Richard Wokutch, professor of management, is helping to establish an interdisciplinary graduate curriculum in engineering ethics.

The program, based in the College of Engineering, is funded by the National Science Foundation. Wokutch’s research specialty is in international business ethics and the global management of corporate social performance. He and engineering and philosophy faculty members jointly prepared the NSF proposal.

The program will feature an ethics course, summer workshops for students and faculty members, and a seminar series in engineering ethics that will be integrated with the 18-year program of business ethics seminars in the Pamplin College. The program will include ethical issues in the Ph.D. preliminary examination and the presentation of learning modules by the students during the examination.

The program, Wokutch said, seeks to engage engineering students in examining the broader roles and responsibilities of professional engineers by integrating ethical, environmental, and social considerations and impacts of technology in their education and research. Participants in the program promoted several events during the week of March 15-21 and encouraged campus-wide discussion of ethical issues as part of an “Ethics Week.”

Exploring engineering ethics

For more information:
www.bit.vt.edu

I.T. in Top 10

Pamplin’s information technology program was included in a list of top 10 IT programs in the country in a report published last October by TechRepublic, an online forum and resource for IT professionals.

The report, said TechRepublic’s editor-in-chief Jason Hiner, focused on the CIO career track and examined programs that would offer the most value to students who wanted to work in the business end of IT.

“For that crowd, a strong foundation in business administration is just as important as a good technical education,” Hiner noted. “A degree from one of these 10 programs will provide a great foundation for a successful IT career. And, while we primarily view this report as a service that we can offer to the next generation of aspiring IT leaders, current CIOs and IT managers should also use it as a way to find the colleges and universities that are producing some of the best IT talent on the planet.”

The 10 programs are not ranked but are described individually.

For more information on the TechRepublic list, please visit www.bit.vt.edu

New non-credit program for non-business students

Pamplin is offering a new, three-week non-credit program for non-business students on campus this summer. “It’s designed to give the university’s juniors and seniors who aren’t business majors or minors a competitive edge in this slow economy and competitive job market,” said Sharon Scott, associate director of management and professional development.

“Business Applications Summer Experience” will be offered May 18-June 5. Topics include accounting, economics, entrepreneurship, finance, leadership and management, marketing, and personal finance. Students will also discuss interviewing, résumé writing, and business etiquette and will receive a certificate in business applications upon completion.

For more information:
www.cpe.vt.edu/mpd.base

MBA students meet Washington-area execs

Pamplin MBA students visited employers in the Washington, D.C., area last fall on an outreach program organized by the MBA office.

A group of 22 full-time MBA students, along with Steve Skripak, associate dean of graduate programs, and Barry O’Donnell, MBA associate director, met with representatives from Booz Allen, General Dynamics, Mercury Computer Systems, Merrill Lynch, SAIC, and the Department of Justice.

The road trip was proposed by MBA Advisory Board president and Washington-area attorney John Ritzert (MBA ’76) to enable students to meet employers who do not typically visit campus to recruit MBA students. The program was organized with assistance from Executive MBA executive director Charles Jacbina and alumnus Eddy Yager (MKTG ’84, MBA ’85), a retired executive from Accenture.

For more information:
www.bit.vt.edu