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# OIA connect

## HOME EDITION

### New publication offers a brief history of CIRED

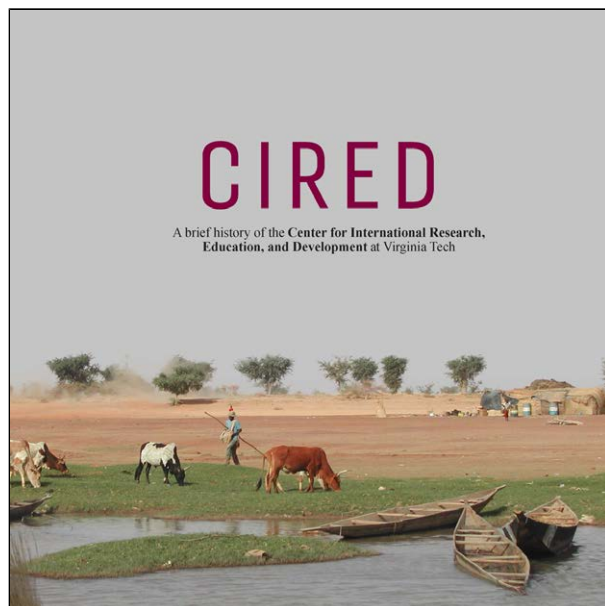
History has been in the making for nearly 50 years at the [Center for International Research, Education, and Development](#).

Now, the center's newest publication, [A Brief History of CIRED](#), provides a photographic yet reflective look at its past.

In 2019, CIRED began taking stock of the people, partners, and programs that have helped to achieve its mission – identifying, delivering, and supporting development projects to improve the lives of people around the world by drawing on Virginia Tech's expertise. These collaborative efforts have contributed to better livelihoods and improved food security on nearly every continent.

Written by **Keith Moore**, the publication benefited from comments and editing by **Van Crowder**, **Larry Vaughan**, **April Raphiou**, and **Patricia Hughes**. It was designed by **Isabella Cruz** and **Courtney Viers**.

[Read it here \(PDF\)...](#)



— April Raphiou

### Spring 2020 online commencement ceremony

Virginia Tech will celebrate the

Class of 2020 at 6:30 p.m. Friday, May 15 during its online commencement exercises.

This event will feature inspirational messages from notable Hokies, including Miss America 2020 Camille Schrier, legendary defensive coordinator

Bud Foster, and world-renowned poet and University Distinguished Professor Nikki Giovanni.



All Virginia Tech campuses and students will be together, including undergraduate, master's, Ph.D., doctor of veterinary medicine, and Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine students, and the Corps of Cadets. Students will hear a special message from their respective deans and then hear their names called.

More information at [vt.edu/commencement](https://vt.edu/commencement).

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## NEWS TO USE

### Latest from Virginia Tech

- **ONLINE TOWN HALLS:** Beginning at 6 p.m. today, the New River Public Health Task Force will host a series of [weekly town halls around COVID-19](#).
- **BOARD OF VISITORS:** [Summer meeting](#) will be held online June 2.
- **LEAVE OPTIONS:** Employees impacted by COVID-19 can take advantage of [several federal and state leave options](#).
- **STERILIZED PPE:** A site in Blacksburg will allow [PPE to be reused by medical providers](#).
- **STAY INFORMED:** Remember, you can find the latest information from the university on its [COVID-19 webpage](#).

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## A TIDBIT OF HISTORY



## A 'strange turnabout' to Prohibition

*The Reynolds Homestead recently shared this story on its [Facebook page](#). Make sure to follow them for more history from Patrick County and beyond.*

There is an interpretation by R.S. Reynolds, grandson of Abram D. Reynolds, about how his grandfather came to be a member of the Prohibition Party. A.D., who was R.J. Reynolds' older brother, even served as a representative in 1910 to the Prohibition National Committee, representing the state of Tennessee.

The story goes that one time R.J. — "Uncle Dick" to R.S. — came back from a tobacco-selling trip and his father, Hardin, asked if he'd like a drink. R.J. apparently poured himself a glass half full of whiskey and gulped it down. His father was rather put out and said he didn't drink like a gentleman. R.J. shrugged off the comment.

The family wondered if such drinking patterns had anything to do with A.D.'s "strange turnabout" later in life when he not only gave up drinking, but also became an ardent Prohibitionist and, from atop his horse, led parades of "drys" in Bristol. He often remarked that he was happy to have lived long enough to see Prohibition become the law of the land, in 1920.

Grandson R.S., founder of Reynolds Metals (Reynolds Wrap and much more), said, "As far as I know, my grandfather was the only Prohibitionist in our family tree."

The metal Prohibition piece above was recently gifted to the Reynolds



## Don't forget to vote for your favorite photos

Time's running out to submit your vote for the Global Education Office's annual [photo contest](#).

The contest celebrates the global reach of Hokies. This year, more than 900 submissions of recent study abroad experiences were entered. All travel took place prior to March 2020.

[Pick your favorites here...](#)

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**5 QUESTIONS FOR ...**





## Vanessa Ghaderi

*Vanessa Ghaderi is a research and teaching faculty member at the [Language and Culture Institute](#). She also designs curriculum and advises students. She's taught at the institute since 2000; before that, she worked in Virginia Tech's English department and the English division of New River Community College.*

### **What's your favorite way to start the day?**

Regularity is the anchor of my sanity. I have morning and evening routines. My morning routine is to complete a few personal hygiene tasks; walk through the neighborhood with my dog child, Tupac; and then eat breakfast (usually the same food) at our dining room table while looking out into the backyard. Finally, I try to make time to compose myself (literally) before I start taking care of anyone else: I write a page or two in my journal.

### **Are you binge-watching any shows on TV?**

My life partner is from Iran, and we have been unable to visit our family there for some years. Thankfully, we can watch Iranian serial programs online. We watch one or two episodes most days after watching the PBS news show. The shows from Iran are the next best thing to walking in the streets there.

### **What's the one smartphone app you can't live without?**

When I have a moment of downtime, not enough time to start constructive project but just a few moments, I find myself playing game after game of backgammon on my phone. When I get burned out on that, there is Sudoku.

### **What is your most prized possession?**

Last year, I would have said that my most prized possession was my collection of books. Having engaged with the Marie Kondo philosophy of tidying up,

however, I am pleased to say that I am finding less and less attachment to my possessions at all, and my book collection has shrunk by 50%.

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

I have come to understand that I manifest many symptoms of ADHD, if not barely functional autism. Consequently, clutter, busy goings-on, and crowds drain my energy. I have found great help in the advice of three experts: Marie Kondo tells me that if something is not bringing me joy, then I should let it go. James Clear tells me that I can change my life enormously by improving just 1% each day, most days. Mother Teresa tells me that it's enough to do small things with great love. Each day, I rehearse one or more of these recommendations, and my life is indeed improving.

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## **Ed Haynes**

*If you've had computer issues at work, it's likely you've talked at some point with **Ed Haynes**, IT support specialist with [Outreach Information Services](#). Ed has worked at Virginia Tech since 2008. At OIS, he's done a little bit of everything, from "basic switch config/virtual LAN layout at the Inn ... down to plugging in the power cable of a monitor."*

### **Why did you decide to do the work you are doing now?**

It tends to come naturally. I have always liked to take apart broken, and sometimes working, things to see how and why they work. I started when I got my first toys and have not stopped since. If it is new and has parts that do things, I will probably have it apart sooner than later. I had an interest in networking and taught myself the basics back in 1999, started doing commercial satellite internet installs/configuration/troubleshooting for a small company in about 2001 and then just kept trying different jobs.

### **What books are on your nightstand?**

Now things get weird. I have a cookbook, a notebook and a pen, and graph paper and a sharp Ticonderoga Soft No. 2. The cookbook is a size to use with the graph paper.

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

Woodworking. But I am working into that now. I would be able to dive in a lot faster without having to worry about money.

### **What's your favorite quarantine snack?**

Twizzlers. Cherry.

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



“Slow is fast, Haynes. Slow is fast.”

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## LIFE AT HOME

### Team Roanoke photo challenge



Last month, **Diane Deffenbaugh**, communications specialist in the Office of Engagement, delivered a webinar on how to take better cellphone pictures to

employees of the Roanoke Center and the Center for Organizational and Technological Advancement. **Lesa Hanlin**, executive director of Roanoke Regional Initiatives, sent some of the photos her team took after the webinar. How'd they do?

*Send photos of your new "office view" or of ways you're dealing with "the new normal" to [richm@vt.edu](mailto:richm@vt.edu).*

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## **LOVES ME SOME INTERNET**



**OUTREACH & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**  
VIRGINIA TECH.

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