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OIA connect

HOME EDITION



Statement from Vice President Guru Ghosh

Universities are the embodiment of public good in our nation. Outreach and International Affairs at Virginia Tech has always been committed to bridging cultures, races, geographies, and lived experiences. We actively embrace economic empowerment, gender equality, and technological advancements to improve livelihoods and eradicate poverty in our communities close to home and around the world.

We find ourselves amidst a planetary pandemic that has taken more than 105,000 American lives and left over 40 million Americans unemployed. Marches demanding racial equality are widespread in cities across America. Outreach and International Affairs promotes fairness, supports human dignity, embraces racial harmony, and strives for social and economic justice.

Therefore, I am inviting all members of the OIA family to celebrate the agency of healing, unity, and compassion by participating in upcoming events hosted by the Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

Please hold Friday, June 5, 2-3:30 p.m. for "[Unfinished Conversations Around Race.](#)" Zoom information for this important program will be shared on Friday morning. **Dr. Maria Elisa Christie** will be following up with additional details.

Guru Ghosh,
Vice President for Outreach
and International Affairs

[Read the statement](#) from President Tim Sands and Vice President for Strategic Affairs and Diversity Menah Pratt-Clarke.

Those in need of assistance or counseling support may contact:

- [Cook Counseling Center](#) at 540-231-6557.
- [Dean of Students Office](#) at 540-231-3787. Referral to a campus cleric may be made through this office.
- [Employee Assistance Program](#)
 - Anthem at 855-223-9277.
 - Aetna at 888-238-6232.
 - Kaiser Permanente at 866-517-7042.
 - Optima Health Vantage HMO at 866-846-2682.
- [Hokie Wellness](#) at 540-231-8878.
- [InclusiveVT](#) at 540-231-7500.
- [Office of Housing and Residence Life](#) at 540-231-6205.
- [Women's Center at Virginia Tech](#) at 540-231-7806.

AROUND OIA

Watch the video of Friday's OIA Town Hall

Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs **Guru Ghosh** offered "a glimpse of where the university is" during an online town hall meeting Friday,

May 29.

Those who were unable to stream the meeting live can [view a recording of it](#).



Virtual reception aims to link faculty with professionals in Roanoke

When Eli Jamison signed up to teach at the [Virginia Tech Roanoke Center](#), she found not only a new audience for her management expertise, but also a new way to connect with working professionals.



“It’s a wonderful opportunity to hear how these concepts apply, or don’t, to their work life,” said Jamison, an assistant professor of practice in the [Pamplin College of Business](#). “This feedback always raises new, interesting professional and academic questions for me. In turn, I get to bring these professional experiences to my students in Blacksburg.”

Virginia Tech faculty are invited to a virtual reception June 11. Members of the Roanoke Center team will meet with faculty members in 10-minute appointments via Zoom to discuss how the faculty member may fit in the center’s programming needs. [Registration is required](#) to get an appointment.

“Usually, programs are developed after we meet with clients and they tell us, for example, ‘My employees really need training in analyzing data.’ Then, we connect with faculty we know who may be able to teach that topic,” said **Lesha Hanlin**, executive director of Roanoke Regional Initiatives. “The more connections we build with faculty, the better we can meet the needs of the community.”

[Read more...](#)

Webinar offers ways to globalize the curriculum

The Global Education Office and the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning are offering the [Global @ Home: Bringing Global Perspective to the Classroom](#) webinar on June 18 at 10 a.m.



The program is designed to support faculty and staff in exploring virtual exchanges, infusing online classes with intercultural content, and accessing internationalization resources. Several faculty members will share their experiences and tips for globalizing the Virginia Tech curriculum.

Please register by June 12 at <https://bit.ly/3cNAU1v>.

For questions, contact [Rachel Fitzgerald](#).

— Rommelyn Coffren

Conference on refugee issues calls for abstracts

The International Protracted Displacement Conference has announced a call for abstracts. The conference is scheduled to be held Oct. 18-20, 2020, in Amman, Jordan, under the theme “Protracted Displacement of Refugees: Hopes, Perspectives, and Solutions.” This is part of the [U.S.-Jordanian University Cooperation Network](#) effort to encourage joint collaboration and research.

[Read more...](#)

SEND US YOUR STORIES

Help everyone in OIA stay connected. Please send us your photos, news, stories, and tips to include in this newsletter. Send all submissions, ideas, and

NEWS TO USE

Latest from Virginia Tech

- **TUITION FREEZE:** Board of Visitors approves [preliminary university budget](#).
 - **FACE COVERINGS:** [Guidance for employees](#) at Virginia Tech facilities.
 - **MEDICAL PLANS:** There will be [no premium increases](#) to medical plans for fiscal year 2020-21.
 - **PRESIDENT'S AWARD:** 27 nominees and five winners will be recognized during an [online celebration](#) on June 4.
 - **STINKY PHIL:** The unusual, putrid, and beloved [corpse plant](#) is blooming.
 - **HOKIES FOOTBALL:** Players are preparing to begin [voluntary workouts](#).
 - **VIDEO:** Thanks to the donors of the [Student Emergency Fund](#).
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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.

Lunch & Learn: Personal and Business Branding

The Virginia Tech Newport News Center is taking registrations for its [Lunch & Learn webinar](#) at noon on Wednesday, 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.



5 QUESTIONS FOR ...

Esther Cruz-Herrera

Esther Cruz-Herrera is a program accountant and payroll specialist for Continuing and Professional Education, where she has worked since 2017. She handles the accounting for the Virginia Tech Roanoke Center, the Executive Briefing Center, the Newport News Center, the Richmond Center, and the Southwest Center.

What's your favorite way to start the day?

I love starting the day with my toddler. We brush our teeth



together. I do her hair, and then I put on a movie for her so I can start on my work.

Are you binge-watching any shows on TV?

When we are not watching every Disney movie known to man, I am binge-watching “Dead to Me” and “The Office.”

What was your first job?

My first job was at a hair salon in Danville, Virginia. I loved meeting new people and being able to make people feel better after getting a fresh cut, color, or style, and it was hard to leave the amazing clients I had built relationships with. My clients felt like family.

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

I would love to volunteer in the New River Valley more! When I lived in Danville, I would volunteer a lot for our church, school, and other places.

Do you have a favorite place to spend time off?

I love spending time off with the family at the ocean, lake, or the pool. To me that is a perfect day.

— Diane Deffenbaugh

Eric Moore

Eric Moore is the interim director of the Intensive English Program and the testing and assessment coordinator at the Language and Culture Institute. He has been with Virginia Tech for nearly six years.



What books are on your nightstand?

Only one book at a time. Always have, always will. Right now, "Kafka on the Shore" by Haruki Murakami. Here's the sick part: I own all his novels and short stories and have been reading them in chronological order since November of last year. I'm about 75% through his life's work.

What is one small thing that makes your day better?

Listening to '60s instrumental jazz.

What was your first job?

Boat washer — I grew up on the Great Lakes. Working outside on the docks was the best and the worst part — meeting people (best) and getting badly sunburned (worst).

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

Traveling on a live-aboard boat and surfing difficult-to-get-to spots around the world. This would also heavily involve not being in shape not being an issue, too.

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

No te comes el coco (Don't eat your head), from a caring colleague.



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