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Subject: Welcome to Virginia Tech and the College of Science
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Welcome to Virginia Tech and the College of Science! From one Hokie to another, I'm passing along some information that I know I wished had been made available to me as a rising freshman.

First, I'll tell you a little bit about myself: I'm a rising senior who matriculated as an out-of-state student. I'm going to be graduating in May 2010 with a BS in Biology, Microbiology/Immunology option, and a History minor.

Outside of class, I'm a member of the Phi Sigma Biological Sciences Honor Society, the Microbiology Club, and the Dean's Leadership Council. This summer, I will also be a Hokie Camp Counselor.

While I'm a bio major, through my time in the Dean's Leadership Council and as an orientation assistant in the College of Science last summer, I've become very familiar with all the majors in the College, as well as many aspects of the university overall.

Through the summer and the beginning of the fall semester, I'll be updating a blog that I started last summer, The Guide to Hokie Life (<http://freshmenhokie.blogspot.com>). The old entries will be reposted as they become relevant again, so look for updates starting in the middle of June.

Here are a few things you should get started on as new Hokies:

- If you haven't done so already, go to Hokie Spa (hokiespa.vt.edu) and create a PID. Your PID serves as your email (PID@vt.edu) and your access to several VT websites, including Blackboard and Hokie Spa. There are step-by-step instructions on the Hokie Spa main page (click "New Students" under PID Creation).
- Get used to checking your VT e-mail at least once daily. It's common to get more than 10 e-mails in a day from your department and the College with advertisements about internships, seminars, club meetings, or new class offerings. Make sure you actually read all the e-mail, too. You might miss out on something if you don't go through the entire message.
- Register for Orientation! What sessions you can attend depend upon your major (for instance, in 2008, Biochemistry only had sessions the first week).
- Also on Hokie Spa: Choose a Dining Plan. Click "Hokie Spa" on the main menu and then select "Housing and Dining Services". You can only select a meal plan if you have already completed a housing contract (the option to do this is on the same page).
- Get your health forms completed. Students in the College of Science will be blocked from registering for Fall classes at Orientation if their health history forms have not been received by Schiffert Health Center by their Orientation date. You can access the forms in PDF at this website

<http://www.healthcenter.vt.edu/healthhist.htm>

- Request the following to be sent to VT:
 - AP or IB scores for tests taken before your senior year and transcripts from the college if you took dual-enrollment courses. Tech cannot award you credit simply from your high school transcript.

I believe that's all for right now. If you have any questions about anything, from what dining plan to choose to what sort of clothes are acceptable for Orientation, feel free to e-mail me at edietzel@vt.edu.

Have a great end of your senior year! You'll be hearing from me again soon, either through e-mail or the blog.

--Elizabeth (Beth) Dietzel
Virginia Tech Class of 2010
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