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# OIA connect

## HOME EDITION

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## Submit your OIA Town Hall questions

There is still time to submit your questions for Friday's OIA Town Hall.

Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs **Guru Ghosh** will host the town hall on Friday, May 29, at 10:30 a.m. To join the webinar, go to <https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/98941023313>.

Questions will be taken during the event, but you are encouraged to submit them ahead of time by filling out [this Google Form](#).

The town hall will be recorded for those who are unable to join live.

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**AROUND OIA**



## **Inn set to return to full-service hotel and conference center**

The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center, which transformed last year into a learning-centered living environment for more than 300 students, is preparing to transition back to a full-service hotel and conference center starting June 1.

“As we say goodbye to the students who have called us home, we are excited to welcome alumni, Hokie families, and other guests at the only hotel on the Blacksburg campus,” managing director **Tom Cupo** said. “Our students were fantastic guests. We want to thank them for the maturity, goodwill, and flexibility they exhibited throughout the year.”

As part of its transition, the inn is unveiling room improvements and renovations that have been ongoing this spring. These include new queen bed upgrades to all previous double-bed guest rooms, new 55-inch flat-panel TVs, and Keurig coffee makers in all rooms. Renovations in the conference center are also underway and will include new technology for enhanced videoconferencing.

“Our highest priority, though, remains the health and safety of our guests and team members,” Cupo said.

The inn is exceeding industry protocols and best-practice guidelines, increasing the frequency of property-wide cleaning and disinfecting — with extra focus paid to high-touch surfaces and public spaces such as the front desk, door

handles, public bathrooms, and room keys.

Guests may [make reservations online](#) or by calling 877-200-3360.



## LCI's AdvantageVT orientation moves online

The Language and Culture Institute's [AdvantageVT Program](#) concluded its first 100% online orientation for new international students last week.

These 13 students, preparing to start the summer semester, began their orientation earlier in the week, setting up their PID and passwords. They then went to Canvas to participate in the AdvantageVT Summer 2020 Orientation course.

In this course, students completed four modules: My VT Account, Communication, Student Resources and Support, and Academics. Each consisted of a video presentation and corresponding quiz, with questions relating to the module topic to ensure students understood the orientation information.

Students were introduced to LCI and AdvantageVT staff. **Vanessa Ghaderi**, the cohort's academic advisor, discussed academic and conduct expectations for students.

The students attended from various cities in China as well as Blacksburg and Washington. One dedicated student recently returned to China and attended from a hotel while in quarantine.

[Read more...](#)

## NEWS TO USE

### Latest from Virginia Tech

- **FALL SEMESTER:** Planning underway for [strategies to protect public health](#).
    - Read the university's [Guidelines for Implementation of Public Health Measures](#).
  - **ADMISSIONS SNAPSHOT:** University prepares to welcome its [most diverse freshman class](#).
  - **PARENTING:** Hokie Wellness program offers [strategies to reduce stress](#).
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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Engage in ... Virtual Event Planning

As the COVID-19 pandemic has spread throughout the U.S., the need for social distancing and limitations on large gatherings have drastically changed the needs of Continuing and Professional Education's clients and their audiences. Rather than canceling or postponing, many clients are choosing to move forward with virtual events. In response, CPE formed a “virtual team” of enthusiastic staff members who immersed themselves in the world of online events in order to gain an understanding of the value CPE could add to a simple Zoom meeting.

Join the Office of Engagement on Thursday, June 4, at 10 a.m. for the next installment of its "Engage in ..." webinar series, [when the CPE team will present a Remote and Virtual Education \(RAVE\) Review](#).

Learn how they assemble the pieces of the virtual event planning puzzle and showcase the services that guarantee a polished event for faculty, state agencies, and corporate clients. You may be surprised to learn all that is involved.

[Please register by June 1.](#)

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## 5 QUESTIONS FOR ...

### Courtney Holland

*Courtney Holland is the smiling face who greets all who enter the OIA suite at the University Gateway Center, where she works as reception and administrative support.*



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

I teach a Jazzercise class at 5:45 a.m. It's great to get exercise out of the way first thing. Also, it's great to dance around like a nutcase and burn calories.

#### **What was your first job?**

I worked as a lifeguard swim teacher, which meant I got to be outdoors all day, which I loved. But it maybe wasn't so great that lives were in the hands of a 16-year-old.

#### **What books are on your nightstand?**

"Scar Tissue," the autobiography of Red Hot Chili Peppers vocalist Anthony Kiedis. Also, "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens. Spotify, hands down.

#### **What's the best piece of advice you ever received?**

Expect nothing, accept everything.

— Diane Deffenbaugh

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### Elli Travis

*Elli Travis is an economic development specialist for the Office of Economic Development.*

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

"Mini Farming: Self-Sufficiency on ¼ Acre," "Bodyfoods for Busy People," "Wherever You Go There You Are: Mindfulness Meditation in Everyday Life," and "The Weekend Garden Guide: Work-Saving Ways to a Beautiful Backyard."

**What is your theme song?**

"Girl on Fire" by Alicia Keys.

**What experiences do you enjoy the most at work?**

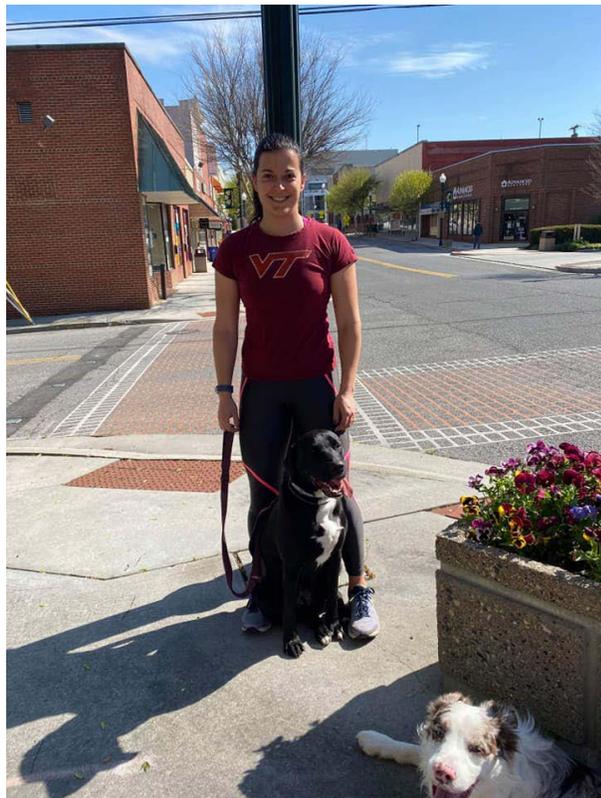
Working hard with colleagues to brainstorm creative ideas to old challenges.

**What movies or TV shows have you been watching lately?**

Just finished "Better Call Saul" and starting "Breaking Bad." Also, just started "Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist," and it is fantastic.

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

Helicopter snowboarding.



— Julia Kell

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**LOVES ME SOME INTERNET**

**HOW CRAZY IS THIS**

**I JUST TRIED TO MAKE MY  
OWN HAND SANITIZER, AND IT  
CAME OUT AS A RUM & COKE**



**OUTREACH & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**  
VIRGINIA TECH.

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