

## OIRD/Virginia Tech Welcomes the Honorable Minister of the Environment of Senegal

The Office of International Research and Development (OIRD) co-ordinated the Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) 1999 Study Tour for Senegalese delegates Souty Touré, Minister of the Environment and Nature Protection; Director Abdourahman Samoura; Cheikh Awa Balla Fall, Inspector for Administrative and Technical Affairs, Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection; Mamadou Mawo Balde, President, Pata Rural Council (and Vice President, Elected Local Officials Association); and Mamadou Diallo, President, Ngayene Natural Resource Management Committee (and Member of the Regional Council).

The principal objective of this tour was to examine participatory, decentralized natural resource management practices and issues in the US. The focus was on local community agricultural and NRM initiatives supported by Land Grant Universities, County, State, and Federal Agencies, and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). Tour participants interacted with community leaders including Soil and Water Conservation District officers, Agricultural Research Service (USDA) researchers, local NGO representatives, County Extension Agents and Planning Officials, farmers, as well as Land Grant University faculty and administrators. Briefings and site visits provided opportunities for learning about, and having discussions concerning, the promotion of community-based natural resource management in the U.S. and the relevance of these insights for Senegal.

The study tour consisted of three types of activities addressing decentralized NRM planning and decision-making:



The Honorable Minister Souty Touré (right) pauses during his address while Rose-May Guignard translates his comments at the reception hosted by Dr. S.K. De Datta, Director of OIRD.

(1) discussions with local, state, and national government NRM planners; (2) meetings with private sector organizations and individuals involved in decentralized NRM planning and decision-making; and (3) visits to sites of community-planned NRM projects and programs. A wide range of themes were discussed, including: the development and administration of local government plans for natural resource management; the prerogatives and responsibilities of different government levels, in particular concerning taxation, land use planning, and zoning issues; technologies and socio-economic methods that local populations apply to re-constitute their natural resource base; and the important role that the Extension Service plays in the US making research findings accessible to the population.

## Perspectives

*From the desk of Dr. S.K. De Datta, Director of the Office of International Research and Development, Outreach Division, Office of the Provost, and Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences*

"Globalization" and "Internationalization" are buzz words often used in the University fora and elsewhere. These words are interpreted differently by different people and rightly so. Globalization may mean reform in Institutional Leadership, collaborative research, and education with host countries abroad such as USAID Global Bureau funded Collaborative Research Support Programs (CRSPs), distance education, public and private sector partnership, particularly the process to engage in conversation with clientele and curriculum changes to enhance exposure to global issues, student and faculty exchange, joint degree programs, and international concentration, among others. In OIRD, the perspective is to serve all three land grant missions, i.e. education, research, and outreach/extension with a strong international component in each of the missions to provide a broader view of University missions. It also improves relevancy to the internationalization of a Land Grant University, which is a must in the 21st

century. Virginia Tech's 1996 draft on the "Blueprint for the 21st Century" gives ideas which, when implemented, will make the University well prepared for the coming decades.

In a recent conference in Amsterdam on Leadership for Higher Education in Agriculture, organized by the Iowa State University, discussions focused at length on issues concerning developing excellence in higher education in agriculture. Several outstanding University leaders and policy makers around the world - including several Presidents, Chancellors, Deans, Associate Deans, and Directors - were engaged in deliberation to address changes that are needed in higher education in agriculture to make it relevant to the 21st century. This issue of globalization of higher education is far more challenging than the Y2K problem which will be fixed in a relatively short period of time through technological innovations and global cooperation.

When we deal with education for our future workforce and  
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# Notables

## *Faculty Involvement Around Campus*

### College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

**Dr. Shirley Luckhart** of the Department of Biochemistry and **Dr. Edwin Lewis** of the Department of Entomology recently traveled to Kenya as part of a collaborative project with the US Army and Kenya Medical Research Units (USAMRU and KEMRI). The work is focused on the development of a genetic screen for *Anopheles* mosquitoes that could be used in assessing risk of human malaria parasite transmission by these insects. Efforts to eliminate malaria through prophylaxis or extensive mosquito control have been largely unsuccessful and are, in general, prohibitively expensive for developing countries. Malaria, which currently kills 1-3 million people per year and disables another 300-500 million, is now classified as a re-emerging disease primarily due to the appearance of drug-resistant parasites, increased social unrest in affected nations, and increased rates of insecticide resistance among mosquitoes. To combat this new epidemic, the World Health Organization, the Department of Defense, and the international Multilateral Initiative against Malaria are more sensibly attempting to decrease malaria transmission in Africa to reduce both the health costs and costs of control. Recent studies have indicated that mosquito populations can change over time, suggesting that the ability to detect the appearance of mosquito genotypes associated with an increased capacity to transmit the parasite would facilitate monitoring of disease control efforts and allow mosquito control programs to focus efforts on areas where disease transmission risk is the highest. **Dr. Ames Herbert**, Associate Professor of Entomology, will present a paper on "Biology and Management of Southern Corn Rootworm in US Peanut" at the XXI International Congress of Entomology, Iguassu Falls, Brazil, 20-26 August 2000.

### College of Arts and Sciences

**Dr. Sharon Johnson**, Assistant Professor of French, presented a paper entitled "Le Projet IMRAC: Interculturalité: conceptualisations et défis, L'exemple des échanges par internet entre INT et VPI&SU" (The IMRAC Project: Cross-Cultural Teaching: Conceptualisations and Challenges, Internet exchanges between the INT and VPI&SU) at the 27th annual Congrès d'UPLEGESS (Union des Professeurs de Langues des Grandes Ecoles) in Evry, France. The IMRAC Project (Images, Myths, and Realities Across Cultures) is primarily a web-based exchange being developed by Dr. Johnson and colleagues in France's Grande Ecole System for use between third-year French language courses and first-year and third-year English courses at the Institut National des Télécommunications. **Dr. Angela Scarpa**, Department of Psychology, will be presenting her research at the annual meeting of the Society for Psychophysiological Research, a leading international association for the study of psychophysiology.

The conference will take place 7-10 October 1999, in Granda, Spain. The titles of her presentations are: "Effects of Community Violence I: Relationship between Psychologic and Psychophysiological Functioning" and "Effects of Community Violence II: Interactions with Psychophysiological Functioning". **Dr. Justo C. Ulloa**, Professor in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, organized and supervised the 24th annual program for the study of Spanish in Madrid and Puerto de Santa Maria during First Summer 1999. The program is designed to help students develop language skill and cultural experiences vital to international competence through participation in a carefully structured program of total immersion in the language and culture of Spain, including weekend tours to Toledo, Segovia, Salamanca, Córdoba, and Granada. Professor Ulloa will also deliver a paper on the Mexican novelist Carmen Boulosa at the Tenth International Meeting of the "Asociación de Literatura Femenina Hispánica," held in Querétaras, Mexico, on 23-24 September 1999. **Dr. Richard E. Nance**, Director of the Systems Research Center and RADM John Adolphus Dahlgren Professor, Department of Computer Science, gave an invited presentation entitled, "Software Engineering and Its Impact on System Operational Effectiveness" at the 15th International Congress of the Society of Logistics Engineers (SOLE), held on 24-27 May in Exeter, UK. Before returning to the US, he held discussions on computer simulation research with members of the faculty of the Department of Information Systems and Computing, Brunel University, London. **Dr. Harry W. Gibson**, Department of Chemistry, is invited to speak at the 5th International Symposium on Polymers for Advanced Technologies in Tokyo, Japan, 1-5 September 1999. He will also present an invited lecture in the Department of Chemistry at Osaka University, Osaka, Japan, 6 September 1999. **Melissa Witmer**, a rising senior in Chemistry, presented some of her research at the International Symposium on Macrocyclic Chemistry in Barcelona, Spain, 18-23 July 1999. Ms. Witmer carried out her work in the laboratories of Dr. Gibson. She spent the summer of 1999 doing research with Dr. David Leigh at Warwick University, Coventry, UK. **Jason Jones**, a graduate student in Chemistry, spent 3 weeks in June/July doing research at the Eindhoven Technical University (in the Netherlands) under a NATO Collaborative Research Grant to Dr. Gibson. **Dr. Robert Olin**, Department Head and Professor of Mathematics, presented a lecture about Virginia Tech's Math Emporium at the Joint Mathematics Meeting between the Australian and American Math Societies held in Melbourne, Australia. **Dr. Gail McMillan**, Director of the Scholarly Communications Project and Head of the University Library's Special Collections Department, presented her paper, "Library Services and Resources for the University Community," at "Strategie sur la bibliotheque virtuelle dans le contexte actuel," a conference of Swiss library directors held in Jongny, Switzerland. She also presented "Internationalizing Graduate Research: Electronic Theses and Dissertations" at the annual Rare Books and Manuscripts Conference, Association of College and Research Libraries, McGill University, Montreal, 22 June 1999. **Dr. Bruce H. Friedman**, Assistant Professor of Psychology, will give two presentations - "Idiodynamic profiles of cardiovascular activity" and "Worry, rumination, and

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health" - at the annual meeting of the Society for Psychophysiological Research, to be held this October in Granada, Spain. **Graciela Cerezo**, instructor at the Mathematics Department, has been working on a joint project with Dr. Jose Dadon of the University of Buenos Aires, Center of Marine Ecology since 1997. As a result of this joint effort, the paper "Modeling the Distributional Dynamics of a Clam Population along the Coasts of Argentina" was presented at the AWM Workshop for math biology held together with the SIAM meeting in Toronto, Canada. **Dr. James E. McGrath**, University Distinguished Professor, Department of Chemistry, presented a lecture - "Synthesis and Characterization of Aryl Phosphine Oxide Containing Polymers" - at the Fifth European Technical Symposium on Polyimides and High Performance Functional Polymers, in Montpellier, France, in May 1999. **Dr. Larry T. Taylor**, Professor and Chair of the Department of Chemistry, collaborated with two visiting professors from Spain, Dr. Miguel Palma and Dr. Jose Alvarez, in experiments involving quantitative extraction of antioxidants from grapes and optimization of surface silver into polymer films.

### College of Business

**Dr. Jerry Robinson** and the Pamplin College of Business hosted a group of Slovenian faculty and executive MBA students on campus in late March. Earlier, during spring break, Robinson led a group of Pamplin students on a two-week study-abroad program to Europe, which included a stay in Maribor, Slovenija. "Virginia Tech and the University of Maribor in Slovenija have been partners in several exchange opportunities in recent years," says Robinson. During their one-week stay, the Slovenians attended classes and seminars and visited local businesses. Two of their faculty members gave informal seminars. **Dr. Mitja Tavcar** discussed "Management in a Post Socialist State." **Dr. Davor Savin**, professor of macro-economics and finance, discussed "The EC and the Euro: Implications for Europe and the US". Savin previously served in the Yugoslav finance ministry and is currently a counselor to the Slovenian government. The group included Jasna Snezic, a reporter with the Vecher daily newspaper in Maribor.

### College of Engineering

Twenty senior engineering students in Industrial & Systems Engineering participated in a working exchange with twenty-four French engineering students from Ecoles des Mines de Nantes. The Virginia Tech students traveled to Nantes, France the first week of January, 1999, to collaborate on design projects. Twenty ISE/ME/AE students went to Loughborough, England for aerospace design collaboration, with an additional exchange later of twelve students and two faculty. During an International Travel Asia Trip last year, members of the College met with officials from Nanyang Technical University, Singapore; Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Center for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics; National University of Singapore; and Seoul National University, SNU Research Institutes. The College also collaborated with the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature to establish a Maymester course, ENGR 2984: The French and German Engineering Profession and Education, Past and Present,

during which nine students travelled to five European universities in two weeks.

### College of Architecture and Urban Studies

**Dr. Humberto Rodríguez-Camilloni**, Professor of Architecture and Director of the Wiss Center, led the "Majesty of Peru" tour, sponsored by the Henry H. Wiss Center for Theory and History of Art and Architecture. The itinerary included many of the major Pre-Inca and Inca archaeological sites as well as a variety of geographical landscapes from the Andean plateaus to the Pacific coast. Excursions into the Spanish Colonial architectural treasures of Peru's most important cities included Lima, Arequipa, and Cusco and a visit to Machu Picchu.

### College of Human Resources and Education

**Dr. Megan Boler**, Assistant Professor in the Dept of Teaching and Learning, gave an invited presentation titled "Slamming into the Future: Bringing Strategies of Hope into Education" to the International Research Institute for Maori and Indigenous Education at the University of Auckland, New Zealand in early July 1999. Dr. Boler is one of a team of researchers with a three-year research project titled "Youth First: Taking Kid's Talk Seriously" based at the University of Auckland, a project funded by the Marsden Fund for \$300,000.

## Perspectives *continued from page 1*

develop leaders for academic and industry pursuits, we must do so with some firm commitments at all levels, i.e. in administration at the University, College, and Department levels. We need to revisit the reward systems and institutionalize changes that would be essential to foster academic excellence through globalization. These changes would occur by committing financial and intellectual leadership. Some Land Grant Universities are making serious commitments to this endeavor. Others are taking a view of "wait and see". To me, time is running out on us. We must make the changes now and in a significant way so that our students will function in workplaces of the next millennium and not fall behind in a competitive global economy.

**The University Abroad** is prepared by the Faculty and Staff of the Office of International Research and Development (OIRD) at Virginia Tech, Outreach Division of the Office of the University Provost

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Regrettably, some submissions had to be saved for another time due to space constraints.



## OIRD/IPM CRSP Receives \$528,000 from USAID Mission to Improve Environmental Safety in Mali

The Mali Site of the Integrated Pest Management Collaborative Research Support Program (IPM CRSP) in the Office of International Research and Development (OIRD) has joined hands with the Environmental Quality Laboratory (EQL) of Mali to address needs in pesticide residue analysis, environmental monitoring, and development of a quality assurance program for agricultural products in Mali. Mali is a prime site for IPM CRSP in West Africa. This grant will be an integral part of the IPM CRSP managed by OIRD/Virginia Tech. This new, \$528,000, five-year program of collaboration, funded by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) mission in Mali, began 17 July with the arrival at Virginia Tech of two Malian scientists, Dr. Halimatou Koné Traoré and Dr. Safiatou Berthé of the EQL. Dr. Traoré and Dr. Berthé will be working with Jean Cobb of the Pesticide Residue Laboratory of the Department of Biochemistry, Don Mullins and Pat Hipkins of the Department of Entomology, John Caldwell of the Department of Horticulture, and staff of the Chromatography Laboratory, Department of Chemistry, for four weeks, until 14 August.

Subsequently, there will be annual visits both by Virginia Tech collaborators to work with Malian collaborators in Mali, and by Malian collaborators to Virginia Tech to acquire more hands-on experience in techniques of pesticide residue analysis. The project will also support a Malian graduate student in environmental monitoring and short-term training for Malian extension personnel involved in pesticide and IPM programs.

Agricultural exports from Mali, a landlocked country in West Africa, have increased in recent years. France and other European countries have been Mali's traditional export markets for horticultural crops, especially green beans and mangoes, but recently the U.S. has become a market for Malian hibiscus used in herbal teas and drinks.

Virginia Tech was chosen for this work because of the excellence of its pesticide and IPM programs, coupled with its long involvement and on-going commitment to Mali. Virginia Tech Pesticide Programs have developed innovative approaches to farmer education in safe application and disposal of pesticides. Virginia Tech's involvement in Mali dates back to the mid-1980s, and the IPM CRSP has been active in Mali since 1994. IPM CRSP



**Dr. Traoré and Dr. Berthé of the Environmental Quality Laboratory are welcomed to Virginia Tech by Jean Cobb, Dr. Caldwell, Dr. Hipkins, and Dr. Mullins (l-r).**

Mali site scientists in Horticulture and Plant Pathology, Physiology, and Weed Science at Virginia Tech, as well as in other collaborating US universities, are working closely with Malian agricultural research and extension services to develop IPM technologies for Malian horticultural crops.

This new program will provide information to farmers, exporters, local marketers, research, and extension on levels of pesticides on agricultural products for export and Malian markets. This will help research and extension develop and extend appropriate IPM technologies that will give farmers the assurance that their products meet international standards and are safe for consumers. The program will also support analysis of pesticides in water, soil, and sediment, besides crop and animal products. The new collaborative program will be carried out in partnership with USAID in Mali, enabling the EQL to serve as the premier laboratory of its type in West Africa with state-of-the-art instrumentation for pesticide residue analysis. OIRD/Virginia Tech continues to earn donor confidence through collaborative efforts between our host country collaborators and our skilled members in the Virginia Tech faculty and staff.

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