



**Virginia Tech Graduate Student Newsletter
Washington, DC Metro Region
January 14, 2022**

Spring 2022 New Student Orientations

Spring 2022 New Student Orientation Open House, January 15th, 9am to 10:30am, Northern Virginia Center (NVC), 7054 Haycock Road, Falls Church

This orientation will give students the option to visit the NVC and meet with people representing different student services. A few of those people will be present in-person; most will be participating through a virtual connection. ***Students can participate either in-person or virtually, and can arrive or depart at any time during the Orientation.***

To register for the Saturday session, use these links:

If planning to participate in person:

<https://app.acuityscheduling.com/schedule.php?owner=20170330&appointmentType=29644836>

The address for the NVC is 7054 Haycock Road, Falls Church, VA 22043.
Parking is free on the weekend.

Those who arrive in person will be met in the lobby and given a folder of information and some swag along with a brief introduction to the building. Included in the folder will be a schedule showing who is available during the session, and where. Students can walk around on their own schedule and visit the different rooms, including the library on the 1st floor. (Unfortunately, Hokie Passports (university IDs) which are processed in the Library cannot be made at this time. The ID machine is being updated.) Please note that Virginia Tech has a strict mask wearing policy while inside university buildings.

If planning to participate virtually:

https://virginiatech.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlqdOyqpi8rE9wOW_Cu1HKdbnyVVCLXqN6d

Students attending via Zoom will start in the main session, and can join different breakout rooms as they choose.

This is a great opportunity to get any questions or concerns taken care of, and to learn about Virginia Tech graduate student support services in the DC Metro Region!

VT-DC Spring 2022 Online New Student Orientation, January 12th

The Graduate School hosted an online general orientation session for new students on January 12th. If you missed it, you can access the recording with all the important information [HERE](#)

Save the Date! Events, Info Sessions, Workshops, etc.

Jan	15	New Student Orientation OPEN HOUSE
Jan	17	Martin Luther King, Jr Day (holiday)
Jan	17	Restorative Justice with Fania Davis
Jan	18	Spring Semester Begins
Jan	19	President Sands State of the University Address
Jan	20	Thursday Walking Group
Jan	21	Micro-crowdsourcing
Jan	25	PDW: Networking: What, Why and How (Online)
Feb	1	PDW: Plugging into DC Professional Development Resources
Feb	5	Virtual Vision Board Party

Virginia Tech COVID Policy for Spring 2022 Semester

“In its ongoing effort to mitigate the impact of COVID-19, the growing challenge of variants, and a corresponding rise in cases in communities across the country, and to align with the recently

updated guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Virginia Tech has issued the following requirements the 2022 Spring semester.

These requirements, outlined below, are in accordance with [Presidential Policy Memorandum 318](#).



VACCINATION

Effective December 28, 2021, the university is requiring COVID-19 booster shots within 14 days of eligibility for all students and employees. Individuals who are eligible now for a booster are required to upload their updated vaccination card as soon as the booster dose is received. Individuals who have not uploaded booster certifications will be subject to random surveillance testing. Those who are not yet eligible for boosters are required to receive the booster as soon as they are eligible and to upload their updated vaccination card as soon as the booster dose is received. Procedures remain in place for students and employees to request medical and religious exemptions. Those with approved existing exemptions do not need to request an exemption for the booster requirement.” VTNews

For more information on vaccinations and how/where to upload your booster certifications, go to <https://ready.vt.edu/vaccinations.html>.

NVC Library News

7054 Haycock Road, Falls Church 22043

lib.vt.edu nvclibrary@vt.edu, 703-538-8340

LIBRARY HOURS

January 15	9am - 5pm
January 16	Closed
January 17	Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 18 - February 27:	
Monday - Thursday	11am-8pm
Fridays	11am-6pm
Saturdays	9am-5pm
Sundays	Closed

[Reserve a Study Room](#) (by color) through the online reservation system or use the short URL bit.ly/nvcseats (case sensitive).

Hokie Passports (VT ID) are not being processed at this time. The Hokie Passport ID workstation is being updated. New ones will be processed later in the semester.

Exciting news for accessing the **New York Times** (includes the official app on mobile devices) for all current students and employees!

Please see https://guides.lib.vt.edu/new_york_times for more information on obtaining an academic pass. [Obtain and activate an academic pass](#) or use the [New York Times](#) through the University Libraries' website.

Check out the latest [library workshops](#) – look for “online” or “Zoom” options.

Events

Next week Virginia Tech is having several events as part of their MLK Celebration. Listed below are some virtual or livestream events.

Monday, January 17, 2022 | 7:00pm

Restorative Justice - Fania Davis, J.D., Ph.D.

This is a VIRTUAL event only. You must register to receive the link.

[>> Virtual Registration Here <<](#)

Fania E. Davis is a leading national voice on restorative justice. She is a long-time social justice activist, civil rights trial attorney, restorative justice practitioner, writer, professor and scholar with a PhD in Indigenous Knowledge.



Friday, January 21, 2022 | 12:00pm -1:00pm

Micro-crowdsourcing: how swarming bacteria integrate signals to build communities

Join via Zoom: <https://viriniatech.zoom.us/j/81458701257>

The poster for the 11th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Webinar features a blue background with a large image of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. statue. On the left, a teal sidebar contains icons for a calendar (01/21/2022), a clock (12 p.m.), and a location pin (via ZOOM). The main text reads "11TH ANNUAL DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. WEBINAR" and "MICRO-CROWDSOURCING: HOW SWARMING BACTERIA INTEGRATE SIGNALS TO BUILD COMMUNITIES". Below this, it says "DR. KARINE GIBBS" and "UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY". A portrait of Dr. Karine Gibbs is shown on the right. At the bottom left is the VT logo and "FRALIN LIFE SCIENCES INSTITUTE VIRGINIA TECH.". At the bottom right is a QR code and the URL "bit.ly/MLK2022-Gibbs".

President Sands State of the University Address, January 19th, 1:30pm

Timothy D. Sands
President, Virginia Tech

JANUARY 19, 2022

Event begins at 1:30 p.m. in the Moss Arts Center

Livestream available at vt.edu

Thursday Walking Group, 12:30pm to 1pm, Meet in the NVC Lobby

Join our new Counselor, Dr. Julie Kaplan, for walks in the NVC neighborhoods and techniques of mindfulness! Please Note: the walking group will now meet on Thursdays. The next walk will be on January 20th!

**Professional and Development Workshops for Graduate Students in the DC Metro Region, Online, Tuesdays at Noon**

Join Kerry Spitze, our new Career Advisor for the DC region, and learn how to curate your job search and land a rewarding new position! Access all workshops through the Handshake registration links below. If you have any questions or would like an individual career advising session with Kerry, please contact her through [Handshake](#). Additional PD Workshops will be posted closer to the session dates.

January 25 - Networking: What, Why, & How

In this interactive session, we will discuss what networking means, how it can be important in your career and professional development, and review easy-to-use strategies. This presentation will be recorded. Register [here](#).

February 1 - Plugging into DC Professional Development Resources

In this session, we will review DC-area resources that you can access to enhance your career and professional development. We will look at various organizations, business incubators, and associations as well as review DC-area networking and business events. Learn how to get more professionally involved and informed through the plethora of resources in DC! This presentation will be recorded. Register [here](#).

Virtual Vision Board Party, February 5th, Noon to 1:30pm

Dream it. Believe it. Do it.

VISION BOARD PARTY

Saturday, February 5, 2022 | 12:00PM-1:30PM ET | Via Zoom

The event will be live-streamed and recorded on the VT NVC GSSO Youtube channel

**FREE Boxed Meal Catered by La Prima**

SANDWICH, COOKIE, CHIPS & DRINK

Free Event

Join GSSO and Cook Counseling virtually as we learn about visualization and create physical or virtual vision boards, your choice. Let's dream it, believe it and do it up for 2022!

Confirmed attendees receive:

- Vision Board Party Checklist
- Supplies (poster board, glue stick, scissors and stickers) in VT Gift Bag
- La Prima Catered Boxed Meal



Registration Required for FREE catered boxed meal & event supplies via QR Code or at:
<https://forms.gle/mJuZXnsPbEEGBskNA>

Registration closes on February 1st or once 20 participants have registered whichever comes first

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

Escape to DC!

Celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in DC

This weekend is a great time to be living in or near Washington, DC! In honor of MLK Day, visit the majestic memorial in his name [Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial](#), on the [National Mall](#). If you have time, go to the [Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture](#). Both are **free** and incredibly moving experiences!



[The New Woman Behind the Camera](#)

“The National Gallery of Art displays breathtaking photographs from more than 120 women photographers around the world. These “new women” embraced the art form as a mode of personal and professional expression and in the process, rewrote the rules of modern photography. See unflinching and beautiful images from these trailblazers who embodied a creative and confident spirit and whose work showed unique new perspectives from

the 1920s to the 1950s.” [washington.org](#)

[5 Reasons to check out The New Woman Behind the Camera.](#)

This exhibit is at the National Gallery of Art is FREE.

New PhD Fellowship in Cybersecurity

The Virginia Tech National Security Institute's announces its newest PhD program called [The Julian Chin Ph.D. Fellowship in Cybersecurity](#). The deadline for application is January 15, 2022. All information about the program may be found on the [website](#).

All current and aspiring graduate students (regardless of where they completed undergraduate school, VT or not) are invited to apply. Current Virginia Tech graduate students may apply for the fellowship using [this](#) form. Here is an overview of the benefits:

- A yearly stipend of \$38,000
- Payment of full tuition and required fees during the appointment period.
- \$5,000 professional development allowance which can be used for conference travel, and other approved expenditures
- Up to four years of total support, depending on renewal
- Opportunities to pursue practicum experience at government and industry partner facilities
- Opportunities to conduct research with faculty from the National Security Institute
- Flexibility to study cybersecurity in any relevant discipline at Virginia Tech

VT NVC Parking

If you are not buying a VT parking pass for the semester or year, you can now prepay for your daily parking at the Guard's Desk in the Lobby of the VT NVC and facilitate a faster exit when you leave.

Instructions:

1. Present your paper ticket and credit card to the security guard
2. Security guard will process payment including receipt if needed
3. When leaving the parking lot insert the validated ticket into the machine
4. The gate will raise allowing you to exit the parking lot

NO CASH ACCEPTED; CREDIT CARD ONLY



COVID Testing Program

The COVID testing program will be resuming on Tuesday January 18 through a mail-in testing program. The test kits will be distributed through the library. An overview of instructions is shown below, although some details are still being worked out. Please be patient as we bring this new program online, and remember that the program is for people without symptoms. If you are experiencing COVID symptoms, please contact your health care provider.

1. Register online to pick up a test. The scheduling website is <https://app.acuityscheduling.com/schedule.php?owner=20170330&appointmentType=29318318>
2. Select Falls Church or Arlington on the website to see available pickup times.
3. Pick up your test from the NVC Library (1st floor) or Arlington Main Desk (2nd Floor) as scheduled. You will need to show ID. Hokie Passport is preferred, but another government-issued ID such as a driver's license or passport is acceptable.
4. **DO NOT ADMINISTER THE SELF-TEST IN THE LIBRARY.** Preferred locations are your private office, home, or car. You can also administer the self-test outside, or in some part of the building where you can be far away from other people.
5. Carefully follow the sampling and shipping instructions included with the test kit. On Mondays and Tuesdays between noon and 4 pm, the NVC library will have a collection box at the service desk. The regular UPS driver will pick up completed test kits from this box. Outside of these hours, you must ship your test through UPS from a nearby office or public collection box.
6. Tests are processed by the testing company, and the results will be communicated to the university by Friday. Negative test results will be communicated by email only. Positive results will be communicated by either EH&S (for employees) or Schiffert Health (for students) using a combination of email and phone.

Spring 2022 Calendar Highlights



Get Your Covid-19 Boosters! A Message from President Sands and the HokieBird!



Hokie One Stop

Greater Washington D.C. Area Hokie One Stop

Supports and services for graduate and undergraduate students in the greater Washington, D.C. metro area

Check out the new [Hokie One Stop](#), a website to provide a single-entry point for any student-related questions or needs.

- How and where to get the Hokie Passport?
- Have a question about tuition and fees?
- Need to talk to the Graduate Student Assembly in the DC area?
- How to contact your Program Coordinator?
- Connect with Counseling and Veterans Services
- Rentals: [DC Off-campus Housing](#)
- Online Events Calendar: [VT-DC Student Events](#)



Spotlight

Kerry Spitze

Remote Career Advisor

Career and Professional Development

Based in New York state, Kerry Spitze joined Virginia Tech's [Career and Professional Development](#) as a Remote Career Advisor for graduate students in the DC Metro Region. Kerry began last November and can be reached via email, kspitze@vt.edu. She is kicking off this semester with several important workshops listed under "Events", so make sure to register today!

"Prior to joining the team, Kerry served as the Career Services Manager for the professional master's programs in the College of Agriculture & Life Sciences at Cornell University, following her role as the Career Support Manager for the Master of Engineering program in the College of Engineering. Kerry also served as the Assistant Director of Industry and Community Engagement at Ithaca College, and has also worked as an academic advisor in several state colleges and universities."



Passionate about helping others gain practical career development and management skills, Kerry is focused on assisting students with navigating their own unique career path with both confidence and purpose. Students can talk with Kerry about career exploration, career transition, networking strategies, interviewing skills and practice interviews, the job search, salary negotiation, and more."

Visit [Handshake](#) to schedule an appointment!

Welcome to the Virginia Tech Graduate School in the DC Metro Region
The Newsletter is compiled, written and edited by Susan Merten. It is circulated every Friday.
Please send information of interest for graduate students by COB Wednesday to

smerten@vt.edu

Connect with the VT Graduate School through the following sites



[Graduate Student Assembly-
VT-National Capital Region](#)



[VTGradSchDC](#)



[NVC Website](#)

VT Graduate School in the DC Metro Region



Kenneth H. Wong

Associate Dean for Graduate Education
And Director of the Northern Virginia Center (NVC)
Room 412, kh Wong@vt.edu or (703) 538-8312



Susan Merten

Assistant to the Associate Dean and Director of the NVC
Room 410, smerten@vt.edu or (703) 538-8310

GRADUATE STUDENT SERVICES Office (GSSO)

Contact: gssoncr@vt.edu or (703) 538-8327. To schedule appointments, click [here](#)



Corinne Julien

Assistant Director, Graduate Admissions and Academic Progress
Room 492, corinne3@vt.edu or (703) 538-8439



Jessica Mullins

Assistant Director, DC International Student Services
Room 488, mullins1@vt.edu or (703) 538-8326



Torri Brown

Immigration & Graduate Student Advisor
Room 490, torribrown@vt.edu or (703) 538-3775



Erin Mahoney

Admissions & Academic Progress Advisor
Room 494, erinm23@vt.edu or (703) 538-3789