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# OIA connect

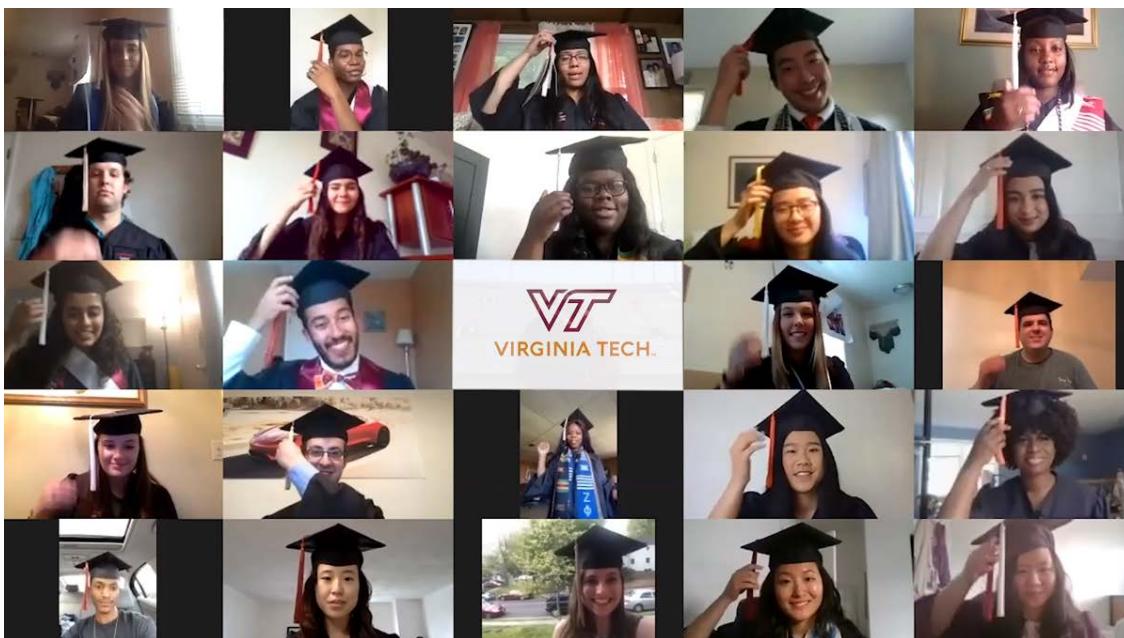
**HOME EDITION**

## Save the date: OIA town hall on May 29

Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs Guru Ghosh will hold a virtual town hall for all OIA employees starting at **10:30 a.m. Friday, May 29**.

He will share the latest university news regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, discuss the continued impact on OIA, and answer your questions. Questions may be submitted ahead of time by filling out this [online form](#).

You can join the Zoom webinar by clicking on [this link](#).



## Online ceremony honors graduates

Commencement 2020 was one for the Hokie history books.

For the first time, Virginia Tech leaders, celebrity alumni, a sports icon, and a dancing HokieBird appeared virtually across computer and mobile screens everywhere to confer degrees and salute the Class of 2020. More than 4,200 viewers watched the ceremony in real time online.

About 5,600 Hokies graduated with bachelor's degrees and 62 earned associates degrees. Also, 1,247 graduate students were recognized.

[Read more...](#)

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## Hokies@Home collecting COVID-19 experiences

The University Libraries' Special Collections and University Archives is collecting and preserving the extraordinary experiences of members of the Hokie Nation during the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Leaders of the Hokies@Home: Documenting COVID-19 at Virginia Tech project are [collecting](#) oral histories, audio recordings, written stories, diary and journal entries, photographs, videos, art, and other documentation for inclusion in its publicly available digital collections.

Archivists want to hear from university faculty, staff, and wage employees; prospective, undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students; alumni; parents and family of Virginia Tech students; university contractors; and members of local communities connected to Virginia Tech.

"We also want to hear from all Virginia Tech locations including Blacksburg, Richmond, the Greater D.C. area, Hampton Roads, Roanoke, Abingdon, Reynolds Homestead, Agricultural Research and Extension Centers, the Steger Center for International Scholarship, study abroad sites, and any other locations with a connection to the university," said Aaron Purcell, director of University Libraries' Special Collections and University Archives. "It's important to collect all of these experiences and make them digitally available and searchable for future generations."

[Read more...](#)

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## AROUND OIA

## **Satellites capture spread of 'mile-a-minute weed' from space for improved food security on the ground**

The spread of the invasive weed Mikania micrantha has increased by 800 percent in Nepal over the past 30 years.

That's the latest research out of Tribhuvan University in Nepal, part of a Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Integrated Pest Management project, housed at the Center for International Research, Education, and Development. The findings were recently highlighted in [Agrilinks](#), an online hub for agriculture, food security, and development news. Nepal, which is one of seven countries the IPM Innovation Lab operates in, is especially vulnerable to invasive species spread as it fosters some of the world's most unique biodiversity hot spots.

Mikania is a vine that spreads so quickly it earned the nickname "mile-a-minute weed." Native to Central and South America, it threatens Nepal's forest areas and grasslands, its spread dramatically reducing crop yields and increasing weeding costs for smallholder farmers. Additionally, the weed is rampant throughout the Chitwan National Park, a world heritage site and popular ecotourism destination. Mikania outcompetes a number of vital native plant species within the park, including vegetation eaten by the endangered greater one-horned rhinoceros, which resides there.



The IPM Innovation Lab project tracks the spread of Mikania — as well as other destructive invasive weeds — using remote sensing, a relatively new area of research that utilizes satellite images to identify occurrence, distribution, and abundance of species spread.

[Read more...](#)

— Sara Hendery

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## **Inn welcomes new marketing manager**

The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center has

hired **Isaac Rife** as marketing manager. Isaac is a Hokie alumnus ('13 and '15) who stayed in the area after graduation.

Before working at the inn, Isaac worked at the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce and Veneo, a local marketing agency.

He is excited to be back in the Tech community and looks forward to promoting the inn.



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## NEWS TO USE

### Latest from Virginia Tech

- **'ESSENTIAL OPERATIONS':** Virginia Tech continues to operate under [this designation](#), as it will for the immediate future.
  - **GOOGLE MEET:** Another way to [host and join video meetings](#) is now available in Gmail.
  - **COOK COUNSELING:** The center is moving from McComas to [Oak Lane](#).
  - **17-YEAR CICADAS:** [They're ba-ack!](#)
  
  - **STAY INFORMED:** Remember, you can find the latest information from the university on its [COVID-19 webpage](#).
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## 5 QUESTIONS FOR ...



## **Terri Lashley**

*Since January, Terri Lashley has served as the financial and program coordinator for departmental operations at the Center for International Research, Education, and Development.*

### **What books are on your nightstand/coffee table?**

"Girls Will Be Girls: Raising Confident and Courageous Daughters" is currently on my nightstand. I haven't started reading it yet, but I do enjoy parenting books that offer different perspectives.

### **What is your go-to quarantine snack?**

Pretzels.

### **What are your favorite/least favorite parts of your job?**

My favorite part is the collaboration of the entire team, not only to complete proposals, but every day. I don't have a least favorite part yet!

### **What activities do you do to take a break during the quarantine?**

I like to take short walks outside to clear my head, stretch, and enjoy nature.

### **What is your most memorable trip/destination?**

The first time I traveled outside of the U.S., I went to Brazil. The food was amazing, the people were so gracious, and the landscape was beautiful. In general, the people lived simply and were not so consumed with material things. Upon seeing the favelas and understanding how they evolved and how many people live in them, it gave me a very different perspective on life and a new sense of gratitude.

— April Raphiou

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## Caroline Honeycutt

*Caroline Honeycutt has worked as a program coordinator at Continuing and Professional Education since August 2019. She oversees various programs and conferences hosted by both Virginia Tech and external clients. "I organize the small details, making sure our clients and their participants have everything they need," she says.*

**What's your favorite way to start the day?**

My favorite way to start the day is by running. It really gives me energy and helps me stay focused.

**What hobby would you dive into if time and money weren't an issue?**

I would spend all winter skiing. There are so many places I would like to ski, and so many skis I would like to have!

**What is one small thing that makes your day better?**

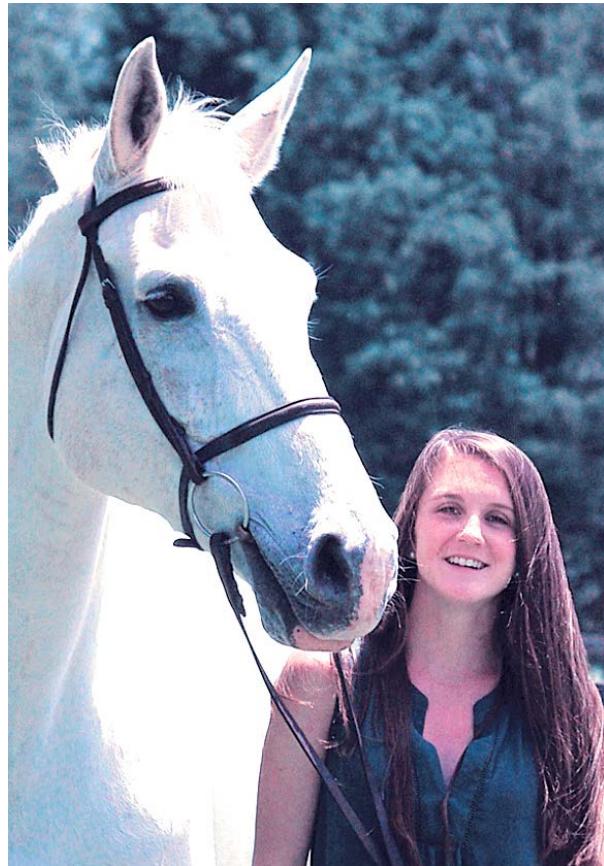
Definitely coffee. Nothing like some coffee to feel re-energized!

**What's your favorite thing about your job?**

I enjoy getting to interact with our clients and participants and seeing how all the pieces end up fitting together for a successful event.

**Are you binge-watching any shows on TV?**

I am currently binge-watching "Grey's Anatomy," although I also watch "The Office" nonstop.



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— Diane Deffenbaugh

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Engage in ... Evaluation

Metrics, measures, indicators, impacts, outputs, outcomes ... What does it all mean, and how could it be useful to my team and me? Learn how using a simple framework of “evaluation” has the power to transform top-down discussions about metrics, impacts, and program planning into an engaging process that helps individuals at all levels see how their contributions lead to unit, OIA, university, commonwealth, and global impacts.



Join the Office of Engagement at 10 a.m. Thursday, May 21, for the [next installment of the “Engage in ... ” professional development series](#), led by the Office of Economic Development’s **Elli Travis**.

Throughout her five years in the Office of Economic Development, Elli has made evaluation a fundamental part of internal and externally facing projects and will share some in-depth examples of evaluation in practice at OIA.

[Join via Zoom.](#)

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### Lunch & Learn: Personal and Business Branding

The Virginia Tech Newport News Center is taking registrations now for its [Lunch & Learn webinar](#) at noon on June 10. Learn how you can stand out in an ever-changing, dynamic, and competitive marketplace. Whether branding your business or yourself, increase your reach and reputation through digital branding on social platforms such as LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and more.

Monica Hill, associate director of alumni relations at Christopher Newport University, will offer simple techniques and tools for creating your own brand image and personality while selling yourself as an industry leader and expert.

[Register now](#) for this free webinar.

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## CHEF'S TABLE

### Got apples? Make this super simple cake

Chef **Scott Watson's** latest installment in his Cooking From the Cupboard series features a fun recipe for country apple cake. Watson, the executive chef at The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center, uses a mix of Granny Smith and Red Delicious apples but says you can use any apples you like. The cake is flavored with walnuts and raisins and served with a fresh orange icing.

Get the full recipe on the [Preston's and Continental Divide Facebook page](#).



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## BREAK TIME

**Doris Waddell**, from the Office of Economic Development, sent in this funny that her nephew used to tell when he was little:

- What are a shark's two favorite words? *Man overboard.*

An anonymous jokester sent in this one:

- With so many sporting events canceled, they're going to televise the World Origami Championship. *It's on Paperview.*

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## LOVES ME SOME INTERNET

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### What the Things Around Us Are Thinking

You're running me AGAIN?  
You just ran me!



You saw the screentime  
report. Maybe put me  
down and pick up  
a book.

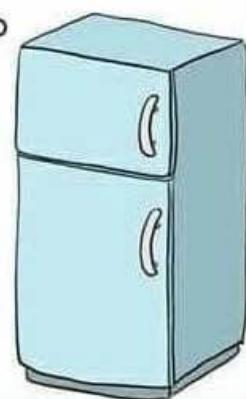


Is it just me, or  
is 80% of their  
laundry just  
pajamas now?

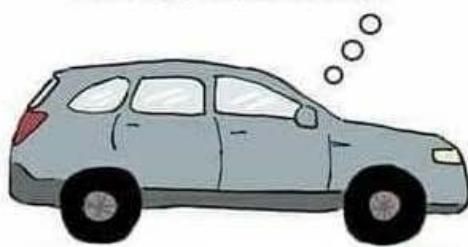
Oh, AT  
LEAST.



Every 10  
minutes you  
people are  
opening my  
door! EVERY  
10 MINUTES!



Did I do something to  
offend someone?





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