

**GEOSCIENCES NEWSLETTER**  
**May 7-11, 2012**

**SPRING 2012**



**DEPARTMENT NEWS:**

**DEPARTMENT GRADUATION**  
**SATURDAY, MAY 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**10:00 AM, Hancock Hall**  
**(Following the ceremony, a light lunch is  
provided on second floor of Derring.)**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!!**





**Hancock Hall**

Hancock Hall is named for **John William Hancock**, a 1925 graduate, member of the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors, board chairman of the Virginia Tech Foundation, and a generous benefactor of his alma mater. Hancock founded Roanoke Electric Steel Corporation and John W. Hancock Jr. Inc.

He was deeply committed to civic projects, helping establish Roanoke's first industrial park, Center in the Square, and the Explore Park, and he spurred the integration of restaurants in Roanoke, Va.

## **FACULTY NEWS:**

**Scott King and Ikuko Wada** attended the European Geoscience Union Meeting meeting last week. These are their talks:

- **King, S. D., and Samuel, H., (2012), Combine Effects of Plate Motions and Small-Scale Convection on Mantle Stirring Efficiency, *European Geoscience Union Meeting*, Vienna, Austria, April 25, 2012.**
- **Wada (2012), Nature of the slab-mantle wedge interface: Clues from geophysical observations and thermal modeling results, *European Geoscience Union Meeting*, Vienna, Austria, April 25, 2012.**

**Ikuko Wada** also gave a keynote presentation at NSF GeoPRISMS workshop last month - **I. Wada (2012), Thermal and petrologic structures and fluid flow: structure and dynamics of subduction zones. *GeoPRISMS-EarthScope Planning Workshop for the Cascadia Primary Site*, Portland OR, April 5-6, 2012.**

**Harish Veeramani** chaired a session in Geomicrobiology at the European Geosciences Union 2012 General Assembly Meeting in Vienna. **The session was titled "Nexus between microbes, metals and minerals in the environment".** The session was a success and was co-sponsored by the European Association of Geochemistry (EAG). Prof. Kirsten Küsel from the University of Jena was awarded the distinction of EAG Eminent Speaker in my session.