An International Architect

Alumnus Robert Turner has led major projects throughout the world.

Virginia Tech Opens New Foundry for Students in Engineering, Art, and Architecture

New Virginia Tech Scholarship Available for Students from Chesapeake
UNIVERSITY DEVELOPMENT HAS A NEW WEBSITE!

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Virginia Tech’s Office of Services for Students with Disabilities recently honored people who have helped its important efforts by volunteering their time or donating to support programs. Among those honored was Brad Mount (business information technology ‘14, finance ‘14), one of many students who volunteer to share their notes with students who for a variety of reasons cannot take their own. Also honored was Sally Bohland, of Blacksburg, who endowed a fund to support programs that benefit students with disabilities. Bohland worked with disabled students for many years at Christiansburg High School. “I think whenever you help students with disabilities the reward is even greater, because they have to work harder,” she said. “They have more barriers to overcome.”

To commemorate the end of their freshman training, the Class of 2014 of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets completed the second leg of the Caldwell March from the Caldwell Fields area to the Upper Quad of Virginia Tech on April 9, 2011.

Many alumni support the freshman cadets as they march by being a Caldwell March sponsor. They donate $500 or more to sponsor a cadet, and the cadet wears a nametag recognizing their sponsor while they march. Afterward, the nametag, a commemorative pin, and a photo of the cadet are sent to each sponsor. This year 200 cadets were sponsored for the spring Caldwell March, raising $100,000 for the corps. Each year the corps alumni continue to raise the bar higher. This year’s total tops last year’s record donation, making it the most money ever raised by corps alumni for a single Caldwell March.

April’s march is the second half of the 26-mile march made in 1872 by Virginia Tech’s first cadet and student, Addison Caldwell. During the fall semester, the freshman class, along with their cadre responsible for the initial phase of freshman training, completed the first 13 miles of the march starting at the Caldwell homestead.

“The march is about more than just earning privileges,” said Cadet Daniel Gaines of Rome, Ga., a freshman majoring in history in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences and pursuing a minor in leadership studies. “It marks our entrance into a brotherhood with the cadets who have taught and mentored us over the past eight months. It also symbolizes the dedication, hard work, and sacrifices made in successfully completing the trials of our freshman year. We will be continuing the tradition of those who have donned the blue and gray before us and lived our motto, Ut Prosim (That I May Serve), throughout their lives.” Gaines is an Army ROTC cadet who is aspiring to be an infantry officer. He is a recipient of an Emerging Leader Scholarship and is currently part of Training Company 1-4 in Delta Company.
Changes

You have likely noticed a significant change to this issue of ‘Impact.’ We’ve created a
livelier format to better accommodate a broader focus on your philanthropy and the
remarkable effect it has on this university. We’ll be running more photos and more
campus news.

Why all the changes? Largely because of your input. Last year, we surveyed our audience
and received some wonderful feedback that we’ve put into practice in this new issue.

This is a magazine about you — your generosity, your loyalty, your university. You are,
after all, our most valuable resource. You are the donors who support our students and
faculty and you’re the people who live Ut Prosim by serving Virginia Tech and your own
communities. You are our ambassadors. We care about what you think, and we want to
give you a publication that you’ll find meaningful and useful.

We want to hear from you. If you’ve supported Virginia Tech with your philanthropy, we’d
love to know more about why you give and the things you’re passionate about. If you’re
living the spirit of Ut Prosim in your community, please tell us about that. Maybe you’re
inspired by a story you’ve read here or there’s something you would like to know more about. Perhaps there
is a comment you’d like to make. We’re here and we’re listening.

I hope you will be inspired by the stories we’ll tell here and online. I know I never cease to be amazed by the
accomplishments of our students and the discoveries in our laboratories. Thank you for your continuing
support for our university community. We wouldn’t be where we are without you.

Elizabeth A. “Betty” Flanagan
Vice President for Development and University Relations

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New Virginia Tech Scholarship Available for Students from Chesapeake, Virginia

Virginia residents who graduate from any of the seven high schools in the Chesapeake Public Schools division and meet certain academic criteria will automatically qualify for scholarships at Virginia Tech under terms of a recent $1.29 million donation to the university from the Harry Bramhall Gilbert Charitable Trust.

The gift, made late in 2010, is the largest ever by the Chesapeake-based trust, which also has made major scholarship donations to the College of William and Mary, James Madison University, and the University of Virginia.

The trust is named for Harry Bramhall Gilbert, a former Navy officer and architect who died in 1982 while a resident of Norfolk. Retired attorney Stuart Glasser, of Chesapeake, administers the trust along with Robert Larson, of Henderson, Nev., who is the brother-in-law of its namesake.

Glasser said he and Larson are confident Gilbert “would wholeheartedly approve of our decision to establish this meritorious scholarship fund at Virginia Tech.”

The trust created a larger endowment for the scholarship at Virginia Tech than at other universities because a greater number of Chesapeake students enroll at Virginia Tech each year, Glasser said.

Chesapeake Public Schools alumni can qualify for the one-time, one-year scholarship if they have at least a 3.4 grade point average after earning 90 or more Virginia Tech credit hours. Students need not demonstrate financial need in order to qualify for the scholarship.

“Amid the continuously rising cost of college tuition and fees, even middle income families, especially those with more than one child, are finding the cost of a college education a significant financial burden,” Glasser said. “We are delighted that the Virginia Tech Foundation has accepted the management and the administration of the Harry Bramhall Gilbert Meritorious Scholarship ... to help ease this financial burden for Chesapeake families.”

The first scholarships under the program are expected to be issued in August 2011. The scholarship is structured so that a percentage of its market value will be divided equally among qualifying students each year.

Based on patterns of enrollment and achievement at Virginia Tech by students from the Chesapeake school division over the past few years, approximately 40 students are expected to qualify for scholarships each year.

Chesapeake Public Schools Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Patricia Powers called the scholarship “a truly extraordinary opportunity for our Chesapeake students.”

Powers also said, “We are most grateful to Mr. Glasser and to the Harry Bramhall Gilbert Charitable Trust for this generous educational gift. The gift of education lasts a lifetime and certainly is going to be appreciated.”
UPS Supports Engineering Program for 15th Year with $40,000 Donation

The United Parcel Service (UPS) Foundation has, for the 15th consecutive year, awarded an academic grant to Virginia Tech’s Grado Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering in the amount of $40,000 for 2011. Funds will be used to support doctoral students in the Grado department’s human factors engineering/ergonomics graduate program.

“The primary use of the money is for support of doctoral students who are undertaking practical, applied research in ergonomics, safety, and human factors engineering,” said John Casali, the John Grado Professor of Industrial and Systems Engineering. Casali made his first proposal for the UPS grant in 1995, and since has served as the foundation’s coordinator at Virginia Tech. UPS has awarded approximately $750,000 under this particular grant to the College of Engineering, thereby funding more than three dozen doctoral students.

Casali’s relationship with UPS also has resulted in representatives from the corporate giant serving on the Industrial and Systems Engineering Advisory Board since the mid-1990s. Don Wittke, corporate engineering manager at UPS and a current member of the advisory board, was instrumental in assisting with the proposal for this year’s grant, Casali said.

Schlumberger Donates Software to Department of Geosciences

Schlumberger, the world’s leading technology supplier, project management, and information solutions to the oil and gas industry, has donated several licenses for its software, Petrel and Ocean, to the Department of Geosciences in the College of Science at Virginia Tech. The software allows scientists to view seismic data in 3-D or 4-D models. It is the same software exploration and production companies use to discover oil and gas reservoirs.

Virginia Tech is committed to providing the right tools for its students to enter the marketplace, pushing the research boundaries of resource identification and modeling, and spurring new interest in science through outreach. The Schlumberger software will give Virginia Tech students the opportunity to use the industry leading software in conjunction with research and curricula in departments such as geosciences, physics, mathematics, chemistry, civil, and environmental engineering.

“We are extremely grateful to Schlumberger for this generous gift,” said Lay Nam Chang, dean of the College of Science at Virginia Tech. “With the licenses for this software, we will further enhance our spirit of innovation and expand the boundaries of study and research at all levels within the college and the university.”

Schlumberger 4D digital rendition of seismic data created with Schlumberger software.

You’re the team behind the team.

At Virginia Tech, we’re fortunate to have an All-American team of donors whose generosity helps us excel in both athletics and academics. Kirk Spitzer is on that team. He and his wife, Leila, helped fund the south end zone expansion of Lane Stadium and the construction of our new basketball practice facility. They’re also supporting the Signature Engineering Building project for the College of Engineering. And they endowed a scholarship for undergraduates in the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering.

Visit www.vt.edu/All-Americans to meet more donors like Kirk or share your own story about giving to Virginia Tech. While online, you can also create your own Hokie trading card, just like the one Kirk is holding. The cards are free, simple to make, and available to anyone.

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On Fire
Virginia Tech opens new foundry for students in engineering, art, and architecture

Virginia Tech’s College of Engineering is continuing its tradition of hands-on, minds-on education with the newly opened Kroehling Advanced Materials Foundry, a metal-casting facility located just off campus on Plantation Road.

The 4,500-square-foot, $1.7 million facility includes a 125-kilowatt induction furnace capable of melting aluminum, copper and bronze, iron and steel; various mold-making equipment including no-bake and ceramic shell; a rapid prototype; and other high-tech equipment that students likely will find themselves using in the metal-casting and related industries.

The facility, which has been hosting classes for undergraduate and graduate students since January, 2011, was dedicated April 5, 2011, with an open house. On hand for the event were John H. Kroehling, a decorated World War II veteran and 1948 graduate of the College of Engineering, and his wife, Joan. Kroehling, a member of the advisory board for Virginia Tech’s Department of Materials Science and Engineering, provided initial funds of $500,000 for the foundry project, overseen by the Virginia Tech Foundry Institute for Research and Education (VT-FIRE) program. The group’s mission is to support student interest in the area of foundry science and the metal casting industry.
“When I was sitting in advisory committee meetings in [materials science and engineering], I could not really contribute much to what they were doing. None of my experience seemed to be of any help there,” Kroehling said, adding that his major was in ceramics engineering, since merged into the materials science and engineering program.

But Kroehling saw a need. And he took action. “The VT-FIRE [program] seemed to be slow going, it wasn’t moving. They needed a building,” he said. At the time, Virginia Tech had one laboratory in the basement of Whittemore Hall in which small aluminum castings were made in an introductory-level course. Kroehling’s donation for a new foundry kick-started corporate donations of money and equipment. Construction began in spring 2010. “It was just the seed money, but from then on, it started moving fast,” Kroehling said.

Kroehling already was a major contributor to Virginia Tech through scholarships and fellowships to the College of Engineering and the university’s Department of Statistics, from which his son graduated in the early 1980s. “I wanted to give back to the university for the education I received, and our son received, and our granddaughter is receiving,” said Kroehling, who spent 20 years at DuPont working in metal foundries and the refractories industry. He also founded his own company, J.H. Kroehling Associates Inc., which he still operates. Kroehling has a granddaughter who is now a freshman on an engineering track at Virginia Tech.

In addition to housing classes for the Departments of Materials and Science Engineering, Engineering Education, Industrial Systems and Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering, the new facility also will serve students in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies’ School of Visual Arts and the industrial design program.

“In the College of Engineering, we pride ourselves in our hands-on, minds-on education,” said Richard C. Benson, dean of the Virginia Tech College of Engineering. “You see that in all of our literature. It is very real and it goes back many decades, as any alumnus can remember. What our students do in design and manufacturing, just making things, is just really quite rare. … There are a few small foundry operations to be found at other schools, but there’s nothing to compare to the scale of what we have here.”

Among the engineering faculty leading in the foundry’s inception was Bob Hendricks, a professor with the Department of Materials Sciences and Engineering, and Paul Huffman Jr., an adjunct instructor within the same department who also is president of Roanoke, Va.-based Dominion Metallurgical Inc. Huffman is an alumnus of the college.

Hendricks said the equipment — induction furnace, casting area, mold-making equipment, and the like — used in the foundry match those of high-tech companies. It’s also Earth friendly, with strong controls of fumes and other pollutants, and a computer-monitored lighting system that will conserve power usage.
Leadership Tech Program
Benefits from New Endowments

All of the students involved, including two seniors who helped facilitate the project, were part of a university program called Leadership Tech. The program has grown considerably in recent years. Thanks to several new endowments established by alumni, Leadership Tech is poised to make an even greater impact.

Carolyn Smith Culicerto (communication ’83) said she endowed a fund to support the program because leadership is the type of skill that can benefit students professionally and personally, regardless of their major or career.

“I hope students in the program realize that having leadership skills has a variety of uses,” the Charlotte, N.C., resident said. “These skills don’t just prepare you to be a corporate CEO or governor of Virginia. While those goals might be yours, these skills also prepare you to be confident in any situation, whether it be a PTA presidency or in a family dynamic.”

She joined the program as a sophomore and left it after that year to pursue other leadership experiences in student government, but for many students the program is a four-year experience.

Students who enter the program in their first year focus on their own strengths and developing a leadership style that works for them. As sophomores, they learn team dynamics. Juniors may work as facilitators helping freshmen students in the program, but they often also design and perform community-service projects. Seniors or graduate students have an opportunity to serve as facilitators for sophomore teams.

The seniors who oversaw the sophomores who gave the presentation to the international women’s group in March took the initiative to implement their project a year earlier than is typical for the program. Nevertheless, their program, which included a cooking demonstration and group meal, was well received, said Anne Goullier-Moore, who runs the international women’s program and is the YMCA’s office manager.

“I was very impressed,” she said. “They really did a wonderful job answering questions. They had a PowerPoint presentation. They had handouts, and they were very well prepared.”

The seniors who oversaw the sophomores who gave the presentation were Mistafa Hafid (biochemistry ’10) and Christina Wudijono (human nutrition, foods, and exercise ’11). They joined Leadership Tech as freshmen and remained in it throughout their college experience.

“Leadership is one of those key words that everyone throws around, but Leadership Tech is a lot more than just something to put on a résumé,” said Wudijono, a native of Ashburn, Va. “You learn about yourself, take a lot of personality tests, and really examine your strengths and weaknesses. That really helps you to work with others better.”

Hafid, whose hometown is Leesburg, Va., said he joined Leadership Tech to challenge himself and develop new skills.

“I was kind of shy in high school,” he said. “I was involved in sports and stuff, but was never in a leadership position where I was in charge of something. I figured I should try something that was out of my comfort zone. I figured that by giving Leadership Tech a shot, I might get something out of it. I’ve actually gotten quite a lot.”
Bob Jones (political science ’83) and his wife Emily brought four of their five children to the university to sign a fund agreement creating a scholarship. “I just wanted my children to understand and appreciate the responsibility that we all have, to different degrees, to give back,” said Jones of (left to right) Sawyer, Jack, Katherine, and Charlie.

Bob Jones was happy to be elected president of Virginia Tech’s student body in 1982, but there was a downside. He was no longer eligible for the resident advisor job that helped pay his room and board. Many years later, Jones (political science ’83) remembered that situation while contemplating how to support his alma mater. As a result, the Alexandria, Va., resident created the Robert C. and Emily S. Jones Family Scholarship, within the Division of Students Affairs, for students with financial need who wish to pursue leadership activities. An earlier scholarship Jones created within the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences also is earmarked for student leaders.

Jones said he created the newer scholarship to reduce the likelihood that financial concerns would keep students from taking advantage of the many extracurricular programs at Virginia Tech. He said he learned a great deal from being involved in many such programs while in Blacksburg.

Along with serving in Virginia Tech student government and working as a resident advisor, Jones was in the Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity. He also said he “can’t think of any intramural sports — other than water polo — that I didn’t play.”

Jones’ tenure as a student leader saw several significant developments for the university. Student representatives joined Virginia Tech Board of Visitors. Legal representation was added to the services available to students who pay the Blacksburg campus activity fee. Blacksburg Transit, a local bus system, was launched.

While working on those and other projects, Jones would often interact with high-ranking school officials, including then-Vice President of Student Affairs Sandra Sullivan and then-President William Lavery. Jones said Sullivan, in particular, “kind of took me under her wing and taught me many of the skills I didn’t have before but still use everyday.”

Thanks to the scholarships Jones has created, future students may be able to spend less time working just for a paycheck, and more time developing their leadership abilities in worthwhile programs outside of class.
Harry Dorn, Patricia Dove, Leo Piilonen, and Webster Santos have very different research interests, but they also have much in common. All four are members of the College of Science faculty at Virginia Tech. All four are highly regarded in their field. And, as of fall 2010, all four have an important new tool to use in advancing their work — a named professorship or faculty fellowship.

Endowed Professors Serve as Ambassadors for the College of Science

“They are all supremely gifted,” said college Dean Lay Nam Chang, who was part of the selection committee that approved the appointments. “They already have recognition even without being named to these positions. There were quite a lot of nominees … but it was felt that these four embody the desires of the donors who created these positions.”

Named positions are prized both by the faculty members who receive them and the colleges that use them to reward, retain, and recruit eminent scholars, Chang said.

“They help to bring visibility to the college, and by extension, Virginia Tech as a whole,” he said.

For the faculty members, he continued, these positions typically bring some discretionary money that can be used for purposes that otherwise could be hard to fund through traditional research grants, such as travel to conferences, reaching out to potential students, or bringing discoveries to market.

New programs to get more Virginia students interested in nanotechnology is one idea that Dorn is interested in exploring using money from his fellowship, which was created by A.C. Lilly Jr., a retired vice president for Philip Morris who earned his bachelor’s degree in geological sciences and Ph.D. in physics from Virginia Tech.

Lilly said he earmarked the fellowship for an expert in nanotechnology because “my own research interests were in tiny things. I worked with X-rays; I worked with electron microscopes; I worked in a lot of areas where small things were very important.”

Dorn is a chemistry professor who heads a research group that has received funding from numerous agencies and is involved in several promising lines of inquiry, including a method of encasing atoms of otherwise toxic metals inside carbon molecules.

In the future, this method may be used to create more effective contrast agents that will improve the quality of magnetic resonance imaging used to detect diseases.
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You’re invited!

AMBA S A D O R S continues

“The medical area is probably the most advanced, in terms of applications,” said Dom, whose group has a partnership with Luna nanoWorks to manufacture carbon-encased metals in Danville, Va. “But it also has a lot of potential applications in other areas, such as photovoltaics, new solar cells, and new opto-electric devices.”

Promoting other such partnerships between researchers and industry was the goal of Mary and Willis Blackwood — whose respective Virginia Tech degrees are in psychology and business — when they created a fellowship for a junior faculty member to which Assistant Professor of Chemistry Webster Santos was appointed.

“I think scientists are becoming much more sophisticated in understanding and seeing the marketability of their discoveries, but it’s a difficult and long process, and they may not have had the time to develop those skills because they’re so involved in their science,” Mary Blackwood said. “We hope this particular position will encourage putting the right people together to promote discoveries and their marketability.”

That is a goal Santos shares. His research group is seeking to create compounds able to disrupt the progression of diseases, including AIDS and cancer. Some of his discoveries already are licensed to a startup company created in partnership with Virginia Tech and the University of Virginia.

Money from the Blackwood fellowship allowed Santos to go to a conference on bringing science to market, which will help him to start an entrepreneurial program at Virginia Tech in the near future.

“I want to be able to use my organic chemistry knowledge to solve problems in medicine — in reality,” Santos said. “At the end of the day, I really want to be able to make a therapeutic drug.”

Patrick M. Dove, professor of geosciences, was named the C.P. Miles Professor of Science. “Endowed professorships are not common in the College of Science,” she said. “and therefore I am deeply humbled by this great honor.”

Established in 1986 through a gift from Melvin “Cy” Young, the C.P. “Sally” Miles Professorship of Science honors the Virginia Tech graduate who spent 30 years teaching and coaching at his alma mater. The professorship supports an outstanding faculty member in the college.

A leading geochemist, Dove has made major contributions to research in the biogeochemistry of Earth processes, the physical basis of biomineralization, and geochemical controls on geophysical properties.

“Mr. Miles was deeply committed to this university,” Dove said. “With this new title that carries his name, it reminds me that I am an ambassador of the college as I travel around the United States and the world. Everywhere I go, I am promoting Virginia Tech and its excellence in science.”

Physics Professor Leo Pilkington doesn’t expect his work to lead to new medicines or other products, but to a greater understanding of some of the universe’s most mysterious, sub-atomic phenomena, such as antimatter and neutrinos.

He plans to use funding from a senior faculty fellowship created by physics alumnus Bill Hassinger to promote the recently created Virginia Tech Center for Neutrino Physics.

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Robert Turner (architecture ‘72) arrived at Virginia Tech having never been on an airplane, but that soon changed. A year in, he participated in a program that sent students to Austria, Italy, and Greece to experience different cultures and types of architecture.

“It was fantastic,” said Turner, who had grown up in Martinsville, Va., about two hours away from Virginia Tech. It turned out to be just the first of many architecture-related trips abroad for him, though he would later travel to design buildings, not just study them.

A couple years after graduating, Turner joined the Chicago office of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM), one of the world’s largest architectural firms. Before long, he was working on international projects.

Turner made partner at SOM by his mid-30s. High-profile projects he led included the Atlantico Pavilion in Lisbon, Portugal, and master plans for the University of Malaysia, and the financial district at Canary Wharf in London.

He retired from SOM at age 50, but not from architecture. After leaving, Turner was busy designing the home near Blacksburg where he still lives part of the year, when a developer he knew suggested they enter two design competitions for buildings in Paris.

“We won both of them, so at that point I just got a flat in Paris and I’ve been living there [part of the year] ever since.”

Alumnus Robert Turner has led major projects throughout the world.
"Anything complex is fun."

When asked what he enjoys about designing buildings or development plans, Turner replied, "Anything complex is fun."

At the time, he was working on an appropriate project for someone with such an outlook: an eight-story building that will span 50 meters of active railroad tracks in Paris.

The tracks made it impossible to dig a traditional foundation at the site. Turner designed a truss to wrap around the structure two stories above the ground and bear much of the building's weight. Only six comparatively small building columns will have to touch the ground. For this project and several others in Paris, Turner partnered with the Arte Charpentier architecture firm.

Turner said he tries to come to each project with an open mind. Instead of imposing a signature look on his projects, he is guided by the situation that has created demand for a building, as well as local building methods.

For example, he drew his inspiration for his award-winning Atlantico Pavilion in Lisbon (see cover photo) from the key role the structure was to play in a world's fair that took place around the 500th anniversary of the first voyage of Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama.

"You enter and the entire ceiling is made out of timber," Turner said. "The whole concept of doing that was to make a reference to the timber ships of the time, the inside of the hull of a ship."

Experiencing buildings firsthand

Turner said his first trip abroad was a tremendously important experience in his development as an architect. Another such experience, he said, was his first job out of college, assisting the architectural photographer Ezra Stoller. The position allowed Turner to spend days inside buildings designed by some of the world's most renowned architects, including Philip Johnson, Louis Kahn, Richard Meier, I.M. Pei, and SOM.

For an architect, being able to tour notable buildings, rather than just study them from books or plans, is extremely valuable, said Turner. He believes this travel experience, both domestic and abroad, was one of the reasons SOM hired him. While interviewing, he showed photographs he took in Guatemala. He was sent to work on the Banco de Occidente in Guatemala soon after that interview.

"At one point at SOM," Turner said, "I and a technical person were responsible for hiring. If a kid came for an interview, the first question I would ask was how they had traveled, and if they hadn't there was no way they would get a job with us."

Nicole Cavanaugh (architecture '05) was the first recipient of the Robert Turner Fontainebleau Study Abroad Scholarship, and she says it expanded her horizons.

"Thanks to the scholarship from Robert Turner, I landed an internship at a French architecture firm and spent a year in Paris after graduation exploring the culture and city," said Cavanaugh, the scholarship's 2004 recipient. "I would have never imagined living abroad before my experience in Fontainebleau."

Today, Cavanaugh is a designer with the Chicago firm in Washington, D.C., where she is working on renovations of Wilson High School that are due to complete this fall.

She said her scholarship experience "really had a profound impact on my work and my path after graduation," and added that "I feel very honored to have had this opportunity, and hope to be able to pass that gift on someday."

A version of this story also ran as a spotlight on the Virginia Tech homepage and included a photo of Virtue, an admirer of Turner's work. Visit www.vt.edu/spotlight/achievement.aspx?ey=54-turner/turner.html to read it.

Turner does more than recommend that aspiring architects travel; he makes it possible for them to do so at his alma mater, where he has also served on the College of Architecture and Urban Studies Advisory Council.

In 2004, Turner established a scholarship that every other year sends a student from the School of Architecture + Design to attend the summer program at Fontainebleau, a UNESCO world heritage site near Paris. He has also supported a new program for students to study in Cairo, and is a member of the university's Ut Prosim Society for especially generous donors, as well as the Legacy Society for those who make planned gifts.

Turner said the opportunity to live and work abroad "has expanded me as an individual," and been one of the most satisfying aspects of his career. For someone who benefitted from travel so much, it seems fitting that he gives back by providing others the opportunity to do the same, and university officials are grateful that he does.

"His care for the institution and its faculty, students, and international reputation has been a great contribution to the college and university," said College of Architecture and Urban Studies Dean Jack Davis.

"One of the best gifts anyone could receive"

Nicole Cavanaugh (architecture '05) was the first recipient of the Robert Turner Fontainebleau Study Abroad Scholarship, and she says it expanded her horizons.

"Thanks to the scholarship from Robert Turner, I landed an internship at a French architecture firm and spent a year in Paris after graduation exploring the culture and city," said Cavanaugh, the scholarship's 2004 recipient. "I would have never imagined living abroad before my experience in Fontainebleau."

Today, Cavanaugh is a designer with the Chicago firm in Washington, D.C., where she is working on renovations of Wilson High School that are due to complete this fall.

She said her scholarship experience "really had a profound impact on my work and my path after graduation," and added that "I feel very honored to have had this opportunity, and hope to be able to pass that gift on someday."
Bequest Makes a Lasting Impact on the College of Engineering

Virginia Tech's departments of mechanical and chemical engineering will benefit from the largest single bequest ever realized by the university — more than $77 million from the estate of Robert "Bobby" Hord, of Richmond, an alumnus who passed away in December 2010.

Both departments Hord chose to support will establish a professorship and a scholarship in his name. "His gift creates four endowed funds," said Richard Benson, the Paul and Dorothea Torgersen Chair and dean of the College of Engineering. "Two of them will help students now and long into the future. The other two will help us continue to recruit and retain world-class members of our faculty."

Hord was born in 1920 and grew up in the state capital. He enrolled as a member of the class of 1941 at what was then Virginia Polytechnic Institute, served in World War II, and earned his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering a year later. He added a master's degree in power and fuel engineering a year later, worked in the railroad industry, and was a tremendously successful personal investor.

During his career, Hord worked in the mechanical department of the Norfolk and Western Railway before leaving to work for the Norfolk, Franklin, and Danville Railway, said Robin Chapman, a spokesman for Norfolk Southern Corp., which now operates at least part of both railways.

The money Hord donated "all came from investments, in essence over a 40 to 50 year period," said Colin Campbell, who was Hord's financial advisor and investment manager for much of that time. "He was a great investment researcher and a very brilliant individual."

Hord "didn't believe in spending money for things he didn't need," and lived modestly in the home in which he was raised, but he was passionate about investing, with a mind toward making a major contribution to his alma mater, said Judy Godsey, the trustee of Hord's estate.

"He loved Virginia Tech because he credited his intelligence and broad knowledge on a variety of subjects made a lasting impression on many of his friends. "Using the word brilliant to describe him wouldn't be overstating it," said Ed Burkhardt, who met Hord more than a dozen years ago while working in marketing at General Electric. They developed a friendship, and continued to have regular conversations long after Gerbracht retired.

"I'm of the opinion that he was one of the most intelligent people with whom I have ever spoken," Gerbracht said. "He was just an extremely interesting guy."

Virginia Tech anticipates $50 million in state support and $50 million in private donations for the project. The current plan is for a four-story, 153,000-square-foot building near the corner of Prices Fork Road and Stanger Street.

College of Engineering Receives Record Gifts

This spring the university announced its largest single donation ever and its largest bequest ever realized. The two gifts, both directed to the College of Engineering, totaled more than $42 million. Virginia Tech President Charles W. Steger announced them — along with a separate, $3 million commitment of support for engineering — at an April press conference.

"These three gifts, along with many others received since 2003 — when we launched our $1 billion Campaign for Virginia Tech, Invent the Future — demonstrate how private support provides a margin of excellence for our institution," President Charles W. Steger said prior to the event. "This new building, as well as the many new scholarships and faculty assistance funds provided by donors over the life of our campaign, are helping our largest college to raise the bar even higher for engineering education in Virginia."

On an extraordinary day for the university, Steger disclosed that an anonymous donor committed $25 million toward the Signature Engineering Building planned for Virginia Tech.

The monetary value of such a gift is tremendous, but equally important is that a gesture of this magnitude is certain to inspire all who support our programs and those who will reap the benefits of the world-class education that our College of Engineering provides," he said.

Steger also announced $3 million in support for the project from the Quillen family of Southwest Virginia, and the receipt of more than $17 million from the estate of Robert E. Hord Jr. of Richmond, who passed away in December 2010.

Hord (mechanical engineering '49, M.S. power and fuel engineering '50) directed his gift to the mechanical and chemical engineering departments, both of which will have space in the Signature Engineering Building. The Quillens' support was led by alumni Michael J. Quillin (civil engineering '71, M.S. '72) of Bristol, Va. Virginia Tech anticipates $50 million in state support and $50 million in private donations for the project. The current plan is for a four-story, 153,000-square-foot building near the corner of Prices Fork Road and Stanger Street.

College of Engineering Dean Richard Benson said the new building is essential to address growing enrollment demand, particularly at the undergraduate level. He said his college would like to admit more students, but requires sufficient facilities.

Many companies rely on Virginia Tech for engineering talent and support the proposed project as way of ensuring a highly-qualified workforce in the commonwealth, said John Sparks (mechanical engineering '74, M.S. '76, Ph.D. '81), who appeared alongside Steger and Benson at the gift announcement. Sparks lobbied for state support of the Signature Engineering Building and is a director at Aeropart, a major space and defense contractor with two operating locations in Virginia.

"We in industry need a large supply of bright, creative, hit-the-ground-running engineers — the type we get from Virginia Tech," Sparks said.

For more information on the Signature Engineering Building, including floor plans and interior and exterior renderings, visit www.eng.vt.edu/SignatureBuilding.
One benefit of building the Visitor and Undergraduate Admissions Center, open this summer, is that it gives an appropriately memorable impression for the many prospective students and their parents who visit each year.

But the 18,155-square-foot building, located near the Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center, was also designed to be an enjoyable place to visit for alumni or anyone else with an interest in Virginia Tech.

One of the building’s most prominent features is a two-story, glass-walled atrium that not only offers a stunning view, but contains multimedia kiosks with videos featuring students and faculty. There will also be an exhibit about Virginia Tech’s global impact, which will highlight distinguished alumni living abroad and some of the international programs the university runs, said Randy Stith, the university’s director of visual and broadcast communications.

Several donors directed gifts toward the project. Money from the Hokie Parents Fund was also earmarked for the building, which replaces a small, vinyl-sided structure on Southgate Drive that for many years was a first stop for tens of thousands of visitors to the university.

In contrast, the new center “has been referred to as a campus jewel,” said Visitor and Information Center Manager Sharon Sarver of the new building. Sarver says her office typically sees as many as 50,000 people in a given year, the vast majority of which are prospective students and their families.

The new building will be far more convenient for visitors like that, because it will also contain the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, which had been located in Burruss Hall. In the new building, students or parents will be able to stop in, get information and parking passes, then meet with admissions officials, all in the same building.
The Hahn Horticulture Garden is nearly six acres of teaching and display gardens on the Virginia Tech campus in Blacksburg. Established in 1984 by horticulture faculty, the garden serves undergraduate students and the local community as a learning resource. Garden features include perennial borders, water gardens, shade gardens, a meadow garden, and the Peggy Lee Hahn Garden Pavilion.

Peggy Lee Hahn, a passionate gardener, was the wife of Virginia Tech President T. Marshall Hahn Jr. During her life, Peggy was a frequent visitor to and ardent supporter of the garden. It was renamed for her in 2004 after she and her husband made a pledge to support the garden. Since then, a pavilion and a meadow garden have been added. Each bears her name.

Peggy passed away in 2009, but her legacy lives on. In 2010, the Peggy Lee Hahn Memorial Endowment for Garden Excellence was created in her honor. The endowment provides unrestricted support for the most pressing needs of this special place.

For more information on the garden, visit www.hort.vt.edu/hhg.

If you would like to support the mission of the Hahn Horticulture Garden, you can volunteer, join the Friends of the Garden program, attend educational and fundraising events, or simply give a gift. To make a gift in support of the garden, visit www.givingto.vt.edu or contact garden director Holly Scoggins at 540-231-5783 or perennials@vt.edu.
One Smart Way to Give
Six ways real estate gifts can help accomplish personal goals

1. It’s tax-wise.
   appreciation (tax due upon sale of the property). Moreover, you receive a tax deduction for your charitable gift, usually for the asset’s full market value.

2. It can simplify your life.
   Property ownership involves ongoing management and recurring expenses such as property taxes, insurance, and maintenance. If yours is an outright gift, you can typically bid farewell to managing, or paying someone else to manage, the expenses and responsibilities of ownership. You will even avoid the chore of selling property you no longer wish to own.

3. It can hold advantages for your heirs.
   Donating property removes it from your taxable estate, which simplifies administration of the estate and reduces estate taxes. Even more important, some donors, heirs are relieved of the burden of managing or disposing of inherited real estate. This can be especially important when property is far from heirs.

4. It can allow you to retain your home.
   You can donate your primary residence and continue to live there throughout your lifetime, either by making a gift in your will or trust, or by creating a retained life estate arrangement. With a retained life estate, you will also enjoy an immediate tax deduction for your gift.

5. It can pay you income.
   Some gift options let you use your gift of real estate to fund a charitable remainder trust that can pay lifetime income. Moreover, when funded with an appreciated asset such as real estate, you may find you can significantly reduce the effective cost of your income-producing gift.

6. It can help you to accomplish your charitable goals.
   A gift of real estate, whether donated during your lifetime or as an estate gift, can significantly benefit the area of your choice at Virginia Tech. For some donors, a gift of appreciated real estate is the most cost-effective way to make the most significant charitable contribution of their lives.

Learn more.

To learn more, or to explore other gift options that meet your goals, telephone the Office of Gift Planning at 800-533-1144 or 540-231-2813, or email giftplanning@vt.edu.

Love for Animals Inspires Gift of Real Estate

Bill Thornton spent many summers on his grandfather’s farm, and his dad owned racehorses. So it was not surprising that the Arlington, Va., native once considered becoming a veterinarian.

Thornton actually enrolled in Virginia Tech’s animal husbandry program with a veterinary career in mind, but found himself more attracted to classes focused on the business end of agriculture. He wound up earning his bachelor’s in agricultural and applied economics in 1956. Though he would go on to notable success in a completely different field — real estate appraisal — Thornton remained interested in animal medicine, and officials at the Virginia Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine are grateful that he did.

Along with his wife, Rita, Thornton donated 164 acres of hunting land near Blacksburg to the college. Their intent, inspired by the memory of Thornton’s father, Samuel, was to advance research within the college. And that is exactly what will happen. Significant proceeds were generated by the sale of the property. The Thorntons directed that those funds be applied toward construction of a new research facility known as the Translational Medicine Complex.

“We just thought it was just a very good cause,” Thornton said. The term “translational medicine” refers to an effort within the medical field to bring together basic researchers and clinicians. It is widely believed that doing this will improve the process by which new drugs reach the clinical-trial stage.

Supporting the veterinary college is just one way Thornton has stayed involved with his alma mater. Even while living in Falls Church, Va., where he ran Techmen Realty & Appraisal Company before retiring in 1990, Thornton would regularly return to Blacksburg, often for football games.

He and his wife are longtime members of the Hokie Club, and they also belong to the UT Prosim Group, a group of especially generous donors, and the Legacy Society, a group for those who have made planned gifts to the university. They’ve owned a home in Blacksburg since 1986, but now spend the colder months in Sun City, Ariz.

While Rita Thornton did not attend Virginia Tech, she shares her husband’s enthusiasm for the Hokies, and jokes that, “I had no choice when I married him. I would have become a football widow if I didn’t.” She also shares her husband’s interest in veterinary medicine, and says she has enjoyed several tours of the veterinary college that she and her husband have taken.

“I guess the biggest thing I learned was just about the research — it’s absolutely fantastic,” she said. “It’s absolutely amazing to see how much they can do over there, and how eventually the research will also relate to human beings.”

Thanks to her, her husband, and other supporters of the veterinary college, important discoveries in animal medicine are certain to keep coming at Virginia Tech, though they may soon be taken place in a different, brand new building.
A Golden Hokie Opportunity: Stanley Cohen

At last year’s homecoming game 67,000 Hokie football fans cheered Stanley Cohen when he was brought on the field with the flight crew after having arranged the pregame flyover of a World War II B-25 Mitchell bomber. But within the College of Engineering, the corps of cadets, and the Athletic Department, Cohen has been appreciated for far longer.

“You know, I’ve had a tremendous amount of love for Virginia Tech,” said Cohen, who earned his bachelor’s in architectural engineering in 1949 and master’s in civil engineering in 1951. “I have [created] two scholarships at Virginia Tech – one in the civil engineering department that I began in 1979, and another, which is an Emerging Leader Scholarship, in the cadet corps.”

He also has been a generous supporter of Virginia Tech sports for many years, to the degree that he and his wife, Frances, are considered Golden Hokies. The couple, who live just outside Cincinnati, Ohio, are also charter members of the Ut Prosim Society, a select group of Virginia Tech’s most generous donors. Cohen also is a charter member of the Committee of 100 distinguished alumni of the College of Engineering.
The future is calling.

Meet Monica Black (mechanical engineering '13), who is not only working toward her degree, but to advance Virginia Tech. Last fiscal year, more than 14,000 alumni or friends of the university said “yes” when asked to donate by a student caller like her. Combined, they gave more than $1.6 million.

Whether it’s a first gift by a recent graduate or a substantial contribution from a longtime donor, every one of the thousands of donations we receive each year is important. That’s because each gift, regardless of its size, represents a true commitment to help Virginia Tech fulfill its mission and maintain its reputation.

When making an annual gift, you can choose to support any college, department, or program you wish. And you don’t have to wait for a call from Monica or her colleagues to make a difference. Visit www.givingto.vt.edu to donate online or learn more about the impact gifts make at Virginia Tech.
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