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NEW VENTURES.

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George Mason University in Fairfax, Va., is the new home of the Virginia Citizenship Institute, a nonprofit organization dedicated to motivating young people to become involved in civic affairs. Founded four years ago by **Greg Werkheiser**, a University of Virginia law student, VCI is closely affiliated with George Mason's department of public and international affairs and New Century College.

VCI has developed several programs to recognize individuals who have dedicated themselves to civic engagement, but the institute is known for its summer program, held last year for the first time in partnership with the University of Virginia, Charlottesville. The mission of the summer program is to educate Virginia's future leaders about the state's political history and current political affairs, and to teach them the skills needed to effectively influence the political process in Virginia. The institute recruits students who have demonstrated leadership qualities and expect to remain in Virginia after they graduate. Last year, 280 students applied for the 30 slots in the VCI summer program.

Loyola College in Baltimore, Md., is one of 12 institutions nationally to participate in the "Teaching Catholic Social Teaching" project sponsored by the University of Notre Dame, Fort Bend, Ind. The project was established in response to the 1998 U.S. Catholic bishops' statement on Catholic social teaching at higher-education institutions, which reported that while there is a clear interest in and support for Catholic social teaching, it is generally not offered in a systematic way.

Loyola was selected for its proposal to develop a curriculum infusion of Catholic social teaching across its campus. Efforts will include a baseline survey to determine the extent to which Catholic social teachings are included in the college's course material and the development of a faculty Catholic social teaching curriculum infusion workshop. The other institutions selected for participation in the project are: Calumet College, DePaul University, Dominican University, Iona College, Regis University, Sacred Heart University, St. John's University, St. Peter's College, Seattle University, Trinity College of Vermont, University of St. Thomas, and Villanova University.

Campbellsville University in Kentucky recently opened a new Writing Center to provide assistance for students.

The center will offer tutoring through all phases of the writing process in all areas of study and at all levels. It provides resources to help students with their writing, including dictionaries, grammar handbooks, rhetoric texts, and computers with Internet access.

Professors will help students write effective resumes, cover letters, and application letters as students make transitions from being an undergraduate to entering the workplace or applying for a graduate program.

The Maine Maritime Academy in Castine has established a Center for Technology Forecasting. Steven R. Walk is the head of the new center.

The goal of MMA's new Center for Technology Forecasting is to promote a greater understanding of technology change in society and to answer these and many other questions about the future.

Maine Maritime Academy sponsored an annual series of conferences and workshops in the 1970s and 1980s in technology forecasting and the social impacts of technology change.

Technology forecasting is the process of projecting in time the intersection of human needs and technological capabilities using quantitative methods.

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