Galipatian Station

WHILE YOU PEE IN LEE

COMPILER

**Sarah Maxseiner
Computer Engineering
Sophomore**

Hikes Less Traveled

**Garrett Bimstefer
Engineering Science &
Mechanics
Sophomore**

As we get further into the semester, it may be beneficial to get out of your room and appreciate the great outdoors. The tranquil essence of an isolated hiking trail is just what the doctor ordered for stressed students. Luckily, we are only a car ride away from some of the most magnificent hikes on the east coast; however, this is a double-edged sword. Frequented spots like McAffe's Knob can become very crowded. Would you like to admire the breath-taking views that Virginia has to offer, but don't want to deal with the hustle and bustle of popular trails? This is the hiking guide for you. Here are a few of the remote hiking trails available to you.

Massie Gap to Mount Rogers Summit:
Within the Grayson Highlands State Park, the 8.6-mile out-and-back Massie Gap to Mount Rogers trail is one of the premier hikes in Virginia. While there is no single "payoff" view, the entire trek through the vast Grayson Highlands offers incredible views of the expansive Blue Ridge Mountains. Also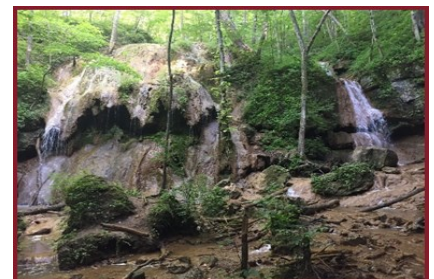, you may encounter wild ponies roaming the countryside! Just be sure not to feed them. Once you reach the summit of Mount Rogers, just turn around and admire the views all the way back to the parking lot.
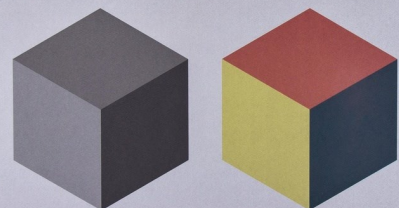
Bottom Creek Gorge:
This 3.7-mile loop offers a secluded stroll by the babbling brooks of the Bottom Creek stream. As you travel further into the hike, the trail regrettably separates from the stream as you gain altitude. However, you will soon climb to the vantage point and gaze upon the scenic source of the Bottom Creek Gorge. Enjoy the view and simply complete the loop back to the parking area.

Mill Knob Trail:
The short but sweet 0.8-mile Mill Knob Loop displays some of the most fascinating natural structures in the area. This hidden gem will transport you to a fantasy world of mind-boggling limestone outcroppings and distorted waterfalls. Take some time to relax and admire the rock formations that were carved over millennia. If you're looking for some extra hiking, the 0.8-mile route is connected to another 2.7-mile trail, but there aren't any additional interesting views.

You have two identical cubes. Is there a hole you can cut in one of the cubes that the other can fit through without splitting it in two?

EE vs. CPE vs. CS

Nathan Eurich
Computer Engineering
Sophomore

Hello Galipatia! By this point in the semester, I am sure most of you have been to multiple major info sessions to figure out what you want to study for the rest of your time here at VT. In this article, I want to talk about Electrical Engineering, Computer Engineering, and Computer Science and explain what unites them and sets them apart.

You can think of these three majors on sort of a continuum, with EE on one end, which focuses on hardware, CS on the other end, which focuses on software, and CPE in the middle, which focuses on the interaction and combination of software and hardware. This continuum is only representative of how the curriculum is set up, not what you will be confined to in the working world. Do not feel like choosing one of these majors will limit you to one field for your entire career.

A good way determine how much you like or dislike software, and thus where you fall on the continuum, is to see how much you like doing your ENGE 1215 and 1216 MATLAB assignments. These basic assignments provide the fundamental skills for software development and gives you a taste of what programming is like.

All three of these majors have an in-major class next semester, ECE 1004 for Electrical Engineering and Computer Engineering, and CS 1114 for Computer Science; taking either of these courses can help you decide which one of these majors is right for you. If you find that you have a burning hatred for all of them, most other engineering majors require a coding elective. You can go ahead and knock out your elective with one of these classes.

During the application process, you will select the committees you wish to join by order of preference. Make sure to choose something you enjoy and that you wish to see grow. For example, if you like tinkering and working in the studio, select the studio committee. If you like writing articles and blogs, making videos, and designing websites, select the communications committee. There is a great fit for everyone. Additionally, if you enjoyed the mentoring program and would like to provide the same experience to incoming freshmen, consider becoming a mentor as well. The application process for becoming a mentor is slightly different and includes an interview, but it's worth it!

Why Stay in Lee?

Rafael Arbex-Murut
Computer Science
Sophomore

As the semester comes to an end, you may notice that many of your friends figured out their housing plans. You are probably worried about figuring out where you will live next year yourself! If you have not signed a lease, or are still looking for a place, do not stress! There is a great opportunity for you to live in Lee for a second year, by applying to become an Galipatia upperclass leader.

There are many great reasons why you should become an upperclass leader. Besides the guaranteed preferential on-campus housing, you will have access to the (newly refurbished!) lounge and Studio 1&2 for another academic year. You can also partake in the community and leave your legacy. As you probably know, the events you have to attend and the mentoring program are all coordinated, planned, and organized by fellow upper classmen.

The benefits you get from becoming an upper-class leader extend beyond your time here at Virginia Tech. Consider the fact that employers love leadership experience. Many corporate partners of the CEED office often hire students who are able to lead, plan, and organize.

Becoming an upperclass leader in Galipatia is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Stay on the lookout for that application!