



## Virginia Tech Graduate Student Newsletter Washington, DC Metro Region February 11, 2022

### ***Important Academic Dates and Deadlines***

This information only applies to students completing **ALL required coursework for their program and students eligible to graduate in Spring 2022**. The dates and deadlines listed below are to keep you on track for degree completion and graduation this semester.

#### **Spring 2022 Masters/EDS Deadlines**

<b>Mar</b>	<b>1</b>	Application for Degree Conferral ( <b>Submit request via Hokie Spa</b> )
<b>May</b>	<b>11</b>	Final Exam Defense ( <b>Submit request 2 weeks prior to defense date</b> )
<b>May</b>	<b>27</b>	Electronic Thesis/Dissertation

#### **Spring 2022 PhD/EDD Deadlines**

PhD/EDD Students planning to participate in Commencement for 2022 follow dates below, if not follow the dates above for Masters/EDS.

<b>Mar</b>	<b>1</b>	Application for Degree Conferral
<b>Mar</b>	<b>24</b>	Final Exam Defense ( <b>Submit request 2 weeks prior to defense date</b> )
<b>Apr</b>	<b>7</b>	Electronic Thesis/Dissertation

**Non-Thesis ONLY Programs (MNR, MIT, MBA, MEng...)**

Mar 1 Application for Degree Conferral

**May 13 Non-Thesis Final Exam/Evaluation**

Each respective program will send out an email with detailed instructions for Final Exam/Evaluation scheduling towards the end of the semester to ensure you are on track for degree completion and exam scheduling.

**Important:** An approved Plan of Study is required to Apply for Degree Conferral and to Schedule your Final Exam! You can check to see if you have an approved Plan of Study in Hokie Spa. **If you do not have an approved Plan of Study, please reach out to your department for assistance!** Your department will work to complete your Plan of Study and ensure that it is received with the Graduate School for Final Approval. [Link to Schedule Final Exam](#)

**All students graduating are required to have a Final Exam scheduled with the Graduate School for degree awarding.**

***Special Workshop for Students Completing All Degree Requirements for Spring 2022, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6:30pm***

Are you hoping to complete your degree this Spring? Make sure to attend this important workshop offered by the GSSO for students that are completing their degree requirements for Spring 2022 to prepare for degree completion.

When: Feb 23, 2022

Time: 6:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Student: Dates and Deadlines (Spring 2022)

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/85184647480>

Contact the GSSO if you have any questions: [gssoncr@vt.edu](mailto:gssoncr@vt.edu) or (703) 538-8327

***VT COVID Testing Program in the DC Region***

The university's COVID testing program in the DC Region is through a mail-in testing program. The test kits are distributed in the library. An overview of instructions is shown below. 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> 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
7. results will be communicated by either EH&S (for employees) or Schiffert Health (for students) using a combination of email and phone.

### **Graduating International Students: Virtual OPT Workshops**

If you are graduating in Spring or Summer 2022, please register to attend **one** of the virtual OPT workshops scheduled for this month.

*Advanced registration is required:*

**-Tuesday, February 15, 12 - 1 PM: [REGISTER HERE](#)**

**-Wednesday, February 23, 5 - 6 PM: [REGISTER HERE](#)**

We will be sharing helpful information about applying for **post-completion OPT**.



Student graduating in May 2022 can submit this e-form to apply for OPT:  
IntlHokies > F-1 post-completion OPT > **Optional Practical Training (OPT) request**

All immigration workshops scheduled for Spring 2022 are posted on the **NVC events and activities calendar** and shared weekly in the DC campus Friday email newsletter.

## ***VT Graduate Student Commencement in the DC Metro Region, Spring 2022, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 1pm at the GMU CFA***

The [Commencement website](#) for the DC Area is live. Please bookmark this page as it will be updated frequently during the semester. Here are the summary details:

**Date:**

Sunday May 15th, 2022

**Venue:**

GMU Center for the Arts  
4373 Mason Pond Drive  
Fairfax, VA 22030-4444

**Schedule:**

11:30 am	Student Check-in begins on Main Level
12:15 pm	Doors open to the Auditorium for Guests to be seated
12:30 pm	Faculty, Students and their Hooders Line-up
1:00 pm	Processional
3:00 pm	Light reception for graduates and their guests in the Main Lobby immediately following the Commencement.

***All participating students should be checked in by 12:30 pm.***

In order to participate in Commencement, please make sure you have completed the necessary work by the [Degree Conferring Dates](#). If you have any questions, please contact the Graduate Student Services Office (GSSO) at 703-538-8327 or see [here](#) for more information or to make an appointment. **Please note the important Dates and Deadlines Workshop offered by the GSSO on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30pm for those who plan on graduating in Spring 2022.**

**Images and Reflections Photo Slideshow**

We welcome submissions of photos or short videos that tell the story of your student experience at Virginia Tech. Submit them using this [Google Form](#) or email them to Susan Merten at [smerten@vt.edu](mailto:smerten@vt.edu).

**Graduate Student Speaker Competition**

Each year we invite students to submit a speech for the Graduate Student Speaker Competition. If selected, the graduating student will have the opportunity to attend the Faculty/VIP Reception prior to the Commencement, and give remarks in front of family, friends and graduates! Speeches should be no longer than 10 minutes. The deadline for submission is March 22, 2022 and the applicants will be notified by April 1, 2022.

To participate please fill out this form: <https://forms.gle/j7Tgz8HRXibxfSbR6>

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

Feb	11	Financial Awareness Workshops at the NVC
Feb	16	Black Affinity Group
Feb	17	Academic Wellness and Self Care Drop In, NVC
Feb	22	PDW: Navigating the US Job Market for International Students
Feb	23	GSSO Dates and Deadlines Workshop (for students completing degree in Spring 2022)
Feb	23	Preparing the Academic CV Workshop
Feb	24	Black History Month Trip to The National Museum of African American History and Culture
Mar	1	PDW: National Capital Region Job Fair Prep

***NVC Library News*****7054 Haycock Road, Falls Church 22043****[lib.vt.edu](http://lib.vt.edu) [nvclibrary@vt.edu](mailto: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](https://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](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.

## ***VT Affinity Groups in the DC Metro Region***

The Graduate School recently established Affinity Groups in the Washington, DC Area for *First-Generation, Veterans, Latinx, and Black* graduate students. The groups were launched to build an enhanced sense of community and connect students with resources to promote successful degree completion outcomes.

During the Fall 2021 semester, representatives from the Veterans and First-Generation Affinity Groups were featured on the Northern Virginia Center's website to celebrate Veterans Day and National First-Generation College Student Day. Moreover, these profiles serve to amplify the unification and character that these voices bring to the graduate community.

**The Latinx Affinity Group hosted a virtual meeting on Tuesday, February 8, 2022 from 6:30pm – 7:30pm.** The meeting featured remarks from Veronica Montes, El Centro Hispanic and Latinx Cultural Center Director, as well as Nestor Alejandro Santa Cano, President of the Latin American and Iberian Graduate Students Association.

**The Black Affinity Group will meet virtually on Wednesday, February 16, 2022 from 12:00pm – 1:00pm.** The discussion will include Kimberly Clark-Shaw, Black Cultural Center Director, and Taylor McFadden, President of the Black Graduate Student Organization.

Spring semester meeting updates for the First-Generation and Veterans Affinity Groups will be forthcoming!

Although the groups' discussions are student-centered, faculty and staff are invited to join the meetings. Additionally, **all graduate students are invited to join any Affinity Group!** If you have an interest in a group's goals or simply wish to become engaged with a group's professional network, please feel free to attend our virtual meetings!

### ***How can I join one or more Affinity Groups/s?***

If you would like to connect with **one or more** of these groups, please complete this BRIEF [webform](#) to add your email address to a group's listserv.

### ***Where should I direct questions/comments/suggestions about the VT-DC Area Affinity Groups?***

For more information, feel free to contact: Chontrese Hayes, Assistant Dean for Graduate Student Academic Affairs and Student Success at [chontresehayes@vt.edu](mailto:chontresehayes@vt.edu).

***All events are posted in this Newsletter.***





## Events, Workshops, etc....

### 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!

### Black Affinity Group, February 16<sup>th</sup>, Noon via Zoom

#### BLACK AFFINITY GROUP



GREATER WASHINGTON, D.C., AREA



**Zoom Meeting Feb 16th 12:00 - 1:00pm**  
Featuring Kimberly Clark-Shaw, Black Cultural Center Director. Join us to connect, build community, and stay the course in graduate school!!!

For more information or questions contact:  
chontreshayes@vt.edu

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

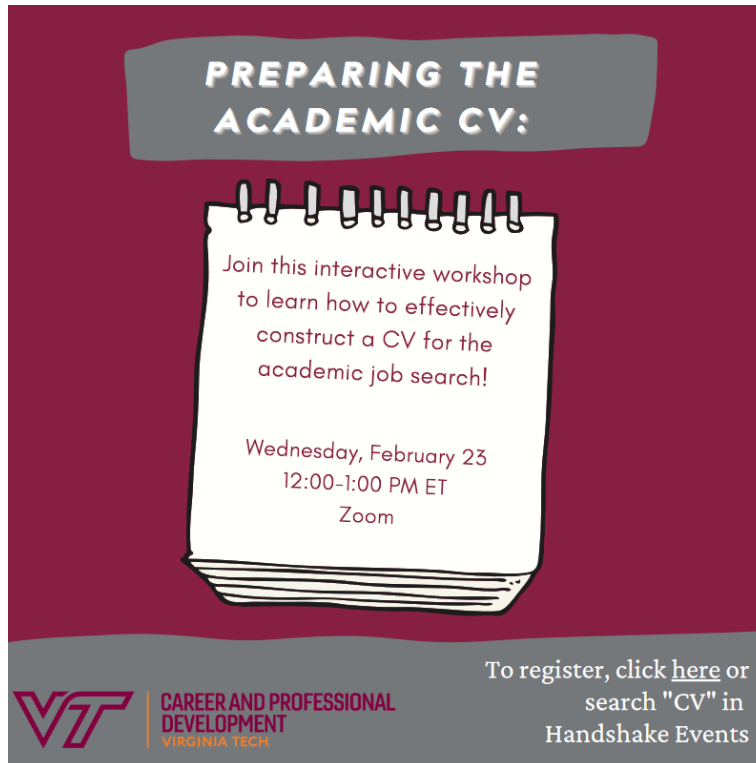
### February 22 - Navigating the US Job Market as an International Student:

In this interactive session, we will be discussing job search challenges and strategies for international students - where to look for positions, how to make connections, and how to navigate applications. Bring your questions as well! This presentation will be recorded. Register [here](#).

### February 23 - Preparing the Academic CV (see announcement below)

### March 1 - National Capital Region Job Fair Prep:

In this interactive session, we will discuss how to best prepare for and navigate the March 7th national capital region job fair in order to get the most out of the experience. Bring your questions! This presentation will be recorded. Register [here](#).

**CPD: Preparing the Academic CV Workshop, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, Noon**

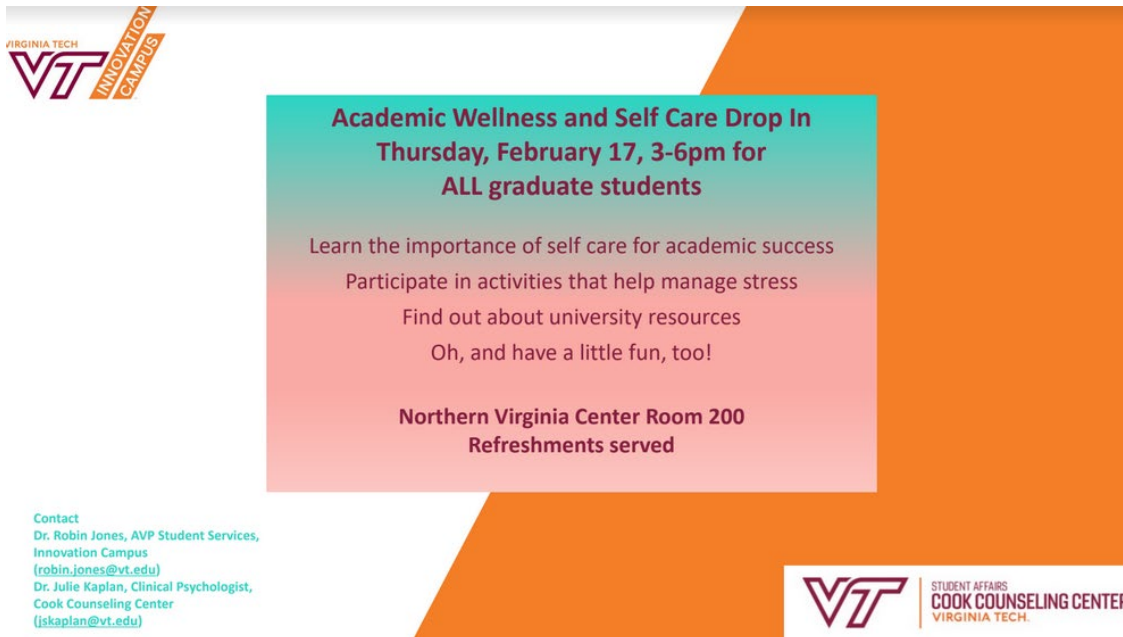
**PREPARING THE ACADEMIC CV:**

Join this interactive workshop to learn how to effectively construct a CV for the academic job search!

Wednesday, February 23  
12:00-1:00 PM ET  
Zoom

To register, click [here](#) or search "CV" in Handshake Events

**VT** CAREER AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT VIRGINIA TECH

**Academic Wellness and Self Care Drop In, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 3pm, NVC Rm 200**

**Academic Wellness and Self Care Drop In**  
**Thursday, February 17, 3-6pm for ALL graduate students**

Learn the importance of self care for academic success  
Participate in activities that help manage stress  
Find out about university resources  
Oh, and have a little fun, too!

**Northern Virginia Center Room 200**  
Refreshments served

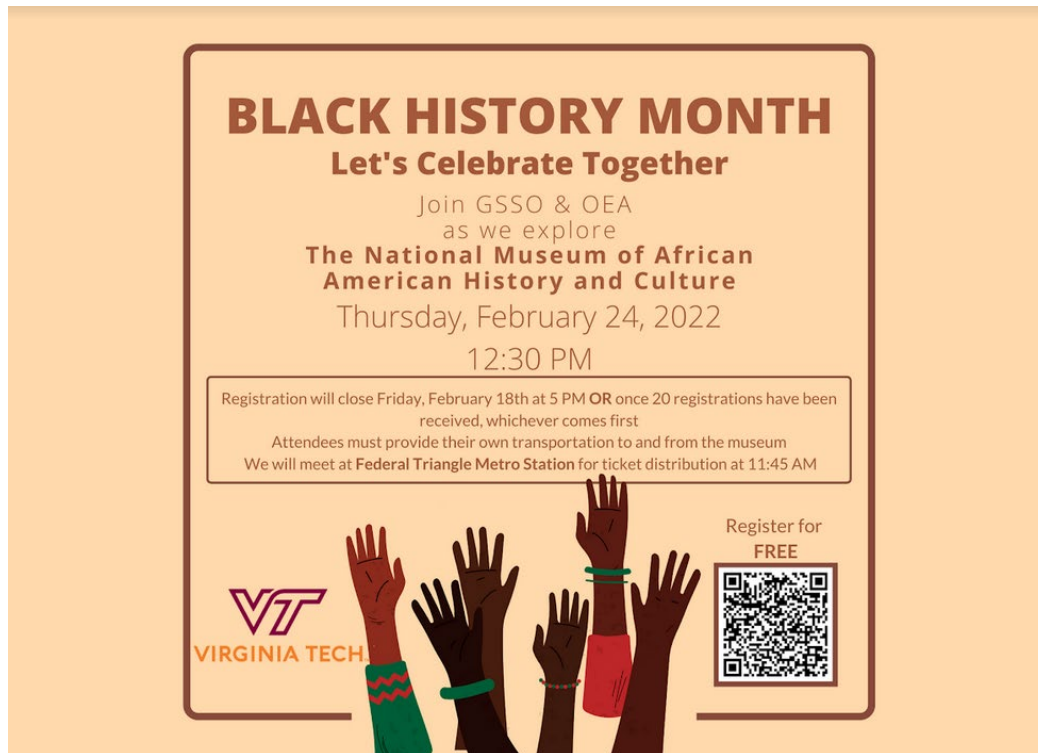
**VT** INNOVATION CAMPUS

Contact  
Dr. Robin Jones, AVP Student Services,  
Innovation Campus  
([robin.jones@vt.edu](mailto:robin.jones@vt.edu))  
Dr. Julie Kaplan, Clinical Psychologist,  
Cook Counseling Center  
([jskaplan@vt.edu](mailto:jskaplan@vt.edu))

**VT** STUDENT AFFAIRS  
**COOK COUNSELING CENTER**  
VIRGINIA TECH.



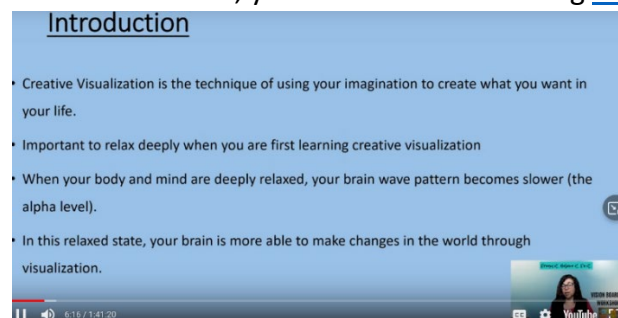
## Celebrate Black History Month! Trip to The National Museum of African American History and Culture, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 12:30pm



## In Case You Missed it!

### Virtual Vision Board Workshop, February 5<sup>th</sup>, Noon to 1:30pm

On February 5<sup>th</sup>, the GSSO and Cook Counseling gave a Virtual Vision Board Workshop. If you missed the event, you can see the recording [here](#).



## VTGrATE Spring 2022 Application Cycle

If you are interested in joining the Virginia Tech Graduate Academy for Teaching Excellence (GrATE), we will have another application cycle in the first few weeks of the Spring '22 semester from January 24-March 5, 2022.

Application requirements are in the "[Membership](#)" tab on the menu, where you can then navigate to "[Member](#)," "[Associate](#)," or "[Fellow](#)" depending on which level of membership you are interested in applying for. If you need teaching evaluations, please connect with us for [Peer Observation](#) and we can help.

Have questions about the application? Please either email program manager Jonilda Bahja [jonildab@vt.edu](mailto:jonildab@vt.edu) or submit a question to the [Ask A Fellow](#) form and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

If you have questions about the academy, please email Ernesto Acosta at [ela2ness@vt.edu](mailto:ela2ness@vt.edu)

## GPSS Annual Research Symposium and Exposition, March 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>

Start crafting your submissions for the Graduate and Professional Student Senate's 38th Annual Research Symposium and Exposition, which will be held March 23rd - 24th! (Please Note: The GPSS was formerly called the Graduate Student Assembly or GSA.) The theme for the 2022 GSARS is "Interdisciplinary research and communication!". ALL graduate and professional degree programs are welcome to [submit an abstract](#) before the deadline: February 15th, 2022 at 11:59 pm. Our [GPSS webpage](#) will have details regarding submission types, scheduling, the keynote panel, and more as we approach the event. Contact the GPSS Research Symposium co-chairs, Connor Brown ([clb21565@vt.edu](mailto:clb21565@vt.edu)) or Benjamin Miller ([benmiller@vt.edu](mailto:benmiller@vt.edu)) with any questions you have.



## ***Apply to be the Graduate Student Representative on the Board of Visitors!***

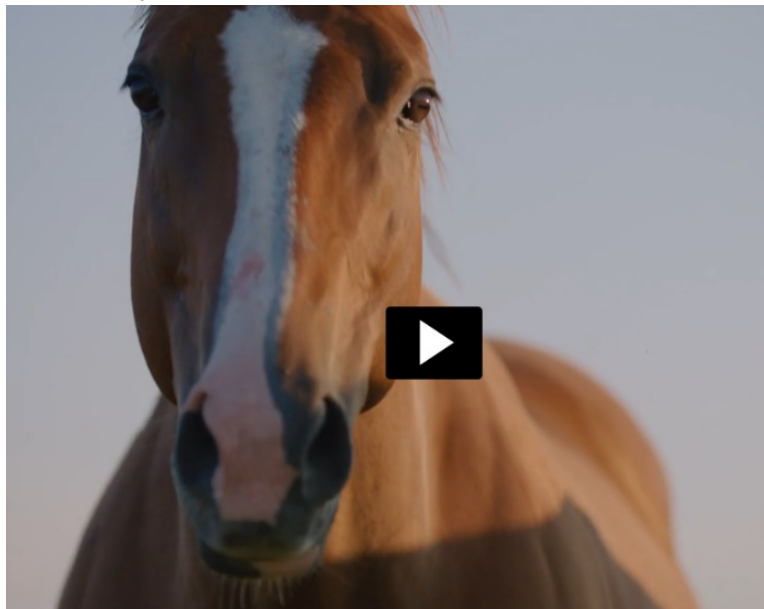
Each year the Board of Visitors selects one undergraduate student representative and one graduate student representative. Student representatives serve a one-year term from July 1 through June 30.

Both BOV student representatives also serve as members of [University Council](#), the Commission on Student Affairs, and Order of the Gavel, and may be asked by the president, provost, or other university leaders to serve on special task forces or committees. It is vitally important for the student representatives to maintain constant contact with administration, including the president and provost and other university leaders, as well as with the students on all campuses of the university. It is also expected that the student representatives will assist others in becoming educated about the positions and encourage others to become future applicants.

Interested? See here for more information and the application:

<https://bov.vt.edu/studentrepsapply.html>

## ***The Middleburg Agricultural Research and Extension (MARE) Center, Video***



“Situated in the heart of Virginia’s horse country, the [Middleburg Agricultural Research and Extension \(MARE\) Center](#) is one of Virginia Tech’s 11 ARECs. Philanthropist Paul Mellon donated the 420-acre farm to Virginia Tech in 1949 to foster research that improved pasture and animal productivity while enhancing the land. The center was used primarily for beef cattle research for 40 years, but was rededicated to equine research and teaching in 1992.

Today, the MARE Center continues to play a critical role in the discovery, outreach, and education missions of Virginia Tech’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Through collaborations with academic and industry partners around the world, the center advances the health and well-being of the horse through innovative research efforts and exceptional educational programming in equine science.” (VTNews)





## *Escape to DC!*

### The National Gallery of Art, East Building, FREE

The East Building of the National Gallery of Art is as fun and modern on the outside as it is, with its modern art collections, on the inside. Designed by I.M. Pei with isosceles triangles, bright skylights and soaring staircases, the building is stunning. Stroll through the collections of Pablo Picasso, Mark Rothko, Barbara Kruger, etc. My favorite piece is the [giant "Untitled" mobile by Alexander Calder](#) hanging from the huge atrium, commissioned by the Smithsonian for the building when it opened in 1978. Something about it always makes me smile. Another great piece and recent addition is [Katharina Fritsch's Hahn/Cock](#), a giant blue rooster, which stands



proudly on the Roof Terrace. Once you have toured the East Building and are feeling peckish, take the walkway through [Leo Villareal's Multiverse](#), to the café and gift shops between the East and West Buildings.

Starting on February 28<sup>th</sup>, the East Building will be closed for renovations, so go there this month! FREE Admission to regular exhibits.

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

**[smerten@vt.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:smerten@vt.edu) or (703) 538-8310

## **GRADUATE STUDENT SERVICES Office (GSSO)**

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



### **Corinne Julien**

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### **Erin Mahoney**

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