

# NEWS & INFORMATION

Wednesday, April 27, 2016 -- Volume 12, Number 38



## Reminder: Blacksburg campus to open at 10 a.m. May 13

Virginia Tech's spring University Commencement Ceremony is scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, May 13, in Lane Stadium. The influx of graduates and their families arriving creates traffic congestion on the southern end of campus and along major arterial roadways.

To minimize congestion, President Tim Sands has approved a 10 a.m. opening for all university offices in Blacksburg on May 13. Employees who are not involved with commencement are urged not to travel to campus before the 10 a.m. opening.

Certain offices must be open for commencement or for operational reasons. Thus, supervisors should use judgment and staff appropriately.

Employees are cautioned that traffic is typically heavy before and after the commencement events along Southgate Drive, Beamer Way, and Washington Street. Cassel Coliseum and the South End Zone lots will also be closed or restricted. Employees should adjust travel and parking plans accordingly.

For more information visit [www.vt.edu/commencement.html](http://www.vt.edu/commencement.html).

## Employees invited to Watermelon Social; Hokies Live Well participants eligible for prizes

Employees are invited to the Hokie Wellness Watermelon Social on the Drillfield, on Thursday, May 5, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Come enjoy some fresh fruit and learn more about the Hokies Live Well program, as well as other programs and resources offered by Hokie Wellness.

Hokies Live Well is an on-going incentive program for Virginia Tech employees that encourages employees to take part in wellness activities throughout the semester. Employees who participated in the Hokies Live Well program this spring are eligible to win a variety of great prizes at the Watermelon Social by turning in their completed tracking log.

Accumulated points can be exchanged for raffle tickets that can be used to win prizes. The more Hokies Live Well activities completed and/or attended, the more chances there are to win.

For more information, contact Hokie Wellness at [hokiewellness@vt.edu](mailto:hokiewellness@vt.edu) or 540-231-8878 (employees) or 540-231-2233 (students).

## Bursar's Office to close April 28-29; service window moves to new location

The Bursar's Office will be closed April 28 and 29 for renovations.

The bursar's customer service windows will be closed on the 28th and reopen on the 29th at a designated window in the Hokie Passport Office, located directly across the lobby from the Bursar's Office in the Student Services Building. The customer service windows are anticipated to operate from this

location until May 6.

Checks and deposits need to be received at the Bursar's Office located at Student Services Building, Suite 150, 800 Washington St. SW, Blacksburg, VA 24061 before 1 p.m. April 27 to ensure the payment is applied for the month of April. Students, authorized payers, faculty, and staff may continue to make payments online during this closure.

Paychecks will be distributed April 29. Employees who regularly pickup their paychecks can do so at the designated customer service window at the Hokie Passport Office.

Employees who are not currently enrolled in direct deposit are encouraged to complete a Direct Deposit Authorization form. Employees can enroll in direct deposit online under "University Account Information" in Hokie SPA or by completing a paper Direct Deposit form, which is available on the bursar's website at [www.bursar.vt.edu/forms](http://www.bursar.vt.edu/forms).

## Attend Sleep Revolution workshop to discover techniques to improve sleep

Sleep is essential to maintaining a healthy lifestyle; however, life often gets in the way of successful sleeping habits.

Discover how to sleep better at the Sleep Revolution workshop on Wednesday, May 4 from 12-1:15 p.m. at Newman Library (room 207). The workshop will focus on recent sleep research and its impact on health, and will offer techniques that employees can begin practicing immediately.

The first 20 employees to register will receive a free copy of Arianna Huffington's best seller, *The Sleep Revolution: Transforming Your Life, One Night at a Time*. To register, visit [www.training.vt.edu](http://www.training.vt.edu), click "view by alpha" and search for "Sleep Revolution."

For more information, contact Hokie Wellness at [hokiewellness@vt.edu](mailto:hokiewellness@vt.edu) or 540-231-8878 (employees) or 540-231-2233 (students).

## Register for Staff Appreciation Day activities

The schedule of activities for this year's Staff Appreciation Day is now available. This year's event will offer a wide range of activities to include campus tours, bingo, stress-relieving massages, team competitions, and more.

Some activities require advanced registration. Register online at <http://rsvp.bams.vt.edu> or complete and mail the response form ([www.hr.vt.edu/employeescorner/staff-appreciation/staff-appreciation-day-registration.pdf](http://www.hr.vt.edu/employeescorner/staff-appreciation/staff-appreciation-day-registration.pdf)) as directed by 5 p.m. on May 4. Spaces will be filled by lottery drawing.

Staff Appreciation Day will be held on Wednesday, May 18, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Rector Field House. Supervisors are encouraged to allow all staff employees to attend for a minimum of several hours to participate in the activities. All staff, non-student wage employees, and emergency hires are invited to participate. Unfortunately, an invitation cannot be extended to family members.

More information, including a program with a schedule of

activities, is available at [www.hr.vt.edu/employeescorner/staff-appreciation/index.html](http://www.hr.vt.edu/employeescorner/staff-appreciation/index.html).

For more information, contact the President's Office at 540-231-7111.

## Open enrollment scheduled for May 1-23; changes announced

This year's annual open enrollment for health benefits and flexible spending accounts will take place from May 1-23. This is the only opportunity employees will have to enroll in, and make changes to, existing health insurance coverage for the July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017 period.

Employees can submit open enrollment applications via EmployeeDirect (<https://edirect.virginia.gov>) or on paper ([www.dhrm.virginia.gov/docs/default-source/benefitsdocuments/ohb/Open-Enrollment-2016/stateactiveenrollform-2016.pdf](http://www.dhrm.virginia.gov/docs/default-source/benefitsdocuments/ohb/Open-Enrollment-2016/stateactiveenrollform-2016.pdf)). The changes will be effective July 1.

Employees who wish to participate in a flexible spending account (either for the first time or again) must sign-up during open enrollment.

The commonwealth's Department of Human Resource Management ([www.dhrm.virginia.gov/healthcoverage/open-enrollment](http://www.dhrm.virginia.gov/healthcoverage/open-enrollment)) mailed copies of the "Spotlight on Your Benefits" newsletter to all state employees the week of April 18. The publication includes all plan benefits and detail changes to insurance plans and flexible spending accounts. Learn more about changes for the 2016-17 plan year health insurance premiums at [www.dhrm.virginia.gov/docs/default-source/benefitsdocuments/ohb/Open-Enrollment-2016/spotlight-2016.pdf](http://www.dhrm.virginia.gov/docs/default-source/benefitsdocuments/ohb/Open-Enrollment-2016/spotlight-2016.pdf).

A series of informational meetings have been scheduled at a number of Virginia Tech locations to give employees the chance to talk with a human resources professional about the plan changes. A complete list of meetings can be found at

[www.hr.vt.edu/benefits/insurance/open\\_enrollment/meetings](http://www.hr.vt.edu/benefits/insurance/open_enrollment/meetings).

Employees who do not work in Blacksburg are invited to "attend" via a WebEx webinar. Employees do not need to use leave to attend any meeting held during the workday.

For more information, visit [www.hr.vt.edu/benefits/insurance/open\\_enrollment](http://www.hr.vt.edu/benefits/insurance/open_enrollment) or contact the Human Resources Service Center at [hrrservicecenter@vt.edu](mailto:hrrservicecenter@vt.edu) or 540-231-9331.

## Wanted: Submissions for 2016-17 Faculty-Staff Planning Calendar

The annual University Faculty-Staff Planning Calendar is being updated for the 2016-17 academic year. To have your event included in the calendar fill out the online form at

[http://hrapps.hr.vt.edu/miscforms/event\\_request/index.aspx](http://hrapps.hr.vt.edu/miscforms/event_request/index.aspx) by May 27. Submissions should include items that are of interest to the larger Virginia Tech community.

For more information, contact Katie Huger at [khuger@vt.edu](mailto:khuger@vt.edu) or 540-231-7643.

## New station brings live, local weather information from roof of Lane Stadium

Keeping up with the weather on Virginia Tech's Blacksburg campus is much easier and lots more fun now that the university's first full service weather station has been installed on the roof of Lane Stadium.

The WeatherSTEM station uses a combination of weather instruments, agricultural probes, and other sensors to take environmental measurements every minute. It also includes two sky cameras, one facing west across campus from the top of Lane Stadium

and the other facing east from the top of Burruss Hall, that provide a live glimpse of campus as well as daily time-lapse videos.

Anyone with internet access can visit the Virginia Tech WeatherSTEM station to view real-time weather conditions including humidity, temperature, and rainfall. Users can also export data collected by the unit. The information is also available via the WeatherSTEM mobile app and social media accounts.

The weather station was donated to Virginia Tech by WeatherSTEM, a weather data and K-12 science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education program created by Florida-based software company, UCompass.

Users who create a personal WeatherSTEM account are able to set-up custom weather notifications based on their interests. Alerts can be automatically pushed to cell phones, email addresses, and social media profiles, and ultimately help users become more aware of daily local conditions.

In addition to its safety applications, WeatherSTEM also provides an online library of educational materials that use live information from the weather unit to create and deliver interactive activities and assessments geared toward K-12 students.

The university hopes to install a second unit at one of Virginia Tech's farm facilities in the future.

To learn more:

-- Visit the Virginia Tech WeatherSTEM station page online

(<https://montgomery.weatherstem.com/vt>);

-- Download the WeatherSTEM mobile app for iOS

(<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/weatherstem/id957138048?mt=8>) or Android

(<https://play.google.com/store/apps/developer?id=WeatherSTEM>);

-- Follow the unit on its Facebook ([www.facebook.com/Virginia-Tech-Weatherstem-984979148256947/](http://www.facebook.com/Virginia-Tech-Weatherstem-984979148256947/)) or Twitter

(<https://twitter.com/VTWxSTEM>) accounts.

For additional questions or to schedule a tutorial presentation, contact the Office of Emergency Management at [oem@vt.edu](mailto:oem@vt.edu).

## Crime Alert: Residential burglaries in Campbell Hall

On April 21, 2016, the Virginia Tech Police Department received reports of three residential burglaries in Main Campbell Hall. The offenses occurred between April 9 and April 20, 2016. In each case, the suspect(s) entered the residence through an unlocked door and stole cash or small valuables. No suspect description is available at this time. We urge anyone with any information to contact Detective J.C. Waid at 540-231-6790 or [waidjc@vt.edu](mailto:waidjc@vt.edu).

If you notice this type of activity, or any other type of suspicious activity, please contact the police immediately at 540-231-6411 or by dialing 911.

The Virginia Tech Police Department reminds everyone to report all crimes and suspicious activity/persons anywhere on campus immediately to the Virginia Tech Police Department at 540-231-6411 or by dialing 911. Anonymous tips can be reported online at or via the LiveSafe mobile app (for Android and I-phone devices).

All residents are reminded to lock their doors when out of the room or sleeping. All personal items in a residence hall room can become easy targets and an unlocked door can be an invitation to a thief.

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*Virginia Tech News* is published weekly during fall and spring semester and bimonthly during the summer sessions, by the Department of Human Resources and the Office of University Relations as a service to university employees who do not have computer access on campus. For more information, or to discuss submission of items call 540-231-7643.