnerships connect faculty expertise with external business needs.
- ◆ The Center for Organizational and Technological Advancement (COTA) infused more than \$3.25 million into The Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center by providing incentive grants to attract conferences to this award-winning hotel (owned by Virginia Tech).
- ◆ Our National Capital Region conducted 20 programs for more than 700 professionals last year.
- ◆ Our fully accredited English Language Institute annually enables nearly 800 students to learn language and cultural skills via 23 programs for transition into Virginia Tech or other universities.
- ◆ Last year, activities of the Service-Learning Center involved 40 faculty members who incorporated service into their classes for more than 800 students.
- ◆ Upward Bound and Talent Search, federal programs serving high schools in Southwest Virginia, engage more than 900 students and parents in local communities by providing higher education access opportunities through counseling, tutoring, encouraging, and preparing high school students for college. Last year 94% of Upward Bound graduating high school seniors and 78% of Talent Search seniors enrolled in post secondary institutions.

Reflecting on these accomplishments, we realize and appreciate the essential contributions of our partners across campus and beyond. We look forward to building these relationships in the coming year as we focus our efforts on quality, innovation, and results.

Best wishes for a fruitful and rewarding year.

Jeri Childers
Jeri Childers,
Director, Outreach Program Development

ACC Member Universities and Colleges Hold First International Education Conference

by Susan Felker

On November 4, the Atlantic Coast Conference colleges and universities concluded their first International Academic Collaboration (IAC) conference and everyone was a winner.

The two-day event, held at The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center, brought together representatives from each participating ACC institution for round table discussions, seminars, and panel sessions to share best practices and explore opportunities for meaningful collaborations on international programs.

The meeting resulted from the desire of ACC members to work together on initiatives that will strengthen the member institutions academically, not just in the sports arena. **David Brown**, provost emeritus of Wake Forest University, was instrumental in advancing the international education agenda.

Virginia Tech **President Charles Steger** welcomed the ACC academic representatives and underlined the significance of the initiative. "This will establish a framework for a broad range of collaborations across all of our international programs," Steger said. He also hosted an evening reception and dinner for the group. Rector of the Board of Visitors **Ben Davenport** spoke to the group about involving the university board in the international agenda.

Keynote speaker for the event was **The Honorable R. Nicholas Burns**, U.S. Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs, who informed



Representatives from Atlantic Coast Conference universities and colleges gathered on the Virginia Tech campus in November to explore opportunities for collaborations on international programs. **George Wilson** from North Carolina State University is shown addressing the 90 attendees.

the audience that Secretary of State Condaleeza Rice and Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff are working together to facilitate the visa approval process for international students wishing to attend colleges and universities in the United States.

"One of the best ways to attain long-term international understanding is through educational exchanges between countries," Burns said. He indicated that the Department of State is fully aware of the negative impact of the strict post-9/11 visa regulations on recruiting the best international students for institutions in the United States, including the growing practice among such students of enrolling in

universities in Britain, Canada, or Australia. He also noted that Secretary of State Rice wants to bring back federal grant programs for the study of foreign languages.

Early last year, the ACC formed a Working Group on International Academic Collaborations (IAC) including chief representatives from each college or university with responsibility for international programs. This group developed a strategic plan that created a managing committee and that calls for biennial conferences to share best practices and information. Vice Provost for Outreach and International Affairs **John Dooley** represents Virginia Tech and chaired this first ACC/IAC conference.

The managing committee also reported to conference attendees about its other initiatives, including honoring outstanding international programs, faculty, and students; creating an ACC/IAC website linking international gateways at ACC member institutions; collaborating on existing education abroad opportunities and introducing new ACC multi-institutional initiatives; establishing an education abroad scholarship program; encouraging faculty collaboration through annual summer overseas missions; and initiating research to assess the effectiveness of international education programs. ■



Service-learning students move furniture for the Hometown Corps. Last year the program provided gently used furniture and other household items to more than 80 families in the New River Valley.

Hometown Corps Furnishes Community

Hometown Corps is a Service-Learning Center program that works with local agencies to coordinate furniture pick-up and delivery for families in need.

During the past year, Hometown Corps has provided items ranging from used furniture to linens to appliances to more than 80 households in the New River Valley. Those served include people of limited means, the formerly homeless, young adults who have aged out of the social service system, women and children leaving abusive situations, and most recently several families who lost their homes in Hurricane Katrina.

Agencies involved with Hometown Corps include the Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program, Community Housing Partners, Tekoa Residential Treatment Facilities, Giles Christian Mission, Camp Christi in

Christiansburg, and the Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley.

Perry Martin, founder of Hometown Corps works with these agencies and the community to find donated furniture and place it with people in need. Service-Learning students play a key role in the pick-up and delivery of donated items and in the process, become more aware of and connected to their community.

The Service-Learning Center Hometown Corps accepts gently used items on behalf of several social service agencies in the New River Valley and provides logistical support to get donated items to area individuals in need. There is no money allocated for the program to cover expenses and it relies heavily on service-learning students and volunteers. If you would like to contribute to this effort please contact Perry Martin at the Service-Learning Center, 540/231-9186 or at vt_serves@vt.edu.

A Day In The Life Of The Service-Learning Center

The Service-Learning Center (SLC) provides opportunities for Virginia Tech students to enhance learning and deepen civic responsibility by integrating community service with reflection and study. On a recent day, the SLC received the following requests for services.

- ◆ An individual in Giles County was referred by the Giles Christian Mission. She is moving into a trailer and currently has no furniture other than a kitchen table.
- ◆ An 18-year-old boy is currently homeless in Christiansburg and does not have any money or transportation. The local homeless shelters are currently full and the SLC was asked to assist in helping him find a place to live and assist in searching for possible job opportunities.
- ◆ Another family in Christiansburg, as a result of Hurricane Katrina, does not have a bed and is need of other furniture items.
- ◆ A youth who was placed in a group home as a result of childhood abuse and neglect recently left the group home and is in need of a couch, dresser, and tables for his first place as an independent adult.
- ◆ The Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley had several items donated and needed help in transporting them.
- ◆ Help 1 Up, a nation-wide furniture assistance organization based in Georgia that works within the furniture industry to support the creation of furniture banks, is interested in working with and supporting the SLC's efforts.

Waterworks Operators Gather in Richmond



Waterworks operators participate in a short course designed to help them pass the Class VI exam for licensure. The course was held November 16-18 at the Virginia Tech Richmond Center. For more information about 2006 courses, visit www.conted.vt.edu/classVIsc or call Jack Lilly at 540/231-9447, or e-mail jacklilly@vt.edu.

Recently Appointed Principals Attend Institute

Virginia Tech's Center for Organizational and Technology Advancement (COTA) partnered with the Western Virginia Public Education Consortium, a group of 19 public school districts, to design two Virginia School Leaders' Institutes. The first of four quarterly workshops for recently appointed principals began in October at The Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center. **Billy Cannaday** (left), superintendent of Chesterfield County schools, instructed one of the sessions. The second institute begins in July 2006 and will support aspiring school principals. For more information, contact COTA Fellow **W. Robert Herbert** at bherbert@vt.edu or **Rose Woodford** at rwoodfor@vt.edu or call 540/853-8276.



Conference Links Investment Capital with Knowledge Capital

More than 160 participants convened at The Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center in October for Virginia's Technology Capital Access Forum. The objective of the statewide annual event is to advance Virginia's innovation economy by putting technology and innovative entrepreneurs in touch with capital providers throughout the mid-Atlantic region. This year's conference featured **Rich Karlgaard**, publisher of *Forbes* magazine and author of the bestseller, *Life 2.0*.

Daniel Barchi (right), president and CEO of Carilion Biomedical Institute, presents the best business plan award to **Keith Ignatz**, CEO and president of Diakine Therapeutics, Inc. The leading sponsors of the conference were Virginia Tech, Carilion, and Third Security. ■



Rich Karlgaard, publisher of *Forbes* magazine, addresses conference attendees.



Hampton Roads Center Offers Research Forum, European Education

Inside OPD

Welcome to...



Tracey Allen,
Senior program
coordinator in Continuing
and Professional Education



Dave Elmore,
Graphic designer for the
marketing office of
Outreach Program Services



Alisa Hewitt,
Program coordinator in
Continuing and
Professional Education



Holly McCall,
Program coordinator in
Continuing and
Professional Education

Congratulations to...



Scott Farmer,
Associate director for
Outreach Technology
Services, who recently
completed his Ph.D.
in Curriculum
and Instruction

The Virginia Tech Hampton Roads Center is gearing up for many activities in the new year such as graduate and certification programs, and non-credit programs including workshops, conferences, research forums, and an international educational experience.

The center is planning its first **Educational Research Forum**. Each year, the Virginia Tech Hampton Roads Center awards professionals in K-12 education with doctoral degrees. The required dissertation is a significant research project with topics that are diverse and relevant to school administrators and supervisors throughout the commonwealth. The Educational Research Forum is planned as an annual event to showcase this important research. Educational leaders from across the state will be

invited to attend the February 23-24 event in Virginia Beach. The two-day program features keynote speakers and breakout sessions which will allow participants an opportunity to choose several session topics.

The **Conference on European Education**, June 25-July 2, is a week-long study of the diverse educational practices in Switzerland. In northern Switzerland, the school systems are greatly influenced by Germany, in the western area the influence is France, and in the southern portion it is Italy. In addition to exploring these practices, the group travels to a Swiss university to learn more about teacher and administrator preparation.

Participants will fly to Zurich, spend two nights and then travel to the Virginia Tech

Center for European Studies and Architecture in Riva San Vitale. They stay there for the remainder of the conference before traveling to Milan, Italy for departure on July 2.

This conference has been approved for financial assistance through the Virginia Tech Financial Aid office. Privately funded low-interest loan funds are available covering the registration fees as well as travel and other associated fees.

To learn more about the Educational Research Forum or the Conference on European Education, contact **Travis Twiford** at ttwiford@vt.edu. ■



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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