



THE BOTTOM LINE

VICE PRESIDENT FOR FINANCE AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER | MAY 2019

RECENT NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Open enrollment continues through May 15, 2019

The annual open enrollment period for health plan and flexible spending accounts is open through May 15. Make sure to view some of the [changes](#) made for the 2019-20 plan year, and review this year's [Spotlight on Your Benefits](#).

Additionally, this year employees may make open enrollment elections online through [Health Benefits Direct](#).

Search committee charge workshop now available online

An interactive multimedia module is available for individuals to complete their training on their own time and in a place of their choosing. In addition, the training is around 60 minutes long and can be completed in increments. Learn more [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

University Commencement

May 17

Note that university offices will open at **10:00** to help alleviate traffic congestion.

Annual Business Practices Seminar

May 21 | *The Inn at Virginia Tech*

This year's seminar will include sessions related to integrating strategic planning and diversity frameworks into business operations, and more.

Staff Appreciation Day

May 22 | 10am – 3pm | Owens Hall

OTHER NEWS? LET US KNOW

If you have any news, announcements, events or suggestions for upcoming newsletters, we want to hear from you! Reach out to Nick Woods at 1-6773 or nickwoods@vt.edu.

HPS LAUNCHES NEW BIOMETRICS PROGRAM

Hokie Passport Services has launched a new program that allows students to pay for meals at D2 with just a wave of their hand.



Students register for the program by scanning their hand through a reader set up at HPS registration station. Then, when entering D2, they simply swipe their hand through the reader to gain admittance. The scan process takes less than a second, and should provide increased throughput at the dining center.

In addition to increased convenience for students, it offers reduced cross-contamination and addresses hygienic concerns since the technology is contactless.

If the program continues to grow in popularity and effectiveness, there may be opportunities to deploy the technology in other areas across campus as well.

Learn more about the program, its benefits, and how it works [here](#).

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Jim Buckwalter

IT Manager and Customer Service Coordinator

Finance Information Technology

[Read more...](#)



YEAR-END CLOSING DATES

Several key FY19 year-end closing dates for disbursement of funds are coming up soon. [View the list](#) for a refresher.

VT HOSTS FOCUS 2019 SPRING MEETING

Virginia Tech hosted the Spring Meeting of the Fiscal Officers of Colleges and Universities State Supported (FOCUS) on April 24-25 at the Inn at Virginia Tech. More than 170 finance professionals from institutions across Virginia were in attendance.

Presentation topics at the event included:

- ◆ Addressing board and management needs
- ◆ Fraud risk management in higher ed
- ◆ Virginia529 update
- ◆ Taxes / UBIT / IRS Audit discussion
- ◆ Politics update
- ◆ Welcome and Keynote presentation from our own Dwight Shelton.
- ◆ And many more...

If you are interested in any of these topics, you can view the [archived video presentations](#) on the FOCUS website. A big “thank you” to the folks in the Controller’s Office for their hard work to host this event!

STAFF APPRECIATION DAY

VT’s annual Staff Appreciation Day festivities are scheduled for May 22 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Owens Hall.

If you are an eligible employee and have not already done so:

- ◆ View the [event brochure and agenda](#).
- ◆ [Register](#) for tours and activities that are of interest.
- ◆ Read the administration’s [memo of support](#) for the event.
- ◆ View a [map](#) of locations for all the day’s activities.

For more information about Staff Appreciation Day, you can also view the [event website](#).

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

JIM BUCKWALTER



WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE HOBBIES?

I enjoy collecting and restoring antiques: clocks, mechanical banks, oil painting, marbles, etc. I also have built my own CNC (computer numeric control) machine for projects and I've built a couple of guitars as well.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PLACE YOU'VE VISITED?

I spent six months in Central America in the late eighties, but my wife and I enjoy the beaches of North Carolina and Asheville, NC.

ANY PETS?

We own three Bichon Frise dogs: Jasper, Primrose, and Sophia.

WHAT WOULD YOU DESCRIBE AS YOUR MOST IMPORTANT ATTRIBUTES OR STRENGTHS?

I try to see life from a realistic point of view and I care about other people.

PREFERRED TYPE OF MUSIC?

I enjoy a variety of music, but I prefer classic rock, folk, and pop from the '60s and '70s.

WHERE'S SOMEWHERE YOU'VE NEVER BEEN, BUT WOULD LOVE TO VISIT SOMEDAY?

Australia

WHAT'S THE BEST PIECE OF ADVICE YOU'VE EVER HEARD?

"Respect is how to treat everyone, not just those you want to impress." -*Richard Branson*

WHAT'S ONE OF YOUR WEIRDEST QUIRKS?

I am a compulsive counter...I count everything. Ceiling tiles, carpet squares, edges of window panes, people at meetings, etc.

WHAT IS THE MOST REWARDING THING ABOUT YOUR JOB?

Relieving people of stress when I am able to help them overcome an obstacle that is preventing them from doing their job.

IT MANAGER / CUSTOMER SERVICE COORDINATOR

FINANCE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

JOINED VIRGINIA TECH IN: JULY 2000

PERKIOMENVILLE, PA (an hour-drive northwest of Philadelphia)

JBUCKWAT@VT.EDU

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST JOB?

I washed dishes at a local restaurant when I was 16.

WHAT IS THE ONE FOOD OR BEVERAGE YOU ABSOLUTELY COULD NOT GO WITHOUT?

Pizza

FAVORITE SPORT OR TEAM?

I'm a lifelong Philadelphia Eagles fan!

WHAT'S ONE THING OUTSIDE THE OFFICE YOU'RE MOST PASSIONATE ABOUT?

My backyard