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- Students publish undergraduate research journal
- Books profiles historic trees of Virginia
- Marching Virginians build house in honor of Ryan Clark
- Commencement ceremonies honor more than 5,200 graduates
- Pamplin students author e-biz guidebook

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### NEWLY DEVELOPED ROBOTIC HAND RUNS ON COMPRESSED AIR

The Robotics and Mechanisms Laboratory of the College of Engineering has developed a unique robotic hand named RAPHaEL (Robotic Air-Powered Hand with Elastic Ligaments) that is dexterous enough to hold objects as heavy as a can of food or as delicate as a raw egg and to communicate sign language. [more...](#)

### STUDENTS PUBLISH UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH JOURNAL

Philologia, a new undergraduate research journal in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, rolled off the press in April 2009. [more...](#)

### BOOK PROFILES HISTORIC TREES OF VIRGINIA

To showcase the state's most special trees and to connect a new generation to its roots, Virginia Tech professor Jeff Kirwan teamed up with garden writer and lecturer Nancy Ross Hugo and internationally recognized photographer Robert Llewellyn to produce Remarkable Trees of Virginia. [more...](#)

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## **IN THE NEWS**

### **MARCHING VIRGINIANS BUILD HOUSE IN HONOR OF RYAN CLARK**

Throughout May, the Marching Virginians, Town of Blacksburg, and Community Housing partners are teaming up to build a home for a family in Blacksburg in honor of former Marching Virginians band member Ryan Clark, who lost his life on April 16, 2007. As a student, Clark volunteered for such service projects as Hurricane Katrina relief and Habitat for Humanity. Band Director David McKee says that the Marching Virginians wanted to build the house in the spirit of continuing Clark's compassion and charity. Since the end of the fall 2008 football season, the Marching Virginians have raised more than \$41,000 for the project. The Town of Blacksburg and Community Housing Partners, a regional non-profit housing and community-development company, have contributed funds, supplies, labor, and technical expertise. Community Housing Partners also provided a parcel of land on Cedar Hill Drive, where the eco-friendly home is being constructed.

### **COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES HONOR MORE THAN 5,200 GRADUATES**

Virginia Tech held its 138th University Commencement ceremony on May 15. Retired U.S. Air Force Gen. Lance L. Smith, a graduate of the Pamplin College of Business who served as commander for the U.S. Joint Forces Command and as NATO Supreme Allied Commander for Transformation, delivered the keynote address to an estimated 33 associate's degree candidates and 4,011 bachelor's degree candidates. Businessman, philanthropist, and statesman Nicholas Frank Taubman addressed 1,201 graduate and professional degree candidates at the Graduate Commencement ceremony. The 29th National Capital Region (NCR) commencement ceremony was held May 17 at the George Mason University Center for the Arts in Fairfax, Va. Shelley Duke, owner and manager of Rallywood Farm in Middleburg, Va., addressed the approximately 300 NCR graduates.

### **PAMPLIN STUDENTS AUTHOR E-BIZ GUIDEBOOK**

Students in a business information technology course in the Pamplin College of Business have unveiled their newly published e-business manual, The Online Business Guidebook. The step-by-step guide, which focuses on "low-price, high-practice" e-businesses, has attracted inquiries from an Internet specialist in Dell's business-development division, says Alan Abrahams, assistant professor of business information technology and the project's faculty advisor. An e-marketing training firm in Ohio also has agreed to promote the guidebook to its webinar participants. Aimed at fledgling entrepreneurs, the full-color guidebook offers easy-to-follow tutorials on online advertising, payment processing, product listings, Web analytics, and other technologies used in starting and growing an online business. The print guidebook will be distributed free to students at major business