

NEWS & INFORMATION

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Construction to affect Route 460 and Southgate traffic

The Virginia Department of Transportation has begun work on the new Southgate Interchange project and traffic on Route 460 and Southgate Drive will be affected.

Beginning Monday, June 15 and lasting approximately two weeks, crews will close one lane of Route 460 westbound while they perform work in the median.

Once work on the westbound side is completed, crews will switch and close one lane of Route 460 eastbound. In addition, one of the left turn lanes from Southgate Drive to Route 460 eastbound will be closed. That work is expected to take two weeks as well.

The university community should consider an alternate route to enter and exit campus during the lane closures.

Learn more about the Southgate Interchange Project at www.vtnews.vt.edu/articles/2015/03/031815-vpa-southgateproject.html.

For more information contact VDOT at 540-387-5238.

Email phishing alert

On June 8, a widespread email phishing attempt was reported by many Virginia Tech faculty and staff. The message, which had the subject line "Message from staff portal," had a spoofed www.vt.edu email address and directed readers to click a link contained within the email.

Fortunately, there have been no reports of accounts that were compromised as a result of this attempt. The IT Help Desk (4Help) and IT Security Office acted quickly to request that the domain issuing these emails be taken off-line, and it appears that by noon, the site's CMS vulnerability has been resolved.

The IT Security Office wants to pass on its appreciation to the university community for the quick and appropriate response to this phishing attempt. Together, we can help safeguard university data and our own information from the relentless attacks of cyber criminals.

The proper steps for dealing with a phishing attempt are as follows:

1. If you receive a suspicious email, do not click on any links or open any attachments.
2. Forward the email, including the headers, to abuse@vt.edu. Viewing the full message headers is easy; instructions for Gmail or Outlook can be found online at support.google.com/groups/answer/75960?hl=en.
3. Delete the email.

For more information call 540-231-4202.

Virginia Tech among top 100 worldwide universities granted U.S. patents in 2014

Virginia Tech ranked among the top 100 universities in the world for U.S. utility patents in 2014, according to a new report released by the National Academy of Inventors and the

Intellectual Property Owners Association.

The top 100 report, based on data obtained from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, recognizes the role patents play in university research.

Virginia Tech ranked No. 93 because of 23 patents that it received in 2014 through Virginia Tech Intellectual Properties Inc., an affiliated corporation of Virginia Tech that provides technology transfer and commercialization services to faculty, staff, and students.

Learn about diabetes prevention and management in July 8 workshop

Hokie Wellness will continue to offer "Diabetes Prevention and Management" sessions this summer led by Cindy Barden, certified diabetes educator with Carilion New River Valley Medical Center Diabetes Management Program.

According to the American Diabetes Association, two out of three people with diabetes die from heart disease or stroke. The program will provide education on minimizing risk for developing diabetes and general management for those living with diabetes.

The session will be held at the North End Center in room 2470 on July 8 from 2 – 3 p.m.

Registration is required. Sign up at www.training.vt.edu. For more information call 540-231-9331.

Power your Tuesdays with a lunch time walk

Get out of your office this summer and join other Hokies for a lunch time walk every Tuesday from 12:15 – 1 p.m. for the weekly walking loop meet-ups. Walking just 20 minutes a day can cut your risk of dying prematurely by 16 to 30 percent according to a study published in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition.

On rainy days, the group meets inside Cassell Coliseum. Otherwise, the group meets at various locations around campus to enjoy the outdoor Virginia Tech walking trails.

Look for the new Hokie Wellness Walking Group sign at the meeting location every Tuesday morning. You can also stay updated on the walking group through the Hokie Wellness Facebook page (www.facebook.com/hokiewellness).

For more information call 540-231-9331.

Registration for Hokie Passport payroll deduction available online

Now it is even easier to speed up your transaction time at on-campus dining centers while enjoying the convenience of using your Hokie Passport to make purchases. Salaried Virginia Tech employees may now register for payroll deduction of Hokie Passport account deposits online. There is a \$5 minimum per pay period, and funds will remain on an employee's account until formal separation from the university.

The Hokie Passport account may also be used at more than

100 on- and off-campus merchants. Merchants include health care and medical facilities, restaurants and food stores, retail stores, services, and entertainment.

Call 540-231-5121 for more information.

New paid research study seeks cigarette smokers

Researchers on the first floor of VTCRI are conducting a new brain imaging study on cigarette smokers.

Eligible participants must meet the following criteria:

- Current smokers, age 18-55
- Smoke at least 5 cigarettes per day
- Have been smoking for the past year

Eligible participants make \$15/hour for the first session, which will take 2-3 hours and involve an interview and filling out questionnaires, and \$20-60 for the second session, which would also take 2-3 hours and involve playing games during an fMRI scan.

Scheduling is very flexible to best accommodate your schedule.

For more information call 540-526-2068.

Volunteers needed for MRI study on social attitudes

Research at the Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute are recruiting subjects for a behavioral and neuroimaging study on social attitudes.

Participants will:

- Answer questionnaires and complete assessments
- Play simple computer games during an MRI scan
- Receive \$50 for their participation
- Receive a CD of their brain images from the MRI scan

To be eligible you must:

- Be 18-64 years old
- Be a Caucasian (White American) who is a born citizen of the United States or a Chinese citizen studying abroad here in the U.S.
- Be free of metal implants
- Not be claustrophobic

If you meet the above requirements and are interested in participating, email participate@vtc.vt.edu or call 540-526-2120 or 540-526-2068.

ADHD support groups for employees and students now meeting on campus

Hokie Wellness and the Virginia Tech Psychological Services Center are partnering to offer Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) support groups for employees and students.

The ADHD support groups are designed to educate group members on ADHD-specific strategies, assist in navigating community support systems, and provide resources for available services. Additionally, the groups are meant to foster an environment where participants can openly discuss their experiences with ADHD, and receive support from other group members and leaders.

The meetings will be held from 12 – 1 p.m. in the North End Center on a monthly basis. No registration is required.

Parents or caregivers of children with ADHD:

- Meets the first Wednesday of the month
- July 1 and August 5
- North End Center, room 2200

Adults with ADHD:

- Meets the fourth Monday of the month
- July 27 and August 24
- North End Center, room 4380

For more information, contact Hokie Wellness at 540-231-9331.

Tom Tillar to step down after 40 years serving Virginia Tech alumni

Tom Tillar, who has served as interim senior vice president for advancement since February and vice president for alumni relations for the past 20 years, has announced his plan to step down from his current post in December.

Virginia Tech President Timothy Sands lauded Tillar, a member of the Virginia Tech Class of 1969, for his long career and service to the university.

Tillar's appointment as interim senior vice president for advancement last February began the integration of alumni relations, development, and university relations under a unified advancement model. Charles Phlegar, a colleague of Tillar's in the mid 1980's, will become the new vice president for advancement in July.

In 1971, Tillar began his career at the university in student union and Greek life programming in what is today the Division of Student Affairs. After completing graduate work, he joined the Virginia Tech Alumni Association staff in 1975 working with its chapters, reunions, and annual giving program.

In time, he was named director of alumni relations when a new model for the association configured its staff in an alumni relations department. Also, as secretary-treasurer of the independent alumni association, Tillar serves as an officer of its executive committee and board.

In the mid-1990s, upon the retirement of Vice President for Alumni Relations George E. "Buddy" Russell, Tillar was appointed his successor, and held the position for the next 20 years.

During his career at Virginia Tech, Tillar experienced growth from 40,000 alumni to more than 240,000 today. During that period, the number of active alumni chapters nearly doubled and reunions were expanded beyond traditional class reunions. He created staffing for individual college and constituency programs, and incorporated the student class officer leadership into alumni relations.

In addition, he helped plan, design, and raise funds for the Holtzman Alumni Center which opened in 2005 as part of the new alumni and conference center complex encompassing the Skelton Conference Center and Inn at Virginia Tech.

Under his leadership, an initial "Summer around the Drillfield" program grew into a series of themed events, the "Drillfield Series." In an effort to engage more alumni, he was instrumental in the creation of the alumni association's Multicultural Alumni Advisory Board that oversees several different alumni societies and programming for their constituent interests.

In 2007, then Virginia Tech President Charles Steger appointed Tillar to form and chair a committee to create an April 16 memorial that was built within months on the Drillfield in front of Burruss Hall, and later he assumed responsibility for a liaison initiative serving the families and alumni affected by the tragedy.

In January, Tillar will join the Pamplin College of Business as special assistant to Dean Robert Sumichrast.

In this capacity Tillar will interact with alumni who are advocates and supporters of its planned residential college referred to as the Business Learning Community, and he also will assist the new Alumni Investor Network tied to innovation and entrepreneurship programs within the college and broader university.

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.