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News

VT NetLetter

BOV approves several measures

On June 4, during its regular quarterly meeting, the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors took action on several academic and administrative issues. The board adopted the FY2007-08 fiscal year budget of \$967 million, a 7 percent increase over the \$900.6 million budget last year. The budget reflects a \$17 million increase in state support--which will be used, in part, to support a 4 percent increase in faculty and staff salaries and several capital construction projects. University leadership continues the quest toward achieving the state goal of the 60th percentile for faculty salaries. Virginia Tech faculty salaries currently stand at the 33rd percentile.

The board also approved the 2008-14 Capital Outlay Plan, which proposes \$1.58 billion in future construction and renovation project funding requests to the Virginia General Assembly, as well as a resolution to start the design phase of a \$42 million academic and student affairs building for the north side of campus. The proposed five-story building would be used to for both classroom and Student Affairs programming activities and would address long-standing space shortages for student programming and general purpose classroom space.

Several additional resolutions were passed during the meeting; to read more, go to www.vtnews.vt.edu/story.php?relyear=2007&itemno=328.

Virginia Tech flag launched into space

When the Space Shuttle Atlantis launched on June 8 for a mission to the International Space Station, on board was a Virginia Tech flag serving as a symbol of the resilient spirit of the university community. The special, custom-designed Virginia Tech flag will be flown on the shuttle during the mission. "We are honored to be recognized by NASA in this way," said Virginia Tech President Charles W. Steger. "The

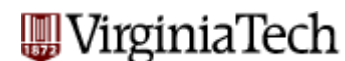
relationship between Virginia Tech and NASA is long and deep with many hundreds of Virginia Tech alumni who work in NASA today and the many other Hokies who have contributed to its rich history and accomplishments." To learn more about Atlantis' current mission, go to www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/shuttle/main/index.html.

School of Architecture + Design to help with "green museum"

The Virginia Tech School of Architecture + Design, the nation's number one ranked public institution for undergraduate architecture, will be collaborating with the Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum in Winchester, Va., in the creation of a new, green museum facility.

School of Architecture + Design faculty and students will act as an "honest broker" by quantifying the energy usage/savings of proposed sustainability systems, the effectiveness of watershed management, and more. "With Virginia Tech's participation, the project's profile elevated several notches," said Peggy McKee, the museum's executive director. "Our staff and our board began this journey with a commitment to do something for our community. We didn't fully anticipate the extent to which it has become a phenomenal magnet for drawing resources into our region."

Construction of the new 27,000-square-foot children's museum will begin in 2007 and will aim for the highest LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification. The LEED Green Building Rating System, developed by the U.S. Green Building Council, provides a list of standards for environmentally sustainable construction. Projects are awarded certified, silver, gold, or platinum certification depending on the number of credits they achieve.

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