



SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AND  
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
VIRGINIA TECH.

## SPIA Community November Update

Dear SPIA Students, Faculty and Staff:

Are we there yet? No, end of the Fall semester is still a few weeks away but I hope everyone is sprinting toward a successful finish line.

The last few weeks have been rather busy for SPIA. From the Open House event at the Arlington campus to a campaign promoting SPIA on WMATA & WAMU, news about SPIA is proliferating with great energy! See photos and more information below.



Continuing this positive momentum, SPIA will start its 2019-20 lecture series in December by hosting *Iraq from Crisis to Crisis: A Dialogue Between MP Sarkawt Shamsulddin* (youngest serving member in Iraq's federal parliament) and *Dr. Abbas Kadhim* (senior fellow at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies). The event takes place on 12/4/19, noon, at our Arlington campus. Space is limited, so **please [RSVP](#) as soon as you can**. We will have many more speakers next semester.

There are a few deadlines coming up for exciting study opportunities, so please be sure to the upcoming events section below.

Happy Thanksgiving to all of you.



Sincerely,  
Mehrzad

Mehrzad Boroujerdi, Director  
School of Public and International Affairs  
Virginia Tech

#### **Open House**

On November 1, we had a great Open House in Arlington to celebrate our new location and over 75 faculty, staff, alumni, and students (current and prospective) attended. At this event we inducted Matthew Worner, an auditor with U.S. Department of Defense Office of Inspector General and 2008 CPAP alumni into SPIA's Alumni Hall of Fame. Check out some of the pictures of this event [here](#).

#### **#ispyVTSPIA on WAMU & WMATA**

We ran two weeks of radio ads on WAMU (NPR Station in Washington, DC) and, if you were streaming WAMU programming or listening to their podcasts throughout the month, you would have also heard SPIA spots. In tandem with WAMU promotions, SPIA was featured on the month-long bus and metro advertising campaign in the Washington Metropolitan area that has already led to new inquiries from prospective students.



**Mehrzad Boroujerdi, PhD** @VTSPIDirector · Nov 13

Always puts a smile on my face when I catch sight of one of these @VTSPIA buses. Go SPIA! #ispyVTSPIA



**Virginia Tech SPIA** @VTSPIA · Nov 12

Bus in @ArlingtonVA knows what's up! Earn a Masters or PhD on your own time with @VTSPIA. Learn about our flexible learning options in Arlington, Blacksburg and Richmond: [spia.vt.edu/degree-overvie...](https://spia.vt.edu/degree-overvie...) #ispyVTSPIA



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## Upcoming deadlines!

From January 6 to 17, 2020, SPIA will offer a two-week seminar entitled Washington Experience: US Congressional Oversight in Action led by Professors Matt Dull and James Harder. The deadline to register is **December 15** and you can see the draft syllabus [here](#).

The early decision deadline for SPIA's only study abroad course (Sustainable Policy-Making & Planning in Europe) is **December 1**. Read more about this course [here](#).

## SPIA Faculty News

Some of SPIA faculty in Blacksburg and Arlington attended media training sessions to be more skillful when sharing their expertise through the mediums of public media. Also, Emily Roediger, CAUS' Director of Communications accompanied Dean Richard Blythe to Arlington and took pictures of our faculty and students that you can see [here](#).

Speaking of media, SPIA faculty have been featured in recent news publications:

- Professor Ralph Buehler was quoted in this article on cycling in America.
- Mehrzad Boroujerdi quoted in a New York Times article on protests in Iran.

SPIA faculty continued their impressive accomplishments:

- Professors Stephanie Davis (CPAP) and Todd Schenk (UAP) were selected as the recipients of CAUS Certificate for Excellence in Outreach. They will each be receiving this recognition at a ceremony in Spring 2020.
- Professor Ariel Ahram published a [report](#) on how the United States can escape the Middle East's proxy wars.
- Professor Theodore Lim (UAP) was selected to participate in the 2020 Professional Development Institute (PDI) Program.
- Professor Ralph Hall (UAP) played a key role in researching and preparing a report on VT Food Access and Security that you can read about [here](#). Ralph and his colleagues also organized SPIA's fun Third Annual "Get to Know You Event" on the Blacksburg campus on November 15.

**Students & Faculty**, if you have any news relevant to the SPIA community you would like to be featured in the upcoming SPIA eBulletin please forward it to [spianews@vt.edu](mailto:spianews@vt.edu).

To submit pending publications, funding announcements, or awards for potential coverage on broader Virginia Tech platforms, please email Dr. Mehrzad Boroujerdi and Emily Roediger ([eroedig@vt.edu](mailto:eroedig@vt.edu)).

