

HISTORICALLY SPEAKING...



Welcome to the first undergraduate newsletter in the history of the History Dept. The goal of this newsletter is to keep our majors as informed and up-to-date on news and deadlines as possible. If you need to announce club meetings or important dates this is the place to do it. We welcome comments and suggestions from our faculty and students.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADER

Dr. Bert Moyer, Chair

University classes are scary. There's that intimidating professor spouting five-syllable words about twenty-page papers due on the first morning after Homecoming Weekend. There's that self-important kid sitting next to you volunteering answers to every question that the professor asks. And there's that stylishly dressed clique of students hunkered in the back of the room, giving knowing looks to each other every time a fellow student dares to ask for clarification of confusing issues.

I wish that I could tell you that history classes at Virginia Tech are different. But, alas, they are scary too. The jargon, research papers, virtuosos, and cliques are largely unavoidable. What I can tell you is that all members of our faculty and staff are committed to making your education as unintimidating as possible. We're committed to providing learning experiences that, while rigorous, are congenial. Every professor and

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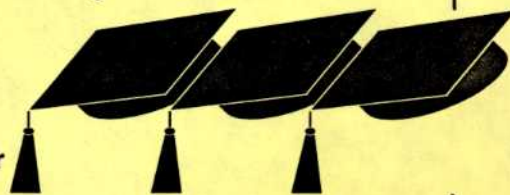
member of the support staff is prepared to interact with you *personally*--either in the classroom, in an office, on the phone, or through email.

That we're prepared to interact with you, however, doesn't ensure that we will. Sometimes, you'll need to take the initiative. Although a large university has many advantages, an obvious drawback is the large number of students. To ensure that you are being heard in this crowd, you'll occasionally need to approach the professor, advisor, or staff member. Indeed, I urge you to make personal contact early and frequently. Personal interaction tops my list of keys to a meaningful undergraduate experience. You will discover that even professors who seem intimidating are ready and willing to work with you.

CLASS OF 2001

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the Class of 2001 (or sooner if you are a transfer student). To get you started out right we are having an **orientation** for all new students on **August 25th at 5:30 p.m. in 434 Major Williams**

(across from the elevator). It is an informal get together with students and faculty so you can meet and chat with some of the professors and advisors. These people will play an important role in your academic growth during the next four years.



STAYING ON TRACK



Please mark these important fall dates on your calendar:

- Aug. 25 First day of class;
Orientation for freshmen and transfer students in MajWm at 5:30 p.m.;
Last day for students to withdraw to avoid tuition and fee charges
- Aug. 29 Last day to add classes or drop audit option;
Cancellation of classes for students for non-payment of fees.
- Sept. 1 Labor Day - Classes **WILL** meet.
- Oct. 3 Last day for students to drop without penalty;
Last day to change grade option from A-F to P-F
- Oct. 14 Last day to receive tuition refund if resigning.
- Oct. 17 Last day to resign without grade penalty;
Last day to apply for fall graduation;
Last day to change grade option from P-F to A-F.
- Oct. 21 Opening of registration for Spring Semester, 1998
Opscans and Timetables available in hall outside 431 Major Williams.
- Oct. 28 End of Spring registration.
Return signed opscans to 431 Major Williams.

- Nov. 21 Deadline for requesting rescheduling of final examinations which conflict or constitute 3 exams in twenty-four hours.
- Nov. 22-
- Nov. 30 Thanksgiving Holiday
- Dec. 1 Drop/Add begins for Spring Semester, 1998
- Dec. 10 Close of Fall Semester
- Dec. 11 Reading Day
- Dec. 12-
- Dec. 18 Final Exams
- Dec. 20 Fall Commencement

REMEMBER TO...



keep your address and phone number up-to-date in the Registrar's Office and in the History Dept. We need your PID address, local address, and phone number. Contact Jan Francis to provide this information (see top of first page for phone, fax, or e-mail address).

We hope you had a great summer and are ready for the beginning of your new life. For our returning students we hope you are rested and ready for a great year!

CLUB NEWS

What is the History Club?

The History Club is open to all students interested in history. Watch the bulletin board outside 431 Major Williams for an announcement of the first meeting. It's a good way to make new friends.

A COLLEGE TIMELINE

planning for success

(from the Career Services Manual)



Freshmen:

- Take liberal studies classes to explore your interests.
- If you have no clue what you want to do, that's okay because you're not alone. Start using Career Services' resources or visit the department's career advisor.

Sophomores:

- Get involved on campus. Participate in clubs, organizations, etc...these are great ways to explore your interests and develop new skills.
- Gather information about internships, co-ops, part-time work, or volunteering in your field of interest.
- Talk to your professors to learn more about necessary skills and qualifications in the field you are interested in.

Juniors:

- Take courses which supplement your education and will make you more marketable for the field you wish to pursue.
- Research employment and graduate school options.
- Decide what your next step is after graduation. Entering the job market? Attending graduate school?
- Cultivate good relationships with professors and employers who know your interests and can serve as references for you next year.
- Continue seeking opportunities to gain career-related experience.

Seniors:

If entering the work force-

- Attend Career Services workshops on resume writing.
- Narrow down the types of jobs and employers with whom you would like to work.
- Research information about job openings and potential employers.
- Use various strategies to pursue job opportunities, including: on-campus interviewing, job listings, targeted search strategies, etc.

If planning to enroll in graduate school-

- Define the area of study you wish to pursue.
- Select appropriate schools and programs.
- If you haven't already, take the necessary admission tests.
- Discuss your plans with faculty and your advisor.

A HELPFUL TIP

to ward off homesickness

• Home Ride of Virginia--

a safe, modern bus ride home--round trip from the Virginia Tech campus to Northern Virginia, Harrisonburg, Charlottesville, Richmond and the Tidewater area. Call 800/553-6644 or the World Wide Web: <http://www.bogens.com/homeride/>



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