



Happy Fall, Hokies!

Dear FYE@VT Community of Practice,



As you know, my time in the FYE@VT office concluded on October 8.

It has been an absolute pleasure working with each of you these past four years. This is definitely bittersweet. I'm excited about my next move, semiretirement, and I will greatly miss working directly with each of you. I will never forget the quality, commitment, and richness that exists in the FYE@VT Community of Practice. Thank you for all of your support and your great work in support of our students.

I will continue to teach as an adjunct in the Management department at the Pamplin College of Business, work part-time with the GenerationOne Living-Learning Community, and as a proud Hokie alum, I will be on campus walking my dogs from time to time. I look forward to seeing what you continue to accomplish. If there's anything I can do to assist with this transition, don't hesitate to reach out.

Best regards,

Rex

Rex Waters | Associate Director of Undergraduate Academic Programs

In this edition...

- **What's New with FYE?** | p.2
- **The Next Chapter of FYE Support** | p. 3
- **Understanding Our Peer Educators** | p. 4
- **Upcoming Events** | p. 5

> From the FYE@VT Community

What's New with FYE@VT?

Transitioning Back to In-Person Learning

Relationships are an integral part of the first-year experience and we couldn't be more excited to have our FYE classes back in person this fall. Being face-to-face has brought so much joy and life back to our campus, and we are proud of the students and faculty for persevering through the past few semesters. It is inspiring to see how much the pandemic has taught us and how our faculty and students have integrated the best used practices of 2020 and 2021 into normal in-person instruction. A great example is in the Management 1104 course. Social distancing and utilizing the outdoors as a work space was a trend during the pandemic to stop the spread of COVID-19 and Management 1104 has used that to their advantage to cultivate relationships this fall. Using the Drillfield as their classroom, the students used cards with question prompts and took turns asking different peers to gain a deeper understanding of each other.



FYE@VT Council

The FYE@VT Council meets monthly to learn of the latest work in the office of FYE@VT and to support the ongoing initiatives for the year including current topics of interest, Winter Camp, Summer Institute, attribute application process, end of course reports, student evaluations, and the National Resource Center FYE award nomination process. Thanks to this year's Council for their service:

Buddy Howell, Advanced Instructor, School of Communication

Catherine Cotrupi, Assistant Director for Campus and Community Engagement, VT Engage

Dean Stauffer, Professor and Associate Department Head for Undergraduate Affairs, Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation

Herbert Bruce, Assistant Professor of Practice for Undergraduate Education, Department of Food Science and Technology

Kirsten Dean, High-Impact Practices Librarian, University Libraries

Leigh Anne Leist, Associate Director, Career and Professional Development

Matthew Komelski, Advanced Instructor, Human Development and Family Science

Mara Knott, Academic Programs Manager, Department of Engineering Education

Nala Miller, Student Program Assistant, Undergraduate Academic Programs

Renee Eaton, Undergraduate Program Director and Advanced Instructor, Department of Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise

Rex Waters, Associate Director of Undergraduate Academic Programs, UAA - Undergraduate Education

Robert Jacks, Director of Academic Advising, College of Architecture and Urban Studies

Ron Poff, Assistant Professor of Practice, Pamplin College of Business Department of Management

Alma Robinson, Assistant Instructor and Teacher in Residence, Department of Physics

Sherry Anton, Administrative Assistant, UAA - Undergraduate Education

Taran Cardone, Director, Learning Partnerships

Tiffany Shoop, Associate Director for Special Programs, Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning

> Support

The Next Chapter of FYE Support



Position: Assistant Provost for Undergraduate Education

Contact:

Office of Undergraduate Education
Burruss Hall, Suite 104,
Virginia Tech (0717)
Email: biscotsm@vt.edu
Phone: 540-231-4451

"I'm very excited for the opportunity to work more closely with the FYE community. It has been a pleasure to watch the FYE program mature (10 years!) into a signature university academic program. I'll do my best to ensure a smooth transition in the short-term as we continue to expand, evolve, and strengthen moving forward.

We are on the hunt now for a Coordinator for First-Year Experiences to support the program operations like managing the budget, planning events like Winter Camp and the Summer Institute, supporting peer mentoring, and managing communication efforts. I look forward to working with the new coordinator, Advisory Council, collaborators, the support staff and student interns, and every instructor and advisor who contribute to a successful student transition to Virginia Tech."

-Stephen Biscotte

The search for a Coordinator for First-Year Experiences at Virginia Tech is underway.

The Coordinator for First-Year Experiences is a 12-month administrative faculty position within the Undergraduate Education unit of Undergraduate Academic Affairs. As we narrow down the search, be on the lookout for invitations to attend presentations and review applications from the final candidates.

Contact Stephen Biscotte (biscotsm@vt.edu) if you have further questions about the position.

Peer Educator Training

This fall, all peer educator training was conducted in person. Peer educators performed exercises to engage with and learned about one another. There was high participation and engagement at each of the trainings and the students seemed glad to be together once more. Rex Waters led the trainings and emphasized his gratefulness for these student leaders who he believes are an integral part of First-Year Experiences at Virginia Tech. Our peer educators were lucky to be able to hear and learn from presentations from some of Virginia Tech's very best faculty and staff. The presenters were as follows:

Alicia Cohen, director of diversity programs in the Office for Inclusion and Diversity, taught students the importance of diversity on our campus and how to foster a welcoming and inclusive environment for first-year students.

Buddy Howell taught peer educators how to be leaders in communication and skills to be successful in their roles. Led by example with his engaging teaching style and personal anecdotes

Byron Hughes was featured via recorded video with his wisdom and acknowledged the impact that peer educators can and will have on the entire Virginia Tech environment.

FIRST-YEAR TIP SHEET

The FYE@VT Team has carefully cultivated a tipsheet for our first-year students. This guide teaches readers about our four cornerstones along with many great tips and resources to have a successful first year.

Be sure to be on the lookout for this FYE@VT Freshman Tipsheet.

Upcoming Events



- **Winter Camp FYE**
Date: Wednesday, January 12, 2022
Location: Torgersen 1060
For more information and updates, click [here!](#)

- **14th Annual Conference on Higher Education Pedagogy™**
Date: February 9 - 11, 2022
Location: The Inn At Virginia Tech & Skelton Conference Center
Contact: teaching@vt.edu, <https://chep.teaching.vt.edu>

- **41st Annual Conference on The First-Year Experience**
Date: February 12-15, 2022
Location: Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando, Florida
Sponsored by: National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience and Students in Transition University of South Carolina
Register [here!](#)