

# The Daily Tar Heel

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## One year later, campus moves on



The Virginia Tech CRU Powderpuff team practices Saturday on the drillfield at the Blacksburg campus. On April 16, 2007, Cho Seung-Hui killed 32 people on campus before turning the gun on himself.

### Va. Tech draws together to remember

BY ELIZABETH DEORNELLAS  
STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

One hundred years after its founding and a year after a gunman killed 32 people on campus, Virginia Tech's Engineering Science and Mechanics Department boasts an all-time high enrollment.

"It's fitting that as we celebrate our centennial we remember the tragedy of last year but we also look toward the future," said ESM department head Ishwar Puri.

Puri lost two colleagues last April 16 when Cho Seung-Hui, 23, shot two of his fellow students in a dormitory and then entered Norris Hall, where he shot 30 students and faculty before killing himself.

"I still remember the feeling of sadness, of shock," Puri said. "I felt that I had fallen down a precipice, that I had fallen into an abyss."

The dizzying aftermath of the tragedy has given way to a new sense of purpose, as Puri and his colleagues prepare to open new service-oriented research labs in the once blood-stained Norris Hall.

The building will be fully operational again this fall, after renovations complete the installation of engineering labs, a global technology hub and the newly cre-

ated Center for Peace Studies and Violence Prevention.

"This change in both the appearance of the area and in the purpose of the activity in place of just simple classroom teaching in that area is suitable," Puri said. "It also takes us beyond our personal and professional loss, and it helps in our recovery."

Sue Ott Rowlands, Va. Tech dean of liberal arts and human sciences, said the peace studies center will expand on the university's commitment to service that grew out of the tragic events of April 16.

The program, called VT-ENGAGE, has already logged nearly 250,000 hours of student, faculty and staff volunteer work.

"In a way we're trying to take what happened on April 16 and turn it to the most positive effort that we can imagine," Rowlands said.

Today the university will honor the memory of its 32 fallen Hokies with an official commemoration held on the university drillfield and a candlelight vigil.

Many other anniversary events on the Blacksburg, Va., campus this week seek to use the arts as a means of reflection.

"It's a deep, human need to express," said Shannon Turner, pro-



COURTESY OF COLLEGIATE TIMES/SHAOZHOU CUI  
This ribbon, made by third-grader Madison Belle, has hung on a tree outside a Blacksburg, Va., elementary school since April 2007.

gram coordinator of the community group Honoring Experiences, Reflections and Expressions.

"Art making is directly tied to the spirit."

Turner said the arts events in Blacksburg this week are seeking to recapture the emotional spirit of the tragedy's immediate aftermath.

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### N.C. campuses retool safety

BY REBECCA PUTTERMAN  
ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

In the year since the Virginia Tech shootings, North Carolina universities have made changes to campus security.

Some new initiatives were part of ongoing efforts to evaluate how to keep students safe, while others have been prioritized after recommendations by two different campus safety task forces.

The system-sponsored UNC Campus Safety Task Force presented its findings in November 2007, while the task force appointed by N.C. Attorney General Roy Cooper released a report in January.

The task forces came to the table

with dove-tailing plans for how the state's universities could best prevent and respond to issues of campus security, ranging from mental health to emergency preparedness and support services.

"Universities in North Carolina are already doing a lot to promote campus safety," said Brad Wilson, chairman of the state task force and a member of the UNC-system Board of Governors.

"Things are in place on our campuses to make them safe," he said. "But we identified needs in the future that will require funding from the General Assembly."

The Board of Governors' 2008-09 budget will go before the N.C.

General Assembly in May, with \$29 million in new funding for campus safety at the top of its priorities.

UNC-Chapel Hill has already begun meeting the UNC Campus Safety Task Force's recommendations for the first deadline in August.

#### Emergency notification

Alert Carolina, UNC-CH's emergency notification program, utilized its emergency text messaging for the first time March 5, when students were alerted of an off-campus shooting victim later determined to be former Student

SEE UNC SAFETY, PAGE 8

### Reflecting from a distance

Editor's Note: Sophomore Robby Francis transferred to UNC from Virginia Tech this year. These are his thoughts on the campus shooting a year later.

April 16, 2007, was a day that turned my world upside down. It was a day that redefined a university and changed lives forever.

As a previous student of Va. Tech, I endured what was the most emotional and tragic day of my life. As I sat in my dorm room on the second floor of West Ambler Johnston, I watched the flood of worsening news about what would be the worst account of school violence in U.S. history.

I saw the looks of despair, gloom and misery. I felt an empty feeling of hopelessness and was surrounded by darkness.

Our world had been twisted by this senseless and atrocious act. At the time, it seemed as if all hope was lost ...

But this soon changed. What followed was incredible. Our moment of greatest despair was paired with the greatest showing of compassion I've experienced.

The outpouring of sympathy and concern came from every level. That day I received countless e-mails and calls consoling me. It didn't just stop there.

Students from every university sent their sentiments; political leaders visited campus to pray for the lives lost, and thousands of vol-

unteers came to comfort students. Everywhere you looked there was someone willing to help.

On the day of the convocation, thousands of Va. Tech Hokie fans lined the streets clad in maroon and orange waiting to pay their respects to the 32 students and teachers killed.

During the program you could hear the crowd chanting the infamous "Let's Go, Hokies" cheer.

It was at this moment when the true healing process began. The university came together and united around the true feeling of pride that Va. Tech thrives on. In a way, we were all proud, proud to be a Hokie and proud of what we stood for.

Author Nikki Giovanni summed it up best during her convocation speech: "Through all this sadness, we are the Hokies. We will prevail ... we are Va. Tech."

She was right — we were still working to get over this horrible tragedy, but there was hope that we would eventually overcome.

Still to this day, the Va. Tech community is working to heal the wound left from this absurd act. Today on this one-year anniversary, please remember to keep those affected by this tragedy in your thoughts and prayers.

Together we stand united and can accomplish the unthinkable. The memories of April 16 will live on, but with your help we can overcome and strive for a better and brighter future.



A signed Virginia Tech hat adorns a cardboard memorial on the drillfield in Blacksburg, Va., for the victims killed on April 16 of last year.

### Remembering those lost

- |                              |                         |                          |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Ross A. Alameddine           | Rachael Elizabeth Hill  | Juan Ramon Ortiz-Ortiz   |
| Christopher James Bishop     | Emily Jane Hilscher     | Minal Hiralal Panchal    |
| Brian R. Bluhm               | Jarrett Lee Lane        | Erin Nicole Peterson     |
| Ryan Christopher Clark       | Matthew Joseph La Porte | Michael Steven Pohle Jr. |
| Austin Michelle Cloyd        | Henry J. Lee            | Julia Kathleen Pryde     |
| Jocelyne Couture-Nowak       | Liviu Librescu          | Mary Karen Read          |
| Daniel Alejandro Perez Cueva | G.V. Loganathan         | Reema Joseph Samaha      |
| Kevin P. Granata             | Partahi Mamora Halomoan | Waleed Mohamed Shaalan   |
| Matthew Gregory Gwaltney     | Lumbantoruan            | Leslie Geraldine Sherman |
| Caitlin Millar Hammaren      | Lauren Ashley McCain    | Maxine Shelly Turner     |
| Jeremy Michael Herbstritt    | Daniel Patrick O'Neil   | Nicole Regina White      |



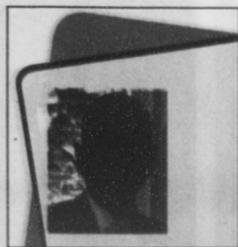
On the night of the shootings, three Virginia Tech students mourn the loss of their classmates at a vigil held outside the War Memorial Chapel.

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**YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT**  
So make sure you know what you're eating. Tips from a nutritionist on what's good and good for you at campus dining locations.

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**NEWSPAPERS SUE**  
N.C. news organizations are suing Gov. Mike Easley. They claim that his policies and practices regarding deleting e-mails violate state public records laws.



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**WHO'S UP THEIR SLEEVES?**  
The Daily Tar Heel examines higher education movers and shakers who fit the criteria and position description identified by the chancellor search committee.

this day in history

**APRIL 16, 2002 ...**  
Two UNC seniors are robbed at gunpoint about 4 a.m. near campus. The victims said they feel less safe near UNC's campus after the incident.

weather

Sunny  
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