Annual Report

Virginia Tech suffered a tragedy of immense proportions on April 16, 2007, a day that cost the lives of 32 bright and beloved students and professors. Buoyed by an international outpouring of support and our Hokie Spirit, the university community came together to mourn — and to begin the arduous process of moving ahead despite our sorrow. This annual report summarizes the results of that process.

Research and discovery: Creating excitement

In the arena of discovery, which familiarizes the university with the ability to change the future, the most recent figures released by the National Science Foundation show that research expenditures here increased by 14 percent, moving the university to 42nd among colleges and universities nationwide. The excitement about research led us to join forces with agencies in Northern Virginia to announce a major research center in the Ballston area and to begin collaborating with Georgetown University to discover and develop new drugs. We also broke ground on the already-announced Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine in Roanoke and named its founding dean, Dr. Cynthia Anus Johnson.

Other research developments discussed in this publication include saving lives on our roads and in swift-water rescues and helping the world discover alternative fuels for the future.

Enhancing teaching and learning

While research is important to everyone’s future, our teaching and learning must be top-notch to help students — some of whom will make their own discoveries — move ahead and realize their full potential. At Virginia Tech, we recognize departments that do extraordinary jobs in working with students, and you can read about them in this report.

Technology: New opportunities to move ahead

Although the very word sounds as if it would insulate its users, technology is another area that brings the Virginia Tech community together, a community that sometimes includes private industry. For instance, educators, researchers, and students joined forces to produce one of the top-10 most influential vehicles in the world. Private industry also plays a role in technological advancements. As an example, General Motors is working with us on neuroinformatics, and our discoveries could vastly improve the way humans and machines — such as prosthetics — interact.

Our researchers received notable awards for their technological achievements, including one in which Computerworld named a professor one of 40 under the age of 40 to watch. The National Academy of Sciences recognized another professor for his stellar work on embedded computers, which are the “brains” behind many everyday mechanisms. Computerworld also presented the College of Engineering with a medal for its tablet PC program, which is helping transform the classroom.

Improving society through engagement

Engaging with others to improve their lives is never far from our hearts at Virginia Tech, and 2007-08 was a particularly poignant time to focus on our motto, Ut Prosim (That I May Serve). Our students, faculty members, and staffers developed unique and visible ways to remind people to help others through VT-ENGAGE, and an individual student found a way to add both the environment and the community by having the food at campus eateries that was left over each day delivered to area food pantries.

The Virginia Tech community does not come together in service to win awards or recognition, but that is sometimes the result. The Corporation for National and Community Service added the university to its honor roll, and the Community Design Assistance Center was honored for its 20 years of helping localities move ahead.

Campaign leads to another fundraising record

Whether through teaching, discovery, or engagement, our collective efforts to advance society would be impossible without the finances to carry it off. We have known for many years that the state should be funding us at a higher level than it is willing or able to provide. In fact, as this report is being produced, we face yet another large cut in public funding. Because of this, the value of private giving to the university cannot be emphasized enough. Our supporters set a giving record by donating $91.1 million, an increase of 8.7 percent over fiscal year 2007-08. And The Campaign for Virginia Tech: Invent the Future, which we announced in 2007, has now raised more than $683 million toward our $1 billion goal. You can read about the goals of this fundraising in the philanthropy section.

As you will note in this report, Virginia Tech has accomplished much during some of the most challenging times it has ever faced. Our many successes speak volumes about the resiliency of our university community and its capacity to work together to move ahead. And they offer encouragement for the future and confidence in our ability to improve it — for all of society.

In memoriam

Zenobia Lawrence Hikes, vice president for student affairs, died on Oct. 27, 2008. President Charles W. Steger called her “a deeply dedicated, charismatic, and inspirational leader who strongly affected new ideas and leadership to the Division of Student Affairs. Her passing is a terrible loss to our community.

Annual Report 2007-08
School of Arts reorganized to enhance offerings

Virginia Tech is always looking for ways to advance its academic offerings, and as a part of its expanded vision for the arts, which includes a planned performance hall and theater, a visual arts gallery, and a creative technologies lab, the School of the Arts was reorganized into the School of Architecture and Urban Studies. The School of the Performing Arts and Cinema draws on the faculty and programs in theater, music, and film studies. Its mission is to utilize the performing arts and cinema to generate and disseminate knowledge and artistic expressions with performances, educational outreach, and active involvement with citizens, arts organizations, governmental entities, and businesses.

This academic structure allows for new opportunities,” said Sue Ott Rowland, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. “We will continue to provide visibility and prominence in the performing arts and also validate programs in film and film studies.”

The mission of the School of Visual Arts is to offer an expansive undergraduate and graduate education in fine art, art history, and visual and digital design embracing contemporary and traditional techniques. The school will also specialize in new creative technologies as a vehicle for voice and vision. In addition to existing and proposed academic programs, the school includes VIDA, the Visual Design Studios; the Collaboration for Creative Technologies in the Arts and Design (CCTAD); the Art Museum of Western Virginia; the Virginia Tech Faculty Senate; the School of the Arts; and XYZ Gallery, a student-run art gallery.

“The new School of Visual Arts will realign the academic structure of the College of Architecture and Urban Studies and will advance the university’s commitment to innovation in the arts through learning, discovery, and engagement,” said Jack Davis, dean of the College of Architecture and Urban Studies.

Student achievements

Philip Chung, of Fairfax, Va., a senior double majoring in agricultural and applied economics in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and political science in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, was awarded a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship. The Fulbright Scholar conversational English is similar and high school students in South Korea for one year. He also plans to volunteer at a tutoring center for underprivileged and low-income families.

Estee G. Rios, an accounting and information system junior in the Pamplin College of Business, was selected to participate in KPMG’s Future Diversity Leaders program. The audit, tax, and advisory firm chose 50 students from across the nation to participate in the program, designed to provide leadership training and financial support for outstanding minority undergraduate business students. Rios was nominated as a result of her academic achievements, community and campus involvement, and participation in diversity organizations.

Benjamin Tew of Baltimore, Md., a graduate student in the industrial design program in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies, won the grand prize at the 2007 JamesProdex Product Manufacturers’ Association International Show in Orlando, Fla. Tew received $2,500 for his product, NIP, or Next Interior Play Area.

Laura Valentino of Nashville, Tenn., and Colorado Springs, Colo., a fourth-year interior design student in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies, won the gold prize in the Odelgad Award for Excellence in Bag Design competition. Valentino’s design was selected from more than 900 entries from schools across the U.S. and five foreign countries.

Three students, each with an impressive record of undergraduate research and leadership experience, received Barry M. Goldwater scholarships for the 2008-09 academic year.

Than Do, a sophomore from Springfield, Va., suggests his fascination with engineering has developed an interest in nano-technology because of its potential applications in the medical field. He has focused his research on developing robust microscopic channels and particles.

Kevin Finelli, a junior from Yorktown, Va., double majoring in mathematics and physics, is a member of the Sigma Pi Sigma Physics National Honor Society. He has conducted undergraduate research in the Department of Physics and Mathematics, as well as the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility in Newport News, Va.

David Tatam, a junior from Midlothian, Va., double majoring in finance and biochemistry, has studied the metabolism of sulfur in bacteria with the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. He has conducted undergraduate research in the Department of Chemistry. Tatam is also a member of the Virginia Tech Club Volleyball A Team, which placed ninth in Division III in 2007.

Patti Roos, department head of theatre arts, and Torman Capone, head of the School of Visual Arts, will lead the new School of Performing Arts and Cinema.
Together, the campus community goes green. Virginia Tech has made advances in sustainability research for years, and the university itself has engaged in various efforts to make the campus “green” and more energy-efficient — but the university’s efforts have not followed a specific plan. That will change during 2008-09. President Charles W. Steger decided in 2007-08 that it was time to go about these efforts in a more systematic way by developing a campus sustainability plan aimed at reducing global-warming emissions in everyday campus operations.

To reach this goal, Steger directed the recently formed Committee on Energy and Sustainability to develop the “Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment.” “Virginia Tech will be better served by developing a sustainability plan that is specific to our university community. This plan will have a significant impact on our policies, operations, and the budget of the university. In order for this initiative to be successful, Believe we need to secure the support of the entire university community,” Steger said.

“Campus sustainability has strong support among university leadership, and Believe Virginia Tech will become a leader in campus sustainability issues,” he added.

The development of the Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment, which will be pursued in lieu of signing the george’s President’s Climate Commitment, will be submitted to Steger and the Commission on University Sustainability by the end of the 2008-09 semester. Once approved by the commission, the draft plan will be submitted to University Council and to Steger for formal adoption.

Meanwhile, the university has not been idle in this area. In fact, it received a 2008 Governor’s Environmental Excellence Award for its commitment to the stewardship of Virginia’s natural resources through the Sustainability Week 2007 Program. The Governor’s Environmental Excellence Awards recognize the commendable environmental and conservation leaders. Some of the awards include Virginia’s governor, the secretary of natural resources, the Department of Environmental Quality, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, and other partner organizations.

Sustainability Week 2007 was a green partnership to reach this goal. Steger directed the recently formed Committee on Energy and Sustainability. The event was so successful that planning began immediately for Sustainability Week 2008.

The university has also joined a number of schools across the country that are saving food and energy costs by eliminating trees at all you can eat dining centers. When Tech dropped tray use during summer 2008 at E and Student Dining Hall, food waste declined 38 percent, according to Denny Cochrane, Tech’s energy and sustainability coordinator. The change also saved water and electricity used to wash the trays.

As a result, the two dining centers will go trayless immediately for Sustainability Week 2008. The event was so successful that planning began for Sustainability Week 2009.

To aid all these efforts, Tech joined the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). Membership covers every campus (faculty, staff, and students). Members have access to an array of online resources and numerous opportunities for networking, information sharing, collaboration, and professional development.

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Higher education is a crucial component in society’s drive to advance and improve. And while it takes collaboration among all segments of the campus community, it is the world-class teachers who provide the intellectual fire and creativity. Awards and recognition are not the full measure of a superior teacher or researcher, but they do provide one yardstick.

In an extraordinary year, seven faculty members received a National Science Foundation (NSF) Faculty Early Career Development Program (CAREER) Award to support their research. The five-year grants are worth at least $400,000 each and are the NSF’s most prestigious award for those creative junior faculty members who are considered to be future leaders in their academic fields. The CAREER recipients are as follows:

Masoud Agah, assistant professor in the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and an affiliate member of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, wants to develop a credit card-sized gas chromatography platform. Gas chromatography is the primary technique used for a number of scientific, medical, and industrial settings to separate and analyze volatile compounds. Conventional systems, however, tend to be large, fragile, and relatively expensive tabletop instruments. Agah’s system would improve speed, portability, and performance and would consume far less power.

Computing systems will soon have the capability of processing a petabyte — or 1,000 terabytes — per second, but without significant improvement, input/output systems that enable the processors to interact with external devices, such as disks and networks, will not be able to keep up. Ali R. Butt, an assistant professor of computer science in the College of Engineering, is addressing the increasing performance gap between computing power and storage technology, especially for high-performance computing environments.

College of Science researcher Serkan Gugercin focuses on the timely, accurate prediction or control of complex phenomena, such as predicting the path of a hurricane or controlling a jet. An assistant professor of mathematics, Gugercin is affiliated with the Interdisciplinary Center of Applied Mathematics.

Leigh McCue, an assistant professor in the Department of Aerospace and Ocean Engineering, wants to save lives and ships by improving the stability and safety of sea-going vessels. McCue, who won a $300,000 Young Investigator Program Award from the Office of Naval Research in addition to her CAREER award, is developing tools to help ship designers better understand ship motions and, thus, diminish capsizing and other dangers resulting from vessel instabilities.

Improving the security of cognitive radio technology is the goal of Virginia Tech College of Engineering researcher Jung-Min Park. Park, an assistant professor in the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, said that cognitive radio technology will be used for two-way communications in a wide range of applications, such as communication systems for tactical military forces and emergency responders. It also might be used in the development of wireless access networks that can provide Internet services to rural areas.

Nonequilibrium systems — including weather and climate, the efficiency of combustion and chemical reactions, the convection of biological organisms in the oceans, heart dynamics, and crystal growth in a melt — are extremely important but remain difficult to analyze, control, design, and predict. College of Engineering researcher Mark Paul, an assistant professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, is working to understand the dynamics of large, chaotic systems, such as weather and climate.

Boris Vinatzer, assistant professor of plant pathology, physiology, and weed science in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, is using new genome-sequencing technology to test a hypothesis about how agriculture’s early beginnings may have impacted the evolution of plant pathogens. He is investigating whether plant pathogenic bacteria evolved from relatively weak pathogens that caused disease in many plants to highly virulent pathogens of single crops.

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Numerous other professors also received recognition for their work. Among them are the following:

Marc Edwards, the Charles F. Lanford Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, was named a MacArthur Fellow for 2007 by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. He received a five-year grant of $500,000 to use in any way he chooses. Edwards played a vital role in ensuring the safety of drinking water and in exposing deteriorating water-delivery infrastructure in America’s largest cities. While investigating the Washington, D.C., area’s water supply in 2003, Edwards and his graduate students discovered that the addition of chlorine disinfectant in tap water increased the incidence of lead leaching in residential and commercial aqueducts.

The Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture named Patrick Miller, associate dean for graduate studies and outreach in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies, a CELA Fellow. The title is bestowed to “honor a faculty member’s lifetime accomplishments in teaching, scholarship, creative activity, and service.”

James E. McGrath, University Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, received the American Chemical Society Award in Polymer Chemistry for his synthesis and characterization of high performance matrix polymers and structural adhesives, fire-resistant polymers and composites, and high temperature polymers for composites.

A new tree species that grows in India, China, and Taiwan was named for David G.I. Kingston, University Distinguished Professor of Chemistry. Taxus kingstonii, also called the Kingston yew, was described by Richard Spjut in the Journal of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas. Kingston has done extensive work on yew names, which include the important cancer chemotherapeutic agent paclitaxel (Taxol).

Michael F. Hochella Jr., University Distinguished Professor of Geochemistry, was named a Fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

Fred P. Pierry, professor and head of the Department of Human Development in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, was honored with the Outstanding Contribution to Marriage and Family Therapy Award from the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy.

University Distinguished Professor of English Nikki Giovanni received the 2007 Carl Sandburg Literary Award from the Chicago Public Library Foundation. Giovanni was the first poet to win the award.

Two School of Architecture + Design faculty members were named by the DesignIntelligence as educators most admired and respected in the fields of interior design, interior architecture, architectural engineering, industrial design, and landscape architecture.

Kevin Davy, associate professor of human nutrition, foods, and exercise in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and director of the Human Integrative Physiological Laboratory, was elected Fellow of the American Heart Association and the Council of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Metabolism. Davy has made contributions to understanding sympathetic nervous system behavior in human obesity.

Ron-Hoan Yoon, who holds the Virginia Tech Nicholas T. Carnesich Professorship, was elected a member of the National Academy of Engineering, the highest honor in the engineering profession. Yoon is known internationally for his significant contributions to the technology and science of mineral processing.

Ed Falco, professor of English and director of creative writing and the master of fine arts program, was awarded a Literature Fellowship in Prose from the National Endowment for the Arts. The fellowship encourages the production of new work by allowing its recipients the time and means to write.

Engineering professor James Thorp and Arun Phadke received the 2008 Benjamin Franklin Medal in Electrical Engineering for their combined contributions of more than 60 years to the power industry. For this collaborative work, the Franklin Institute has now included Thorp and Phadke in its list of the greatest men and women of science, engineering, and technology.

Patricia Dove, professor of geochemistry in the College of Science, was named a Fellow in the American Geophysical Union. Dove was recognized for her outstanding contributions to the advancement of the geophysical sciences. She and her research group study the biogeochemistry of earth processes.

Arun Phadke, Patricia Dove, Roe-Hoan Yoon, Kevin Davy, and Paul Sorrentino

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Sandeep Shukla, associate professor of electrical and computer engineering, has received a Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Award from the Alexander Humboldt Foundation of Germany. The Bessel award is available annually to no more than 25 scientists and scholars, internationally renowned in their field, who completed their doctorate fewer than 12 years earlier.

Bob Hickok and Paul Sorrentino, faculty members in the Department of English in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, both received Guggenheim Fellowships. Hickok also garnered the 2008 Rebekah Johnson Bobbitt National Prize for Poetry for his most recent collection of poems, This Clumsy Living.
Students help push technology envelope

As part of its annual Virginia Tech Proctor and engineering uniform, the students place about $500,000 each year in the Challenge autonomic vehicle competition.

During the competition, held on a former U.S. Air Force base in Victoria, Calif., the Tech autonomous vehicle, Odin, completed a 60-mile course — with no human intervention allowed past the starting line — in less than six hours. Odin obeyed California traffic laws before crossing the finish line just behind entries from Carnegie Mellon University and Stanford University.

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GM and Virginia Tech scientists expect that brain-machine interfaces could potentially improve prosthetics devices, possibly even helping restore such senses as vision, touch, hearing, and motor skills.

Technology research continues to help healing communities move ahead

For instance, a connection can be made between metabolic arrest in primitive organisms, such as mice. While such a connection might appear tenuous, the Virginia Tech researchers and educators have joined together in an effort to improve or make use of improvements to technology to help students and the community alike. In 2007-08, they continued their advancements and also received accolades for past accomplishments.
A year later
On April 16, 2008, the anniversary of the tragic events of 2007, the university community came together in remembrance and to celebrate the 32 people whose lives were violently taken by a mad and disturbed young man. Hokies gathered at the Frontiers of Engineering Symposium. In honor that parallels the NAS event. In 2004 he was invited by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to participate in the 19th annual Kavli Frontiers of Science Symposium. Shukla is among a group of about 100 scientists under the age of 45 selected by the NAS in recognition of their research achievements. Since the symposium began in 1998, more than 100 former participants have been elected to the academy and eight have received Nobel Prizes.

In 2005 Shukla was invited by the National Academy of Engineering to attend the 19th annual Kavli Frontiers of Science Symposium. In honor of his special insight and judgment in developing the protocols. … He literally appeared from nowhere during a time of need for all of us, and we thank him.”

In September 2007, the university launched VT-ENGAGE to get the whole campus, Band, and a March 18, 2008, exhibition game between the New York Yankees and the Tech baseball team.

In 2006 President Charles W. Steger announced that those recommendations had been divided into 33 priority areas, many of which had already been implemented. As a result, Virginia Tech and campuses across the nation are safer.

In July 2007, Kenneth Feinberg, who managed distribution of the 9/11 compensation fund, volunteered his services as administrator of the Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund. By late summer, almost 21,000 groups, companies, or individuals had contributed $8.5 million. In October, more of those donations were distributed to victims or families of victims. Said Steger of Feinberg, “Ken is willing to use his time and share his special insight and judgment in developing the protocols. … He literally appeared from nowhere during a time of need for all of us, and we thank him.”

In 2006, the university launched VT-ENGAGE to get the whole community more involved in service activities and to honor the April 16 victims.

In December 2007, Steger announced that Norris Hall, where 30 students and faculty members died, would continue to serve as a research facility for engineering students and would also house the new Center for Peace Studies and Violence Prevention in the second floor classroom where the shootings occurred.

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Virginia Tech’s Latin motto, Ut Prosim, translates to “That I May Serve,” but among Hokies, service is more than just a motto, it is a passion.

Given that passion, it is no surprise that the university community, in an attempt to move ahead while still honoring the victims of April 16, 2007, embraced an idea called VT-ENGAGE in fall 2007.

The original goal of VT-ENGAGE was 300,000 hours of community service by students, faculty, and staff by April 16, 2008. The Virginia Tech Alumni Association executive committee then voted to challenge alumni around the world to donate an additional 300,000 hours of community service, for a total of 600,000 hours.

Imagine the power of 600,000 hours of community service,” university President Charles W. Steger said in announcing the initiative. “We can truly make a significant difference by students, faculty, and staff by April 16, 2008. The Virginia Tech Alumni Association executive committee then voted to challenge alumni around the world to donate an additional 300,000 hours of community service, for a total of 600,000 hours.

“We have already had a few groups ask about donating food, and we were always willing, but we never found anyone who could actually put a program together that would meet the needs of all parties involved,” said Faulkner.

Because the dining program is supported by student fees and dining plan purchases, it cannot incur any extra cost in collecting and delivering the food, and pick-ups need to be scheduled on a daily basis. Also, organizations that receive donations must secure a state health permit to be responsible for proper transferal of the food. These obstacles had prevented past groups from getting a project off the ground.

Moyer, however, was not deterred. He garnered support from the Student Government Association and worked with Diana and John Blevins of the Salvation Army’s Christiansburg food pantry — God’s Lunchbox — to obtain a health permit. He also formulated a system to donate unused food from university dining halls.

“The program started in February 2008 with leftover bagels, pastries, and pre-packaged cold foods from Au Bon Pain. Then, foods from Deet’s Place, a pre-packaged cold foods from Au Bon Pain. Then, foods from Deet’s Place, a

Donations are picked up by a Salvation Army volunteer every Monday through Friday, while Tech’s dining employees collect food from the participating locations and package it according to Food and Drug Administration safety standards. The Student Government Association advertises the program, and, of course, Moyer volunteers.

“Wood program envisioned as tool to help competitiveness,” The Department of Wood Science and Forest Products in the College of Natural Resources has developed yet another way for the university to enhance its important work with Virginia’s K-12 schools, a community service that benefits the entire state.

Led by departmental Paul Winistorfer, a partnership with the Halden County Schools, Southern Virginia Higher Education Center, Pottsylvania County Schools, Danville Public Schools, Danville Community College, The Crossroads Institute, Wytheville Community College, Galax City Schools, Carroll County Schools, and Grayson County Schools aims to raise awareness of the importance of wood science, advanced wood manufacturing, wood design, and the human capital needed to lead these industries into the future.

“Essentially, we aspire to create the future wood products workforce at all levels — from the skilled workers needed in advanced manufacturing to the research scientists working on bio-based composites and new materials — by creating educational pathways that start in [the schools] and lead to our programs at Virginia Tech,” said Winistorfer. “There is something for everyone in this unique partnership, and we are on a path to create a globally recognized center of excellence in the entire state of Virginia. We must link our efforts to develop human capital at all levels of our educational system.”

The forest industries are $27 billion economic contributors to the commonwealth, according to Winistorfer, but the state, industry, and consumers face
High global challenges in overall competitiveness. As a result, the U.S. is now a net importer of wood, fiber, and finished products.

CDAC’s long service has helped in hundreds of ways

The Community Design Assistance Center (CDAC) has been helping local communities for 20 years, and had even more reason to celebrate that anniversary when it was recognized for its outstanding service with the 2008 Alumni Award for Outstanding Excellence in Staff Achievement. This most recognizes the contributions of university employees who are engaged in strategic partnerships that enhance the economic and social well-being of individuals, families, businesses, and communities across the Commonwealth, the nation, and the world.

CDAC was selected for its sustained, outstanding engagement with communities. Over the years, the center has worked with almost 200 communities, provided more than 270 student jobs, and involved more than 60 faculty members. This work has leveraged millions of dollars in funding; improved the lives of hundreds of thousands of people; and fostered economic, social, environmental, and health-related improvements to communities through work on master plans for various public spaces, landscaping, corridor studies, streetscapes, interior design, and more.

Throughout its work on the Last Community of Virginia Project, the center has also focused attention on documenting Virginia’s fading rural communities. The center has surveyed 2,800 of these communities and photographed 3,548.

Strong private support reaches another fundraising record

For the second year in a row, Virginia Tech has broken its own fundraising record. Private giving to the university in fiscal year 2007-08 reached $91.1 million. That represents an increase of 8.7 percent over 2006-07.

Once again, individual donors came through for the university, contributing $81.4 million, or 67 percent of total giving. Friends of the university, or those who are not alumni, parents, or employees, accounted for more than 20 percent of total giving; showing once again that Virginia Tech means the world to many people — not just those who went to school here.

Three-quarters of our fundraising units saw an increase in dollars raised over last year. In particular, the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine nearly tripled last year’s total, raising $5.1 million. Other units also deserve recognition for their fundraising efforts, including Fine and Performing Arts, which saw a 313 percent increase; the Graduate School, which saw a 213 percent increase; the Honors Program, which had an increase of 674 percent; and the V.E. Skelton College of Agriculture, with an increase of 556 percent.

FY 2007-08 was exciting, not just for the money raised, but also because it was the first year of the public phase of The Campaign for Virginia Tech: Incent the Future. At the end of the first year of the public phase of the campaign, the university had raised $90.5 million, or 27 percent of the $366.9 million goal. Also, to be critical in our fundraising success, accounting for more than 46 percent of total giving to the university.

The university is already seeing dramatic and tangible evidence of the effect that private philanthropy is having on campus as a number of new facilities are coming online like Bishop-Favrao Hall and the Institute for Critical Technologies and Advanced Sciences (ICTAS). Bishop-Favrao Hall, which opened in spring 2008 and houses the Department of Building Construction and the new Myers-Lawson School of Construction, ICTAS is in almost ready for occupancy and will provide space for offices, a research area, and, most importantly, a permanent home for the institute, which supports and promotes cutting-edge research at the intersection of engineering, science, and medicine. Support for new facilities like these is important in Virginia Tech continues to create learning and research opportunities for faculty and students alike.

Another facility, the experimental theater currently under construction on College Avenue, reflects the university’s focus on providing enriched cultural prospects for students, faculty, and members of the community. Soon, with the help of private philanthropy, the campus will be home to a new arts complex, of which the new theater is but one part. The complex will also include a state-of-the-art performance hall and a visual arts gallery that promotes partnerships with arts organizations. Additionally, a renovated Shute Hall will be part of the complex.

Also for the second year in a row, scholarship giving nearly doubled, proving once again that our friends and alumni know the value of a Virginia Tech education. Clearly, a strong scholarship program is an important component of our mission to educate, and it is our desire to remove financial barriers to all students who merit the university’s admissions requirements. The university’s corporate and foundation partners have also stepped up this year, increasing their support for the institution. Some of these gifts are anonymous and worth mentioning here.

• Fuzion Computer Products of America gave a gift of equipment valued at more than $500,000 to the College of Engineering’s Office of Distance Learning and Computing.
• GE/IFASC/Am. National North America gave a gift of equipment valued at more than $150,000 to the College of Engineering’s Office of Distance Learning and Computing.
• The Sigrid Rupp Trust donated $340,240 to support the International Archive of Women in Architecture.
• The Invesco Corporation donated equipment valued at $215,000 to the College of Science.

Private philanthropy continues to make a difference at Virginia Tech — whether that support comes from alumni, friends of the university, or corporate partners. It allows the university to provide an exceptional education to its students, to support the extraordinary research of its faculty, and to foster knowledge in the world.

Recently, the University of Virginia announced that it is planning to build a new library on its campus. This news has sparked increased interest in a similar project at Virginia Tech. The Virginia Tech library is an important part of the university’s academic mission and a symbol of the university’s commitment to excellence in education and research. The library provides a center for learning and collaboration, a source of inspiration and creativity, and a place for students and faculty to come together to explore new ideas and advance knowledge.

Research expenditures rising rapidly

Research expenditures at Virginia Tech took a huge jump for fiscal year 2007 (the most recent figures available) to $366.9 million, according to the National Science Foundation (NSF). The increase of $45.2 million, or 12.9 percent, over the 2006 figures marked the university from 54th to 42nd in the national rankings — ninth among universities without a medical school — our highest ranking since 1990.

“I am incredibly proud of our faculty and their commitment to discovery and scholarship,” said President Robert W.明智, vice president for research, that 2007 marked 10 straight years of growth in NSF-reported research expenditures at Virginia Tech. “The statistics released... by NSF also show that we’re growing by over twice the national average in the past three years [11 percent versus 5 percent] and just under twice the national average over the past five years [10 percent versus 6 percent].” He said.

Hall said that Virginia Tech is well positioned to continue to move forward as predicted by the increase in research proposals. In 2008, for example, the amount of funds researchers requested from funding agencies reflected a 24 percent increase over funds requested in the previous year. The number of proposals submitted remained constant, but the average amount of each proposal grew from $800,000 to $1,000,000. “There is a high correlation between proposals and expenditure growth,” Hall said.

The Commonwealth Research Initiative, a state program that provided seed investments for burgeoning research programs at several universities, provided major funding during 2007, including $11.5 million for equipment and additional support for start-up packages for new faculty and graduate student support. Walters pointed out that 2007 was one of several multimillion-dollar, multidisciplinary proposals and collaborations with other universities and that new proposals are continuing that trend, all in keeping with the university’s strategic plan to conduct interdisciplinary research in target areas of critical interest — energy, health, and security, for example — to the state and the nation.

Virginia Tech researchers are at the forefront of cutting-edge research and are making significant contributions to the world of science, technology, and society. Their work is having a profound impact on our understanding of the natural world and on our ability to shape the future. This is not just a national but a global mission, and Virginia Tech is proud to be a leader in this effort.

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New research facilities in planning, building stages

Looking ahead to infrastructure needs to keep the research program moving forward, the university started planning for or building important new research structures during fiscal year 2007-08.

Seger announced a major initiative when he revealed that the Virginia Tech Foundation will build a major research center in the Ballston area of Arlington, Va. The highly visible facility will expand the university’s portfolio in a region that offers great opportunity for partnerships with corporate research entities and close proximity to government agencies and other public and private organizations.

The facility will be a seven-floor, 144,000-square-foot building and is part of a move to establish a major presence in the region for Virginia Tech, “The real reward to all of us is to know that if this venture works out, millions of drivers will find the roads a much safer place to drive,” Gwinn said.

“After the planning phase, the institute will submit a proposal to conduct the data collection and reduction effort,” said Steger. “The project is an enormous enterprise as well as a unique opportunity to collect data at a level of detail, accuracy, and scope that was not possible before,” said Allen Baehr, Pennsylvania Secretary of Transportation and chair of the SHRP 2 Oversight Committee.

Better hydrogen through chemistry

Chemistry Professor Karen Brewer received a $52 million grant from Procter & Gamble Inc. to develop the catalyst that will convert water to hydrogen gas for tomorrow’s hydrogen-powered cars. Supramolecular complexes created by Brewer’s group, which includes students as well as faculty colleagues in chemistry and biological sciences, can convert solar energy into fuel that can be transformed, stored, and dispensed, such as hydrogen gas. But one major challenge is to use light to bring together the multiple electrons needed for fuel production reactions. Brewer is attempting to create stars that inhibit production of an enzyme that is integral for the development of the plaques that form in the brains of Alzheimer’s patients.

Researchers address traffic safety issues

With the support of Mannos, Va., businessman Mandie Gwinn, John Horvath, a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering student, and chemical engineering Professor Mehdi Ahmadian, students invented an intelligent brake light system that will help drivers see and stop in time to avoid accidents.

In November 2007, the entire team took the prototype to Lewis. “We gave it to his class – which of Greenville, S.C. had already prototyped a harness that has sufficient flotation, floats in the proper position, and face-up flotation, and protection from water hazards. Team members named their product HydroSpine.

The project started with a class discussion of disaster solutions. The team began to look at products needed for chemistry to technology.

In further Northern Virginia-related research news, Virginia Tech and Virginia Commonwealth University, both in Richmond, Va., have discovered new uses for catalytic converter materials.

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The Virginia Tech Transportation Institute (VTTI) received $83 million from the National Academy of Sciences’ (NAS) Strategic Highway Research Program 2 (SHRP 2) for the Design of the In Vehicle Driving Behavior and Crash Risk Study, the first stage of a multiphase project that will ultimately become the largest naturalistic driving study ever conducted.

The research team was chosen largely due to its experience with the 100-Car Naturalistic Driving Study, completed in 2006 and solely recognized for its advanced technology and comprehensive data. Other key members of the research team include the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute and the Battle Memorial Institute.

For this phase, the team will develop a research plan and technologies to be used in the full-scale data collection and analysis effort and will also conduct a small pilot study. Similar to the 100-Car Study, this study will collect naturally real-world driving data from drivers in their own vehicles.

After the planning phase, the institute will submit a proposal to conduct the data collection and reduction effort and then complete a variety of analysis projects. The final study will look at a minimum of 2,500 cars nationwide.

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Learning from history
Virginia Tech research looks ahead to the future, but sometimes that requires peering back into the past. Recent research has illuminated the role of ecological interactions, such as predation, in the long-term patterns of animal evolution. John Warren Huntley, a postdoctoral scientist in the Department of Geobiology, and graduate students Lin Dong, associate professor of geobiology, and Bing Shen, on a project that involved studying predation in marine invertebrates, such as clams and their relatives. “Today, certain predators leave easily-identifiable marks on the shells of their prey, such as clean, round holes,” said Huntley. “Such holes drilled by predators can also be found in fossil shells.” The researchers also looked for repair scars on the shells of creatures that survived an attack.

Huntley and Kowalewski found that predation increased notably about 480 million years ago, some 50 million years earlier than previous studies had identified a previously unknown evolutionary event that occurred about 33 million years earlier than the known Cambrian Explosion, a seemingly rapid event that happened 542 million years ago. They dubbed this evolutionary event the “Avalon Explosion.”

“Recent studies have shown that the fossil record seems to indicate that the diversity of marine animal genera increased and decreased over hundreds of millions of years. The diversity curve for marine invertebrates, such as clams and their relatives, is in step with predator-prey encounters. For decades, paleontologists, biologists, and ecologists have debated the role of ecological interactions, such as predation, in the long-term patterns of animal evolution. The project team consists of researchers from Virginia Tech, the Indian School of Mines, the University of Kentucky, and several private companies. Roe-Hoan Yoon, director of the center and the Nicholas T. Carnes Professor of Mining and Minerals Engineering.

In 2005-06, India produced 301 million tons of coal, but only 17 million tons were cleaned. Ash-forming minerals, currently disseminated in Indian coals, are difficult to remove using conventional physical separation methods. Because water is a scarce resource in India, the researchers will develop low-cost dry beneficiation technologies.

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## UNIVERSITY FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

**For the years ended June 30, 2004 – 2008**

(all dollars are in millions; square feet in thousands)

### 2004-05 2005-06 2006-07 2007-08

**REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS (1)**

**Operating revenues**

- $450.0
- $500.9
- $543.8
- $552.7
- $533.7

**Operational expenses**

- $57.6
- $74.1
- $79.7
- $80.2
- $84.1

**Operating loss (2)**

- ($238.4)
- ($241.0)
- ($271.7)
- ($251.1)
- ($211.9)

**Non-operating revenues and expenses (2)**

- $239.4
- $264.4
- $234.7
- $317.1
- $326.7

**Other revenues, expenses, gains, or losses (2)**

- $10.3
- $38.6
- $25
- $222.3
- $225.5

**Net increase (decrease) in net assets (2)**

- $61.2
- $58.8
- $39.4
- $149.3
- $40.0

**UNIVERSITY NET ASSETS (2)**

**Total assets**

- $1,046.9
- $1,078.1
- $1,208.8
- $1,284.6
- $1,339.3

**Invested in capital assets, net of related debt**

- $518.6
- $502.1
- $560.1
- $633.8
- $652.0

**Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation**

- $528.3
- $476.0
- $508.8
- $550.8
- $587.3

**Facility-related gross plant ($1,000)**

- $66.0
- $73.5
- $81.5
- $88.5
- $95.4

**Facility-related square feet**

- 609
- 599
- 604
- 662
- 884

**SPONSORED PROGRAMS**

**Number of awards received**

- 2,146
- 2,086
- 2,122
- 2,131
- 2,283

**Value of awards received**

- $147.6
- $189.5
- $193.5
- $203.1
- $227.6

**Research expenditures reported to NSF (3)**

- $205.6
- $290.0
- $321.7
- $347.0
- $N/A

**VIRGINIA TECH FOUNDATION**

**Gifts and bequests reported**

- $53.9
- $71.6
- $81.8
- $78.5
- $91.6

**Expanded in support of the university**

- $805.8
- $975.8
- $1,023.4
- $1,073.6
- $1,272.7

**Total assets and managed funds**

- $613.5
- $670.4
- $726.0
- $940.6
- $925.9

**ENDOWMENTS (AT MARKET VALUE)**

- $411.5
- $440.7
- $484.6
- $525.1
- $528.0

**Dedicated by donor**

- $445.5
- $524.2
- $564.1
- $605.4
- $625.7

**Managed by VFT under agency agreements**

- 6.2
- 6.4
- 6.4
- 7.9
- 7.9

**Total endowments supporting the university**

- $371.2
- $408.7
- $447.8
- $525.1
- $528.0

**STUDENT FINANCIAL AID**

**Number of students receiving selected types of financial aid**

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<th></th>
<th></th>
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<td>$222.1</td>
<td>$237.2</td>
<td>$255.8</td>
<td>$274.6</td>
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</table>

(1) The university adopted the new Government Accounting Standard Board (GASB) reporting model in fiscal year 2002 as required by GASB Statement Number 34, Basic Financial Statement — and Management’s Discussion and Analysis — For Public Colleges and Universities.

(2) The university will adjust to show an operating loss since significant recurring revenues are shown as non-operating. Major revenue sources reported as non-operating include capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, gifts, and investment income. These revenue sources are used for general operations in support of the learning, discovery, and engagement missions of the university.

(3) Total research expenditures for NSF report were not available at publication date.

### Timeline

- **2007**: Steger appoints recovery director.

  To enhance the support of the families of April 16 victims, President Charles W. Steger appoints Jay Beck, PhD, director of newly created Office of Recovery and Support. In addition, Steger asks Kenneth F. Ferris, who served as special master of the federal court in the 18 Virginia Condemnation Litigation, to establish the Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund.

  Ferris advises the university to work with the FBI to collect evidence and the U.S. Secret Service to look into the threats to members of the community. Ferris offers unique capability to bring together different parties to look for common solutions to address conflicting goals of peace, generation and environmental preservation.

- **2008**: Commission picks Tech to produce Civil War documentary.

  The Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission chooses Virginia Tech’s Virginia Center for Civil War Studies to produce a three-hour documentary on the Civil War that will be distributed free to every school, library, and museum in the Commonwealth. The center will work with Blue Ridge Public Television to create the documentary.

  New program to explore foundations of capitalism.

  The Pamplin College of Business receives $1 million from the Batten Institute Foundation to establish a program in the finance department to explore foundational ideas of capitalism and freedom. The program comprises new undergraduate and graduate courses as well as the Batten Institute-Directed Series of Capital Seminars.

  Career center name honors benefactors.

  The Career Center and Pammy T. Smith Career Center is named for two benefactors and dedicated during dinner at Radisson Hotel on Oct. 20. Camden Smith is a Southwest Virginia businessman who retired as CEO of Atlantic Aire Parks. Neither the whole world, pure, and unvarnished Virginia Tech, but he has brought the subject to the importance of the region. They support numerous university initiatives with endowments.

- **2009**: Shellie Blevins receives honor for service and support.

  Shellie Blevins, owner and manager of Rallywood Farm in North Augusta, Va., is named to the first Virginia dairy to receive the national DuPont Scott Equine Medical Center’s Distinguished Service Award. The award recognizes individuals who provide leadership and expertise to help the equine medical center. Duke, a member of the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors and an animal owner, also dedicates a gift of more than $10 million through her estate to the center. The gift will essentially establish a major endowment and critical new program.

  Virginia Tech distributes April 16 funds.

  Moving to the next stage of a long and difficult healing process, the university distributes $4.8 million to the Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund to those most profoundly affected by the tragedy of April 16. The last step of the six-step approach to the Highty-Tighty is in the public's hand.

  Holmes firm human “thank you.”

  The “Hokies ‘Thank you’ event brings together thousands of students, faculty and staff members, and friends of the university make Virginia Tech Distinguished by solving "The V'Tech Yes!" task in an exploration of the global significance of corporate capitalism and corporate environmentalism, and for the university community following April 16. The message is recorded by ground, aerial, and satellite imagery (see www.hokies.com/DarahTheDogFanClub).
Research expenditures for fiscal year 2007 (ending June 30) are $388 million — or 14 percent — over 2006. Major funding during the year came from three sources: new federal contracts and grants, a $10 million gift from the State of Virginia to the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine and the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Institute, and an additional $10 million in other state appropriations from the Commonwealth.

A rapidly growing office of human resources is charged with helping the university realize the benefits of its 2004 plan for improving the work environment. The 2004 plan calls for an additional $7.5 million in annual spending for human resources over the next three years. In addition, 120 new staff members have been added to the university’s human resources team in the past year.

Research makes big jump

Virginia Tech researchers have enrolled a record 16,296 students in its 307 different undergraduate and graduate degree programs, including 9,227 full-time undergraduate and 7,069 graduate students. The increase is a 14.7 percent increase over 2006.

President Charles W. Steger has named the university’s 13th president of the Virginia Tech Foundation, the Virginia Tech Corporation’s premier philanthropic committee, and the largest fund raising committee in the state. The Virginia Tech Foundation will complete a master’s degree in the spring, and the 13th president will be named in the fall.

The university’s 180 endowed chairs and 60 endowed professorships provide additional support for excellence in teaching and research. The endowed chairs and professorships also provide opportunities for long-term research and the training of future researchers. The university raised $7.5 million in endowed chair and professorship support during the fiscal year, a record amount.

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