NEW POSTGAME POLICIES FOR SCOTT STADIUM

A rush onto the field following U.Va.’s win over Florida State on Oct. 15, 2005, injured 20 fans. To prevent similar occurrences in the future, new postgame policies will be in effect this fall:

I Strict adherence to the ACC policy prohibiting fans on the playing field before, during or after games. In the event that fans do enter the field, they will be subject to criminal trespass charges;

I Increased staffing levels for police and security throughout the games;

I Closer monitoring of fan behavior on the hillside;

I Review of security procedures with visiting administration and coaching staff.

If the field is breached, staff will focus on securing the goal posts, team benches and locker room access. The fence and hedges at the bottom of the hillside at the north end of the field were removed because that barrier was considered a major factor in the injuries sustained during the Florida State game incident.

STARDUST

Eternal life of these particles portrayed in new image

BY FARISS SAMURRAI

A new image from NASA’s Spitzer Space Telescope, an infrared observatory orbiting the sun, is helping astronomers understand how stardust is recycled in galaxies. Remy Indebetouw, a research scientist in U.Va.’s astronomy department, co-leads a team of scientists who created the unprecedented image. Indebetouw’s team is working with NASA to study the hidden birth of massive stars that drive and energize the ecosystem of the galaxy. Their cosmic portrait, which appears in the Sept. 4 issue of Time magazine.

Top 50

U.Va. makes national list of best colleges for African Americans

STAFF REPORT

For the third time in as many weeks, the University of Virginia has been included in a national magazine’s list of the nation’s top universities. In the September issue of Black Enterprise magazine, U.Va. made the list of the 50 Top Colleges for African Americans.

This news comes on the heels of two other magazine rankings. First came the U.S. News & World Report’s America’s Best Colleges ranking, which rated U.Va. the No. 2 public university in the nation and No. 24 among all universities, public and private. That followed Newsweek’s special back-to-school issue in which U.Va. was named one of “25 New Ivies.”

Earlier this year, U.Va. was singled out by The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education for leading the nation’s public institutions.

‘U.Va. Today’: New home for news

BY BRENDAN MATHEWS

A new online home for news and information from the University of Virginia debuted on Aug. 29 with the launch of U.Va. Today. The redesigned Web site spotlights an eclectic mix of the news, people and events that make up the U.Va. community.

Combining bold graphics with streamlined navigation, U.Va. Today (formerly known as Top News Daily) will continue to feature breaking news about faculty research, student awards and recognition, administrative priorities, staff accomplishments and news of key hires and major gifts to the University.

TEACHING & OUTREACH

Web site uses Spanish films to assist Virginia teachers and students

STAFF REPORT

An innovative Web site that uses Spanish-language films to teach language and culture is being launched this month, providing Virginia high school teachers and students a unique resource.

Curry launches program to assess skills of Spanish-speaking children

BY ANNE BROMLY

One of the challenges facing teachers of children whose first language is Spanish is figuring out if those who need extra help learning to read are having trouble with English, or if they have larger problems with literacy development. Thanks to a program developed at the University of Virginia,...
U.Va. Today
from page 1

feed of outside news coverage of the University, links to podcasts of recent speeches and panel discussions, and announcements of upcoming events from around Grounds.

Two new features have also been added to the mix: “Featured Faculty” and “The Clip File.” Featured Faculty turns the spotlight on faculty from a range of disciplines, sketching their research interests and providing links to media coverage of their work. Already featured were Jeanette Lancaster, dean of the School of Nursing and a leader in the effort to address the national shortage of qualified nurses, and Bob Pianta, a professor in the Curry School and nationally recognized expert on improving the quality of classroom instruction.

The Clip File gives prominence to articles about U.Va. that have appeared in the national media — from the Washington Post’s story about Move-In Day (and the preparations made by ITC staff for hooking up more than 3,000 computers in one day) to an article on Voice of America about the University’s College Guide Program.

The upgrades to U.Va’s online news presence go beyond the U.Va. Today home page. Each of the article pages can include a range of photographs and links to multimedia content. The changes were made to more fully represent the richness of experiences that U.Va. offers in research, teaching, the arts, and other fields by bringing to life the sights and sounds behind the stories. The technology allows not only interviews with faculty that can be downloaded for use on radio, but a surprising range of other content. A recent story about a doctoral student in anthropology studying race and musical traditions in New Orleans includes a recording of that student — who also happens to be a professional jazz singer — singing “Louisiana” and discussing the song’s significance to her research.

In addition, U.Va. Today now offers a PDF of Inside UVA, the bi-weekly faculty and staff newsletter.

Communications offices from around Grounds can contribute content to U.Va. Today, making it a jumping-off point for finding breaking news and profiles of the people from each of the 10 schools that comprise the University of Virginia.

For questions about U.Va. Today, or to suggest content for any of the Web site’s regular departments, contact Brendan Mathews (mathews@virginia.edu) or Karen Asher (kac@virginia.edu).

U.Va. Today is available online at www.virginia.edu/uvatoday.

NASA
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azone, shows the Large Magellanic Cloud, a dwarf galaxy. Astronomers are studying Spitzer’s view of this galaxy to learn more about the circular journey of stardust, from stars to space and back. The image is giving astronomers the most detailed quantitative look ever of how much dust is being consumed and ejected by stars. Indebetouw is one of a handful of people responsible for producing the final images and scientific measurements from Spitzer, and he is a member of the core group who wrote the observing proposal.

This research is part of a Spitzer program called Surveying the Agents of a Galaxy’s Evolution, also known as SAGE. The international SAGE team includes more than 50 astronomers.

The SAGE project has spawned several other U.Va. research endeavors with Spitzer and other telescopes. Indebetouw leads a detailed study of the violent interactions between newly born stars and their environment in the Tarantula Nebula; Michael Skrutskie is a key scientific adviser to the entire Spitzer project; Steve Majewski and Skrutskie are studying the structure and origin of the Milky Way; Indebetouw, Skrutskie and Jeffrey Bary are observing the formation of individual stars; Kelsey Johnson is studying extreme star formation in the universe; Trinh Thuan and Robert O’Connell are observing the assembly of galaxies and clusters of galaxies; and Francisca Markwick-Kemper and Andrew Markwick-Kemper are studying the nature and origin of interstellar dust.

Rankings
from page 1

universities — 12 years running — in the retention and graduation rates of black students.

According to the Black Enterprise magazine, which put the University at No. 35, it reviewed a total of 1,423 colleges and universities to develop its “50 Best Colleges” list. The selection process included the input of more than 500 African-American education professionals who helped to assess the social and academic environments at each of the schools.

Among the variables considered in the rankings were the graduation rate of black students, the average survey score of the school’s social and academic environments, and the total black undergraduate enrollment.

“Education is truly the key to success, especially for African Americans,” Earl G. Graves Sr., chairman and publisher of Black Enterprise, wrote in his letter to President John T. Casteen III announcing U.Va.’s inclusion on the list. “I commend you for your efforts to create an environment that prepares students for life’s challenges.”
Paulownia tree removed from Grounds Sept. 6

A dead Paulownia tree near U.Va.'s Washington Hall, thought to look like art by many, will continue on as art after its removal from Grounds on Sept. 6. Students in U.Va. professor William Bennett's sculpture class will salvage pieces for inclusion in their art projects. (Sept. 5)

U.Va. Law graduate wins national award

Leslie Kendrick, a 2006 graduate of U.Va.'s School of Law, has won the Brown Award, a $10,000 national prize for excellence in student legal writing. Kendrick received the award for developing a test to determine whether “criminally instructional speech” is legal. (Sept. 1)

Health System researchers find that toxic molecule may cause common type of muscular dystrophy

Myotonic Muscular Dystrophy, the most common type of muscular dystrophy in adults, affects nearly 40,000 people in the United States. The disease can cause a slow, progressive wasting of the muscles, irregular heartbeat, cataracts and insulin resistance. For the first time, a research team at U.Va.'s Health System, led by U.Va. pathologist Dr. Mani Mahadevan, has shown that getting rid of poisonous RNA (ribonucleic acid) in muscle cells can reverse the disease. (Aug. 28)

Making Headlines

- Marcia Invernizzi, professor of education, “Program Assesses Literacy Ability,” UPI, Aug. 30
- Dr. Jonathan Truitt, division head of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, “Breathing With Empyema,” ABC7 Chicago, Aug. 28
- Dr. Christine Peterson, director of gynecology for Student Health, “Access to Plan B May Have Limited Effect,” Associated Press, Aug. 25
- Parke Muth, director of undergraduate international admissions, “Ambassador Training/What Are We Teaching 600,000 Foreign Students About the U.S.?” Wall Street Journal, Aug. 25
- James Savage, professor of politics, “Earmarking the $48% Out of the Public,” Washington DC Examiner, Aug. 23
- Glenn A. Gaesser, professor of kinesiology, “Just a Few Extra Pounds Could Mean Fewer Years, Study Finds,” Washington Post, Aug. 23
- Dr. Barry Farr, professor emeritus of infectious diseases, “Caregiving: Choosing a Hospital — Part 5,” UPI, Aug. 22

Applied Insight: Tracks in the snow

There’s a tradition in IT project management that says if a project comes in on time, on budget and with the required features and functions, it is considered successful. Meeting that standard is difficult enough. A continuing study of thousands of IT projects by The Standish Group consultancy found that in 2004, just 29 percent of projects were successful. But this definition of success needs revising. In performing 72 IT project retrospectives at 57 organizations since 1999, graduate students in the Master of Science in the Management of Information Technology program at U.Va.’s McIntire School of Commerce have discovered that projects that were found to meet all of the traditional criteria for success — time, budget and specifications — may still be failures in the end because they fail to appeal to the intended users or because they ultimately fail to add much value to the business. (CIO.com, Sept. 1)

Incoming class includes 180 from community colleges

U.Va. President T. John Casteen III welcomed the incoming class on Sunday, Aug. 21. Among them, 180 students are transfers from Virginia’s community colleges, the highest number yet. “We welcome you in a special way, because we have valued the collaboration of that system from its very beginning,” Casteen said. In March, VCCS and U.Va. entered into a transfer agreement which guarantees admission to community college students who obtain an associate’s degree, or 54 transferable credits towards U.Va. Forty-five of those must be earned within the Virginia Community College System. Students must take a variety of sciences and humanities classes, pass intermediate-level foreign language, and earn a 3.4 GPA or better. Grades cannot fall below a C in any class, and in core English classes, students must earn a B or better. (C-Ville Weekly, Aug. 29)

Quantum leap/ nanotechnology drives revolutionary research

Nanometers are so small that if your finger were a nanometer wide, a “meter” ruler would stretch all the way to Japan. But for scientists involved in nanotechnology, tiny objects are a big deal. And many believe work at the nano level — billions of a meter — holds the key to many of the world’s undiscovered secrets. That’s why Olivier Pfister spends his days dissecting the secrets. That’s why Olivier Pfister, a U.Va. physics professor, is trying to create a device in which the interaction of tiny pieces within an atom could be used to create an entirely new kind of supercomputer. Theoretically it could solve complex mathematical problems at breathtaking speeds, which is why Pfister finds his work supported by codebreakers in the U.S. government. (Daily Progress, Sept. 4)

Homegrown terror suspects raise concern

Born in the U.S.A. terrorists — as well as potential ones — are stirring the government’s interest. Worried about American citizens attacking their own country, law enforcement and intelligence officials are trying to learn how and why extremist sympathizers cross a line and become operational terrorists. Intelligence officials now fear that homegrown pose as much of a threat to the United States as foreign terrorists. State and local police are being enlisted to watch for signs from people who in the past would have never gotten a second look. […] (Daily Progress, Aug. 29)

Headlines @ U.Va.

- Leslie Kendrick, a 2006 graduate of U.Va.'s School of Law, has won the Brown Award, a $10,000 national prize for excellence in student legal writing. Kendrick received the award for developing a test to determine whether “criminally instructional speech” is legal. (Sept. 1)
- A research team at U.Va.'s Health System, led by pathologist Dr. Mani Mahadevan, has shown that getting rid of poisonous RNA (ribonucleic acid) in muscle cells can reverse the disease. (Aug. 28)
- There's a tradition in IT project management that says if a project comes in on time, on budget and with the required features and functions, it is considered successful. Meeting that standard is difficult enough. (Sept. 1)
- A continuing study of thousands of IT projects by The Standish Group consultancy found that in 2004, just 29 percent of projects were successful. (Sept. 1)
Engaging U.Va.’s constituents

By Charlotte Crystal

This year, the University of Virginia’s behind-the-scenes efforts to expand opportunities for alumni and other constituents — including students, parents, friends, faculty and staff — to engage with the University and its mission have moved into the foreground.

President John T. Casteen III launched the initiative in 2003 by naming an Alumni Relations Task Force to review the University’s relationships with its alumni. The initiative advanced the following year, when the task force presented its recommendations to the president. Work continued quietly last year, based on the alumni’s recommendations, and gained momentum earlier this year with the hiring of two new employees — Christopher M. Johnston, assistant vice president of U.Va’s newly created Office of Constituent Engagement in the Office of Development and Public Affairs, and C. Thomas Faulders III, president and chief executive officer of the U.Va. Alumni Association.

Since coming on board earlier this year, Johnston and Faulders have been working closely together to identify promising opportunities to expand and enrich the engagement of a broad array of constituents with the University.

The two managers agreed to a joint interview on Aug. 10 to discuss their efforts.

QUESTION: Why did you take this job?

Tom: I took this job as head of the U.Va. Alumni Association because it was an interesting opportunity to give back to U.Va. and I wanted to try something new. Of the 186,413 living alumni whose addresses we have, 5 percent are “highly engaged.” They are serving on the Board of Visitors, on the Board of Managers, and on the boards of affiliated foundations. They are volunteering. They are fully integrated into the life of the University. Another 20 percent are “engaged.” They volunteer for their alumni clubs. They support U.Va. financially. They serve as officers of regional clubs. But there is another 75 percent who are “unengaged.” These 75 percent lead busy lives. They have children. Many of them live overseas. I want to try to reach those unengaged alumni. I used to be one of them so I know this last group quite well.

Chris: During my interviews here for the Office of Constituent Engagement, I was very impressed with the University’s leadership and the passion of U.Va.’s alumni. Based on a survey that our office recently conducted, a remarkable 99 percent of alumni reported they were satisfied with their undergraduate experience, 95 percent would give U.Va. a strong recommendation to others and 93 percent have positive overall feelings about U.Va. These are some of the highest numbers that I am aware of in the nation. We want to extend that same passion that alumni feel for their student experience to their alumni experience.

QUESTION: What in your background suits you for this job?

Tom: The background I bring to this job is one of corporate America. I was CFO of two public corporations, CEO of another and held senior management positions in others. I have worked in sales, marketing, and operations. The Alumni Association is like a little business. We have about 60 employees. We have an operating budget of $7-8 million. We manage about $350 million in funds for the University. All of this presents management challenges.

Chris: I have been fortunate to spend a majority of my career in higher education, in university departments that focused on customer service. Service is very important to me. I know that our constituents have varying needs, which we plan to address.

QUESTION: How would you describe your work style?

Tom: In my corporate experience, I learned never to stand still. If you don’t know the answer, try something. If it doesn’t work, you adjust. I find the main difference between a corporation and the University environment is the decision-making process. In business, you make a decision as expeditiously as possible. In the University, the process of making a decision can be more important than the decision itself. Joint governance in a University setting requires substantial consultation. Accordingly, I have adjusted my approach to do more consultation, but within an appropriate timeframe.

Chris: I strongly believe in partnerships. I understand and value efforts to consult with many people, hear their varying suggestions and concerns, and then make decisions that will benefit as many constituents as possible. Ultimately, our office needs to make a difference. Through teamwork, we can certainly realize that for U.Va.

QUESTION: What do you see as your mission in this job?

Tom: We have a similar mission. We want to hold onto the “engaged” 25 percent and engage the remaining 75 percent as much as possible. We’re not fundraisers, we’re friendraisers. And together we want to become the engagement effort that other universities point to as best in class.

Chris: Our vision and mission are simple: To be the very best at engaging U.Va.’s constituents in the life of the University. We are doing this in three ways: first, by enhancing relationships; second, by creating awareness; and third, by developing programs to serve U.Va.’s alumni, parents, family, friends, faculty, staff and students. Our goal is to create an outstanding constituent engagement program that may serve as a national model.

QUESTION: What are your short-term challenges?

Tom: Funding. Our staff members have come up with so many good ideas, but we need funding to make them happen. The challenge is trying to prioritize them and then to do them and do them well.

Chris: Building a new constituent engagement team as quickly as possible in order to serve our constituents.

QUESTION: What are your long-term challenges?

Tom: Funding challenges will always be a constant. But beyond funding, the challenge for us is to find ways for the University to be important and relevant in our alumni’s lives. This requires finding the right combination of events, information, continuing learning opportunities and other varied activities that excite our ever-growing alumni population.

Chris: Given our students’ leadership experiences at the University, it is never surprising to me to learn that our constituents are also leaders in their communities. We want to create and promote programs for these leaders so they may also serve their University by, for example, joining and leading a UVaClub in their region, volunteering in domestic and international Cavalier Care programs, serving on UVaClubs’ committees to recruit outstanding students and by engaging other U.Va. parents, family members and friends to join us.

QUESTION: What resources do you need to help you do your job?

Tom: In addition to our financial resources, we have a great staff that is dedicated to engaging our alumni. In addition, students are another important resource for us. They do a lot to help us and we do a lot to help them. They’re a tremendous source of energy and ideas.

Chris: Volunteers and partnerships, on- and off-Grounds, are critical to our success.

QUESTION: How are you working to build constituent engagement?

Tom: We have numerous tools to help alumni connect with the University and with each other. Along with the Office of Constituent Engagement, we have the club organizations, the reunion organization, career services programs, which we are expanding, to help alumni find and change jobs. There are travel programs with different content for alumni at different times of life — we’ll have extreme travel opportunities for young alumni, family-oriented travel for alumni with young families and continuing education opportunities for older alumni. We have the legacy admissions program for alumni whose children are reaching college age and the Parents Committee and Fund for all parents who have children attending the University. We are also expanding our affinity interest groups to connect different segments of the alumni population with each other. We’ll be looking at the life cycle of alumni and trying to find the sweet spots.

Chris: The Office of Constituent Engagement has formed partnerships around Grounds to deliver new and enriched programs to U.Va.’s constituents. These pro-
The reality is that we’re not going to engage 100 percent of our alums. We’re just not. But if we could get half of the 75 percent of unengaged alums, that would be a tremendous accomplishment. That would be a win for everyone.

Chris: When I personally meet with people who tell me how meaningful it is to them to serve the University of Virginia, that to me, is success.

Name: Mary Blair Zakaib
Title: Director of Internal Partnerships, Office of Constituent Engagement
Responsibilities: Promotes collaboration across Grounds by identifying partnership opportunities, leveraging talent, sharing best practices, marketing programs and promoting key institutional messages. Also serves as liaison with the University’s internal service providers, including the U.Va. Alumni Association, the Office of the Provost, the School of Continuing and Professional Studies and the Office of the President. Oversees programs closely tied to internal partners, such as the U.VaFamilies program.

Experience: Served as assistant to Robert Sweeney, senior vice president for the Office of Development and Public Affairs, as transition manager for U.Va’s alumni and constituent engagement efforts, and as senior writer and project manager for development communications.

Education: Princeton University, B.A.

Making connections: U.Va.’s new Office of Constituent Engagement

**STAFF REPORT**

It is not often that a university takes the time to rethink its relations with alumni and other constituents, both on Grounds and off. But that’s what’s been happening at the University of Virginia.

Following up on the Alumni Relations Task Force’s 2004 recommendations, the Office of Constituent Engagement was created to engage individuals in the life of the University through various programs and services, some administered in the office and others in partnership with organizations across Grounds.

“Partnerships are the key to our work,” said Christopher Johnston, who last January accepted the newly created position of assistant vice president for constituent engagement in the Office of Development and Public Affairs. “We’re creating a model for constituent engagement in higher education.”

Since coming on board, Johnston has worked to build a leadership team for the Constituent Engagement Office and foster close relationships among the University, the Alumni Association and other groups on Grounds.

His new team members include two directors, Mary Blair Zakaib and Cindy Fredrick. (See sidebar right.) Zakaib will focus on internal partnerships. “My goal is to foster collaboration within our decentralized structure,” Zakaib said. “We’re now in the process of identifying synergies and partnership opportunities, leveraging existing talent and programs, and sharing best practices to better serve our external constituents.”

Fredrick will promote regional engagement. “My No. 1 goal is to provide more University resources to clubs and to individuals,” Fredrick said. “There are 128 U.VaClubs in the United States and abroad. We want to raise awareness of the portfolio of services and opportunities we offer while taking an individual approach to helping people make connections.”

For more information on specific initiatives in constituent engagement visit: www.virginia.edu/uvatoday/20060908Engagement.html

For more information on career services offered alumni by the U.Va. Alumni Association visit: www.virginia.edu/uvatoday/20060908Career.html

For more information on finding a mentor, provided by the U.Va. Alumni Association, visit: www.virginia.edu/uvatoday/20060908Mentor.html
U.Va. celebrates opening of new Anheuser-Busch Coastal Research Center

The Long-Term Ecological Research project focuses on the barrier islands, lagoons, tidal marshes and watersheds of the 45,000-acre Virginia Coast Reserve. Because the area is undeveloped, and because of its fine grain sand, the reserve is one of the best places on the East Coast for studying barrier island geology and coastal ecology. It serves as a living laboratory for understanding natural processes that occur all along the sandy coasts of the United States.

On a clear day full of sunny optimism, the University of Virginia dedicated its new $2.5 million Anheuser-Busch Coastal Research Center. The event was held Aug. 26. The center is the new home base for the Long-Term Ecological Research (LTER) project, conducted by U.Va. environmental scientists on Virginia’s Eastern Shore.

The state-of-the-art facility is located on 42 acres in the town of Oyster, Va., about 15 miles north of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel. It includes more than 8,400 square feet of dry and wet lab space, a 5,800-square-foot residence building that can accommodate 30 people, and a dock for its fleet of shallow water research vessels. About 200 people attended the event, including money from the local community.

Speakers included President John T. Casteen III, Jay Zimmerman, chairman of the Department of Environmental Sciences, Karen McGlathery, scientific director of the Anheuser-Busch Coastal Research Center, David Smith, associate chairman of environmental sciences and officials from the Nature Conservancy, the National Science Foundation, and other federal and state agencies.

Answering questions from the audience, after the formal comments, President Casteen said, “U.Va. celebrates opening of new Anheuser-Busch Coastal Research Center, which includes four research vessels. It includes many from the local community.”

Karen McGlathery, scientific director of the Anheuser-Busch Coastal Research Center and U.Va. associate professor of environmental sciences, said, “We are looking at long term change to the coastal landscape, particularly related to global climate change and land-use change. We use what we learn to make predictions of what may occur in the future.”

Karen McGlathery
Scientific director of the Anheuser-Busch Coastal Research Center and U.Va. associate professor of environmental sciences

“U.Va. has been conducting research through the LTER since 1986 with major support from the NSF, as well as various other research grants and private donations. Recently the research was re-funded for an additional six years by the NSF ($202,000 per year) through its LTER program, which includes a network of environmental projects at 26 sites across the North American continent.

“We are looking at long term change to the coastal landscape, particularly related to global climate change and land-use change,” said Karen McGlathery, the lead scientist for the project at the Coastal Research Center. “We use what we learn to make predictions of what may occur in the future. That is important for resource managers at the local, state and national levels. What we learn from this area can be applied to other coastal systems.”

The new center will greatly expand and enhance the capability of scientists working on the Eastern Shore. It provides first-rate laboratory and housing facilities for faculty, visiting researchers and students. The facility is networked with other research sites, and scientists are able to remotely access real-time data and observations from monitoring equipment located at field sites. The facility also has a conference room for community outreach projects including a planned lecture series. The center will serve as a magnet to attract visiting researchers and graduate students.

U.Va. LTER research focuses on the barrier islands, lagoons, tidal marshes and watersheds of the 45,000-acre Virginia Coast Reserve, owned and managed by the Nature Conservancy. Because the area is undeveloped, and because of the very fine grain sand that makes up the barrier islands, the reserve is one of the best places on the East Coast for studying barrier island geology and coastal ecology. These are some of the most rapidly changing islands on earth, altering shape at a rate that is about 10 times faster than in most coastal areas, therefore the reserve serves as a living laboratory for understanding natural processes that occur all along the sandy coasts of the United States.

Researchers at the LTER are working to develop a predictive understanding of how climate and land-use influence the dynamics of coastal barrier ecosystems. Scientists at the center monitor sea level rise, storm frequency, groundwater flow rates, marsh growth and erosion, water chemistry, firm fish and shellfish populations, vegetation, (including a sea grass restoration project, in conjunction with the Virginia Institute for Marine Science), and bird, mammal and amphibian populations.

The new center is a huge improvement over an aging farmhouse that had previously been used as a station. The University will further expand the center in coming years, and is expected to bring top environmental scientists from across the United States. U.Va. scientists already are collaborating at the center with researchers from the Virginia Institute for Marine Science, East Carolina University, Old Dominion University, Florida State, VCU, Utah State, the Naval Research Lab and the Virginia Museum of Natural History.

“This whole facility was designed around partnerships between the local community, our faculty, our donors and our scientific colleagues,” said Smith. “The greatly expanded lab space and dormitories will help us build an even stronger research community on the Eastern Shore.”

To hear audio interviews with scientists working at the new center, visit www.virginia.edu/uvatoday/newsRelease.php?id=378.

Albrecht, John L. Nau III played an instrumental role in obtaining funding to help build the center. Below (left to right): David Smith, John Casteen and Jay Zimmerman at the dedication ceremony of the Anheuser-Busch Coastal Research Center.
Gies
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direction of David Gies, Commonwealth Professor of Spanish at the University of Virginia, “Cine con Clase!” (“Cinema with Class”) is a password-protected site that features one- to two-minute clips from 25 different films along with a variety of additional content, ranging from the scripts of the scenes to vocabulary to suggested activities.

“This is not a site to come and watch movies,” said Gies, who received a $250,000 National Endowment for the Humanities grant to construct the site. “It is a grammar, vocabulary, language and history site.”

Employing film clips as the central feature of the site is based on Gies’ experience with his conversational Spanish class at U.Va.

When he began assigning students to watch films outside of class and then to discuss them together, the level and quality of the in-class conversations improved dramatically.

“If their conversations were about events of the day, interest was limited and the discussions were neither lively nor very effective,” Gies said. “Once we started looking at films, I couldn’t shut them up. They don’t equate sitting together and talking about movies with working on their language skills. They’re simply doing what they would do after watching any film — except the discussion is in the language that they’re learning.”

Once logged into the Web site, users can navigate to specific movies and choose available clips. They can start, stop and rewind the clips, all of which are accompanied by a script in Spanish. Particular vocabulary words are hyperlinked to definitions, English translation, images and more information.

“Students can see the scene and then read the script or can watch the scene and read the script simultaneously,” Gies explained. “By doing this multiple times, they can get a clear understanding of what is happening in the scene.”

Ruth M. Ferree, assistant professor of foreign language education at Curry and a member of the “Cine con Clase!” project, said the advantage of this approach is that “people learn by listening and seeing others use the language. This is authentic Spanish in real settings.”

Gies worked not only with Ferree but also with Michael Tuite, head of the Digital Media Lab in U.Va.’s Clements Library and, through a series of summer institutes, with high school teachers throughout the Commonwealth.

“When I began talking about this project with high school teachers and began working with them, I found that they were eager for the Web site that we were describing,” Gies said.

During each of the summer institutes, teachers worked to identify the films and the sequences within the films. They would write and modify the scripts and develop the exercises to be offered. As the site began to take shape, it was tested in several classrooms around the state and suggestions were incorporated into the final product. In July, as the project reached its final stages, Gies introduced it to students from the Virginia Governor’s School, which provides some of the state’s most able students academically and artistically challenging programs beyond those offered in their home schools.

“The first question that one of the students from the Governor’s School asked was how much it would cost to use the site, which is, of course, absolutely free,” Gies said. “I took that as a very good sign that they saw great value there.”

Once “Cine con Clase!” is being used by teachers around the state, Gies expects the site to grow through the addition of new activities.

“This is a site that will continue to be built as the teachers and students begin to use it,” said Gies.

Spanish
from page 1

ity of Virginia’s Curry School of Education, teachers and kids can get the answers they need before it’s too late to make a difference.

“We get calls every day from schools about how to assess students who are English language learners,” said Curry School of Education professor Marcia Invernizzi, primary author of the PALS assessment program and Web-based resource she created 10 years ago. PALS — Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening — is used throughout Virginia and in more than 40 states and six countries.

PALS español, developed by Karen Ford, a bilingual reading researcher, was piloted on a small scale last year and is being field-tested this fall in several school districts in Colorado, Texas, New York, Oklahoma, Kansas and Rhode Island, and locally in Virginia. The need for the program is clear: according to the U.S. Census Bureau, there are almost 4 million Hispanic children in this country, ages 5 to 9 — the ages children are learning to read.

Ford concurs that “schools are clamoring for it,” the “it” being a good assessment of early literacy development for children whose first language is Spanish.

And now the U.S. Department of Education is working with a number of states, including Virginia, to help them design effective testing programs for students who are not proficient in English.

“PALS español would distinguish between children not reading well because their English isn’t adequate or because they have problems in literacy development, which would show up in both languages,” said Ford, who taught Spanish for 25 years.

Youngsters are often misdiagnosed as having a reading disability, she said, when they simply haven’t learned English well enough yet. Ford commented that PALS español would help younger students learn to read in English more quickly and be better prepared for the third grade, when they have to take the standardized tests required by the No Child Left Behind Act.

“If we want the students to be proficient in English literacy, we need to know about their Spanish literacy skills,” Invernizzi said. She and Ford said that a child who has developed literacy skills in his or her first language will transfer those skills to the next language.

The PALS assessment gives teachers specific information about what each child knows about letters and sounds and where their weaknesses are. It identifies children who will most likely fall behind in learning to read and write. With this information, teachers have the chance to gear lessons toward the needs of individual children, as well as the group.

In Virginia, if children have not achieved a minimum level of English proficiency, they are not required to participate in large-scale testing, including PALS, and may not get the help they need. By the time they are proficient enough to be assessed in English, it may be too late to provide the intervention.

“It is a huge equity issue,” said Invernizzi, the Henderson Professor of Reading Education.

“Early identification and early intervention are key,” Ford said. “We know through literacy research, if students don’t learn to read by the third grade, they never become adept at it.”

She gives the example of a 7-year-old first grader who was unable to read the easiest passage on the English PALS assessment. When he took PALS español, he could read well in Spanish at the third-grade level. With more help learning English, this child should be able to catch up to grade level in English reading.

Pinpointing his problem could help keep him in school, currently a big issue with Hispanic students. The national high school dropout rate for Hispanic students is about 45 percent (compared to the overall national average of 30 percent), according to a recent report from the EPE Research Center.
Soothing sounds
Critically ill patients benefit from music

BY MATT KELLY

The sweet notes of a dulcet harp compete with the beeps and buzzes of monitors in the Surgical Trauma Burn Intensive Care Unit at the Medical Center. Nurses and doctors swirl around musician Nadine E. Roddy as she seeks to soothe the staff and patients.

Roddy is one of five volunteers at the Medical Center using music to ease patients’ suffering from trauma, cancer and other life-threatening conditions.

“This is the most worthwhile work I have ever done,” said Roddy, a research attorney who took up the harp to ease her own migraine headaches.

Musician and teacher Eve Watters has played harp to patients for 10 years. Musician-in-residence at the Medical Center, Watters was certified through the Music for Healing and Transitions Program. She established a local training center and encouraged other musicians. Five started last year, four as interns for MHTP, which stresses music as part of the therapeutic healing process and which certifies music practitioners. Classes and workshops focus on how music affects patients.

Martha B. Bryant, activities specialist at the Surgical ICU, said nurses have documented how music stabilizes blood pressure and vital signs in patients.

“I enjoy this more than anything I have done in music,” said Renee “Blue” O’Connell, a 30-year musician recently certified as a music practitioner. Playing with a “severe to profound” hearing loss that gives O’Connell empathy with patients, she can hear the music in her head and she knows “where to go on the guitar” to get those sounds.

“I know what it feels like to suffer, to feel confined and isolated,” she said.

O’Connell gravitates to the most severely injured, believing they need the most help. It is “a good thing” when her audience falls asleep, O’Connell said.

The musicians play classical and contemplative music or improvise, avoiding readily recognizable music that may stir painful memories for a patient.

“We don’t play requests, but we play what you need,” said harpist Sandra L. Johnson.

“This is one of the best things we have ever done,” said Elizabeth A. “Liz” Courain, director of volunteer services at the Medical Center. “We have had doctors request that we send a musician to see a patient.”

The music “seems to relieve agitation” in the patients, said Dr. Robert G. Sawyer, associate professor in the department of surgery. “I think it works by relaxing them.”

“I couldn’t believe such a wonderful thing was possible,” said Edward S. Lovern of Lynchburg, hospitalized 19 days in late 2004. Cellist Anna Oppenheimer, a U.Va. student played what Lovern described as “glorious, soothing music.” Oppenheimer is not part of MHTP; she is a founding member of the student-run “Musicians on Call.”

Patients thrive on personal attention, “especially if someone is playing at the bedside,” Bryant said.

Music is part of “total care” for the patient, said Mary M. Deivert, trauma care coordinator at the ICU, because it is “normal” and brings “the real world back” to the patient, who generally feels isolated in the hospital.

In addition to harps, Roddy and Johnson play Native American flutes, carrying several with them in the hospital. If a patient is depressed, Johnson starts playing in a lower register and slowly works her way up to brighter sounding flutes, lifting the patient’s mood.

MHTP students take their training in a variety of weekend classes, given locally, since 2000, at space provided by Martha Jefferson Hospital. While based in New York, O’Connell said MHTP teachers come here from around the country. A student could take a year to complete the program, O’Connell said.

The curriculum includes developing a repertoire of appropriate music, studying music as a language, an examination of how music soothes, and care for the dying.

Different music reflects different illnesses, O’Connell said. Heart attack patients should hear something rhythmically steady, while arrhythmic music should be used for the dying. “It’s music with no steady pulse so we can help them let go,” O’Connell said.

Alzheimer’s patients need more familiar music, which could soothe and comfort them. “Sometimes they sing along,” said Johnson.

Once certified as MHTP music practitioners, musicians may be paid for their services.

“U.Va. is one of the few places that has established a small stipend (for a musician-in-residence), and I am very proud of us for doing that,” said Watters.

While the other musicians said that being paid would be nice, they plan to continue volunteering because they benefit as much as the patients. Playing music creates balance in Roddy’s life, and Johnson, a medical technologist in the cancer lab, said this gives her an opportunity to bring patients’ spirits up.

“I always leave with a big grin on my face,” she said.

O’Connell’s job as a Web editor at the Weldon Cooper Center does not drain her emotionally nor does it fulfill her spiritual needs.

“When I do this,” O’Connell said of playing for patients. “I never walk away feeling down.”

“This is one of the best things we have ever done. We have had doctors request that we send a musician to see a patient.”

ELIZABETH A. COURAIN
Director of volunteer services

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SHEILA ADAMS/INTERNATIONAL PHYSICAL THERAPY FOUNDATION INC.

Shamim Sisson, who retired in June as senior associate dean of women’s education, served as director of women’s education, professional interests in women’s education, communication between men and women, leadership development and intercultural understanding.

Shamim Sisson, who retired in June as senior associate dean of women’s education, will be honored Sept. 12 (4-6 p.m.) with the Elizabeth Zintl Leadership Award for her professionalism, creativity and commitment to the University. Sisson has served in numerous capacities in student affairs at U.Va. since 1988, bringing to her roles longstanding professional interests in women’s education, communication between men and women, leadership development and intercultural understanding.

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Project Danville
Civil rights struggles portrayed in photo exhibit and oral history project

By Matt Kelly

History was sitting in the room — in the woman whose basement became an office for lawyers working on integration, in the man who raised bail money for jailed demonstrators.

These individuals — Danville, Va., residents who had fought for civil rights, some by demonstrating, others more quietly but just as effectively — attended a July 28 luncheon at the University of Virginia, hosted by the Carter G. Woodson Institute for African-American and African Studies’ Center for the Study of Local Knowledge, to celebrate an oral history project and photo exhibit that captured a part of their struggle.

Ten Danville residents are featured in “Mapping Local Knowledge, Danville, Va., 1945-75,” created by writer Emma C. Edmunds and photographer Tom Cogill, and now on display at U.Va.’s Woodson Institute at 108 Minor Hall. The exhibit is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and will run through early fall. An open house and reception is planned for Sept. 15 from 4 to 7 p.m.

Dorothy Harris, whose story is part of the exhibit, moved to Danville in 1950 and raised four daughters there. She recounted how her basement became an office for lawyers working on integration. Her husband, Charles E. Harris, ran for city council in 1964. He lost, but was elected in 1968, staying on the council until 1988. He was also Danville’s first black mayor.

Harris cited Luther P. Jackson, a professor and activist who taught her at Virginia State University, who told students, “When you leave here, register to vote, vote and own property. That is part of the way you earn recognition as a citizen.”

Undertaker James Peters Jr., also featured in the exhibit, said he never joined the demonstrations, but he raised money to bail the arrested demonstrators out of jail.

Another resident did not want to talk about his involvement in the city’s civil rights struggle but was passionate about the time he spent working in the pit crew for Danville native Wendell Scott, the first black to win on NASCAR’s highest level.

“Emma is a journalist and a Halifax native, and all she needed was an affiliation and a home base,” he said.

Edmunds used her affiliation with the Woodson Institute, a fellowship from the Virginia Foundation of the Humanities and support from the Elizabeth Stuart James Grant Trust of Danville to record oral histories of the civil rights movement from Danville and Halifax County residents.

Cogill volunteered to photograph these residents, and he and Edmunds made four trips to Danville and one to Richmond over a year-and-a-half, photographing subjects and copying archival photos of events in the civil rights struggle.

The desegregation of Danville is an important story, but one that was overshadowed by the events in Birmingham, Ala., French said.

“We want [all] these stories told in school,” he said.

The photo exhibit will travel to Danville, and French is working with the Virginia Center for Digital History, of which he is the new director, on creating an online archive. The VCDH already has a collection of television footage of Danville’s integration.

The traveling photo exhibit will include captions that explain the images and give voice to these residents’ civil rights struggles, such as Robert A. Williams, who as a teenager led a sit-in at the Danville Memorial Library. Or Alicia H. Thorpe who taught the students in the segregated school system and helped support the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in Danville.

“I listened to what these individuals were really saying,” Edmunds said. “This is how people went through a transformative time. I have really been moved by their stories.”
Film Society fall season

The Virginia Film Society has announced its fall season. Highlights include the return of the “Manhattan Short Film Festival,” a special nationwide event that will cast local cinema-goers in the role of judges to determine the best short films in the world; “The Guguletu Seven,” which portrays the unrelenting truth revealed by an investigation of the shooting of seven men during the apartheid regime in South Africa; “Hollywood, Teach Us to Pray,” featuring an array of film clips depicting how Hollywood has shaped American prayer rituals; and the unreleased mystery “The Hole Story.”

“One of the highlights of this year’s series will be the local premiere of ’Don’t Tell,’ an Italian film nominated for Best Foreign Language Film that includes key scenes filmed in Charlottesville,” said Richard Herskowitz, director of the Virginia Film Festival. “Enrico Cesaretti, who teaches Italian at U.Va., was close to the filmmakers and will talk about their experiences here.”

For information on membership, or to view the full fall season schedule, visit www.vafilm.com.

Community Health Fair to be held in Fluvanna on Sept. 23

Two Baptist churches are working together with the University of Virginia to present a Community Health Fair in Fluvanna on Saturday, Sept. 23, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The health fair is sponsored by the Way of the Cross Baptist Church and Effort Baptist Church, with the U.Va. Office of the Vice President and Chief Officer for Diversity and Equity and the U.Va. Health System. Effort Baptist Church is located on the corner of Routes 53 and 618 in Fluvanna County, at 7820 Thomas Jefferson Pkwy. U.Va. doctors, nurses, medical and nursing students, other health care professionals and community members will volunteer their services, offering information and free screenings for diabetes, high blood pressure, weight and obesity, skin cancer and HIV (with counseling). In addition, individuals may schedule a mammogram or free sports physical for school athletes.

To schedule a mammogram, call Peggie Branhm at (434) 243-2079. To make an appointment for the youth sports physical, call U.Va. Health System Community Relations at (434) 924-1963.

All aboard: Kluge-Ruhe plans trip to Washington on Sept. 17

U.Va’s Kluge-Ruhe Collection has organized a bus trip to the National Museum of Women in the Arts (NMWA) in Washington, D.C., on Sunday, Sept. 17. Participants will enjoy a special tour of the exhibit, “Dreaming Their Way: Australian Aboriginal Women Painters,” which features 78 paintings by 33 Australian Aboriginal artists. The Kluge-Ruhe Collection loaned 10 works and has provided curatorial expertise to the exhibition.

The tour will be followed by lunch, after which participants will return to NMWA for the annual family festival from 1 to 4 p.m. Festival activities include hands-on art projects, performances by singer/songwriter Kerianne Cox and a lecture by Kluge-Ruhe curator Margo W. Smith. The exhibit closes Sept. 24. It is the first major exhibition of Australian Aboriginal art in Washington.

The Kluge-Ruhe Collection will provide transportation, museum fees for NMWA activities and lunch. The cost for the day is $50 per person or $45 for seniors, 60 and older. Reservations are required, and space is limited. Please call 244-0234 to make a reservation.

AROUND GROUNDS

Sept. 8 – 24

Calendar items must be submitted by Sept. 12 for the Sept. 22 publication, via messenger mail to Box 400229, or by e-mail to insideuva@virginia.edu.

Performances

Sept. 8 – 9. Sabato’s Crystal Ball. Larry Sabato, U.Va., 10 a.m., Alumni Hall. (More Than the Score)


Sept. 23. Free Bridge Quintet. 8 p.m., Old Cabell Hall. $15/$5/SARTS$. (Music)

Sept. 24. Alvin Lucier: Music on a Long Thin Wire. 8 p.m. (Music)

Sept. 25. Colloquium Series. Alvin Lucier, composer, 3:30 p.m., Cabell 107. (Music)

Sept. 26. The Physics of Football. 10 a.m., Alumni Hall. (More Than the Score)


Sept. 28. The Ethics of Football. 10 a.m., Alumni Hall. (More Than the Score)

Sept. 29. What is School Readiness? Greg Duncan, Northwestern Univ., 9 a.m., Ruffner 241. (Curry)


TV & Radio

Week of Sept 9. The Selling of 9/11. Dana Heller, Old Dominion Univ., Jim Minck, Radford Univ. On WOVE-88.9 FM Sat., 1 p.m.; WMU 88.5 FM Sun., midnight; WMRA 103.5 FM Mon., 7 p.m.; WISE 90.5 FM Mon., 7:30 p.m.; and WVTF 88.5 FM Wed., 7:30 p.m. (With Good Reason)


Films

Sept. 8 & 9. The Da Vinci Code. Fri. 6 & 9 p.m., Sat. 9 p.m., Newcomb Theater. $3. (Cinematheque)


Sept. 14-16. Mission Impossible III. Thurs. 9 p.m., Fri. 6 & 9 p.m., Sat. 9 p.m., Newcomb Theater. $3.

Miscellaneous

Sept. 11 & 18. Singer Auditions. Municipal Arts Center. 1:117 Fifth Street SW. (Oratorio Society)

Sept. 11-Oct. 16. Interpersonal Mindfulness Class. Allie Rudolph, 6:30 p.m., 103 Republic Plaza. (Mindfulness Center)


Sept. 12 – Nov. 3. Writer’s Eye Competition. 155 Rugby Rd. (Art Museum)

Sept. 14. Pride Fall Welcome. 5:30 p.m., Pavilion I, west range. (Women’s Center)

Through Sept. 18. Noncredit Community Course Registration. 8 a.m., Zehmer Hall, 104 Midmont Lane. (Continuing and Professional Studies)

Sept. 20. Surplus Property Auction. 9 a.m., 1101 Millmont Street. (Procurement Svcs.)
By Anne Bromley

Early Sunday morning on Aug. 28, 2005, SherriLynn Colby-Bottel got a phone call from a friend telling her she'd better leave New Orleans immediately. Colby-Bottel had begun research there on musical traditions and race just two weeks before Hurricane Katrina bore down upon the city. She and her husband were able to gather their things, leave their rented house and find a safe haven in Montgomery, Ala., before heading to Charlottesville.

A doctoral student in anthropology at the University of Virginia, Colby-Bottel has returned to New Orleans several times since Katrina, with financial support from the anthropology department and the Office of the Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies. She'll return two more times this semester, thanks to a fellowship from the Raven Society.

She now sees her dissertation research “framed not just by disaster, but more importantly, by recovery.”

A professional jazz singer since the age of 13, Colby-Bottel, who hails from Fresno, Calif., fell in love with New Orleans during visits to learn about the music over the past 10 years. Deciding to combine her music and an academic career, she earned a master's degree in music performance from California State University-Fresno and taught there for three years before coming to U.Va. She's still the lead singer in the Blue Street Jazz Band when she can take a break from her studies and teaching.

“SherriLynn is in a unique position to carry out this research, having spent many years as a professional jazz musician, and now working to complete her doctorate in anthropology,” said U.Va. professor Richard Handler, her research adviser.

“Music is part of the soul of New Orleans, a central part, an every day moment,” said Colby-Bottel. You could hear piano at breakfast in a diner, a combo jazzing up the lunchtime crowd and spend all night every night going to clubs, she said.

With contacts among the city's club owners, teachers, museum curators and musicians, she knew she couldn't return merely to continue her fieldwork. Instead, her research runs alongside new efforts to raise funds for musicians and their families.

“This disaster brings with it new opportunities for anthropologists long engaged in studying culture, race and class to participate meaningfully in national debate, as well as contribute to local, on-the-ground changes,” she wrote in a recent article in Anthropology News.

Colby-Bottel said some of the people most dedicated to rebuilding New Orleans are musicians, who recognize that music will contribute to the city's cultural and economic revival. She is exploring how different communities are maintaining, preserving and passing down traditions in three kinds of music: traditional jazz, brass band and Mardi Gras Indian. All have particular practices and connections to regions of the city and trace their history to New Orleans' antebellum era, she said.

Traditional jazz groups perform music in a style known as “collective improvisation” developed in early 20th-century jazz. Brass bands also use this style but utilize mobile instruments like tubas and are famous for performing in parades and jazz funerals. The Mardi Gras Indian music comprises many genres and is well known for drum circle practices. They also are renowned for the breathtaking outfits, or “suits,” which they wear in Mardi Gras celebrations.

“These music communities have well-developed theories of New Orleans music as a living expression of history. They are deeply invested in notions of tradition and uniqueness that guide the perpetuation of what locals call the spirit of New Orleans’ roots music and culture,” she said.

Colby-Bottel stressed that racial categories in New Orleans are more complicated than dual categories of black and white; “Creole” is used to describe those who recognize their mixed heritage. Creole can include African, Spanish, French, Native American, Caribbean and American ancestry. It’s not better or worse but broader and more creative, she said.

Growing up in California, Colby-Bottel benefited from the West Coast’s jazz preservation movement. She was exposed to many teachers, including Dick Carey who wrote arrangements for Louis Armstrong, who shared the history and culture of the music, as well as the songs. She likens learning jazz more to an apprenticeship than instruction. This background led to her interest in how music gets passed on to others and the next generations.

Handler, with whom she taught the course, “Nationalism, Racism and Multiculturalism,” last year, credits her with helping many U.Va. students to gain new understanding of American racial categories. Colby-Bottel won the anthropology department’s outstanding graduate teaching assistant award this past spring.

The disaster of Hurricane Katrina might have brought issues of race and class to the American public in stark ways, but those issues were there long before the levees broke and have become part of the debates about what is worth rebuilding. Colby-Bottel said she hopes to contribute to such national debates and that eventually becoming a professor will enable her to spread what she has learned to a broader audience.

“The research I had planned to conduct on constructions of race in communities where traditional New Orleans music is produced is more compelling than ever,” she said.

One thing she has observed about returning residents of New Orleans is their resilience in the midst of the destruction.

“When I think of and see all the ways the fabric of lives has been pulled apart, it’s profound… everything they’ve lost — every house, every person has a story. After Hurricane Katrina caused so much tragedy and misery for its inhabitants, there was crying, but now many are able to laugh through their tears,” she said.

Colby-Bottel will be relocating to New Orleans early next year for long-term dissertation research.