

NEWS & INFORMATION

Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2015 -- Volume 12, Number 15



Virginia Tech Board of Visitors to meet Nov. 8-9

The Virginia Tech Board of Visitors will hold its quarterly board meeting at 1:15 p.m. Monday, Nov. 9, in the Board Room of Torgersen Hall (Room 2100) on the Blacksburg campus.

On Sunday, Nov. 8, an open information session for all board members will be held from 12:45 to 3:30 p.m. in the Solitude Room at The Inn at Virginia Tech. The Research Committee will meet in open session from 3:45 to 4:45 p.m. in the Duckpond Room, also at The Inn at Virginia Tech.

On Monday, Nov. 9, the following board committees will meet at The Inn at Virginia Tech unless otherwise noted:

-- The Academic Affairs Committee will meet in closed session at 8:30 a.m. in the Drillfield Room, followed by an open session at 9 a.m. at the same location.

-- The Buildings and Grounds Committee will depart from the Inn at Virginia Tech at 7:30 a.m. to tour Pearson Hall. The committee will then meet in closed session at 9 a.m. in the Huckleberry Room and meet in open session at 9:30 a.m. in Solitude Room. This committee will then meet jointly with the Finance and Audit Committee in open session at 11:15 a.m. in the Duckpond Room.

-- The Finance and Audit Committee will meet in closed session at 7:30 a.m. in the 1872 Salon and will meet in open session at 8:30 a.m. in the Duckpond Room.

-- The Student Affairs and Athletics Committee will meet in open session at 8 a.m. in the Smithfield Room.

During the two-day meeting, the board will consider resolutions on the creation of a new School of Neuroscience in the College of Science, a capital project to improve door access in residence halls using wireless technology, and capital planning projects on the Corps of Cadets Leadership and Military Science Building and athletic facility enhancements.

More information may be found at the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors website at www.bov.vt.edu/.

Beamer offers insight on retirement decision

One day after Virginia Tech football coach Frank Beamer announced his retirement at the conclusion of this season, he met with members of the media at a packed McConnell Auditorium in the Merryman Center to explain what led to his decision.

"I have always said I think I will know when it's time, and I think it's time," Beamer said. "There have been some difference of opinions out there, and any time you have a public life, there will be that. The last thing I want is for Hokies to be divided. I want everyone to be in the same direction, and I think it's right in that regard and so I think this is the right time."

Beamer came to that decision last week, waking up one morning and telling wife Cheryl that he planned on retiring. He told his son, Shane, on Friday before the team left to travel to

Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, to play Boston College.

Following the Hokies' 26-10 victory, Cheryl Beamer asked her husband if he wanted to reconsider his decision, and he said he was at peace with his decision.

"When you're not sure it's the right thing, that's when you're not at peace," Beamer said. "I do feel like it's the right thing to do, and it's the right thing for Virginia Tech. I think it's the right time for me. It's a tough business. I think it's a younger guy's business, talking about practices and games. Everything is critical. Every loss is critical. After you do that a number of years, I think it wears on you a little bit. I knew what I was getting into. I chose the profession, and I'm not bad-mouthing the profession. I'm just saying it's a tough profession."

Beamer decided to inform the team of his decision at Sunday's team meeting rather than wait to announce the decision at the end of this season.

Speculation had been surrounding Beamer's future for roughly a year, dating back to December when the longtime coach underwent throat surgery that kept him from coaching in the Hokies' Military Bowl win over Cincinnati. He returned for spring practice, and he told media members at July's ACC Kickoff that he was energized for the upcoming season. Beamer said Monday that his health was not a factor in his decision to retire.

"After this operation, I don't know that I've had quite the energy that I once had, but that hasn't been an issue at all," he said. "My health is good, and I'm thankful for that. Full speed ahead."

The accolades have been flooding in since the official announcement on Sunday. Many in the media industry, such as ESPN's Kirk Herbstreit, took to social media to wish Beamer the best, while many schools released statements from their coaches on Beamer's accomplishments.

"Frank Beamer is, has been, and will always remain a beacon of light for college football," Kansas State coach Bill Snyder said in a statement. "Not only a great career at Virginia Tech, but most importantly, a tremendous leader and model for the young men in his program and his personal family. He has guided so many to become successful in life through a value system much needed to today's society. A sincere and caring family man, Frank has brought that feeling to the entirety of his university."

Those in the audience at Monday's news conference included university president Dr. Tim Sands, current athletics director Whit Babcock, former AD Dave Braine, who made the critical decision to keep Beamer after a 2-8-1 season in 1992, and Traci Weaver, the wife of former AD Jim Weaver, who passed away this past July. Jim Weaver's leadership, and particularly his investment in facilities, helped Beamer take the Hokies on an unprecedented run of 22 straight bowl games.

Beamer and the Hokies will be looking to extend that streak this season, needing two wins in their final three games to become bowl eligible. The Hokies have lost some tough games and suffered injuries at key spots, including quarterback and cornerback, but he and the team begin that challenge Nov. 12 with a game at Georgia Tech.

Make a difference with the Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign

By donating to the Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign (CVC), Virginia Tech employees can make an irreplaceable impact on someone's life. Money donated to the CVC is used to provide vital resources to many colleagues, friends and coworkers:

- \$2.75 provides a hot meal to person in need at the Radford – Fairlawn Daily Break
- \$12.50 provides one night of shelter to a homeless family of four at the New River Family Shelter
- \$10 provides an elderly individual transportation to and from a medical appointment with Med-Ride of the New River Valley.
- Every \$5 means a vitally important visit to the doctor's office at the Free Clinic of the New River Valley, and \$35 means a complete dental visit for someone in need.
- \$14.84 provides one hour of counseling to a woman or child who has been the victim of sexual or domestic violence at the Women's Resource Center.
- \$5 provides an hour of quality childcare for a child at Valley Interfaith Childcare Care center.
- \$4 provides a bus ticket on the SmartWay bus for a local homeless person to reach the Roanoke Rescue Mission.

A gift of just \$2 per paycheck to the Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign (CVC) would not only help Virginia Tech meet its goal to raise \$325,000, it will help a community member in need.

With the click of a button, you can take a look at the listing of more than 1,000 charities, including those located right here in region one.

While the campaign will go on through December 14, please donate now using the online pledge system at www.cvc.hr.vt.edu/donate/online/online-pledge.html or by downloading a paper pledge form at www.cvc.hr.vt.edu/_files/file_cvc_stepbystep.pdf

For more information visit the CVC website at www.cvc.hr.vt.edu/, or contact Carol Bishop, CVC coordinator, at 540-231-1155.

TIAA-CREF: To and through retirement

With advancements in medicine and technology, the average life expectancy of Americans is on the rise. A longer life span means a longer retirement. And when you retire, you could easily spend more on healthcare while inflation may eat away at your nest egg. Unless you plan correctly, all of these costs could quickly drain your retirement savings.

Please join Cary Parker, senior director with TIAA Asset Management on November 11 for an informative session on lifetime income options that are available to help ensure you do not outlive your retirement savings.

Learn how incorporating TIAA Traditional into a personal retirement strategy can and has been providing secure financial futures. To register, visit www.training.vt.edu, click "view by alpha" and search for "retirement planning sessions."

For more information, contact the Human Resources Service Center send an email to HRServiceCenter@vt.edu or call 540-231-9331.

Free Healthy Beginnings program can save moms-to-be money

Healthy Beginning is a free benefit for employees enrolled in one of the Virginia Tech benefits plans.

Expecting mothers can receive one-on-one help from a personal nurse via telephone appointments during their pregnancy. The nurse can help in areas such as diet, prenatal tests, finding a specialist, early labor, and care after birth. Telephone appointments will be set up during the

initial call.

To be eligible for the program, expectant mothers enroll within the first 16 weeks of pregnancy, actively participate, and complete a 28 week health assessment. COVA Care and COVA HealthAware members can earn a \$300 copay waiver or a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) contribution.

To enroll, call 1-866-938-0349, Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 11 p.m. and Saturday between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.

For more information, see the Healthy Beginnings PDF at www.dhrm.virginia.gov/docs/default-source/benefitsdocuments/ohb/healthybeginnings.pdf?sfvrsn=2, visit Hokie Wellness at www.hokiewellness.hr.vt.edu/ or call 540-231-9331.

Employee responses to LGBTQ survey call for education, more inclusion

The Vice Provost for Inclusion and Diversity and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Faculty and Staff Caucus at Virginia Tech have released the final report on a LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer) climate survey of university employees conducted in spring 2014. The survey received 1,475 responses, and asked about campus climate, issues and services, human resource benefits and policies, gender expression, discrimination and harassment, and leadership.

The survey responses revealed that individuals who identify as LGBTQ feel isolated at Virginia Tech, and are more likely to consider leaving the university. Respondents also reported they felt greater education and awareness of LGBTQ issues is needed. Written comments supported providing equitable benefits for same-sex married couples, a benefit that was realized on October 6, 2014, when the U.S. Supreme Court declined to review a Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals ruling, which made same-sex marriage legal in the commonwealth.

"The survey provides valuable insights as we move forward in creating a more inclusive university for all members of the Virginia Tech community," Virginia Tech President Timothy D. Sands said.

LGBT Caucus co-chairs Amanda Morris and Chad Mandala said the survey was launched two years ago in partnership with the Department of Human Resources and the then vice president for diversity and inclusion.

"While the results do not surprise the LGBT Caucus, we are extremely happy to have data addressing what we have long suspected to be a campus wide climate issue," Morris and Mandala said. "That 23.5 percent of LGBT faculty and staff felt excluded or not welcome due to their sexual orientation at Virginia Tech is cause for concern."

The survey marks the first time Virginia Tech has surveyed employees about LGBTQ issues. The caucus and other organizations and divisions, and InclusiveVT, are considering conducting climate surveys of students and other members of the Virginia Tech community in the future.

The LGBT Caucus at Virginia Tech is committed to advancing equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and their families. The caucus seeks to improve the lives of LGBT individuals both at the University and in the New River Valley community through educational programming, social activities, public service, and outreach.

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.