



SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AND  
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
VIRGINIA TECH.

## SPIA Community October Update

Dear SPIA Students, Faculty and Staff:

As the Fall Semester is now well underway, I want to update you on a range of SPIA activities that have taken place over the last four weeks. Please see the calendar below.

Looking forward, November has a lot in store for the SPIA community:

- SPIA will be hosting an **Open House on Friday, November 1, 4 - 6 pm** in to celebrate the new Arlington location. Please let Julie Hudson ([julieHUDSON@vt.edu](mailto:julieHUDSON@vt.edu)) know if there is someone you would like invited. Celebrate with the rest of the SPIA community and [RSVP to attend!](#)
- SPIA will be running a campaign in the Washington D.C. metro area to let the region know that SPIA is now in Arlington and to showcase our many degrees. SPIA will be sponsoring live broadcast programming on WAMU from November 4 to 17. Additionally, SPIA will sponsor WAMU streaming and podcast programming for the month of November. Simultaneously, SPIA will be running ads on the DC Metro system. Ads will be in silver, orange and blue line rail cars as well as on Metro buses. This will blanket all of Northern Virginia and DC.

Here is a little challenge for you: if you see a SPIA ad on the bus or metro, remember to tag [@VTSPiA](#) and [#ispyvtspia](#)

**Finally, I want to thank everyone who sent in their suggestions for our marketing campaign.** Clearly, crowd-sourcing works as we have embraced a good number of the suggestions that were made. Now, I want to replicate it.

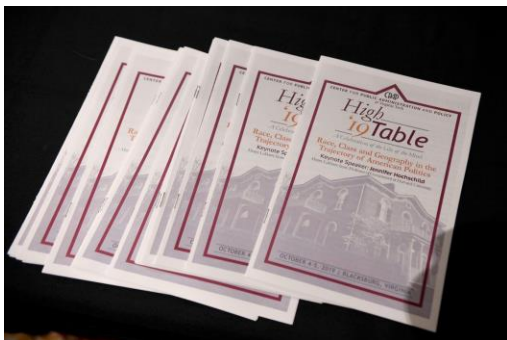
As VT just launched its most ambitious [Capital Campaign](#), I hope you can send me your suggestions for SPIA's fundraising campaign or if you are so moved to join the 10+ individuals who have made a financial [contribution](#) to the school over the last few months.



Sincerely,  
Mehrzad

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

**October 4-5:** CPAP held its fantastic annual “High Table” event in Blacksburg where Professor Jennifer Hochschild, the Henry LaBarre Jayne Professor of Government at Harvard University, was the guest of honor. See pictures of the two-day event [here](#).



**October 7-8:** I had the chance to visit SPIA’s Richmond campus to see the delivery of the Virginia Public Sector Leader Program (led ably by SPIA’s associate director in Richmond Leisha LaRiviere), and attend a reception for prospective students. One can see great potential for SPIA to expand its footprint in Richmond.

**October 9:** [SPIA Advisory Board](#) held its first meeting of the current academic year in Blacksburg and Professor Ralph Hall made a presentation about SPIA’s undergraduate program. At this event, Ms. Lynn Schnurr, an executive consultant to General Dynamics Information Technology was elected as

the new chair. We also welcomed SPIA alum and donor Jerry E. Cox as a new Board member. Board member Dr. Minnis Ridenour and I also had a chance to inform the CAUS Advisory Board about SPIA.



**Mehrzad Boroujerdi, PhD** @VTSPIDirector · Oct 16

.@VTSPIA allows working professionals to advance & pursue graduate studies without interrupting their careers. Evening classes, distance learning and flexible degree options are designed to help you succeed. Learn more at [spia.vt.edu](http://spia.vt.edu) #AUSA2019 @vtncr @VTGradCommunity



**October 14-16:** SPIA participated for the first time in the Association of the U.S. Army (AUSA) annual meeting and expo, together with other VT departments (i.e., mechanical engineering, chemical engineering, the graduate school) from the greater Washington DC metro area. The three-day event brought together industry, active duty, reserve and retired military from 80 countries. VT was one of 700 exhibits on the floor of the Walter Washington Convention Center, where a stream of over 30,000 attendees passed by to check out the newest military exhibits, education programs, and other exhibits of interest. The VT booth experienced a steady flow of alumni whose smiley faces and 'Go Hokies' chants caught the attention of surrounding booths. One of them even played the VT anthem on his cell phone. Several industry recruiters also came by; "I never hired a 'bad' Hokie, only good ones," he said. "Keep up the excellent education you offer, we need Hokies." See some of the photos [here](#).

**October 22:** SPIA successfully completed a Risk Assessment Audit conducted by VT's Office of Audit, Risk, and Compliance.

## Reminder!

**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).

If you have any publications or funding announcements you would like to be highlighted to the greater VT community, please email Dr. Mehrzad Boroujerdi and Emily Roediger ([eroedig@vt.edu](mailto:eroedig@vt.edu)).

