

# NEWS & INFORMATION

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## Phone scam targets Electric Service customers

Some Virginia Tech Electric Service customers have reported receiving phone calls threatening to disconnect power unless payment was made over the phone.

Virginia Tech Electric Service will never call and ask for a payment over the phone to keep electric service from being disconnected.

If you have any questions about phone calls that you receive from someone saying they represent Virginia Tech Electric Service, please call 540-231-6437.

## Blue light phones connect directly to the Virginia Tech Police Department

The 109 blue light safety phones located throughout campus can directly connect you with the Virginia Tech Police Department in case of an emergency.

The phones are available 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week and a simple push of a button is all it takes to connect. Calling 911 on a land line or cell phone is another option.

For more information, please contact the Virginia Tech Police Department at 540-231-6411.

## Inclusion coordinators serve as collaborators and conduits for InclusiveVT

This fall, Virginia Tech launched a new model to revitalize and advance inclusion and diversity efforts on campus, InclusiveVT. Central to this model, President Timothy D. Sands appointed an executive council and inclusion coordinators. A third group, the advisory community, is in formation now.

The President's Inclusion and Diversity Executive Council is a representation of senior leadership at Virginia Tech who guide, collaborate, and support the InclusiveVT framework. The council members collectively are held accountable for the university efforts toward a more inclusive Virginia Tech.

The inclusion coordinators are appointed to advocate for inclusion and diversity within their areas. They serve as university resources by becoming collaborators, liaisons, proactive information seekers, and conduits for the Virginia Tech community. They make up the ear-to-the-ground group that helps to inform, support, and promote the efforts around InclusiveVT.

Currently, the coordinators are helping to build the advisory community, an opportunity for various constituents and friends of the university to take an active role in InclusiveVT.

The coordinators have been advocates for inclusion and diversity initiatives prior to their selection for this role in addition to their normal work responsibilities. Each hails from a variety of campus offices to bring different perspectives to InclusiveVT and provide faculty, staff, students, and

community members a person to connect with for inclusion- and diversity-related activities.

The inclusion coordinators include: Lori Baker-Lloyd, Dannette Gomez Beane, Maria Elisa Christie, Juan Espinoza, Ellen Plummer, and Patricia Smith.

## Virginia Tech's social media channels keep you up-to-date on news

University Relations maintains the central social media pages for Virginia Tech on channels such as Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, LinkedIn, YouTube, Vimeo and Google Plus, as well as three Twitter accounts:

- @virginia\_tech with information, pictures, and fun university facts for Hokies around the world
- @vtnews as the official news and information stream from Virginia Tech News
- @im\_a\_hokie for a student-centric look at campus happenings plus the home to a Twitter Takeover program

Through these channels, we help keep students, alumni, faculty, staff, fans, and friends up-to-date on news and events and provide pictures and videos from across Virginia Tech's campuses.

For more information contact [socialmedia@listserv.vt.edu](mailto:socialmedia@listserv.vt.edu).

## Search committee for executive vice president and provost announced

Earlier this month, Senior Vice President and Provost Mark G. McNamee, who has served in this role since 2001, announced his plans to step down from his position after his successor has been named.

The national search for McNamee's successor will be chaired by Virginia Tech President Timothy D. Sands. Paul Knox, University Distinguished Professor and Senior Fellow for International Advancement, will serve as co-chair. Kim O'Rourke, chief of staff, Office of the President, and Cheryl Peterson, deputy chief of staff, Office of the President, will serve as search committee staff.

Two town-hall meetings will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 25, in the Haymarket Theatre in Squires Student Center.

The first will be held from noon to 1:30 p.m. and the second from 3:30 to 5 p.m.

An audio recording will be made of each town-hall meeting and posted to the search web site so that those who cannot attend the meetings can hear the discussion.

Initial screening of applications will begin immediately and will continue until an appointment is made. Individuals who wish to nominate a candidate should submit a letter of nomination including contact information for the nominee. Application materials should include a letter addressing how the candidate's experiences match the position requirements, a curriculum vitae or resume, and five references.

Submission of materials as PDF attachments is strongly encouraged.

## Learn the secrets of Virginia Tech's award-winning chefs

Virginia Tech's award-winning chefs, who have helped the university earn national recognition for its dining services, will share their skills at the Culinary Camp for Adults, scheduled from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. March 9 to March 11 in the Turner Place kitchen at Lavery Hall. Registration ends Wednesday and is capped at 10 participants, if you'd like to sign up visit:

[www.regstg.com/Registration/Introduction.aspx?rid=da9bcd1d-2287-46af-9391-64333b2a180e](http://www.regstg.com/Registration/Introduction.aspx?rid=da9bcd1d-2287-46af-9391-64333b2a180e)

Mark Moritz, executive chef at Turner Place at Lavery Hall, will teach basic knife skills and cooking techniques to help improve home cooking skills. Chef de Cuisine Charles Morse will facilitate camp alongside Moritz.

The Culinary Camp for Adults costs \$295 per person and is designed for individuals 18 years of age and older.

In addition to the adult camp, Virginia Tech offers various five-day culinary camps for youth. The Basic Culinary Camp, from June 1 to June 5, is offered for students who are 10-14 years old. Virginia Tech chefs will be teaching the basics, including cooking techniques, nutrition, food safety, and meal preparation.

The Advanced Culinary Camp and Advanced Culinary Camp: Baking/Desserts Edition, from June 15 to June 19 and August 3 to August 7, respectively, are available for campers who have already taken the Basic Culinary Camp.

Both camps are for students who are 13-18 years old, and they will go more in-depth regarding advanced cooking techniques and knife skills. At the desserts-focused camp, participants will learn about baking ingredients, culinary math, and the process of making specific desserts, such as breads, pastries, chocolates, and cakes.

All youth camp participants must register by April 15. Each of these camps is \$395 per person, which includes meals, a chef coat, and a chef hat. More information and registration links are available at: [www.dining.vt.edu/culinarycamp/](http://www.dining.vt.edu/culinarycamp/).

All camps will require long periods of standing in a kitchen environment and campers will be expected to try all items prepared unless there are food allergy or intolerance concerns.

For more information, contact Jessica Filip at 540-231-9205 or [jfilip@vt.edu](mailto:jfilip@vt.edu).

## U.S. News ranking names Virginia Tech among Best Global Universities

The new U.S. News & World Report scale recognizes Virginia Tech as an institution that will appeal to students "who plan to enroll in universities outside of their own country," a rating designed to show where U.S. universities "stand globally," according to the publication.

Out of 100 top-rated subject areas, Virginia Tech's highest-ranked program is engineering at No. 64, while plant and animal science registers at No. 80.

The 2015 U.S. News Best Global Universities ranking focuses on academic research with an attempt to quantify three factors: global and regional reputation, research performance based on citations and publications, and data on faculty and Ph.D. graduates.

In his October 2014 installation speech, Virginia Tech President Timothy D. Sands articulated a goal that Virginia Tech "will become a top-100 global research institution" by 2022.

On the U.S. News list, the university's overall ranking is No. 248 of 500 universities. An indication of Virginia Tech's international presence is the more than 300 memos of understanding, or MOUs, in place that inform joint projects with universities around the

world. Such agreements are in place in Europe, Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Australia.

At Shandong University in China, for instance, Virginia Tech operates an international engineering laboratory in collaboration with researchers there. In Chile, the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine has had a long relationship with Austral University, including a student and faculty exchange program – a union that recently expanded to include a faculty research partnership.

Two other initiatives vital to cementing Virginia Tech's regional reputation are: The Steger Center for International Scholarship in Riva San Vitale, Switzerland, which recently underwent a \$2.6 million renovation. The center is the university's primary campus abroad. Virginia Tech's research laboratory at the campus – called VT, India – which opened in May. The 6,000-square-foot lab is operated by the Center for Energy Harvesting Materials and Systems and the Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science.

The College of Engineering received another positive ranking recently, achieving its highest rating in the National Science Foundation's report on engineering schools' research expenditures. The college's more than \$214 million in research expenditures for fiscal year 2013 put it in the No. 9 spot.

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences also climbed in National Science Foundation rankings. With more than \$101 million in research expenditures in agricultural sciences for fiscal year 2013, the college moved to sixth place in the country, up from seventh in previous years.

## Veterinary service fraternity recognized with national award

A veterinary service fraternity at the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine embodies the Virginia Tech motto of *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve). The members' efforts have earned them national recognition for the second year in a row.

Members of the Lambda Chapter of Omega Tau Sigma (OTS) have been offering service, fundraising, and social activities at the veterinary college since 1985. They recently received the national chapter's Dr. Robert Vesper Service Award.

## Newly renamed Global Education Office broadens mission, adds staff

The office that administers study abroad programs – and provides \$80,000 in scholarships while supporting more than 60 programs led by Virginia Tech faculty members – has doubled in size and now operates under a new name: the Global Education Office.

The office added three new staff members over the last year and a half. In addition, a search is underway to hire an assistant director for global safety and risk management. The newly created position will bring the full-time staff to eight.

The office manages faculty-led study abroad programs and oversees exchange opportunities for students.

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