



COLLEGIATE TIMES

An independent, student-run newspaper serving the Virginia Tech community since 1903

‘Not the America I know’ McAuliffe’s open house for collegiate reporters

As student reporters gather at the Executive Mansion in Richmond, McAuliffe speaks to reservations about Trump administration.

LEWIS MILLHOLLAND,
JESSICA BRADY
AND MEG CONNORS
managing editor and
copy editors

Throwing back the double front doors, Gov. Terry McAuliffe exploded into the Executive Mansion and shook the hand of each student journalist standing around the silver bowl that once sailed with the U.S.S. Virginia as part of the Great White Fleet from 1907 to 1909, demonstrating the friendship and power of the U.S. to the world.

McAuliffe invited collegiate Virginian reporters to a luncheon at his home in Richmond on Wednesday, Feb. 1. The hour-long event began with an appetizer of roasted celery soup and easy smiles while McAuliffe rattled off his achievements as governor and discussed the contents of his Kegerator (currently Stone Brewing’s “Give Me Stout or Give Me Death”).

When the journalists started asking questions and the conversation transitioned to President Donald Trump, however, the mood in the Executive Mansion grew noticeably darker.

“This is not the America I know,” McAuliffe said after criticizing Trump’s travel ban, federal hiring freeze and plans to repeal the Affordable Care Act. “He has not had a good first week.”

Trump and McAuliffe are no strangers. Their relationship goes back 20 years, and McAuliffe stated that the two have had dinner together on multiple occasions. In 2009, Trump donated \$25,000 to McAuliffe’s gubernatorial campaign.

Now, McAuliffe worries that Steve Bannon “and that alt-right group in the White House” are influencing the president’s decisions. He also predicts that the United States Supreme Court will eventually rule the travel ban as unconstitutional, and his general tone

on the Trump administration was gloomy.

“We’re close to Yorktown, where we defeated one monarchy 236 years ago — and we sure as heck ain’t going to create another one,” McAuliffe said.

Not all of McAuliffe’s rhetoric was negative, though. He lauded Virginia’s bipartisan support on issues including economic development, education, transportation and mental health issues. During a recent dinner, Republican Sen. John McCain came over and thanked McAuliffe for his statement criticizing the travel ban executive order.

“This is not the
America I know ...
He has not had a
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Terry McAuliffe
governor of Virginia

The tone stayed high while McAuliffe recounted one of his claims to fame: fighting felony disenfranchisement. He recalled the racially charged words of Virginia Delegate Carter Glass in 1902, who advocated for barring people convicted of a felony from voting in an effort to “eliminate the darkie as a political factor in this state.”

Ultimately, McAuliffe had to sign an individual pardon for each of the 206,000 felons. McAuliffe also mailed each newly enfranchised citizen a letter embossed with the official seal of Virginia containing a voter registration card and a stamped envelope.

“We need more drug courts. People should not be going to jail. We should be dealing with treatment and therapy for them to get them as productive members of society as fast we can. If we put them in jail, it’s costing us money,” McAuliffe

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ZACK WAJSGRAS / COLLEGIATE TIMES

Protesters meet at the Pylons to demonstrate against President Donald Trump’s recent immigration ban concerning people originating from a list of seven Muslim-majority countries, Jan. 30, 2017.

Aspirations for solidarity driven by executive order

Henderson Lawn filled with protesters Monday night, rallying with the Coalition of Justice and others against the recent travel ban.

ANDREW SHEDLOCK
news staff writer

On Monday, Jan. 30, Blacksburg residents, Virginia Tech students and Virginia Tech professors gathered on Henderson Lawn to protest one of President Donald Trump’s executive orders.

The order halts resettlement for all refugees awaiting entry to the U.S. In accordance, this temporarily halts all refugees from Syria entering the U.S. and bans citizens from seven Muslim-majority countries from entering the country.

Throughout the weekend, a series of protests broke out across the country at airports and towns opposing Trump’s executive order. “(This is an) extension of all the

protests across the country since the executive orders on Friday. A show of solidarity,” said Margaret Breslau, one of central organizers of the protest and a member of the Coalition for Justice.

The protest was organized and put on through several organizations: Tech DREAMers, United Feminist Movement, United Students Against Sweatshops @ Virginia Tech, Muslim Student Association and the Coalition for Justice.

Cars that drove by would honk their horns and be greeted by the crowd cheering in response. The protesters’ chants included, “No hate, no fear, refugees are welcome here,” “Can’t build a wall, hands too small,” “Education not

deportation,” “Build bridges, not walls,” and “Muslim rights are human rights.”

Protesters carried signs saying, “No Ban, No Wall,” “Refugees are Welcome Here,” and “Ban Bannon,” along with several others.

Philosophy Professor Lydia Patton disclosed that she had attended the demonstration as a support system for those highly marginalized groups across campus.

“It’s a vigil in solidarity. I would like to see VT be a sanctuary campus and for VT to come out and support those that may be affected,” Patton said.

Blacksburg resident Kathy Finney had views that seemed to closely

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Alumni pushes for Bannon’s disavowment

RICHARD CHUMNEY
news reporter

Virginia Tech graduate Steve Bannon’s meteoric rise in the Trump administration has sent shockwaves throughout the political world. As thousands of alumni join together to disavow the far-right firebrand,



ZACK WAJSGRAS / COLLEGIATE TIMES

A protester holds a sign denouncing Tech alumnus Steve Bannon, the Chief Strategist for President Trump, at the “No Ban No Wall” protest, Jan. 30, 2017.

the University has opted for silence.

In an interview with the Collegiate Times, a Virginia Tech spokesperson, Assistant Vice President for University Relations Mark Owczarski, said there are no plans to issue a statement or condemnation of the 1976 urban affairs graduate.

According to Owczarski, there were no discussions within the office regarding Bannon.

“Why would Virginia Tech go out and make a statement disavowing anybody? It doesn’t make sense to me, I don’t understand the logic and the reasoning of what you’re asking,” Owczarski said. “Who are we to determine any of that stuff? He is who he is. We’ll allow his actions and his works to speak for themselves — as we do with all our alums.”

Owczarski said the University will not issue public statements about Bannon in the future.

In the past, the Office of University Relations has released statements about graduates employed within the executive branch. Last October, Virginia Tech News published an article profiling four Virginia Tech alumni working in the White House.

In an open letter published by the Collegiate Times,

Virginia Tech community members denounced Bannon, a former student government president, for standing in opposition to the values of the university.

“He has encouraged prejudice as the Executive Chairman of Breitbart Media, a mouthpiece for the white nationalist ‘alt-right’ movement,” the letter read. “Breitbart, under his leadership, published articles disparaging women, Muslims and the LGBTQ community. He has suggested that only landowners should be allowed to vote.”

Over 5,000 alumni, students and faculty have attached their names to the letter.

Bannon, the White House Chief Strategist, is reportedly one of President Trump’s most powerful advisers, second only to Trump’s son-in-law and Senior Adviser to the President Jared Kushner.

On Saturday the White House announced that Bannon would gain a seat on the National Security Council, further elevating his status within the Trump administration.

Through a spokesperson, Congressman Rob Wittman (R) of Virginia’s fifth district declined to

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Today, sports need politics

It is irresponsible to ignore the unique relationship of sports and politics.

KYLE COOKE AND
FAIZAN HASNANY
assistant sports editor
and sports editor

In a time of divisiveness in America, sports serve as a unifying force. They seem to disregard elements of race, religion and political beliefs in favor of the objectivity of a scoreboard. To many, sports provide an escape from the difficult discussions of the world’s issues. Consequently, athletes, coaches, reporters and other members of the sports industry, when involved in a highly political discussion, are encouraged to “stick to sports.”

However, for journalists and athletes to discuss politics only through the lens of the games they cover or play is to diminish the undeniable, symbiotic relationship that sports and politics share. It also ignores the fact that these writers and athletes exist outside their professions. They are people with feelings, concerns and opinions that extend beyond the stadium and they, like the rest of us, have the right — and if qualified, the responsibility — to express them.

Sports personalities are the only public figures in the country who are consistently asked to stay in their lane. Look through Bomani Jones or Pablo Torre or any other writer’s Twitter mentions who has the temerity to tweet about something other than a box score. The demand will be there. But why is it that sportswriters are the only people asked to do this?

This week, Dan Le Batard retweeted someone who told him to stick to sports because it’s “what he’s good at.” So while it’s easy to assume that people don’t want Le Batard or his coworkers to talk about politics because they disagree with them, that’s not always the case. It appears as though some fans simply want a clear separation between sports and politics.

And some fans are quite good at doing it themselves. Stan Van Gundy, head coach of the Detroit Pistons who has denounced President Donald Trump on multiple occasions, expressed disappointment with Pistons fans who support his majority-black team

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**PAMPLIN TO CREATE
NEW COMPLEX**
Dean Robert Sumichrast
announces a new addition.
page 9



**KEEPING YOUR NEW
YEAR’S GOALS**
Read more to find out how
to keep your resolution.
page 7



TESTS: Education trends spurring mental distress

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content and answer real-world problems that gauge critical thinking.

However, only a few classes have made these changes to their curricula; for the most part, students still find themselves dozing off in class and then hurriedly cramming for their exams the night before.

Ask any college student if he or she can retain even 30 percent of the information absorbed from textbooks or lectures after he or she plugs it into a scantron a few weeks after the exam. Sure, their answers could vary depending on the course; some may leave a class with long-lasting knowledge and a firing interest for that particular subject.

While that should be the education system's end goal for all students, it can take a substantial amount of time to get there, especially if we do not address this issue on a wider scale.

It is essential that public schools and universities across the nation begin to shift the focus from standardized assessments to team projects, discussions and presentations. While some standardization can be helpful in courses that heavily involve algorithms such as calculus and physics, we must implement a larger focus on the applications of these processes and methods.

It is imperative that we associate personal accomplishments and revelations with the idea of achievement as opposed to a percentage of correct

problems on an assessment. We cannot continue to ignore the state that America's adolescents are spiraling into, one that will continue to grow drastically without immediate reform.

At the end of the day, it comes down to the educators and school officials to foster communities of encouragement and support for students in their academic journeys — one that leads to a deep understanding of subject matter, interest and curiosity for curriculum material and a healthy attitude toward education.

NISTHA DUBE
• regular columnist
• freshman/psychology



COURTESY OF TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

DISASTER: Triage policy should be implemented

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system is to provide the greatest good for the greatest number of people.

There are many types of triage systems all across the globe, but no one system is universally accepted. According to the Boston Medical Center Emergency Medicine journal there is a SALT guideline (Sort, Assess, Life-Saving Interventions, Treatment and/or Transport) where the focus is to manage the critical patients first. That is, the most resources and attention are given to those whose pains are most acute, and this is the system most commonly applied in the United States.

There is also the Sacco Triage Method that focuses on maximizing the number of expected survivors. Another system is the First-Come, First-Served method where care is provided to those who arrived first with the assumption that service is fairly dispensed this way. There are also many variations of these systems where, for example, it stresses saving the "good citizens" first, or saving the doctors, physician or health workers in the population first or the able-bodied first as they can possibly immediately contribute to assisting

others.

Unfortunately, the system is applied haphazardly across the U.S. and across the globe with practitioners interpreting what greater good means in each context. In the case of the Memorial Medical Center in New Orleans, some staff members felt personally attached to a few of the patients and continued providing care and expending resources to save the patients close to them. Others focused on sustaining the well-being of healthy patients.

Some staff members actually went as far as redirecting services from a group of patients to other groups. Others went farther. In fact, three staff members were charged with second-degree manslaughter. According to The New York Times and CNN, Anna Pou, Cheri Landry and Lori Budo were charged with providing medication with the intent to kill to those patients labeled "3," or last to be evacuated.

The reports suggest that the three staff members sedated these patients in order to ease their suffering and also relieve staff members from the burden of care. This is based on autopsy reports after 45 decaying bodies were eventually removed from the Memorial Medical Center and lethal doses of

morphine, a pain killer and midazolam, an anesthetic drug, were found in the patients.

The lack of such a guideline in disaster events is causing some physicians to make decisions based on preventing lawsuits rather than saving the most lives. Others are being forced to play the role of God while relying on incomplete information and being tasked to choose who lives and who dies as was the case during the Haiti earthquake. Some are forced to interpret the meaning of doing the most good and ignore directives from their supervisors resulting in chaos during these disaster events.

One group led by Brooke Lerner is pushing the discussion toward creating a national triage guideline, and we need more work done in this regard. We need a teachable national guideline that everyone is aware of, even if not everyone agrees with it. Having such a law would reduce the pressure that healthcare professionals face and will face when the next disaster strikes. It is inhumane to leave such grave decisions in the hands of a few humans.

TOMILAYO KOMOLAFE
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sports

collegiatetimes.com/sports

SPEAK OUT: Sports writers have a responsibility to discuss politics

from page 1

but still vote for a man whom he considers "brazenly racist."

When fans separate the two, we run into problems, because sports and politics are not binary. They never have been, at least not since the days of Muhammad Ali, who famously refused to serve in the military and set the standard for politically charged athletes. Splicing sports and politics down the middle is not only impossible, but when people attempt to do so, they only cheapen the richness that politics add to sports. With the growing diversity of sports personalities and a steady increase of international athletes playing in the United States, it has become insensible for sports figures to not speak about issues they are passionate about and even more ridiculous to criticize them when they do.

The current picture of professional sports is a mosaic of races, creeds, religions and sexual orientations. Major sports figures come from entirely different backgrounds: white, black, Christian, Muslim and everything in between. Some are even refugees who

achieved their "American Dream" through sports.

"I know for a lot of refugees, they can't speak up or they can never be heard," said Los Angeles Lakers forward Luol Deng, who fled his country during the second Sudanese Civil War. As of now, it remains unclear how the Trump Administration's recent immigration executive order will affect Deng but the NBA, which consists of 111 foreign-born players from 42 different countries, has openly expressed concern for players like Deng who have been targeted by Trump's actions.

"We have reached out to the State Department and are in the process of gathering information to understand how this executive order would apply to players in our league who are from one of the impacted countries," said NBA spokesperson Mike Bass to ESPN on Saturday. "The NBA is a global league, and we are proud to attract the very best players from around the world."

Since sports function as a common ground for people with differing political beliefs, it is even more powerful when a major sports figure shares his or her opinion. In an age where

most of our information comes from our own hand-picked group of pundits and news sources, sports figures are the outliers. Regardless of political affiliation or ideologies, people will follow star athletes like LeBron James simply because of his status. So when a major sports figure speaks, people from all backgrounds listen.

As kids, we look up to athletes and coaches as role models and expect them to act as such. But being a role model extends beyond how you carry yourself on the field or court; it includes what you say, so it is unfair to rely on athletes to be role models and at the same time, criticize them for speaking their minds.

In fact, remaining silent when given the platform of a professional athlete can give the impression and implication of being unbothered or apathetic about the issues. San Antonio Spurs head coach — and arguably the best coach in the history of the NBA — Gregg Popovich does not have that problem. He has been one of the most prominent political voices in all of sports, emphasizing the importance of speaking out.

"And all the things

(Trump) said during that time, if our children would have said it, we would have grounded them for six months. Without a doubt. But we ignore all that, because ... because why?" Popovich said about Trump's campaign messages before a nationally televised Spurs game on Jan. 21. "That says something about all of us. And that's what's dangerous. That's what scares the hell out of me to this day and makes me uneasy."

Athletes supporting Trump have been just as vocal at times. Tom Brady, for example, had a "Make America Great Again" hat in his locker during the campaigns, adding that a Trump presidency would be "great." Approaching this weekend's Super Bowl, Brady has refused to comment on the president's recent executive orders. Maybe it's a result of backlash from fans or maybe he too has decided to "stick to sports." Regardless, many other athletes and coaches have been rooting for Trump since before the election, including Lou Holtz, Rex Ryan and former MLB players Aubrey Huff and Tanyon Sturtze.

Because of the tendency for coaches and athletes to speak about politics, especially during a politically turbulent time, it has become impossible for journalists to "stick to sports," because if the athletes aren't going to do it, they can't either. If these writers, reporters and anchors didn't address Popovich's comments, for example, they wouldn't be doing their job.

In that spirit, the sports editors at the Collegiate Times will not be afraid to talk about the issues should the situation call for it. Like a majority of the country, we enjoy the guiltless pleasure of watching sports, but that does not mean we will ever ignore or avoid an uncomfortable conversation.



ANDREA PAPPAS / COLLEGIATE TIMES

Fuente inks an impressive class

Safety Devon Hunter headlines a star-studded recruiting class for head coach Justin Fuente.

PETER BEDROSIAN
sports staff writer

At the close of National Signing Day in Blacksburg, 17 new players joined Hokie Nation and head coach Justin Fuente solidified his reputation as a master recruiter.

National Signing Day puts many worries to rest as commits make their decisions official by signing letters of intent. For Virginia Tech, that meant securing one of the best recruiting classes in recent memory. Highlighted by three top 10 in-state recruits and four top 300 recruits, the Hokies' class currently sits at 25th nationally, according to the 247Sports composite ranking system.

Safety Devon Hunter, the top ranked player in the state, officially committed today, making him one of the highest ranked commits in the last decade. The versatile Hunter stands at 6-foot-1, 205 pounds and is the 45th best player in the country. While not an early enrollee, Hunter is certainly a player to keep an eye on come fall.

The jump in the team rankings from 40th nationally last year to 25th this year is impressive for Fuente. Last year, Fuente had just a couple of months as head coach before signing day, which he equated to "speed dating." He said he was much more comfortable this year.

The strong recruiting class is due in part to an impressive January in which the Hokies secured commitments from their top four recruits. However, signing day was not without its challenges, with a former commit flipping schools.

Tahj Capehart, a wide receiver out of Virginia Beach, Virginia, was a Tech commit since early August 2016. The University of Maryland made a late push and Capehart decommitted from Tech and signed with the Terrapins.

Fuente respected the recruit's decisions. "The kids have a right to make the

decision that's best for them," Fuente said when asked about decommitments. "I'm okay with guys getting it right and doing what they truly need to do."

Despite a few setbacks on signing day, the Hokies' class was an impressive start to the Fuente era. With a large class of 26 players and counting, Fuente felt that solid depth was added to positions of need.

"Defensively we had to add some depth on the defensive line and at the linebacker position," Fuente said. "We needed to get those numbers back up with quality, good people and I think we did a fine job with that."

This class also included several pass catchers including three wide receivers, three athletes and two tight ends. However, three of those players are under 6 feet tall, but they are just the type of guys Fuente likes in his scheme. "We felt like we needed some guys to play on the inside," Fuente said.

Slot receivers that play inside are a big part of Fuente's offense, as seen in wide receiver Cam Phillips' big season in 2016. To continue with that formula, Fuente signed undersized players like Sean Savoy and Kalil Pimpleton to catch the ball in space and make plays with their feet.

Tight end was another position that saw a lot of new faces coming in, as Fuente likes to use versatile tight ends as H-backs. This is a position that needs to be able to run, block and catch. With two tight ends and an athlete all standing at 6-foot-4 or taller, it looks like Fuente has plenty of options for that position come fall.

For Fuente to put together a top 25 class with only one year to sell a growing program is something that should impress fans. Recruiting is not an exact science, but the head Hokie is excited about the players that signed and anxious to show the Hokie Nation what they can do in his second year.

@CTSportsTalk

@peter_bedrosian

grad guide

collegiatetimes.com

Hokie alumna soaring to new heights in grad school

Meredith Kernbach graduated in 2016 and is now studying integrated biology with a focus in ecoimmunology at the University of South Florida.

KATELYN MEADE
lifestyles staff writer

On an average day, Meredith Kernbach can be found chasing down house sparrows around Tampa, Florida, or wearing what she refers to as a “space suit” in the lab.

Kernbach is a Virginia Tech graduate, leaving Blacksburg in the spring of 2016 with a bachelor’s degree in biology and a minor in chemistry. She then packed her bags for Tampa and began graduate school at the University of South Florida where she is pursuing a degree in integrative biology studying ecoimmunology; a facet of integrative biology that combines aspects of immunology with ecology, biology, physiology and evolution.

Since arriving in Tampa, Kernbach has chosen to focus her research on how light pollution affects the stress response and disease dynamic (how they become infected and what symptoms they display) in house sparrows. She then takes it a step further to study how light pollution may affect their ability to cope with West Nile virus and how they could pass the virus on to other individuals.

Kernbach spends most of her time either doing field work (which involves a lot of chasing down birds in odd places) or in a lab working with the West Nile virus.

“I’ll go out super early in the morning to set up nets (to catch birds),” Kernbach said. “We have to catch these birds in all these strange, obscure places — I got permission to catch them in a Home Depot parking lot,” she said with a laugh.

But when working with the West Nile virus, Kernbach has to work in a high security lab.

“It’s almost the complete opposite of field work. It’s super vital that you keep sterile techniques, and you have to work inside of a hood (a local ventilation system that limits exposure to hazardous fumes). I wear kind of like a space suit type thing — double gloves, tyvek suit, respirator, face mask — the whole system,” Kernbach said.

Kernbach entered Virginia Tech as an animal science major, but when she switched to biology she began to attend guest speaker seminars in the biology department every Thursday night.

“That’s how I got turned on to the research scene,” Kernbach said. “I just kept going back, and some of the guest speakers they had were just doing super awesome research.”

From the first seminar, Kernbach was instantly inspired

by the research.

“There are so many cool things that people don’t know about research,” Kernbach said. “In college people always talk about wanting to cure cancer and you know, do all these really cool biomedical things ... but the really cool thing about research is that you actually get to research the cure ... there are so many things you can do that can make such a huge difference.”

Among many other reasons,

Kernbach chose University of South Florida for the diversity of the program and the freedom of being able to choose to research whatever she wants. She noted that some people in her department are studying plants, and many are working with invasive species, while she is currently the only one in the department studying the West Nile virus.

Along with the diversity, Kernbach notes that geography played a large part. Since house sparrows are a relatively urban species, and Tampa is a relatively large city with a lot of light pollution, Tampa is the perfect place to be for the type of research she is doing.

“I get to go out every day and I get to catch birds and I get to do exactly what I want; the freedom of it is just so awesome,” Kernbach said.

For right now, Kernbach is simply enjoying grad school. When thinking of future plans, she is still unsure.

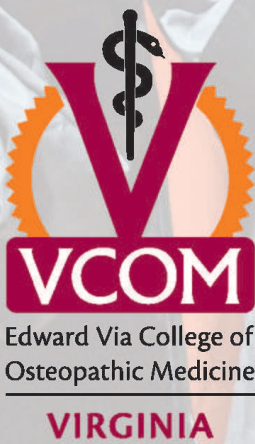
“I would love to become a professor at a university like Virginia Tech and have my own lab while teaching as well. But there is also the possibility that I could work for the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and work more with disease — so my research could take me in either direction.”

Kernbach will graduate from University of South Florida in the spring of 2021 and plans to continue researching no matter where she ends up.



COURTESY OF MEREDITH KERNBACH
Meredith Kernbach holding a red-winged blackbird in a marsh in Ontario, Canada.

 @meade_katelyn



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Q&A: Applying to grad school one step at a time

The Collegiate Times talked to the director of Recruitment and Diversity Initiatives at Virginia Tech about the graduate application process.

MEGAN MAURY CHURCH
lifestyles staff writer

When it comes to considering a future at graduate school, many undergraduate students feel like they are in the dark. The Collegiate Times spoke with Dannette Gomez Beane, director of Recruitment and Diversity Initiatives at Virginia Tech’s graduate school, and asked some common questions about the admissions process. Beane explained that about 25 percent of the students at Virginia Tech’s Graduate School also did their undergraduate work here.

Graduate programs are time intensive. A master’s program is usually two years, while a PhD program can take from three to five. It’s important to have all the information when considering making this kind of decision.

CT: How late is too late to apply for graduate school?

DGB: It depends. Every university has different deadlines. Some deadlines start on Dec. 1 for the following fall, and we also have a deadline of Aug. 1 for that fall, so it’s a huge window.

In undergraduate, when applying there’s usually like a priority deadline, like early application, and then the final day when the application closes. That is the case with some programs at the graduate level, but other programs are on a rolling basis and will accept applications all year. Some will accept applicants up until the first day of classes for that term.

Applying to grad school is really relational ... we try to find “a fit,” and sometimes that fit doesn’t come before classes start. Faculty will make an effort to get students in if it’s a good fit.

CT: What if I’m not sure what I want to do after undergraduate studies?

DGB: Graduate school is really for people who have an understanding of what their next steps are going to be — or maybe their next, next step. I think jumping into a graduate program just because you don’t know what you want to do next is a really bad idea.

Graduate school is a great investment of time and energy for the students and the departments, so it needs to be intentional and it needs to be purpose driven. Even a master’s program, which is usually a two-year program, is really a large commitment.

So if you don’t really know what you’re going to do, applying for a program with that high level of intensity is going to be obvious to both you as a student that you’re not ready

and to the faculty that you’re not as invested as you need to be.

CT: Is it a good idea to take time off before starting graduate school?

DGB: It depends. Some programs require that you have full-time work experience.

With other programs, there is some benefit to going straight into it, especially with technology, which is very quick to adapt. Or if as an undergraduate you’ve been working on some cutting-edge research, you want to stick with it as a graduate student.

CT: Do Virginia Tech undergraduates get preference when applying?

DGB: Not preference, but in some instances if they have a relationship with faculty already through the research relationship, then the faculty is going to want to keep them here.

CT: How much does graduate school cost?

DGB: At the graduate level, you’re paying per credit hour plus your student fees. It depends on your campus and your program, and it depends on whether you’re in or out of state.

Also, at the graduate level, about 70 percent of students get some kind of support, mostly in the form of an assistantship that covers the cost of tuition.

An assistantship is a contractual assignment on campus where you’re basically an employee to the department that’s hosting your assistantship. Ten hours a week is a half assistantship, and 20 hours is a full assistantship, and the department who’s hosting you will pay your tuition and a salary either for a nine- or 12-month term. That is very common at research intensive universities.

The work options are GTA (graduate teacher’s assistant), GRA (graduate research assistant) in labs or an administrative assistantship in an office.

CT: What is the average GPA of a student accepted into the Virginia Tech graduate school?

DGB: We have a minimum of 3.0 GPA on the last 60 credit hours (you’ve taken), so you must have received an average of a B in your last two years of your degree; some departments can require higher. A 3.0 is definitely the bottom, so anything higher than that is going to be desirable.



@CollegiateTimes

GRADUATE SCHOOL APPLICATION TIMELINE

(Information courtesy of the Princeton Review)



MAY

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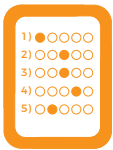
JUNE

Sign up for a GRE test prep course. Register for the GRE general test if necessary.



JULY

Request information from schools that interest you. Consider paying a visit to your alma mater to meet up with a few former professors.



AUGUST

Take the GRE general test. If you're not happy with your scores, sign up to take it again. Begin drafting your statement of purpose.



SEPTEMBER

Finalize your list of prospective schools, and familiarize yourself with the professors who share your research interests at each school. Contact your recommenders. Keep polishing your statement of purpose.



OCTOBER

Send your recommenders supplemental materials (like your resume, personal statement, etc.) that they can use as a reference. Make contact with students and professors at your prospective schools. Arrange a campus visit if you can.



NOVEMBER

Have someone in the field and a few smart (and honest) friends read over your personal statement. Take the GRE subject test; make sure that your scores will be sent directly to schools.



DECEMBER

Complete and submit all applications, keeping copies of every section for your records. Verify that your recommendations have been sent.

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Best Graduate Schools of Education

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study break

Today's Birthday Horoscope: Explore and learn this year. Organized and coordinated teamwork wins. Shift directions with a partnership this month, before income surges to new heights. Personal growth and development in September leads to romantic and collaborative breakthroughs. Reach new levels in love.

quote of the day

“This is love, she thought, isn't it? When you notice someone's absence and hate that absence more than anything? More, even, than you love his presence?”

- Johnathan Safran Foer

START YOUR MORNING THE RIGHT WAY

COLLEGIATE TIMES



FOR RELEASE FEBRUARY 2, 2017

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

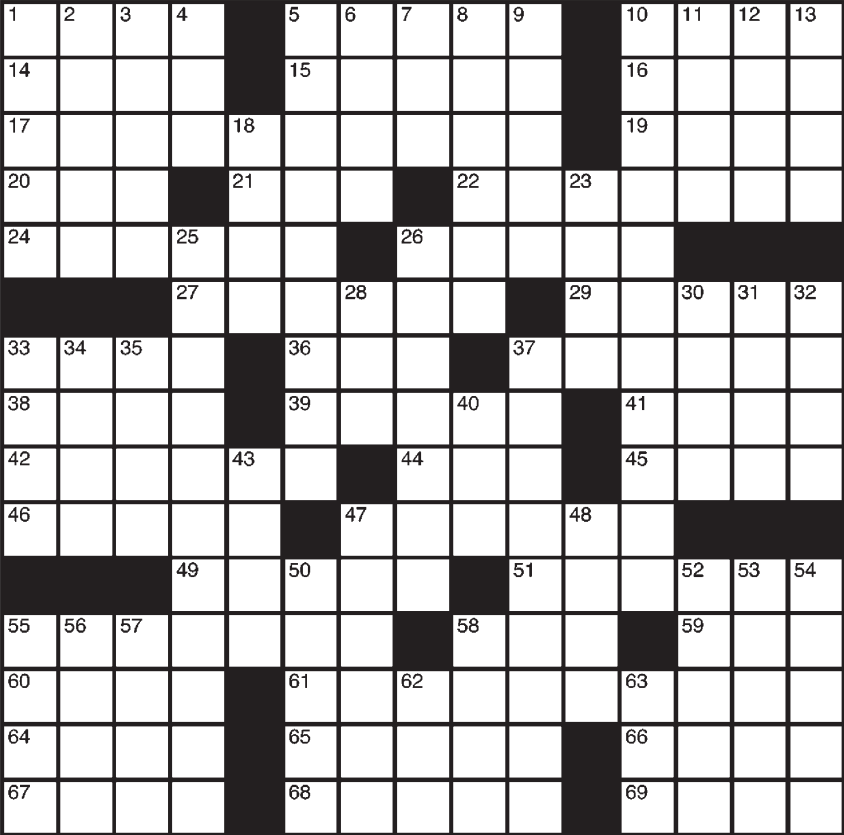
Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 Brewski
5 Scrubland succulent
10 Skate park protection
14 “__ something I said?”
15 Bounded
16 Settled on the tarmac
17 Headline during an African wildfire season?
19 “¿Qué __?”
20 Peach or orange
21 Snitch
22 Rental duration
24 Former NASCAR Cup sponsor
26 Pass along
27 Go over again
29 Kind of key
33 Bro
36 Tolkien villain
37 “This feels familiar” feeling
38 Corner office fig.
39 Casual parting ... and a hint to this puzzle’s four longest answers
41 Had too much
42 Satisfies, as thirst
44 Reduction
45 Attending
46 Fable teller
47 “Challenge accepted!”
49 West Coast pro
51 Possible reason for an empty seat
55 Picture of health?
58 Profession, casually
59 Hosp. area
60 __ clarinet
61 Collector of some Spanish art?
64 Tactic
65 Barn-raising sect
66 Latin I word
67 County bordering Sonoma
68 Core belief
69 Out of shape

DOWN

- 1 Punjabi monotheists
2 Burn through
3 Eatery often named for its owner
4 Foul spot
5 Seemingly eternal burden
6 Joint ailment
7 Abbr. in car ads
8 Unloaded a burden
9 Old lemon
10 Artist Jasper during his tropical period?
11 Cumming of “The Good Wife”
12 CD part
13 Sit tight
18 “Rule, Britannia” composer
23 License info
25 Farmer’s possible reply to “What beans are you planting this year?”
26 Pit visitor
28 Before, poetically
30 Green gem
31 Wrapped up
32 Deserving a slap, maybe
33 Badlands landform
34 Shaft with bushings



By Chuck Deodene

Monday’s Puzzle Solved

P	S	A	L	M		L	E	M	U	R		R	A	E
O	P	T	I	C		A	L	E	R	O		O	P	T
S	A	L	E	M		M	A	N	I	C		M	P	H
	N	A	N	U	N	A	N	U		K	O	A	L	A
A	I	R		F	O	R		S	Y	R	I	A	N	
M	S	G		F	I	R	S	T	A	V	E	N	U	E
C	H	E	R	I			E	E	G		L	E	D	
			E	N	T	R	E	N	O	U	S			
	M	I	T		A	N	Y			T	E	E	T	H
D	U	G	O	U	T	C	A	N	O	E		S	H	E
A	N	G	O	L	A			E	R	N		S	E	X
I	D	Y	L	L		W	H	A	T	S	N	E	W	
L	A	P			M	E	R	I	T		I	O	N	I
E	N	O			A	L	E	V	E		L	U	C	R
Y	E	P			N	I	N	E	R		S	N	E	E

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1/31/17

The black coffees of Blacksburg

From neutral dark roasts to strong coffees with hints of citrus — see how the blackest roasts in town stack up against the competition.

KATELYN MEADE
lifestyles staff writer

Blacksburg is home to many different coffee shops, each one unique in its own way. Every local shop has many options when it comes to ordering your favorite caffeinated treat — teas, lattes, cappuccinos, mochas. But the real challenge is in the fundamentals: the black coffee. No cream, no sugar, just plain old coffee.

It’s the one item that every coffee shop must have on its menu, and not all black coffee is created equal. This weekend I went around and taste-tested some local black coffee so that you wouldn’t have to. This is what I found:

Bollo’s Cafe and Bakery

Located on Draper Road, Bollo’s is a cozy shop where you can get a small coffee for just over \$1.50. Here, they simply hand you a cup and behind you there’s a table with airpots filled with different blends to choose from — typically its house blend, a flavored coffee (it has a coconut coffee that is just heavenly), decaf and of course hot water for tea.

Its house blend is a very neutral dark roast with small hints of chocolate. While sipping this coffee was very pleasant, the thing that gets me about it is that since it is served in an airport, it is not always as hot as I would like.

However, this coffee was very easy to drink, and was enjoyable to drink black — no cream or sugar needed.

I give this coffee four out of five stars.

Mill Mountain Coffee & Tea

Located right off of North Main Street, Mill Mountain fosters a great atmosphere for the inevitable days you’ll spend studying this semester. Mill Mountain is a very pleasant place to be. It has a large space with a lot of natural light, long counters and tons of wooden tables — Mill Mountain is definitely a comfortable place to settle in for the day.

While it has an extensive food and drink menu, its black coffee is not quite as pleasant as its atmosphere. For just two dollars for a small, this coffee is bold and smooth. However, it also has an odd, almost burnt coffee taste to it that would be better hidden under the power of cream and sugar.

I give this coffee two and a half out of five stars.

Idego

Off of Draper Road, behind the Farmer’s Market, you can find Idego nestled in the alley next to Champ’s. This shop is simplistic, with a light and airy vibe. It has a small menu which seems to say that Idego makes everything its specialty. With one of the most

unique atmospheres that I have found in all of Blacksburg, this spot also sports the most delicious coffee.

This complex coffee is strong and intense, but somehow also light, smooth and just simply pleasant. With some citrus notes to it that leave you feeling refreshed, it can also come off slightly acidic, which could be toned down by adding a hint of sugar. This small coffee came in at just over two dollars for a small, but was definitely the best, most unique tasting of the three.

I give this coffee four and a half out of five stars.



@meade_katelyn



ARMAHN RASSULI / COLLEGIATE TIMES
There are plenty of coffee shops in Blacksburg, but finding the perfect black coffee can be a challenge.

BAN: Students protest Trump’s executive order

from page 1

administration.

Through a spokesperson, Congressman Rob Wittman (R) of Virginia’s fifth district declined to discuss Bannon. Wittman graduated from Virginia Tech in 1981 with a degree in biological science.

In an appearance on Meet the Press on Sunday, Virginia Sen. Tim Kaine said it was not a coincidence that a White House Holocaust Remembrance Day statement failed to mention the Jewish people. Kaine blamed Bannon and his connection to Breitbart, “a news organization that traffics in white supremacy and anti-Semitism.”

Kaine echoed those remarks in a Sunday evening fundraiser with Blacksburg supporters. A spokesperson for the senator declined to say if the University has a responsibility to issue a statement about Bannon.

Virginia Tech President Timothy Sands penned a letter to the community Sunday advising students affected by President Trump’s executive orders limiting immigration to not travel abroad. Sands indicated his commitment

to international students, but did not condemn the actions of the White House.

Bannon and Senior Advisor to the President Stephen Miller reportedly lead the effort to implement the immigration ban. The two had previously collaborated in writing Trump’s inaugural address.

Blacksburg’s Coalition for Justice and Virginia Tech DREAMers called on Sands to ask Trump to rescind the orders.

Hundreds took to Henderson Lawn on Monday to protest Trump’s proposed Mexican border wall and recent immigration ban. The event was organized by the Coalition for Justice. Many demonstrators carried signs denouncing Bannon.

Organizer Margaret Breslau said the university and the community should not direct their disapproval at just Bannon, but the entire administration.

“He was one of the architects of the (executive orders),” Breslau said. “He’s a Hokie, but not a very good one, he’s not representing us very well I’m afraid.”



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Resolutions: How to make one you can actually keep

It's been a month since New Year's Day, and chances are you've forgotten about your resolution. Here are some tips to make one and stick with it.

ALAYNA JONES
lifestyles staff writer

New Year's Day seems as though it was just yesterday. On Jan. 1, we all felt enthusiastic and excited to make positive changes in our lives — for many, a new year means new goals and resolutions.

Now, it's a month after New Year's Day and this time of the year is notorious for people abandoning their overly ambitious resolutions. We all get busy and ultimately our resolutions get pushed to the bottom of our crazy schedules. One good thing is that it is never too late to get back on track with your resolution. Even if you haven't set one yet — it is also never too late to start.

Follow these steps to make a reasonable resolution and stick with it:

Keep it simple
To start off, don't overthink a resolution. A resolution can be something as simple as wanting to smile at strangers more. It doesn't have to be something that someone can see physically such as going to the gym more. No resolution is a stupid one.

Be mindful of time
Time is an important aspect of a resolution. There are only 24 hours in a day, so make sure that you set aside the right amount of time for your goal if it needs it. For example, I will go to the gym two times a week for an hour. Making time a part of a goal will hold you accountable for completing the goal. Just remember, don't make your goal too tough to keep up with.



FILE 2016

Studies have shown that informing people about exercise reduces calorie intake more than displaying the amount of calories in a product.

Listen to your gut
Being truthful with yourself on how much you can keep up a resolution is key. Basically, if thinking about being at the gym every day much makes you want to die a little inside — alter it to match what is attainable.

A resolution that excites you

is the best one to choose because then it will not be considered “work” to keep up with it. This way, you won't be upset with yourself if you find that it is hard to keep up with a goal. In the end when individuals cannot keep with their goal, many give up which ultimately discourages

them from trying again.

Be realistic
Do not go crazy and promise yourself that you will not eat junk food again for the rest of the year. Every single one of us knows we love to eat junk food, so do not deny yourself that for a whole

year. There are plenty of other options you can choose to eat healthier while still being able to eat foods you enjoy.

If you want to eat healthy, making a promise to yourself to only eat dessert twice a week is a good option. This allows you to treat yourself, but cutting back will help you maintain your goal. Also, you can decide to eat more fruits and vegetables with every meal as an option. Adding healthier options, but not taking too much of what you like away can also be beneficial.

Be specific
Target specific aspects you want to work on. If the goal is to get more fit, do not just say I want to be stronger. Where do you want to be stronger? In your arms? In your legs? A good example would be, “I will work on getting more muscular in my arms at the gym three times a week for one hour to become stronger.” Focusing on one specific aspect of a goal will not be as overwhelming.

Envision yourself achieving your goal
Put pictures up of what you want to see. Write notes of encouragement to help when you feel like giving up. Nothing is impossible with positive thinking and having a goal set that is right for you.

Whether your resolution is to lose weight, eat healthier, get better grades or talk to more strangers, anything is achievable if you put the time in and believe in yourself.

 @CollegiateTimes

Counting calories: More harm than health?

KATIE RICE
fitness columnist

One day as I was walking through Squires, I casually glanced to my right, taking in the familiar sight of a large red Coca-Cola machine. However, I noticed a sticker obstructing the upper-right corner. It said, “Calories count. Check then choose.”

I thought it was strange that a machine carrying notoriously sugar-laden beverages was warning me to mind my calorie consumption — this prompted me to investigate the origin of the sticker.

Through a quick Google search, I was led to the American Beverage Association website. These vending machine signs are part of the Calories Count Beverage Vending Program to combat the obesity epidemic in America and to remind consumers that “calories count in all the choices they make.”

According to the CDC, as of September 2016 more than one-third of adults in the U.S. are obese.

The program was launched in 2013 with the intention to remove full-calorie sodas from schools and provide students with smaller portions and better options.

According to the Calories Count Beverage Vending Program, “through this program, America's beverage companies are ... teaming together to encourage lower-calorie beverage choices and provide consumers with clear calorie information right at the point of purchase.”

These vending machines inspired me to look further into the calorific awareness movements dealing with food.

In 2008, New York City required chain restaurants to post calorie counts on menu

boards. The idea was to make calorie counts more prominent so that consumers would be inclined to choose healthier options.

Outlined in an article by Matthew Green in the Chicago Policy Review, studies were conducted shortly after the policy implementation occurred, along with a follow-up study.

“Their findings suggest that the mandate helped people notice calorie information before purchasing meals, but the effects were strongest immediately after the policy change in 2008 and dissipated over time,” Green wrote.

In the 2013–14 follow-up studies, customers were likely to notice calorie listings, but not likely to order the lower calorie options because of it.

For me, these findings are unsurprising. I find that when I decide to be health conscious and start focusing on lower calorie choices, I persevere for about a week. It's not that I don't value my health. I just cannot turn down the triple chocolate cookies at Turner forever.

What if listing calories isn't the best way to reduce caloric intake?

A study was conducted by Johns Hopkins University researchers in 2014 and published in the American Journal of Public Health. They found that telling people how much time it would take to burn off calories is more effective than listing calories.

The researchers placed different signs in six Baltimore corner stores. The sign that significantly reduced calorie consumption said, “Did you know that working off a bottle of soda or fruit juice takes about 5 miles of walking?”

Apparently threatening people with exercise proves more convincing than suggesting their choices are unhealthy.

My question is — should we be counting calories at all?

Last year, I embarked on a month-long health journey, the critically acclaimed Whole30 program by Melissa and Dallas Hartwig. There is a section in the Whole30 explaining potential issues with calorie counting.

“Your body knows how much you should be eating better than any calculator you'll find on the internet,” the Hartwigs wrote.

Granted, a poor diet gets in the way of our natural bodily counters. Based on the program, a proper meal includes one or two palm-sized protein sources, filling the rest of the plate with fruit and vegetables and a small portion of healthy fats.

Eating nourishing foods this way for about a month should allow the body to know when it is satiated.

I admire the steps the government has taken to make the U.S. a healthier nation. However, health is about far more than calories.



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KAILA NATHANIEL / COLLEGIATE TIMES
A vending machine in Squires Student Center, Jan. 30, 2017.

 @KatieRice_CT

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news

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PETITION: Critics say Ut Prosim is lost on Bannon

from page 1

align with Patton’s perspective and sense of community.

“We need to be accepting of all people and abide by our Constitution,” Finney said.

Kelli Hyre, another Blacksburg resident, held a sign reading, “White Feminism is White Supremacy,” with Hyre suggesting that the Women’s March on Washington focused too much on the issues of white women instead of the issues that all women face.

“White feminism is a sect of feminism that only focuses on issues of white women and needs to be intersectional and focus on the problems of all women,” Hyre said.

A considerable number of protesters were carrying signs indicating their disapproval of Steve Bannon in addition to Trump. Bannon, a notable alumnus of Virginia Tech and former head of Breitbart News, is currently the chief strategist to the president and will now be attending National Security Council meetings.

In addition to the protesters on Henderson Lawn, two petitions against Bannon have been circulating online. The first petition is an open letter to Bannon stating that the recent executive order goes against Virginia Tech’s principles of community and Virginia Tech’s motto “Ut Prosim,” currently

holding just under 600 signatories.

A Virginia Tech student who wished to remain anonymous expressed how the executive order could affect her. As a Muslim and an immigrant from Tunisia, this student was concerned for her mother who had recently left the U.S. on a mission trip and that if Trump placed bans on additional countries that her mother would be unable to return to the U.S.

“It’s a vigil in solidarity, I would like to see VT be a sanctuary campus and for VT to come out and support those that may be affected.”

Lydia Patton
philosophy professor

The second is a letter that disavows Bannon’s appointment by Trump and suggests that Trump should dismiss Bannon from his administration; it has over 4,900 signatories.

At the end of the protest, the protesters marched down College Avenue toward the Pylons, concluding with protesters lighting candles at the Pylons and chanting, “Hokies Don’t Hate.”

@RichChumney

Town Council’s forward thinking involves town, university growth

LEWIS MILLHOLLAND AND
CAROLINE PROVOST
managing editor and news staff writer

The Blacksburg Town Council held its quarterly work session on Jan. 31, 2017, to provide updates on its comprehensive plan, address community concern regarding the Windsor Hill pump station and to discuss the Virginia Tech Master Plan, as well as other issues.

As with every quarterly work session, the council began by updating the public on the progress of accomplishing strategic goals, which consist of preparing for Virginia Tech’s growth in enrollment, determining the future of the old middle school and high school properties, expanding recreational opportunities, planning for additional downtown parking, facilitating broadband and drafting plans for zone ordinances.

“We’re kind of slowly making progress on them. I think over the next two quarters you’ll see it accelerate because some of it is dependent on some of the consultants we’re getting ready to hire,” said Marc Verniel, the town manager. “Once we get the consultants rolling that will help make progress on several of these goals and we hope to be done around late fall.”

Anne McClung, director of planning and building, provided the council and the public with a five-year update of the comprehensive plan and addressed issues of citizen engagement and involvement.

“(The plan) really does need to address the impact of university growth. I think the community is more attune than they were in previous updates and we want to go forward feeling like this is truly a community vision and that they have shared their thoughts,” McClung said. “Everyone seems to be acknowledging that there is a certain amount of growth that is going to happen but the biggest concern is: How will it feel like Blacksburg?”

She said that her team will focus on getting documents of the plan out for review and ready for public hearings in January, February and March, and then proceed to look at school and university population in April.

Carol Davis, sustainability manager, discussed the possibility of further green

development in Blacksburg as well as potentially offering incentives and density bonuses to businesses who attain a certain development.

“I think the task before us is, depending on the direction we receive, to identify which of those elements are workable for the idiosyncrasies of this community,” Davis said.

She also offered a few examples of green development and successful implementation of legislation and standards in other states such as West Virginia and New York. However, Virginia is limited in that it can only further green development through incentives.

“Sadly, we do not have the same authorities that other states have to simply set those standards,” McClung said.

The council moved on to discuss the adequacy of the Windsor Hills pump station. Citizens of Harding Road raised concerns at the Jan. 24 Town Council meeting that the sewage system feeding into the pump station was overflowing, ultimately contaminating local wells.

Public Works Director Kelly Mattingly stated that while the issue warrants the town’s attention, there is no immediate evidence that the system has overflowed. He stated that even during critical situations, the wet well data logger never reported volumes of water higher than 3.5 feet below the surface, and the Windsor Hills staff have not observed overflowed non-liquid items (such as bathroom tissue, tampons and condoms) appear on land after a heavy rainfall.

“There’s a whole host of theoretical possibilities for overflows that could go undetected,” Mattingly said. “We just don’t have any evidence for that.”

Town Engineer Victoria Hoyland explained the town’s proposal to conduct a sewer water analysis on the site.

“The evidence (indicates) that there wasn’t an overflow at the wet well (during) the 2015 water storm that we had,” Hoyland said. “But we do not have in our models right now the ability to eliminate the possibility that there could have been an overflow upstream of that in manholes adjacent to the pump station.”

Hoyland announced that the town will conduct studies in the field to determine in what circumstances an overflow

scenario could occur, and determine if the storm in September 2015 matches those conditions.

Recently, after a series of rainy days in Blacksburg, a pocket of land within 50 feet of the Windsor Hills pump station fell in on itself — “It is a sinkhole,” said Deputy Town Manager Chris Lawrence.

“We can see what we can see on the surface, and we can see what we can see through a camera in the actual sewer line, but outside of digging there’s only so much that you can actually see,” Lawrence said. “So we’ll keep an eye out.”

Virginia Tech’s Assistant Vice President for University Planning Jason Soileau took the floor next to discuss updates to the Virginia Tech Master Plan and to the Creativity and Innovation District.

Most of the presentation was focused on improvements to the latter, which occupies the southeast side of campus. The district includes Moss Arts Center, Squires Student Center and Newman Library. Soileau discussed the intentional use of interior and exterior space as well as lighting and innovative structures to foster a community of creativity.

Drawing from pedestrian data collected through Virginia Tech’s MOVES App, Soileau dubbed Squires “a Great Wall of China.” Based on Virginia Tech’s graphics, the 79-year-old student center appears as an obtrusive island in a sea of heavy pedestrian traffic.

“Do we want to renovate Squires? Do we want to tear Squires down? Those are going to be the questions that we’re asking,” Soileau said. “We know that the functions that happen in Squires have to happen somewhere.”

Soileau reiterated the university’s intention to keep the town up-to-date on the Master Plan as it progresses.

The Town Council will next convene in a work session on Feb. 7. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Valentine’s Day, Feb. 14, at 7:30 p.m. in the Blacksburg Municipal Building at 300 South Main St.

@CollegiateTimes



ANDREW YOUNG / COLLEGIATE TIMES

Students gather in the Pamplin Atrium for the Global Business and Analytics Complex reveal, Feb. 1, 2017.

Pamplin to bring Global Business Analytics project

Dean Robert Sumichrast debuts big plans for 2-year-old Global Business Analytics Complex project, where expansion will be a huge priority.

LEWIS MILLHOLLAND
managing editor

It’s been nearly two years since Dean Robert Sumichrast first stood on the steps of the Pamplin Atrium to announce the Global Business and Analytics Complex (at that point it was called the “Business Learning Community.”) Wednesday afternoon, the dream took one step closer to reality when Sumichrast appeared on those same steps to formally reveal the project.

“(G-BAC) is going to be unique because we are using collaboration between the different colleges — because it isn’t going to be just a business school; it’s going to be something far greater than that,” Sumichrast said.

The \$250 million project

includes the construction of two new residential buildings to the south of the Inn at Virginia Tech for an approximate total of 700 beds. The residences will be populated by both Pamplin and non-Pamplin students to foster the university’s fledgling data analytics and decision sciences destination area, a curricular approach designed to “advance transduction of data into decisions.”

Sumichrast stated that the future of Pamplin may not be limited to the Blacksburg campus.

“I think there’s a good chance we’re going to want to expand some of these (G-BAC) facilities into northern Virginia, for example,” Sumichrast said. “There could be a place in northern Virginia for the business school, and for

data analytics and decision sciences at the undergraduate level as well.”

Pamplin’s welcome to the G-BAC will also be its final goodbye to Pamplin Hall, which will retain the Pamplin family’s name but will no longer be the hub of the business school. Sumichrast intends to break ground on the the Pamplin School of Business’ new home in 2020 and have students move in three years after.

“I hope that you’re feeling proud today. I hope that you feel some Pamplin pride,” Sumichrast said. “You’re getting a great education — you’re going to have an opportunity for a great career.”

@WithTheFancyGuy

GOVERNOR: Technology positions hold promise

from page 1

said. “You’re doing nothing about the underlying problem.”

The main course at the luncheon was red pepper coulis-topped lamb with the polenta and asparagus, the governor always being served last. Behind the governor’s seat was another of the U.S.S. Virginia’s pieces of silver, this time a large platter. The governor warned his guests to guard their lamb from Guinness, the first dog.

One of the student journalists asked McAuliffe his thoughts on student debt and the existing student loan system.

“I do think a lot of students get taken advantage of on these loans,” McAuliffe said before quoting \$30 billion of student debt in Virginia. The situation calls for a closer look, the governor said, because the current situation is “crippling.”

McAuliffe’s message

to college presidents was to “cut the fat” instead of raising tuition rates year after year. Virginia Tech, however, passed its lowest tuition raise for this current academic year since 2001, partially because the Commonwealth allocated nearly \$13 million in additional support for Tech.

The governor circled back to the topic of jobs repeatedly throughout the afternoon. He estimated there were 150,000 tech-related positions in the Commonwealth currently unfilled, and he believes a critical method to fill these jobs is to revamp K–12 education with a focus on STEM curriculum.

Last year, McAuliffe reported that the Commonwealth experienced 70 million cyber attacks — not counting private businesses — which comes to around two attacks per second.

“It’s very easy to find a job,” McAuliffe said. “But it has to be something

tech-related. It has to be some computer science, code writing, something like that.”

Near the end of the meal, McAuliffe backed off of the cyber-only agenda he had been pushing.

“I’ll take my governor hat off for a second. I’ll tell all the young people: first off, do what you enjoy,” McAuliffe said. “I push the cyber because it’s important to me as governor ... At the end of the day, follow your passion, do what you love doing. You don’t have to be a cyber warrior to be happy. But if you’re asking me, as governor, what jobs exist in Virginia, those are those jobs.”

McAuliffe himself holds a bachelor’s degree in political science and said his daughter is in Africa “saving elephants,” admitting that there was a world beyond technology. “I cannot imagine going to work every day in a job I don’t like doing,” McAuliffe said. “I can’t imagine anything worse.”

However, he did cut in with one last thought before conversation moved along.

“But — cyber!”

McAuliffe left after a dessert of opera cake and coffee, opening his house to the exploration of his guests. Portraits of Native-American leaders, English monarchs and former governors decorated the walls. The 205-year-old mansion has survived fires, a civil war and numerous restorations, but continues to stand strong.



LEONOR TAYLOR GRAVE / THE FLAT HAT

Gov. Terry McAuliffe speaks during a reporters’ luncheon at the Executive Mansion attended by student newspaper leaders, including members of the Collegiate Times, Feb. 1, 2017.

@WithTheFancyGuy

Northwestern

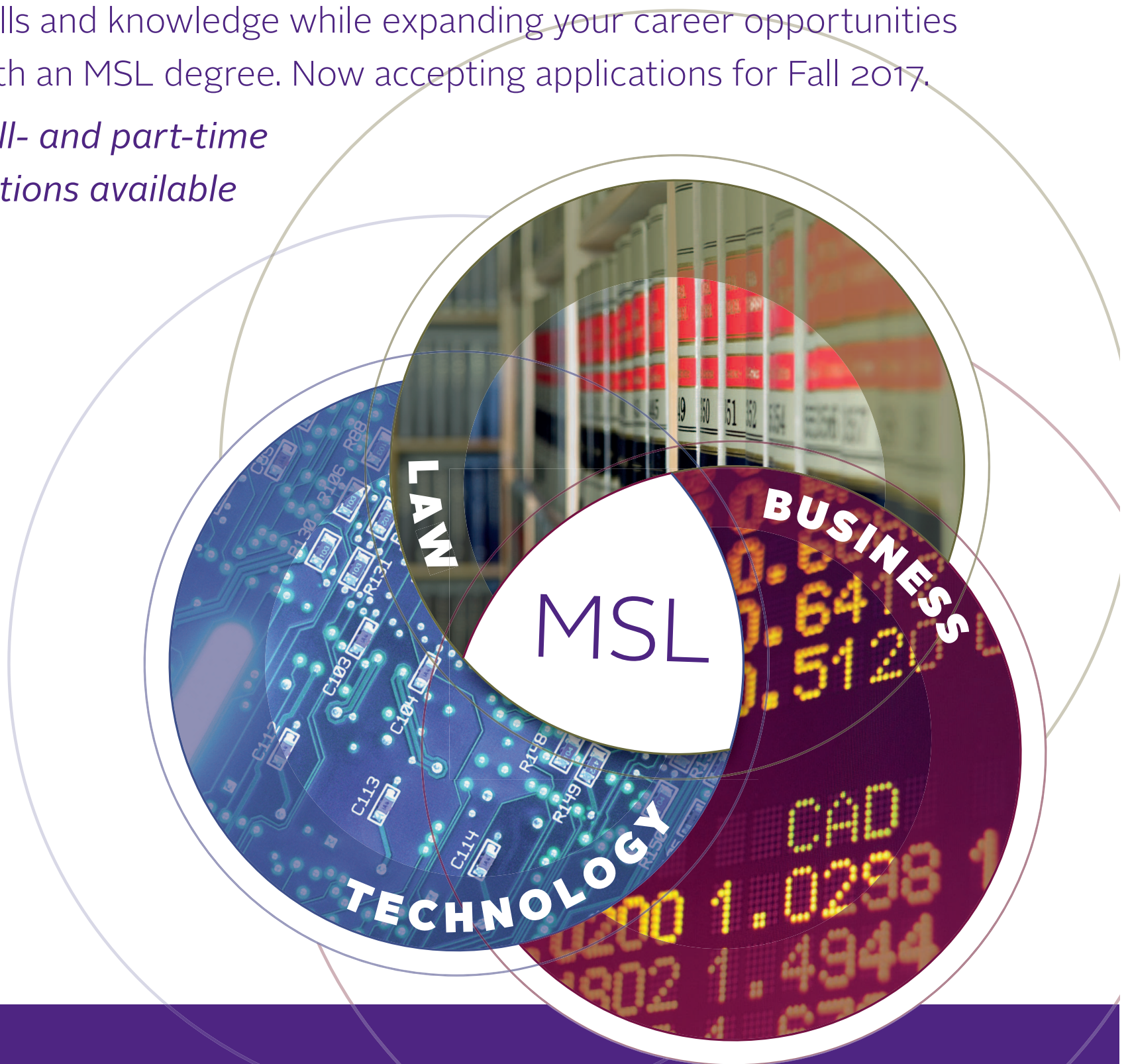
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