

atech

Athletics

Academics

Technology

<http://juno.atech.vt.edu>

VT

Turning Athletic

Success into

Academic Success

Elyzabeth Holford, Director,
Virginia Tech

ATEC

What Is It?

A program designed to address the special challenges faced by student-athletes at Virginia Tech.

Who Are the Staff?

Faculty from several colleges in cooperation with the faculty and academic advisors from Athletics.

Financing and Administration

- α TECH is administered through the Provost's Office and Athletics.
- α TECH is funded through money earned by the Virginia Tech football team's 1996 post-season Bowl victory.
- Donations to the program.

PARTICIPANTS

- Over 100 student-athletes have participated in ATECH courses, and more classes and students are expected this year: aiming eventually for one-hundred percent course participation.
- All student-athletes are participants in the program
- There are about 20 faculty and staff people currently assisting with the project. Many are volunteering their time to the program.

Goals

- To significantly improve graduation rates, especially for student-athletes who are “at-risk” academically.
- To further challenge those athletes who are academically gifted so that they strive to achieve ever-higher goals.
- To foster the sense of a learning community, lead to self-education, and outreach among participants.

- To increase job placement of students who will have acquired new skills.
- To fully utilize the potential of the new technologies to improve the quality of student learning.
- To enable student-athletes to compete in the technology-oriented 21st-century.

Goals

ATECH Options

Core Courses

Student Road Warriors

Peer Mentoring

Service-Learning

Training

Students may combine these options.

Core Course Options

- Core course options with small classes (e.g. Freshman English).
- Taught by award-winning faculty volunteers in close collaboration with academic colleges and athletic advisors.
- Core course options include traditional as well as online courses, taught face-to-face as well as in computer-enhanced environments.

Student Road Warrior Option: Learning on the Road

- Macintosh PowerBook's can be loaned to students to take with them on team road trips.
- These can be used for communication with faculty, advisors, and peer study groups; for self-paced study purposes, research papers, synchronous webchats, and asynchronous interaction via e-mail and NetForum.

Peer Mentoring

- Selected student athletes with strong aptitude or interest will act as peer helpers in the lab and on the road to increase questions and participation.
- Individual training program through **ATECH** Classroom monitors.
- Self-paced learning modules and web-guides for mentors and students made available.

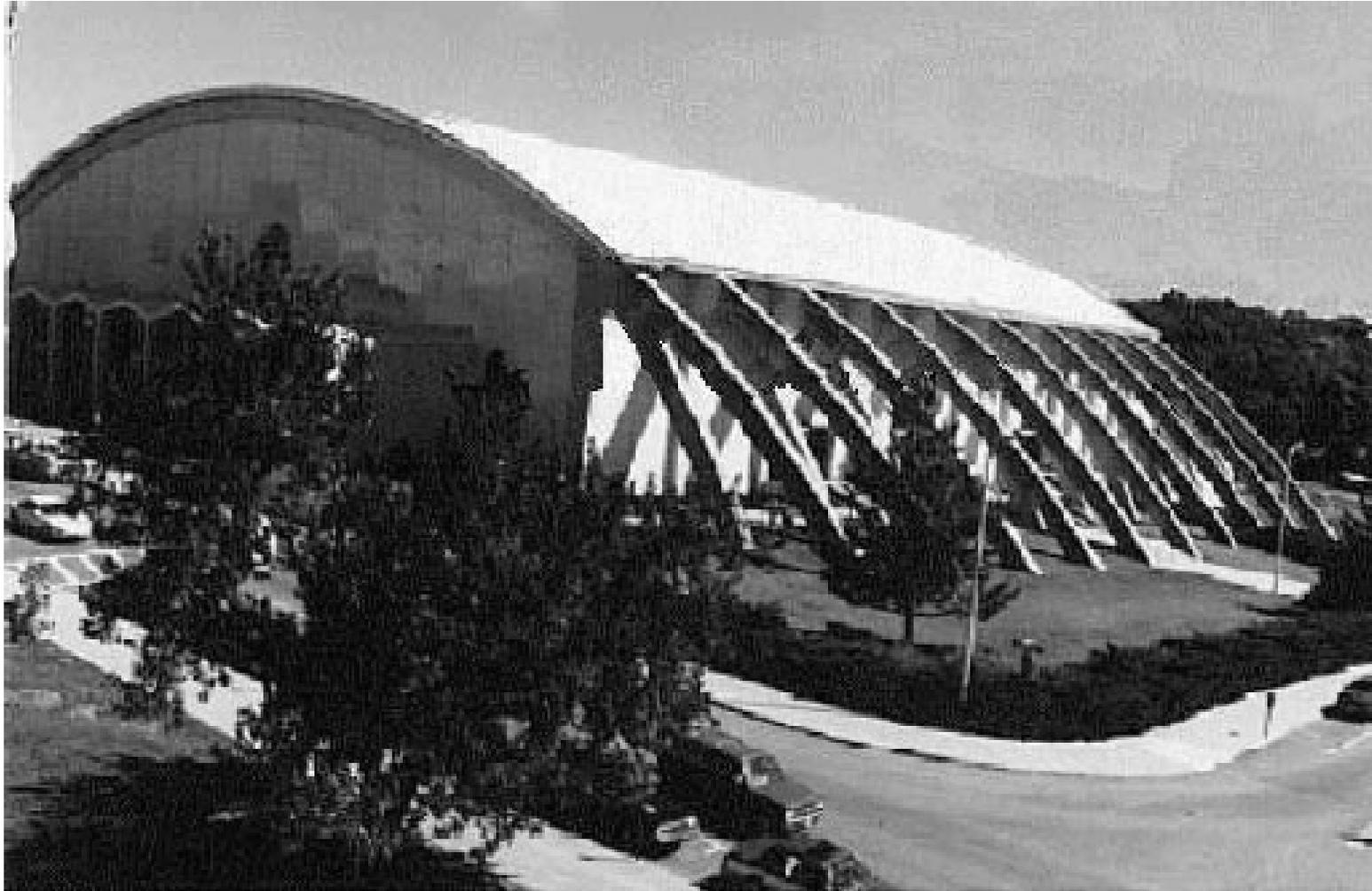
Service-Learning Option

- Students in **ATECH** can take service-learning courses for credit, thereby integrating community service with academic coursework.
- This reinforces the student-athlete's ties to the community and fosters a sense of civic responsibility that is combined with academic rigor.

Training

- Technology workshops for student athletes
- Technology workshops for participating faculty
- Trained monitors for the Computer-Integrated Classroom in Cassell Athletic Center

The Virginia Tech Athletic Complex



aTECH CIC (C om puter I ntegrated C lassroom)

- Cassell 207 (2nd Floor)
- Newly Renovated
- Capacity for 35 fully networked workstations
- Laser printer
- Scanner
- Computer and video projection
- Class-room and self-directed activities

ATTECH CIC At

Work



ATECH Courses

Through innovative course design and with assistance from the Center for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, ATECH provides students with special sections of regular university courses required for their field of study. These special ATECH sections are limited in class-size, taught by outstanding faculty members, and incorporate computer labs and online teaching and learning when appropriate. The ATECH sections allow flexibility for the student-athletes travelling in-season to keep up with their course work by using laptop computers.

A TECH Courses

Spring 1997

- English 1106/Theater Arts
- Black Studies 1714
- Psychology 2974

Fall 1997

- Psychology 2984
- English 1105
- English 3524

Spring 1998

- Entomology 2004
- English 3764
- Women's Studies 1824
- English 1106

A TECH Technologies

- Totally online coursework
- Partial online coursework
- Student Road Warrior Program

ATECH Student Road Warrior Program

- Loaning Apple PowerBooks to student athletes for athletic road trips
- Access to faculty, advisors, and student peers
- Full access to the Internet: email; Web-based course materials; online interactive environments
- Completing homework assignments remotely
- Discussions with class members in “real time”

Conclusion

ATECH has the potential to become a nationally-recognized program that can help us attract the finest scholar-athletes. . . . It is a way to establish lifelong learning habits among graduates. It is our reinvestment in the education of student-athletes so that we can better prepare them for the future.

CONTACTS

- Elyzabeth Holford Director  TECH
(holforde@vt.edu)
- Jerry Via Head of Athletic Advising
- David Taylor  TECH Assessment Coordinator
- Len Hatfield  TECH Technical Coordinator
- Dan Yates  TECH Lab/Laptop Coordinator

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