

## University closing early on Thursday, Oct. 20

On Thursday, Oct. 20 Virginia Tech will host a nationally televised football game. Kickoff is at 7 p.m. in Lane Stadium.

### Early closing

To ensure the orderly flow of traffic and minimize impact on class schedules, all university offices will close at 2 p.m. Thursday. Faculty and staff who directly support classroom instruction and other critical university operations are expected to work their normal schedules. Classes will be held as scheduled and will not be canceled. Parking is available at the North End Center garage with a valid faculty/staff parking permit.

### Alternative Transportation

Students and employees are encouraged to use Blacksburg Transit to get to and from campus on Oct. 20. The route schedule is available online and rides are free to students and employees with a Hokie Passport.

### Parking

Parking lot clearance activities for the game effecting resident students begins Wednesday, Oct. 19. Normally, football traffic begins arriving on campus four hours before game time (at about 3 p.m.) Employees who are departing campus must remove their vehicles from the parking lots by 3 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 20. More information about routine game day parking changes, including which lots are affected, what times vehicles must be removed by, and other parking and transportation options is available.

### Questions

- For more information about the authorized closing, contact the HR Service Center at 540-231-9331.
- For more information about parking and transportation call 540-231-3200 (during normal business hours) or the Virginia Tech Police Department at 540-231-6411 (after regular business hours).
- For more information about reserved Hokie Club lots, call the Athletic Department at 540-231-9963.

## Test of building audio systems scheduled for Oct. 14

The Office of Emergency Management and Network Infrastructure and Services will conduct a test of the fire alarm annunciator systems in several buildings on the Blacksburg campus on Friday, Oct. 14.

The test will occur between 8 a.m. and noon, and will affect the following buildings:

- East Ambler Johnston Hall
- West Ambler Johnston Hall
- Derring Hall
- Litton Reaves Hall
- New Classroom Building
- Shanks Hall
- Sterrett Facility Complex
- Surge Space Building

The test will include a two-minute broadcast message delivered over the annunciator channels in these buildings.

For more information contact the Office of Emergency Management at oem@vt.edu or 540-231-4873.

## Financial Wellness Series for explores a variety of financial topics

Financial matters can worry everyone from time to time. 72 percent of adults feel stress about money at least some of the time and 22 percent experience extreme financial stress, according to a 2015 American Psychology Association (APA) report. Taking steps to learn how to prevent financial stress can improve financial wellness and lead to a healthier future.

Employees are invited to find ways to improve their financial wellness at the Hokie Wellness Financial Wellness Series this fall. The series includes three sessions:

### Nuts & Bolts of Budgeting

- Oct. 13 from 12-1 p.m., North End Center (room 2440)
- Alex White, an advanced instructor in the Department of Dairy Science, will offer practical ways to budget, improve financial conditions, and reduce stress levels.

### Steps to Prepare for Homeownership

- Nov. 16 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., North End Center (room 2200)
- Staff from Community Housing Partners will address the four key elements of mortgage readiness: credit, income, savings, and debt. Learn how these elements can affect affordability when purchasing a home.

-- As part of this program, participants have the option to do a soft credit pull (obtain a credit report). The cost for this service is \$20 and can be paid by exact cash, check, or credit card.

### Retirement Planning for the Young Professional

- Dec. 8 from 12-1 p.m., North End Center (room 2440)
- It is often difficult to plan for retirement when there is only so much disposable income after paying off debt and saving for the future or an emergency fund. Individuals are often left wondering where their additional contributions should go and in what order? Alex White, an advanced instructor in the Department of Dairy Science, will provide guidance on this topic and offer suggestions on how young professionals can start planning for retirement.

Registration is required for each program. To register, visit [www.training.vt.edu](http://www.training.vt.edu), click "view by alpha", and search for the class name mentioned above.

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

## President Sands encourages unfinished conversations on identity and difference

During his first State of the University address on Sept. 30, President Tim Sands challenged the Virginia Tech community to accelerate its efforts to become more inclusive and diverse.

While Sands praised the university community for such recent recognition as a Diversity Champion College by INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine, he acknowledged that Virginia Tech still has work to do. "We have to go beyond commitment to action," Sands said.

As one of the steps moving to action, Virginia Tech will hold a series of discussions about difference and identity as part of an InclusiveVT initiative to listen, share, and learn about experiences that will lead to unfinished conversations.

Such conversations are intended to create pauses or gaps in order to help participants identify where differences lie. Different perspectives around Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day serve as an example.

Using the social media hashtag #VTUnfinished, the meetings intend to encourage students, faculty, staff, and the broader community to share their experiences, stories, questions, and apprehensions about the complicated issues of identity and differences. These conversations, designed to be a starting point, will occur in War Memorial Chapel beginning Oct. 18 at noon. A full list of conversations can be found on the at <http://inclusive.vt.edu/VTUnfinished.html>.

These meetings will start the dialogue for a series of Nov. 16 workshops and a film viewing, "If These Halls Could Talk," facilitated by Lee Mun Wah, a renowned filmmaker, author, poet, Asian folk-teller, educator, community therapist, and master diversity trainer.

The Lee Mun Wah workshops will occur on Nov. 16 in Owens Banquet Hall. On that day, faculty and staff are invited to a morning workshop, entitled "Creating Community in a Diverse College Environment." Students can participate in an afternoon session, entitled "How to have a Dialogue Across Cultures." A screening of "If These Halls Could Talk," a 2010 film directed by Mun Wah that features 11 college students discussing campus life today, will be held in the auditorium of the Graduate Life Center at 6 p.m.

For more information about the workshops, visit the InclusiveVT website ([www.inclusive.vt.edu](http://www.inclusive.vt.edu)), the VTUnfinished page on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/VTUnfinished](http://www.facebook.com/VTUnfinished)), or email the office ([inclusivevt@vt.edu](mailto:inclusivevt@vt.edu)).

## Hokies Live Well inspires employees to weave wellness into their lives

Hokies Live Well is an on-going program that encourages employees to participate in wellness activities throughout the semester.

Hokies Live Well activities are divided into four categories that incorporate moving well, eating well, relaxing well, and being well. Participants who complete 10 different activities, a minimum of two from each category, will receive a free Hokies Live Well t-shirt.

Eligible activities include participating in the Tuesday walking group, getting a massage, receiving a vaccine, attending a cooking class, visiting a farmer's market, completing a 5k, or going on a hike. Grab a co-worker, friend, or family member, have fun and live well.

### To participate:

-- Register online for Hokies Live Well at [https://virginiatech.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_bxOHraTnKEQSBbD&Q\\_JFE=0](https://virginiatech.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_bxOHraTnKEQSBbD&Q_JFE=0)

-- Print out a Hokies Live Well tracking log to record your activities ([https://vtnews.vt.edu/content/dam/vtnews\\_vt\\_edu/articles/evergreen-briefs/hr/hokieslivewelltracke.pdf](https://vtnews.vt.edu/content/dam/vtnews_vt_edu/articles/evergreen-briefs/hr/hokieslivewelltracke.pdf))

-- Participate in the activities listed on the tracking log

-- Turn in completed tracking log

Completed tracking logs can be turned in on Dec. 7 at North End Center (suite 2300) from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. or on Dec. 8 at McComas Hall (room 194) from 12-5 p.m. Off-campus participants should email their tracking log to [hokiewellness@vt.edu](mailto:hokiewellness@vt.edu) by Dec. 8.

T-shirts can be picked up at the Hokie Wellness Health and Benefits Fair on Jan. 11. T-shirts will be mailed to off-campus participants.

For more information, contact Hokie Wellness at 540-231-8878

(employees) or 540-231-2233 (students).

## 2017 holiday, winter closing schedule

The 2017 holiday schedule was released by the governor's office and is now available online, along with the 2017 winter closing schedule. The combined schedule is available at [www.hr.vt.edu/benefits/leave/holiday\\_schedule](http://www.hr.vt.edu/benefits/leave/holiday_schedule). For more information contact the HR Service Center at [HRServiceCenter@vt.edu](mailto:HRServiceCenter@vt.edu) or 540-231-9331.

## In Memoriam: Schiffert Health Center namesake Charles W. Schiffert

Charles W. Schiffert, director of Virginia Tech's Student Health Services from 1971 to 1986, died Thursday. He was 95.

Schiffert came to Virginia Tech as a staff physician in 1968 and was promoted to assistant director one year later. Before arriving at Virginia Tech, Schiffert worked 18 years in private medical practice. He was a graduate of Hahnemann Medical College in Philadelphia and spent three years as a U.S. Army physician before becoming a general practitioner.

Schiffert is credited with transforming Student Health Services from a small office with only two full-time physicians to a department with 10 full-time practitioners. He established a Nurses Clinic, where nurses provided triage and treatment; Allergy Clinic; Women's Clinic; and pharmacy. Schiffert is also credited with founding the Middle Atlantic College Health Association, for which he served as president from 1977 to 1979.

Schiffert was one of the first directors of health services in the country to establish a Student Health Advisory Committee to obtain student input, and he created a health education unit to provide educational outreach to residence halls and student organizations, as well as in-house education for staff and students. He is credited with having had a significant impact on the academic careers and lives of many Virginia Tech students suffering from emotional problems by making psychiatric counseling sessions and medical treatment available and by working with the Cook Counseling Center to develop a 24-hour on-call crisis-intervention program.

In 1998, the Board of Visitors approved a resolution to name the Student Health Services Center in honor of Schiffert. The Charles W. Schiffert Health Center is located in McComas Hall.

When once asked if he had children, Schiffert replied that he had 19,120, which just happened to be Virginia Tech's enrollment at the time. Both during his tenure and after his retirement in 1986, Schiffert was committed to the health and well-being of Virginia Tech students – so much so that in 2008, Schiffert established the Dolores S. Schiffert Health Education Endowment. The endowment was created in honor of his wife of more than 50 years, who died in November 2007. Dolores Schiffert was also a nurse, and Schiffert created the endowment with hopes of addressing preventable health problems and as a way to honor his late wife's wit, zest for life, and partnership.

There will be no service for Schiffert. He will be laid to rest in Pennsylvania with his wife. Memorial gifts to honor Schiffert's legacy can be made to the Schiffert Health Center or the Dolores S. Schiffert Health Education Endowment via the Virginia Tech Foundation.

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