

THE VIRGINIA TECH CORPS OF CADETS ALUMNI MAGAZINE

CORPS REVIEW

VOL. 30 NO. 2 FALL 2020





The Highty-Tighties and the Color Guard line up on Worsham Field to film the national anthem. The video was played at the start of each home football game in lieu of a live performance.



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WE RISE TO THE OCCASION

It's the question on everyone's mind. "What is the impact of COVID-19 on the Corps?"

Well, the short answer is that the Corps, numbering 1,182 cadets (an increase over the previous year again), has risen to the challenge.

Throughout the summer, the Corps staff and the university as a whole focused on how to deliver as much of the student learning experience as possible in-person and within guidelines established at the federal, state, and local levels.

Working with the fall cadet leaders, preparations were made to conduct cadre training and New Cadet Week on the normal schedule, beginning two weeks prior to classes starting.

Just as the U.S. military has adapted its training and protocols to reduce the potential for acquisition and transmission of the virus, so did we in the Corps. This included everything you would expect, from the wearing of masks, physical distancing, increased hand sanitization, and adjustments in how we conducted formations and parades.

The bottom line is that all the traditional training that is expected for our cadets is being accomplished. If anything, it has brought a whole new meaning to the term "taking care of your troops." The entire chain of command understands that the decisions made and discipline shown can be measured in very real terms.

Has the Corps and the university been immune from the virus? No. But well-executed testing, isolation, and quarantine protocols have allowed our program to continue, unabated. A full New Cadet Week parade and a

full-Corps parade were accomplished, with both events livestreamed to thousands of viewers.

Because in-person alumni-related events are being postponed, our alumni office and cadets stepped up to conduct a full week of live, online activities that allowed our cadets and alumni to remain connected.

The Caldwell March for the Class of 2024 was conducted, and the Class of 2023 cadets who missed out on their march last spring were able to close the loop on that tradition, too.

The cadets have managed the transition to in-person, hybrid, and online classes well. And I'm pleased to see all the work that the cadet chain of command and staff provided to assist all our cadets, and in particular our first-year cadets, in adjusting to the current "normal" of college academic programs.

It's a testament to all involved — staff, cadets, and alumni who continue to generously support our development of leaders of character — that we are achieving such success.

You couldn't ask for a finer program to create leaders who take these kinds of challenges in stride and rise to the occasion.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Randal D. Fullhart". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Maj. Gen. Randal D. Fullhart, U.S. Air Force (retired)
Commandant of Cadets

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI 2020

This year's recipients of the Distinguished Alumni of the Corps award found success in both the military and in business and showed the difference a commitment to service can make in their communities.

Donald D. Sowder '59 and Robert A. Archer '69 were recognized for their achievements during the virtual Corps Celebration Week in September.

Archer is chairman and CEO of Blue Ridge Beverage Co. Inc. The company



Robert A. Archer '69

is one of the largest, full-service wholesale beverage distributors in Virginia. Archer commissioned into the U.S. Army and served with the 82nd Airborne Division, including service in Vietnam with the 22nd Replacement Battalion. He attained the rank of colonel and retired from the Army Reserve in 1999 after 30 years of service.

Alongside that, he has participated in numerous charities and community organizations, including those benefiting the military and their families, and is

currently the rector of Radford University's Board of Visitors.

Sowder is a retired pharmaceutical industry executive with Lederle/Wyeth



Donald D. Sowder '59

Laboratories (now part of Pfizer Labs).

He worked his way up the ranks to national sales management, earning worldwide

responsibility for all U.S. government business and all federal healthcare agencies in Washington, D.C.

In the Army, he served one active duty tour, then transferred to the Virginia National Guard and later to the Army Reserve, where he finished his 30-year career at the rank of colonel as the inspector general at the U.S. Military Academy.

He has remained active in local government, including serving on the Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors. And he joined the Corps of Cadets' alumni board in its early years. He helped develop a recruitment-training manual and served as the Government Affairs Task Force chairman.

The Corps Review is published two times a year by the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Inc. (VTCCA).

J. Pearson '87, Chairman, VTCCA

Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart, Commandant of Cadets

Shay Barnhart, Communications Director and Editor

Sandi R. Bliss, Chief Advancement Officer

Photography: Shay Barnhart; Lee Ann Ellis; Kathy Fullhart; Randal Fullhart; Dave Knachel; Samantha Riggins; Allisen Haynes '23; James Kemp '21; Zenas Koranteng Mensah '21; Cyrus Rodriguez '23; Mary Sion '22; Megan Watkins '21

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Front cover: Skipper Crew fires the cannon from the practice field adjacent to Lane Stadium at the first home game of the season against N.C. State. The Hokies won 45-24. Photo by Shay Barnhart.

Back cover: Echo Company Executive Officer Grace Hall '22 (left) and Commander Blain Mainz '21 take the first hour-long shift of Echo's Veterans Day vigil at the Pylons at midnight Nov. 11. Photo by H. Pat Artis VT'71.

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NOMINATIONS FOR 2021 AWARD DUE JAN. 15

The Corps' alumni office is accepting nomination packages for the 2021 Distinguished Alumni of the Corps award until Jan. 15, 2021. Information concerning criteria, selection process, and package information can be found in the alumni section of the Corps' website. Please note that nominees must be living.

ALUMNI ANNOUNCEMENTS

FROM THE ALUMNI OFFICE

I will try to avoid all the clichés about what we have been going through lately and will instead focus on the positive! I, along with my colleagues on the Corps' advancement team, have been learning a lot about hosting online events.

While we miss having alumni return to campus for reunions, panels, and football, we have been able to reach so many of you on Zoom that we just couldn't in real life.

Corps Celebration Week, held Sept. 21-25, reached well over 250 alumni and friends, many of whom haven't been back to campus in years. Participants were able to attend the Distinguished Alumni of the Corps award ceremony, hear about the history of the Corps, and see many of its artifacts. But the most mentioned and highest-rated aspect of the week was the opportunity to see and hear so many of today's cadets: the Growley team, the historians, organization leaders, and of course, my personal favorites, the Cadet Alumni Team, who took everyone on the tour of Upper Quad and hosted trivia night. We look forward to having in-person events again, but I think virtual events will continue to be a part of our outreach from now on.

Uncertainty makes planning for spring semester challenging, to say the least, which is all the more reason why you should follow us on social media — we're VTCAA on Facebook and @vtcorpsocadets on Twitter and Instagram — plus let us know of any address changes (updates@vt.edu) and make sure your Class Champion has your email address of choice. These all are channels we will use to make announcements once plans are made.

Not sure who your Class Champion is? Drop me line at mmessner@vt.edu, and I'll get you connected.

If you are looking for an excuse to return to the 'Burg on a more permanent basis, there's another reason to stay in touch. We will be posting the job announcement for alumni director once the Virginia Tech hiring freeze is lifted.

In the meantime, I am honored to continue "holding down the fort" for all of you.

Ut Prosim,

Michele Messner,

Alumni Director Assistant, mmessner@vt.edu

YOUR CADET ALUMNI TEAM IS READY TO SERVE

The Cadet Alumni Team (CAT) formed in spring 2019 and has really found its stride in the past year.

Prior to its founding, the regimental alumni liaison would request help from the regimental supply and finance officer when preparing for large events that required more hands on deck. This meant that a new group of cadets would need to be trained each time, and we were never sure who we would get.

Eleanor (Franc) Sever '19, the fall

2018 alumni liaison, recognized that a permanent team was needed that had been vetted and trained and was committed to serving Corps alumni.

A formal proposal was submitted to the commandant and approved. The first team members were tapped in spring 2019.

This semester, they are being led by an alumni liaison, Cadet Anthony Gaspar '21, and his assistant, Ben Janosy '22, who have both worked their way

up through the ranks of the CAT. They have also gone through the process to obtain cords and organizational pins.

The next time you are at a reunion, football game, or other event and have a question or need help, look for a cadet wearing a maroon and metallic gold cord or a pin with the cupola of Lane Hall outlined in gold.

Gold is featured on both because that's the level of service they deliver to alumni: the gold standard.



Sam Bickford '53 (left) takes a look at the original Skipper cannon in the lobby of Pearson Hall West during a tour of Upper Quad given by Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart, commandant of cadets. During the visit, Bickford made a generous donation to his endowed scholarship, the Samuel Bickford '53 Scholarship, to increase the number of cadets who will benefit from it each year.

NEW TASK FORCE GETS TO WORK

In December 2019, a new Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Inc. board task force formed. The Alumni Relations/Class Champion Task Force is chaired by Mike Miller '93, who is also a Class Champion.

The group's mission is to support the alumni office and the alumni network, and it highlights the value placed on strengthening connections with and among Corps alumni while still protecting your privacy.

Miller and his task force are here to serve you and can be reached at hokie@att.net.

PARTICIPATE IN THE HOKIE GOLD LEGACY PROGRAM

The Hokie Gold Legacy Program was initiated by class members from the Corps of Cadets' 1964 M Company, with support from the Alumni Association. Alumni or families of alumni can bequeath or donate their class rings, which are either melted down to create Hokie Gold to be included in the class rings of the next junior class, or retained for future display.

To continue the program in perpetuity, a small amount of Hokie Gold will be reserved from each year's melt to be included in the following year's Hokie Gold melting for the next class. West Point and the Naval Academy have similar programs.

The inaugural Hokie Gold Legacy ring melt occurred May 2012 at the VT-FIRE foundry on the Virginia Tech campus. Representatives from the classes of 1964 and 2014 were present at the melt, and the resulting metal was given to the



On Oct. 2, six rings were included in this year's melt.

class ring company for refining and inclusion in the Class of 2014 rings.

Hokie Gold Legacy Program questions can be directed to Laura Wedin at

540-231-6285 or lwedin@vt.edu. You can learn about how to donate a ring, tax deductions, and shipping instructions at alumni.vt.edu/hokiegold.

CHALLENGE ACCEPTED

By Regimental Public Affairs Officer Megan Watkins '21

Student life across Virginia Tech's campus has become a virtual reality that defines our new normal. We, as cadets and students, have found new heights of strength and community, the kind often overlooked if we confuse unforeseen change as difficulty.

The Corps of Cadets came together for the fall semester without the normality of face-to-face interaction and fostered an atmosphere driven by a united pursuit to push through hardship. Although COVID-19 precautions diminished the in-person education we were all comfortable with, we are learning to adapt and continue moving toward our future.

Taking on this unique time of global pandemic has been an experience we, as cadets, will all certainly never forget.

Regimental Commander and Air Force cadet Mame Ngom '21 said all cadets had to rise to the challenge of having to change the way things have traditionally been done to incorporate safety measures, such as wearing masks, physical distancing, and increased hygiene standards.

"Returning to campus during a global pandemic has defi-



Cadets Devin Scofield '22 (left) and Darby Dummer '21 walk past Lane Hall. Photo by Megan Watkins '21.

nitely posed a variety of challenges. Within the Corps of Cadets, a lot of leadership has had to navigate new and fast-changing protocols and policies," she said. "Coming back to a college campus and trying to ensure everyone's safety as well as our own was a multi-faceted issue."

Within the Corps and the ROTC programs, active training and events needed to go on, despite the fact that "dealing with a pandemic has made facilitating these things a hundred times harder," Ngom said.

However, once everyone got into a battle rhythm, became comfortable with COVID-19 testing, and understood how to better keep each other safe, moving forward progressively became easier.

"Virginia Tech is beginning to feel like home again.

Returning next semester and

knowing how long we have stayed on campus already will definitely make the next adjustment period a lot easier," she said.

Second Battalion Sergeant Major and Air Force cadet Margaret McConville '22 said that life in the Corps and the ROTCs "has drastically changed" because of the pandemic.

"Using the previous models for the training plans we have

used every year has proved to be inadequate for planning purposes,” she said. “Therefore, leadership must lay the foundations for operations, keeping [COVID-19] mitigation procedures in mind the entire time. This way, plans are already infused with safety techniques, and a new precedent for training can be set.”

Kilo Battery Commander and Army cadet Zach Young '21 said the pandemic offers new leadership lessons for cadets. “As a leader during this crisis, I personally have learned so much about leading in uncertainty, flexing with ever-changing guidance, and supporting the greater cause by initiative-driven involvement.”

A positive change he has seen is new autonomy at the company level. To support physical distancing, companies have moved to small-group training. This has increased productivity and provided a more realistic experience, as a cadet learn to operate as a future military officer, Young said.

The most important change Young has seen is the level of discipline cadets are required to keep. Not only do we have to perform all normal military functions, but we do them now at a distance while wearing a mask.

It has also been a challenge for morale, forcing companies to think creatively to host safe gatherings. Events have become more manageable by new ways to handle food or having multiple small-group gatherings. Cadets have tried to make fall as normal as possible.

This semester has created an even more unique experience to learn leadership in.

As the regimental public affairs officer, Megan Watkins '21 manages the Corps' Instagram account (@vtcorpsofcadets), coordinates the cadet photographers, and supports publicity efforts. She is in the Corps' Citizen-Leader Track and majoring in marketing.



Cadets Hunter Lambert '23 (left) and Trey Gustafson '23 work on statistics homework in a study lounge. Photo by Allisen Haynes '23.



Cadets gather for training behind Lane Hall. Photo by Allisen Haynes '23.



Cadets maintain more than 6 feet separation while working out in the PT pit outside Lane Hall. Photo by Allisen Haynes '23.

A LEARNING EXPERIENCE

By Capt. Jamie McGrath '90, deputy commandant for 3rd Battalion



Jamie and Kiki McGrath as cadets in 1990 (above) and today during a hike near Blacksburg.



Several times during my Navy career, I tried to return to the Naval ROTC unit at Virginia Tech, knowing I wanted to help give others the opportunity that the Corps of Cadets had given me.

These attempts were unsuccessful, but not all bad. Instead of returning to Virginia Tech, each attempt resulted in a different amazing opportunity. I taught prospective nuclear power officers at Naval Nuclear Power School; served as the Naval Forces Europe liaison to European Command in Stuttgart, Germany; coordinated global exercises for the joint staff; and served on the faculty of the U.S. Naval War College.

But when the opportunity arose for me to return to the Corps as a deputy commandant, I jumped at the chance to return and serve the organization that served me so well.

Many people have asked what it is like to return to Blacksburg, Virginia, after almost 30 years. It is definitely different from being a student.

Living all four years on campus limited our experience with the broader community. The New River Valley and Southwest Virginia is a beautiful place to live, and my wife, Kiki (Clos) '90, and I have learned so much more about the area compared with our time here in the late 1980s, like an apple orchard in Pembroke or a general store in Paint Bank.

People also ask if we recognized campus from all the changes since we left. The truth is, the campus does not look all that different.

Yes, there are more buildings, and buildings where there used to be parking lots, and the Corps residence halls are A LOT nicer than Brodie and Rasche, but the feel has not changed. The Drillfield, War Memorial Chapel, Burruss Hall, Lane Stadium, Cassell Coliseum, and the renovated Upper Quad remain focal points of this beautiful campus.

Even on a rough day, walking campus still calms my soul. As always, Hokie football is still worth getting up early for on a Saturday morning or staying up late on Saturday night (six overtimes to beat North Carolina!)

Our return to Blacksburg in 2019 went as Kiki and I expected _ for about six months. We experienced all that the Corps does in the fall, from New Cadet Week to the Caldwell March, football games, and the Old Guard pass in review, homecoming and parent's weekends. Each event was a learning experience for us as we viewed it from the staff's perspective instead of the cadet or alumni perspective.

Spring semester began normally enough, with Senior Banquet and Mili-



Jamie McGrath (center) works with cadets during a rehearsal for a ceremony at the Pylons this fall.

tary Ball. But spring break occurred, and nothing has been normal since because of COVID-19.

When students did not return, all our plans were upended.

Mentoring cadets is much more difficult when they are not on campus. Cadet leadership lost the opportunity to lead. The Class of 2020 lost out on the pomp and circumstance of change of command, graduation, and commissioning. The Class of 2023's freshman training ended abruptly without resolution. Uncertainty reigned.

The commandant's staff spent the spring and summer trying to determine how the Corps would run during the fall semester. What precautions must be taken? What training could still occur? What objectives would need to be adjusted?

As a Corps alumnus, fellow alumni bombarded me with questions, asking what fall would look like. Unfortunately, I had fewer answers than I would have

liked. But once the decision was made for students to return, the cadet leadership proved yet again why this program is so great.

Given some basic guidelines, the cadre used their imagination and executed a most unique New Cadet Week and Red Phase training plan. They, working with the commandant's staff, devised ways to meet all the Corps training objectives in new and creative ways while maintaining COVID-19 safety protocols. They maintained a resilient chain of command that adapted as some cadets were isolated or quarantined as part of those protocols.

So, while the past year has been far from what I expected, one thing has shone through – the Corps' resiliency.

It is an honor to serve the Corps of Cadets and these future military officers and civic leaders as they prove daily what it means to live up to the university motto, *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve).



WE WILL BE STRONGER

By J. Pearson '87, chairman, Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Inc.

COVID-19 caused us to cancel all our fall events. At least there was football, although we could not be in Lane stadium, jumping and cheering our Hokies on. (Dang it.)

We had our fall Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Inc. board meeting and virtual homecoming week by Zoom. Most of us never heard of Zoom until this crisis came about. Meeting virtually and all the technical parts that go with it has been a challenge, but we have persevered.

Our cadets continue to adapt to the new regulations created to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Their discipline, along with the commandant's leadership, have enabled the Corps to lead the university in containing the virus.

The Class of 2024 has 374 members.

Our Corps is now 1,182 cadets strong. They come from 26 states/territories and 25 countries.

Our efforts to be more inclusive are paying off, too. The Corps is now 22 percent female (largest percentage ever), with 55 percent from in-state, 45 percent from out-of-state. Our Corps now represents 38 percent Army, 22 percent



Cadets (from left) Dallas Spruill '24, Lesly Molualisi '24, and Marc Mendez '24 take the flags from players during the pregame ceremonies for the Boston College game in Lane Stadium in October.

Air Force, 20 percent Navy, 6 percent Marine option, and 14 percent Citizen-Leader Track.

I hope we have our normal spring events such as our board meeting and our junior and senior cadet socials in person. Look for more announcements as we get closer to spring.

I hope and pray that all of this will be over by then.

The cadets are adapting to the challenge of COVID-19 without complaint. They are wearing masks in formation on the Drillfield, just as they are when they go to class. The Corps is bigger, and smarter than ever before. Our cadets, as well as we alumni, will emerge stronger in the end!

I hope you and your family stay safe. Go Hokies!

PLEASE REMEMBER, AS ALUMNI WE MUST **COMMUNICATE, PARTICIPATE, AND DONATE!**

MANY OF THE CORPS OF CADETS' ACTIVITIES STILL HAPPENED THIS FALL, WITH ACCOMMODATIONS FOR COVID-19 SAFETY.



Col. Rock Roszak '71 gives a presentation on the history of the Corps during the first night of Corps Celebration Week on Sept. 21. The virtual event included discussions with cadet leadership, and a trivia night.



Cadets march a pass in review on Oct. 2. This was a graded training event that counts toward the annual Beverly S. Parrish Award, also known as the Gold Cord, given to the top company in the Corps. Photo by James Kemp '21.



First-year cadets make the fall Caldwell March on Oct. 10. The 13-mile trek honors the journey Addison Caldwell made to enroll as the first student at Virginia Tech and marks the end of the first phase of new cadet training.



The Corps had a short, outdoor observance on Veterans Day that included the placing of a wreath, Echo Taps, and a rifle salute.



Cadets donate blood during one of two multi-day blood drives this semester, put on as a service project by cadets in the Citizen-Leader Track program. Photo by Allisen Haynes '23.

CLASS NOTES

1960s

Bob Miller '67 was chosen by the Virginia Beach (Virginia) Jaycees as this year's Virginia Beach First Citizen. The award honors those who are instrumental in furthering the welfare of the Virginia Beach community.

1980s

Karen Connors '86 is president of the first chapter of the Gary Sinise Foundation in central Florida. The foundation, started in 2011 by the actor Gary Sinise, supports military, veterans, first responders, and their families.



Col. Norman Hepner '88 has retired from the Air National Guard, effective Dec. 31.

His final assignment was as the 156th Medical Group commander for the Puerto Rico Air National Guard. Photo courtesy 156th Wing Public Affairs.



U.S. Army **Col. Mark R. Himes '88** graduated from the U.S. Army War College with a

master's degree in strategic studies on June 5.

1990s



U.S. Navy **Capt. Rich Davis '90** (retired) was hired in June as an assistant director of admissions and Corps of Cadets liaison for the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at Virginia Tech. He also acts as the veterans liaison within the office. Photo courtesy Virginia Tech Undergraduate Admissions.



U.S. Army Reserve **Col. Andrew J. Talmadge '93** graduated from the U.S. Army War College

with a master's degree in strategic studies on July 24.

U.S. Navy **Cmdr. Jason A. Darish HT'95** recently reported to U.S. Fleet Forces Command in Norfolk, Virginia,

from headquarters, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

2000s



Maj. Waldon W. Jue '01 (right) became the first Army National Guard soldier to direct commission as a cyber operations officer on July 30. Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams '84, the adjutant general of Virginia, presided over the direct commissioning ceremony. Jue is assigned to the Virginia National Guard's Fairfax-based 144th Cyber Warfare Company, 124th Cyber Protection Battalion, 91st Cyber Brigade. Prior to his commissioning, Jue held the rank of sergeant first class and was assigned as a platoon sergeant in the 144th Cyber Warfare Company. He had previously deployed twice to Afghanistan and was awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

2010s

Master Sgt. John Grimesey '14 (right) was awarded the nation's third highest award for valor, the Silver Star Medal, during a ceremony at Pope Field, North Carolina, on Aug. 14. A special tactics combat controller with



the 21st Special Tactics Squadron, 24th Special Operations Wing, Grimes was recognized for his efforts in Afghanistan in 2013. He not only saved the life of a fellow special operations troop, but called in multiple airstrikes while being under attack by the enemy. U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. Katie Spencer.



J.P. Snyder '16 (right) was promoted to captain by his former Virginia Tech Naval ROTC Marine officer

instructor Maj. Ahmad Martin in a private ceremony aboard MCB Hawaii in July.



Eric Zimmerman '16 and **Jocelyn (Lamb) Zimmerman '17** were married in Alexandria, Virginia, on Nov. 2, 2019. Photo courtesy KPC & Co. Photography.



Parker S. Manning C'18 was appointed vice president and president-

elect of the Virginia Tech Alumni Association Chapter for Columbia, South Carolina. Manning commissioned into the Army in May 2018 and has been on an educational delay to complete law school at the University of South Carolina. Parker Manning is pictured with his brother, Bruce, at the November 2019 Notre Dame game in South Bend, Indiana.



2020s

Cadet Corbin Will '23 spent part of his summer catching King Salmon in Craig, Alaska.

Submit your deployments, job and rank changes, awards and honors, family announcements, photos, and other news at vtcc.vt.edu/classnotes.

BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE BACK COVER

We are incredibly lucky to have H. Pat Artis VT'71 regularly contribute his photographs to the Corps Review covers. A lot of thought and work goes into setting up his photos, especially the night scenes. For the photo buffs: He used two lights to capture this edition's Veterans Day picture for the back cover. First, a key light illuminates the engraved face of the cenotaph. You can see a tripod and a little light in front of the cadet on the left side. Second, was a 4-by-4 softbox lights the standing cadet. You can see the edge of it just in front of the loyalty Pylon. Finally, the camera is in the right foreground.



STARTED IN 2006 BY IMG SPORTS, THE HOKIE HEROES PROGRAM HONORS CORPS OF CADETS ALUMNI WHO ARE DEPLOYED DURING THE HOKIE FOOTBALL SEASON.



Duke game: U.S. Air Force Maj. Michael Biederman '06 is deployed to Iraq.



Miami game: U.S. Army Sgt. Alexander Unkle '16 is deployed to Iraq.



NC State game: U.S. Navy Lt. Cassandra Quick '15 is deployed to the South China Sea and the Gulf of Oman.



Wake Forest game: U.S. Air Force Capt. Jordan Schafer '15 is deployed to southwest Asia.



Louisville game: U.S. Army 1st Lt. Peter Unpingco '18 is deployed to Kuwait.



North Carolina game: U.S. Navy Ensign Jake McCormick '18 is on a training rotation in Norfolk, Virginia.



Boston College game: U.S. Air Force Capt. Kimberly Markovcy Veal '15 is deployed to southwest Asia.



Liberty game: U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Chris "Cathy" Eckel '09 is deployed to the South China Sea and the Gulf of Oman.



Clemson game: U.S. Army Maj. Nick Nelson '08 is deployed to Kosovo.



Pittsburgh game: U.S. Army 1st Lt. Jocelyn Zimmerman '17 is deployed to Afghanistan.



Virginia game: U.S. Air Force Capt. Garrett Treaster '16 is deployed to Afghanistan.



A new cadet takes a Guidon book after checking in during New Cadet Move-In in August.

RECRUITING IN THE AGE OF COVID-19

By Lt. Col. Dave Williams '79, U.S. Army (retired)

The pandemic has brought about many changes, and the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets has not been exempted, particularly in the area of recruiting.

Normally, we would be at the height of the fall recruiting season, with Corps alumni volunteers assisting the university admissions office at college fairs across the East Coast and beyond.

All of these in-person events are now in a virtual format.

Now, more than ever before, we need to be networking to get the Corps' message out to high school seniors and juniors. Because they are not able to come to us at the college fairs, we need to find them.

Who do we know in our families, our extended families, our work contacts, our civic contacts, and our church contacts who are the parents/grandparents of these high school-age students? Reach out to them and talk from your heart about the Corps and its amazing track record of graduating leaders for both the military and civilian worlds.

If you don't feel qualified to talk in detail about the Corps, just guide them to the Corps' online home at vtcc.vt.edu. If you need inspiration for them (and for ourselves) go to vt.edu, find "virtual visit," then scroll down to the list of topics and select "Corps of Cadets." That will launch an amazing two-minute film on the Corps that will make you proud!

Beyond networking for this year, I would encourage you to not lose sight of the long game in the area of recruiting. Our goal remains to have 1,400 cadets in the Corps in two to three years.

The pandemic will either pass or an effective vaccine will be available soon. Alumni recruiters are working on exciting programs to get the Corps' message out to high school students through renewed contact at Society of American Military Engineers conferences, the Civil Air Patrol, and scouting. Let's look forward to participating in these programs as well as a return to our traditional recruiting role at college fairs.

Ut Prosim.

SENIOR CADET COMMANDERS, FALL 2020



REGIMENTAL COMMANDER **MAME NGOM**

Cadet Col. Mame Ngom is pursuing a degree in political science. She plans to commission into the U.S. Air Force upon graduation. She has held multiple leadership positions in the Corps and Air Force ROTC. In the Corps, she served as a fire team leader and as the fall 2020 semester

regimental sergeant major. In Air Force ROTC, she served as Alpha Flight commander. Humbled and honored to serve the regiment, Ngom is also a member of the Color Guard. She is the recipient of an Air Force ROTC Scholarship.



FIRST BATTALION COMMANDER **JACK LONGO**

Cadet Lt. Col. Jack Longo is pursuing a degree in biological systems engineering with minors in Naval leadership studies and biomedical engineering. He plans to commission into the U.S. Navy upon graduation. He has served as a

platoon sergeant for Alpha Company and as sergeant major for 1st Battalion. Humbled to serve his team, Longo is a member of the VT Running Club and is a recipient of a Naval ROTC scholarship and an Emerging Leader Scholarship.



SECOND BATTALION COMMANDER **VINCENT STEVENS**

Cadet Lt. Col. Vincent Stevens is pursuing a degree in computer science with a minor in leadership studies. He will commission in May 2022 into the U.S. Air Force and is aspiring to be a pilot. Within the Corps, he served as a fire team leader his sophomore year, Echo Company first sergeant in the fall of his junior year, and squad leader and platoon sergeant in the spring of his

junior year. In Air Force ROTC, he has served as a physical fitness officer, element leader, flight commander, and the Robert Femoyer Service Squadron commander. Proud to serve 2nd Battalion, Stevens is a member of the Scabbard and Blade Military Honor Society and the Robert Femoyer Service Squadron and is a recipient of an Air Force ROTC scholarship.



THIRD BATTALION COMMANDER **CATHERINE WALLS**

Cadet Lt. Col. Catherine Walls is pursuing a degree in political science with a minor in leadership studies and plans to commission into the U.S. Marine Corps upon graduation. Walls has held multiple leadership positions in the Corps as well as her Platoon Leader Course platoon.

In the Corps, she has served as the Band Bravo Company first sergeant as well as the 3rd Battalion sergeant major. In PLC, she has served as a squad leader and the platoon's guide. Additionally, Walls is a proud Highty-Tighty and is honored to serve 3rd Battalion.

COMMAND STAFF, FALL 2020



Regimental Executive Officer
Connor Donnelly
Mechanical Engineering
Citizen-Leader Track



Regimental Adjutant
Kalvin Yuan
Business Management,
Entrepreneurship,
Innovation, and Technology
Management
Air Force



Regimental Public Affairs
Officer
Megan Watkins
Marketing
Citizen-Leader Track



Regimental Operations
Officer
Cameron Shiner
Finance
Army



Regimental Supply and
Finance Officer
Melonie Malette
Human Nutrition, Foods, and
Exercise
Air Force



Regimental Academics
Officer
Daniel Dugan
Industrial Systems
Engineering
Air Force



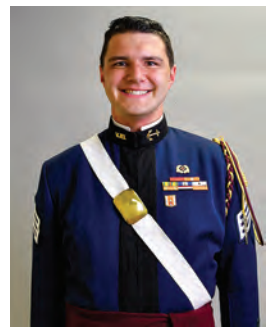
Regimental Sergeant Major
Ethan Anthony
Political Science
Army



Regimental Inspector
General
Brittany Neff
National Security and
Foreign Affairs and Spanish
Army



Honor Court Chief Justice
Hana Schlesinger
International Relations and
Russian
Air Force



Regimental Alumni Liaison
Officer
Anthony Gaspar
Business Information
Technology
Navy



VPI Battalion Commander
Bryan Bethke
Management
Citizen-Leader Track



Army Battalion Commander
Alex Yerina
Economics
Army



Navy Battalion Commander
Ladson Walls
Industrial Systems
Engineering
Navy



Air Force Wing Commander
Josh Stevic
Physics
Air Force



Growley Handler
Dara Qualter
Biomedical Science
Citizen-Leader Track



Alpha Company
Commander
Kevin Back
Civil Engineering
Air Force



Bravo Company Commander
Omar Djembekov
National Security and
Foreign Affairs and Russian
Army



Charlie Company
Commander
Anna Miller
Meteorology
Navy



Delta Company Commander
Darryll Ducusin
Public Relations
Air Force



Echo Company Commander
Blain Mainz
History
Marines



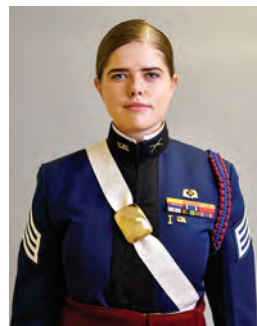
Foxtrot Company
Commander
Angela Clay
Meteorology
Air Force



Golf Company Commander
Jon Royster
Construction Engineering
and Management
Navy



Hotel Company Commander
Cole Shipman
Mining and Minerals
Engineering
Army



India Company Commander
Alicja Karaszewska
Political Science
Army



Kilo Company Commander
Zachary Young
Building Construction
Army



Lima Company Commander
Christopher Caron
Civil Engineering
Navy



Band Commander
Noah Bayer
Industrial Systems
Engineering
Air Force



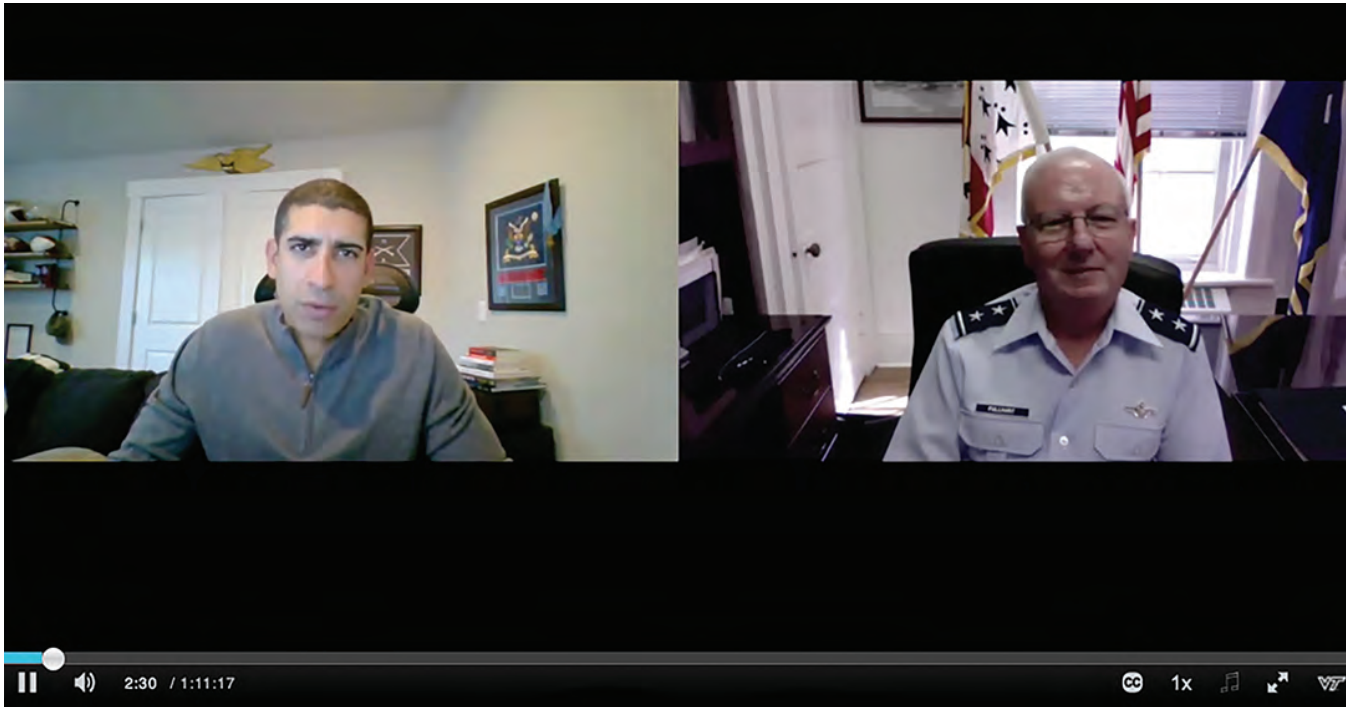
Band Alpha Commander
Caitlyn Godsey
Industrial Systems
Engineering
Air Force



Band Bravo Commander
Matthew Brandt
Physics
Navy



Drum Major
Dillan Murphy
Networking and
Cybersecurity
Citizen-Leader Track



U.S. Army Capt. Florent Groberg (retired), who received the Medal of Honor for actions in Afghanistan in August 2012, (left) speaks online with Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart, commandant of cadets, as part of the Cutchins Leadership Lecture Series.

RICE CENTER FINDS NEW OPPORTUNITIES

By Elaine Humphrey, director, Maj. Gen. W. Thomas Rice Center for Leader Development

The Rice Center for Leader Development has seen a number of tradeoffs as it adjusts to the ever-changing landscape of COVID-19.

The primary change has been in regard to the Cutchins Leadership Lecture Series. Traditionally, the regiment would gather in Burruss Auditorium to listen to accomplished military service members and civilians discuss leadership.

This fall, the speakers graciously agreed to have Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart, commandant of cadets, interview them via Zoom.

The tradeoff has been that a special group of speakers was available with the simpler logistical requirements. Additionally, by recording the interviews, we have been able to give cadets two days to view the recording to allow everyone to watch, even multiple times if they like.

COVID-19 has also caused changes to Corps Lab. Seating capacity policies resulted in new cadets, sophomores, and juniors attending classes online, while Senior Corps Lab had a small enough enrollment to allow these cadets to still meet

face to face. Outdoor classes, such as battalion time and parade practice, have been able to continue in real time with safety precautions such as wearing masks and observing physical distancing in place.

A tradeoff of the freshman Corps Lab going online has been that rather than weekly class meetings on Monday night in McBryde Hall the new cadets have had a video each week that provided the instruction without the distractions of their buds and hunger pangs.

Finally, this semester, we have seen a number of institutions convert their leadership conferences and symposiums to a virtual format.

While this means our cadets do not have the opportunity to travel and meet new people in person, it also means many more of our cadets can “attend” these leader development events. Again, it is about tradeoffs and making the most of the new opportunities.

The Rice Center plans to use the positive lessons learned moving forward.

WALKING IN CALDWELL'S FOOTSTEPS

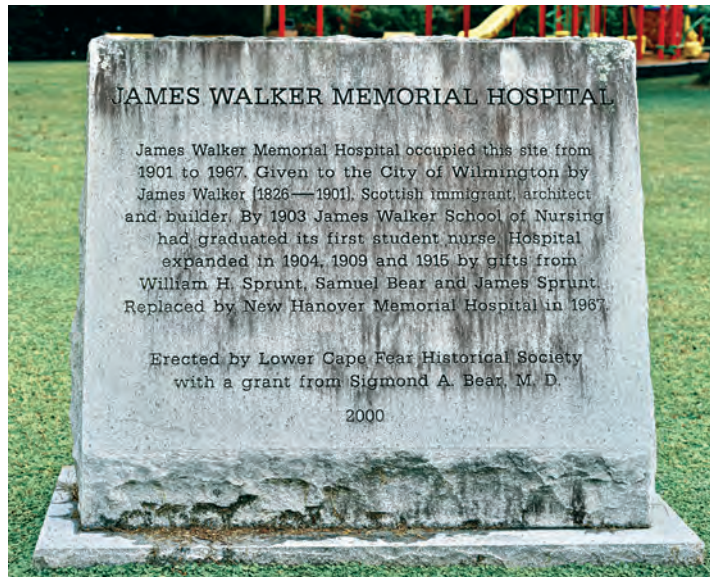
By Samantha Riggin VT'16, Corps museum curator

I did not participate in the Caldwell March, which honors the 26-mile trek that William Addison Caldwell made in 1872 to become the first student enrolled at Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College. But Col. Patience Connelley Larkin '87 and I traced Caldwell's last days before he died at age 53 on June 29, 1910, at James Walker Memorial Hospital in Wilmington, North Carolina.

Little is known about Caldwell, and much of the information was reported by Virginia Tech historians D.L. Kinnear and Clara Cox. According to them, Caldwell graduated in 1876, taking a third year to finish his degree. In the 1880 U.S. Census, he taught professionally and lived with his family in Craig County, Virginia, and then moved to Roanoke sometime prior to 1891 to work for the Norfolk & Western Railroad.

Details of Caldwell's life after he left Virginia are sparse, but while in North Carolina I filled in some holes from our famed cadet's past. As we tracked down the physical locations where Caldwell last lived, the more surreal it felt to walk the final path of his life.

In 1889, he was secretary for a group of stockholders for the newly formed Lansdowne Improvement Co. of Roanoke, one of dozens of groups of investors who speculated in a hot real



William Addison Caldwell died at age 53 at James Walker Memorial Hospital in Wilmington, North Carolina. The facility was demolished in 1967.

estate market influenced by the Norfolk & Western. He was an active real estate agent and attended the 1891 Virginia Real Estate Convention in Roanoke.

If only he and thousands of other land speculators could have predicted the 1893 stock market crash that decimated the railroad industry, effectively purging the savings of investors like Caldwell whose land value plunged to pennies on the dollar.

I can find no information about the Lansdowne Improvement Co. beyond 1898 and assume the partnership was dissolved.

Caldwell was active in the state Democratic Party and served numerous times as a grand jurist in Roanoke City courts. An entrepreneur at heart, Caldwell invested in the Consolidated Cigar and Tobacco Co. of Roanoke, but that business went bankrupt in 1897.

In 1898, Caldwell relocated to Wilmington when he accepted a bookkeeper position with the Roanoke Chemical Co., which made baking powder.

Little can be found about Caldwell's work history after he left the chemical company. Wilmington newspapers reported he was active in his church, always available as a pallbearer. Caldwell was a lifelong Democrat and a member of the Knights of Pythias.

He resided for only seven days at his home at 115 Fourth St. in downtown Wilmington before he fell ill, spending his last 13 days on earth in the hospital before he died of a brain tumor.

His last residence is now a parking lot with a small park alongside, where there is an old-fashioned hand water pump — I wonder if Caldwell got his water there?

His final job was as a night clerk at the Hotel Tarrymore at Wrightsville Beach, a few miles from Wilmington.

Larkin and I went to dinner at the Oceanic restaurant, named for the Oceanic hotel that sat there until it burned to the ground in 1934. Unbeknownst to either of us, the original name of the Oceanic hotel was Hotel Tarrymore.

Perhaps Caldwell's invisible hand guided us to his final place of employment, closing out the circle of his life.



At left, Cadet Jillian Skahill '21 handles administrative and logistical actions during the Fall Field Training Exercise. At right, Cadet Battalion Commander Alex Yerina '21 (right) walks with Cadet Harry Fleck '21 after checking on their units during the weekend. Photos by Zenas Koranteng Mensah '21.

ARMY ROTC NEWS

Virginia Tech Army ROTC congratulates the 94 second lieutenants who commissioned during this academic year and are starting their Army careers!

ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT

By Richard Cummings '21

I realized during my junior year of high school that I wanted more from my college experience than just a degree. After learning about the opportunities at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, I decided to apply for an ROTC scholarship. After receiving the scholarship, I explored my options, and Army ROTC at Virginia Tech seemed to provide multiple activities that would enrich my academic and military experience.

As a freshman, I competed for and earned a spot in Ranger Company. That experience fueled my competitive spirit and led me to walk on to the Hokie football team. I also competed with the Corps basketball team and traveled to Notre Dame for the Flyin' Irish Basketball Tournament this spring. Though we lost in the championship to Texas A&M, the experience of meeting cadets from different programs was inspiring.

Army ROTC enabled me to attend Air Assault School and then the Cultural Understanding and Leadership Program in the Philippines. Those experiences not only supported the val-

ues that I hold dear but also enhanced my leadership skills.

My typical day begins in the weight room at 5:30 a.m. and ends with the completion of my homework at 12:30 a.m. ROTC has taught me that the term "time management" should be replaced with "activity management." We all have the same amount of time in the day, but what activities we choose to do in that time is what is important.

LEADING IN A COVID ENVIRONMENT

By Alex Yerina '21

Being the Army ROTC cadet battalion commander in the COVID-19 era has presented some obstacles.

In a normal year, incoming leadership shadows outgoing leadership to learn the battle rhythm and processes prior to taking command. Because the university sent everyone home midway through the spring semester, we were unable to do that.

Restrictions on campus forced us to hold meetings with the staff via Zoom. We quickly realized that sidebar discussions that normally would occur were not happening because of the lack of face-to-face time.

However, it also allowed us to develop new ways to meet the standard.

One example of this is that we were able to conduct physical training tests without having to hold feet by using pool noodles on weighted hex bars.

I want to commend the work of the cadet command sergeant major, executive officer, staff, and commanders. They have done an absolutely amazing job despite all the obstacles, and I could not be more honored or proud to be able to work alongside them.

OPERATION AGILE LEADER VS. CADET SUMMER TRAINING

By Jillian Skahill '21

COVID-19 forced cadets at all levels to adapt and get creative with the way we train and communicate.

With Cadet Summer Training (CST) canceled and COVID-19 impacting all aspects of life, cadets had the responsibility to integrate force protection and safety into all operations.

Paving the path forward in a new environment, senior

cadets who missed out on CST completed Operation Agile Leader (OAL) from Sept. 17-20. We demonstrated our aptitude to lead in a COVID environment. We completed both day and night land navigation, round robin training that included call for fire and combat casualty care, two days of situational training exercise lane execution, and leadership evaluations — all while physically distanced and masked.

The juniors joined the event on day two to get a first-hand account of what CST testing would look like.

In addition to OAL, cadets from both Virginia Tech and Radford University worked tirelessly to ensure training does not halt. We packed our schedule with in-person PT and labs, including a rifle range, ruck marches, land navigation courses, two field training exercises, and service projects that raised more than \$5,000 for hurricane relief.

We truly appreciate Army ROTC cadre for leading and mentoring us through the COVID threat.



Cadet Richard Cummings '21 listens intently to coaches at practice. Photo courtesy of Dave Knachel, Virginia Tech Athletics.

Keep In Touch

As you move or change duty stations throughout your career, make sure you continue to get the Corps Review and other university and Corps information.

Update your contact information at alumni.vt.edu/gateway/index.html or by email to alumnidata@vt.edu.





After months of hard work, seniors and fifth-years submitted their preferred communities and received their results on the Drillfield during the battalion's service assignment announcement. Photo by Mary Sion '22.

NAVAL ROTC NEWS

By Midshipman MacLayne Morrow '22

Despite the many changes 2020 has brought, the Navy ROTC's mission remains the same: "To commission ensigns and second lieutenant warfighters, ready to lead sailors and Marines world-wide, aboard submarines, surface ships, aircraft, and on the field of battle."

The unit has excelled in accomplishing this mission, commissioning a nationwide ROTC best of 51 officers and conducting the unit's first "virtual" commissioning ceremony in May. The unit capped off a strong spring semester as a battalion, earning an average midshipman grade-point average of 3.53 and average scores of Excellent Medium and 277 out of 300 on the Navy and Marine Corps Physical Fitness Assessments, respectively.

Additionally, Virginia Tech Navy ROTC produced a nationwide ROTC best with four selectees for the SEAL officer selection summer cruise and three selectees for the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) summer cruise, two of the most highly selective Navy programs!

Because of COVID-19, nearly all summer training programs were canceled except for Marine Corps Officer Candi-

date School and the Navy's EOD summer cruise.

Back in Blacksburg, more changes were afoot. After 37 years of operating from Femoyer Hall, the unit moved into Bay 1 of historic Lane Hall and simultaneously prepared to meet the challenge of Navy and Marine Corps officer development training during the COVID-19 pandemic.

FALL SUCCESSES

Starting the fall semester 326 midshipmen strong, the nation's largest Navy ROTC unit flexed operations across a spectrum of virtual, hybrid, and in-person classes to continue meeting the unit's mission.

Commanding Officer Capt. Douglas Bradley states, "Working through these challenges is great preparation for military officers. Virginia Tech midshipmen are developing agility — adapting, connecting, leading in small groups, and taking advantage of new opportunities to succeed. I am immensely proud of the way both the staff and students have adapted and remain focused on our mission."

Midshipmen continue to obtain hands-on large and small-

unit leadership training through numerous battalion- and company-level leadership billets. As midshipman chief petty officer (CPO) of Bravo Company, Peter Wang '22 has learned numerous lessons from his billet. "Traditionally, the CPO job is to ensure completion and accountability of daily tasks such as physical training and the unit's weekly professional lab courses," Wang says. "However, this semester, the job has extended to accounting for those who are in quarantine because of [exposure to] COVID-19. If one of my midshipmen petty officers is quarantined, a squad leader or platoon guide must fill those shoes, and I will need to work with someone new and inexperienced. The same can be applied upwards in the chain of command: if my midshipman executive officer or commanding officer would have to quarantine, I would be the one to fill those shoes. That has been the most challenging part of my job — the unpredictable nature of it. However, in adapting and remaining flexible, I know I will be better prepared to handle unpredictable situations like this in the fleet."

In addition to new office spaces, the unit welcomed the following new active duty military staff members, bringing a wide diversity of fleet experience to lead and mentor their respective companies:

- Navy Lt. Kurt Smith (Surface Warfare), Echo Company advisor
- Navy Lt. Forrest Garrison (Submarine Warfare), Alpha Company advisor
- Marine Capt. Joshua Raphaelson, Marine officer instructor
- Marine Staff Sgt. Jonathan Diehm, assistant Marine officer instructor

With additional staff, the unit created a fifth training company, Echo Company, opening more student leadership opportunities. Smith explains, "Creating another company is a triple win for the Virginia Tech midshipmen! First, each company has reduced to about 40 to 50 midshipmen each, improving the midshipmen to advisor ratio, which enables more focused time for student mentoring with the Navy staff advisor. Second, this size allows for greater team camaraderie and esprit de corps for activities without being too small or too large. Lastly, it creates an entirely new set of midshipman company billets to build those small unit leadership skills outlined in our mission at Virginia Tech."

RAIDERS EARN THE TITLE

This summer, the unit sent eight Marine candidate midshipmen to Marine Officer Candidates School (OCS) in



Midshipmen Ayana Bullock '22 (left) and Marc Mendez '24 paint the new midshipmen lounge in Lane Hall. Each wall is themed with a Naval community. This wall displays the submarine community. Photo by Mary Sion '22.

Quantico, Virginia. OCS consisted of a seven-week training cycle that included an in-processing phase, a 14-day quarantine to ensure candidate safety, and a 28-day training period of instruction.

In those 28 days, candidates ran over 40 miles, received 70 hours of classroom instruction, and spent over 100 hours bivouacking. Graded events included physical tests ranging from a timed obstacle course to a three-mile endurance course, a Physical Fitness Test, Combat Fitness Test, two conditioning marches, academic tests as well as four knowledge-based exams, safe weapons handling, and several ethics guided discussions on Marine leadership.

Midshipman Jordan Dickey '21 stated, "OCS provided me the opportunity to practice value-based Marine leadership in a critical and stressful environment. The emphasis on Marine Corps core values of honor, courage, commitment, and guidance I received on value-based leadership was invaluable as a prospecting Marine officer."

All eight Virginia Tech midshipmen successfully graduated from OCS, continuing a strong 100 percent success rate for the unit. All candidates remarked how well the Virginia Tech program and leadership prepared them to succeed.

AIR FORCE ROTC NEWS

By Capt. Lucas Adams '14

EXCELLENCE AMIDST A PANDEMIC

Air Force ROTC Detachment 875 was full of excitement when cadets returned to campus this fall, after the spring semester was cut short. The detachment welcomed a total of 88 new cadets to the ranks and a new cadre staff member, Maj. Scott Meskimen '05, as the AS300 instructor and the wing operations officer.

While facing the challenge of training amidst a global pandemic, the main goal of Wing Commander Cadet Josh Stevic '21 this semester was to “operate safely and carry out the mission.”

Through his resilient and innovative leadership, our 300

cadets have been able to meet this goal through small group leadership labs, technologicalization of orders, hybrid classes, physically distant PT, and adherence to COVID-19 guidelines.

Stevic said the detachment’s success this fall was attributed to “our people” who “plan, execute, give it their best, and make it happen every day,” a fitting picture of the wingman mentality.

This unprecedented challenge has brought out the best in Detachment 875. Without hesitation, many cadets stepped up to help, using their strengths and skills to allow training to continue smoothly this semester.

Cadet Mark Norton '21 created the detachment’s manning



Silent PT to honor the 9/11 anniversary was conducted according to all safety guidelines and performed in silence to honor those who were lost. Photo by Cyrus Rodríguez '23.

document for continuity for all positions in the wing.

Cadet Stephen Jones '22 and Cadet Giavanna Angelo '22 worked tirelessly to help create PT sessions that would comply with university and Corps guidelines, ensuring physical fitness standards will be maintained, and Cadet Vivian To '23 made face masks during the personal protective equipment shortage.

Nothing will stop Detachment 875 from serving others and pursuing excellence in all that we do!



Cadet Margaret McConville '22 (bottom left) at the completion of her field training.

SUMMER SUCCESS

This summer looked very different for the detachment because of COVID-19 restrictions. However, our cadets were still able to continue their growth as leaders and learners through virtual and limited in-person opportunities. For example, Cadet Justin Sweat '21 completed a virtual internship with the National Space Defense Center working with Space Advanced Concept Training.

Fourteen cadets graduated from field training this summer, with Cadets Henry Bergstol '22, Margaret McConville '22, Nicholas Sisson '22, and Chris Widger '22 as distinguished graduates. These hard-working cadets represented Detachment 875 with pride as they completed this monumental step in their Air Force careers.

We also had two cadets, Ethan Miles '21 and Casey Sutara '21, return to field training as cadet training assistants. Unfortunately, COVID-19 greatly reduced capacity at field training, so we look forward to a safer future when 100 percent of our eligible cadets can attend and have their hard work pay off.

SEMESTER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The detachment was able to hold its own Air Force Marathon, which is usually a national event, on campus to allow

cadets who had been training to complete the marathon and be recognized. We had three cadets complete the entire race and 11 complete the half marathon. The virtual marathon was made possible by the work of Cadets Jillian Haas '23 and Michael Sabett '23.

The detachment had the honor of holding a re-enlistment ceremony for Technical Sgt. DaVon McCoy, a memorable event our cadets normally do not experience until commissioning. Cadet Caleb Coleman '21 worked tirelessly to make sure the event ran smoothly.

Throughout the semester, the detachment was able to offer many virtual professional development trainings for our cadets. Events offered included a JAG officer brief, summit on female leaders in the military, Air University Language and Culture Symposium, and more.

Detachment 875 is staying busy and safe this semester while continuing to excel in training every day.

In the words of Stevic, "If you are looking for a challenge, to push yourself, to grow into the leader that you can be, and to meet your potential, this is where you can do it; Detachment 875."

THE PATH FORWARD



A Virginia Tech sidewalk shows off fall's beauty.

By Sandi R. Bliss, chief advancement officer

As we all contemplate the path forward from working and living remotely from each other, I cannot help but reflect on how grateful we are to have such supportive Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets alumni and friends!

If it were not for all of you, the Corps would not have been as well-positioned for the record enrollment of cadets and the ability to move forward with construction of the Corps Leadership and Military Science Building and a third residence hall.

In celebration of these successes and look to the future, we hope all of you will find a way to create your own special legacy in the Corps.

SPECIAL NAMING OPPORTUNITY

We still have naming opportunities available in the Corps Leadership and Military Science Building starting at \$25,000. All naming opportunities can be accomplished through a five-year pledge.

WAYS TO CREATE YOUR OWN LEGACY

Endowments are a powerful investment in the future of the Corps. Endowed gifts, which include cadet scholarships, are invested. Each year, a percentage of the return provides critical support to Corps initiatives. The distribution amount is approved by the Virginia Tech Foundation board each year. Endowments can be created with a minimum gift of \$100,000 and established with a five-year pledge or through an estate gift.

Annual gifts of any amount can make an immediate impact. They can be made one-time or arranged to be made on a convenient, recurring basis. Gifts to the Commandant's Priori-

ties Fund of \$500 or greater automatically sponsor a first-year cadet on the fall or spring Caldwell March.

ESTATE PLANNING OPTIONS

There are many wonderful options for leaving a powerful legacy through planned gifts to Corps, and we are here to help.

Future intent: If you have included the Corps in your estate planning, please let us know. If you do choose to give through your estate, there are ways to experience the impact of your future gift during your lifetime.

Donor-advised funds: Create a donor-advised fund to maximize tax benefits now and recommend charitable gifts, possibly with family involvement, for many years to come.

COVID-19 RELIEF PACKAGE

There are important charitable giving opportunities available. Now all taxpayers can deduct \$300 of charitable gifts.

Donors making larger gifts and pledge payments can benefit from the ability to use more of their deduction in 2020, accelerating their tax savings. Most gifts made in 2020 can be deducted up to 100 percent of a donor's adjusted gross income (as compared to the normal 60 percent).

To qualify, these must be cash gifts to public charities. These benefits don't apply to gifts of stock or real estate or gifts to a donor-advised fund.

For end-of-the-year giving, please be sure your envelopes are postmarked by Dec. 31.

For more information about any of these opportunities, please contact the Corps' advancement team at 540-231-2892 or vtcc@vt.edu.

LEAVE YOUR MARK WITH A BRICK PLAQUE

Throughout history, Corps of Cadets graduates have left their names and class years in pencil on the bricks of Lane Hall. Now, you can leave your mark on a brick plaque in the new Corps Leadership and Military Science Building. We've actually used images of the Lane Hall bricks to make these one-of-a-kind plaques.

Here's how it works: Donate at least \$2,500 to any Corps of Cadets non-endowed fund, such as the Commandant's Priorities Annual Fund, between March 10, 2020, and March 10, 2025. That's just \$500 a year.

Once you reach the \$2,500 total giving threshold, we will send you a sample inscription to approve. The inscription will include your full name, class year, and Corps' company on three separate lines. You can choose our typeface or your own handwriting. (Because of space limitations on the plaque, we will be unable to add titles, honorifics, military rank, or nicknames.)



Each brick plaque must be tied to a single giving record, and we must limit one plaque to each record. The \$2,500 threshold can only be counted once to an individual giving record. If you are giving to honor a friend or loved one in addition to your own brick plaque, please be sure that \$2,500 donation is tied to that person or another family member's giving record. We are unable to count company matches toward any \$2,500 giving threshold.

The brick plaques will be featured in a special place in the Corps Leadership and Military Science Building, expected to open in 2023. Give now to ensure your name is in place for the dedication ceremony.

The Corps of Cadets' advancement team is ready to help you with any needs or questions. Contact us at 540-231-2892 or vtcc@vt.edu.



IN MEMORIAM: DEBORAH RUTH TILLOTSON '78, '87 1956-2020

Debbie Tillotson '78, '87 was a friend, a philanthropist, and a partner.

Tillotson of Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania, died at home surrounded by family on June 19, 2020. She was 63.

She was a trailblazer from a young age, one of the first girls to attend an all-boys technical high school and the first in her family to attend college.

Tillotson always credited her success to her Virginia Tech education and the Corps of Cadets' lessons of teamwork and perseverance.

She graduated in 1978 with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering as part of the second class of women to graduate from the Corps. She commissioned into the U.S. Air Force as a satellite engineer.

During her time in the Air Force, she was a key member in the early development and testing of GPS satellites. She was in charge of the design and testing of electrical and thermal control systems, leading to the launches of Satellites 3 through 7.

After serving four years, she went on to work for General Electric, Lockheed Martin Space Division, the SI Organization, and Vencore, turning her Air Force service into a 40-year career in space and ground systems program management, engineering, development, and operations.

General Electric provided her the opportunity to become a double alumna of Virginia Tech, and she received a master's degree in systems engineering in 1987.

She became a more active alumna in 1997 with her first gift to a scholarship in mechanical engineering.

"I didn't know it then, but I was beginning a new phase of my understanding and application of *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve) in my life and starting what would become a personal and family legacy," she wrote for an article in the fall 2017 Corps Review.

At the time, she was recruiting heavily at Virginia Tech for General Electric/Lockheed Martin and served



on the Dean of Engineering's Industry Advisory Board. She worked with Bevelee Watford to start an Industry Advisory Board for the Center of Engineering Excellence and Diversity.

She went on to serve multiple organizations at Virginia Tech, including the College of Engineering Committee of 100, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni



Debbie, Ian, and Dan Tillotson after Ian finished a portion of his pilot training in January 2017 at Vance Air Force Base in Enid, Oklahoma. Below, the family poses for a photo in Lane Stadium with Virginia Tech President Tim Sands (second from left)

(VTCCA) Board as the lead of the Development Task Force, as well as on the VTCCA EXCOM board as the financial officer and as co-chair of the commandant's Campaign Action Group.

"Debbie was a wonderful addition to the VTCCA board. She quickly embraced the fundraising committee and helped it with metrics to keep track of its progress," said Chairman J Pearson '87. "She volunteered to take over for me as task force chair as I moved on to become chairman without hesitation. When I asked her to become the VTCCA financial officer as well as task force chair for development, she was excited about the challenge.

"Debbie displayed great leadership and never failed to attend our meetings while suffering through the treatments of cancer," Pearson said. "She cannot be replaced."

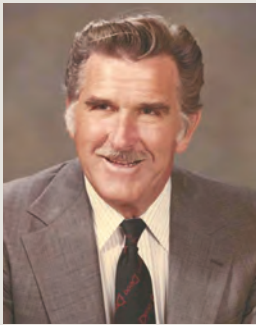
Tillotson was well known in this position, influencing and impacting hundreds of cadets in not only scholarship opportunities but also in the construction projects that continue to revitalize Upper Quad.

Her passion, hard work, leadership, and unstinting integrity and loyalty have been an inspiration to her family, including her husband, Dan Tillotson; her son, Ian Tillotson '14, now an F-16 pilot in the Air Force; and her daughter-in-law, Allison (Laclede) Tillotson '15, an Air Force intelligence officer.



"Who knew that when I graduated in '78 that [Virginia] Tech would be still affecting my life in so many ways?" Debbie Tillotson said last year. "I serve because Tech and the Corps hold a piece of my heart. I give my time and talent to work with awesome people who lift each other up and make spectacular things happen. I give of my treasure because I didn't get here on my own. I have a responsibility to leave a legacy that makes things better than I found them and hold out a hand to help those less fortunate than I am and help bring about the next generation of Tech leaders."

IN MEMORY



RICHARD DAVIS KERN SR. '42

1920 - 2020

Richard Davis “Dick” Kern Sr. died Oct. 1. He earned a football scholarship to Virginia Polytechnic Institute and earned a bachelor’s degree in industrial engineering while part of the Corps of Cadets and the football team. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He was awarded a Bronze Star and Purple Heart. He founded several companies, including the Kern Motor Co. His first wife, Alison Cooper Kern, preceded him in death in 1955. He then married Gertrude “Trudy” Golightly in 1958. Surviving with his wife are a daughter and two sons.



CALVIN TOMPKINS LUCY JR. '47

1926 - 2020

Calvin Tompkins Lucy Jr. died April 24. He enrolled in electrical engineering at Virginia Polytechnic Institute’s Richmond Extension in 1943 and was inducted into the U.S. Navy in 1945. He served aboard the U.S.S. Denver as an electronic technician until his discharge in 1946. Re-enrolling at VPI, he earned a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering. During the Vietnam War, he was appointed to the Selective Service Draft Board. He was employed by Dominion Virginia Power (then VEPCO) for nearly 40 years. He is survived by his two daughters and a son.



RICHARD L. BIDWELL '50

1928 - 2020

U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Richard L. “Dick” Bidwell (retired) died May 9. He was a member of the Corps of Cadets and graduated with a bachelor’s degree in engineering in 1950. Following active military duty, he worked at Reynolds Metals Co./Alcoa. He belonged to professional engineering organizations, winning two prestigious awards. He retired from the Air Force Reserve as a lieutenant colonel. He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Marie Bidwell; two daughters; and a son.



BENTON BROWN LINDAMOOD '55

1931 - 2020

Benton “Ben” Brown Lindamood died Aug. 26. At the age of 3, he was adopted and raised by his aunt and uncle in Blacksburg, Virginia. He attended Blacksburg schools and spent summers on the family farm in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He graduated from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1955 with his master’s degree in mechanical engineering. While at VPI he was a member of the Corps of Cadets and eventually served with the U.S. Air Force before moving to Detroit to begin working for the Ford Motor Co. He married Ann Petrini in 1963, who preceded him in death, and they raised four daughters, who survive.



ELLIS PASCHALL MONROE '56

1933 - 2020

Ellis Paschall Monroe died July 27. He attended Virginia Polytechnic Institute, where he was a walk-on center for the basketball team and a member of the Corps of Cadets, German Club and DKE fraternity. He earned a degree in industrial engineering. He was the co-owner and chairman of Shelby Supply Co. in Shelby, North Carolina, then founded Monroe Sales Co. that he and his sons operated for over 25 years. He served on the board of directors for the Virginia Tech Athletic Association, was president of his local Hokie Club, and was a member of the Lifetime Golden Hokie Club and the Ut Prosim Society. He is survived by a daughter and three sons.



THOMAS C. RICHARDS '56

1930 - 2020

U.S. Air Force Gen. Thomas C. Richards (retired) died Aug. 9. He was born in San Diego, California, into a military family. His military career began with the U.S. Army infantry immediately following high school. He then attended and graduated from the Corps of Cadets at Virginia Tech, where he earned his wings and was commissioned into the Air Force. He was also co-captain of the football team and graduated with a bachelor's degree in business administration. During his time in the military, he served in countless locations including the U.S., Vietnam, Thailand, and Laos. He was dedicated to serving his country and being a beacon of leadership in every assignment he received. Shortly after returning from Vietnam, Thomas met his wife, Meredyth. His final assignment was as deputy commander in chief of U.S. European Command in Stuttgart-Vaihingen, West Germany. He was promoted to four-star general in 1986 and retired in 1989. In 1992, President George W. Bush requested that he serve as the administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration. His awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star with oak leaf cluster, Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star Medal with "V" device and oak leaf cluster, Purple Heart with oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal, and Air Medal with 17 oak leaf clusters. In 2019, he was named a Distinguished Alumni of the Corps. He was preceded in death by a son and is survived by his wife, two daughters, and two sons.



LESTER H. HOLLANS '58

1936 - 2020

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Lester H. Hollans (retired) died June 6. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and was a major on the regimental staff of the Corps of Cadets. He taught at 10 colleges and universities, including the University of Virginia, Roanoke College, Samford University, and Mississippi State University. He served for 21 years on active duty and in the Reserve as an army aviator, retiring as a lieutenant colonel. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Anne Johnson Hollans, and his daughter. His son preceded him in death.



GEORGE DALAND WEBB III '64

1942 - 2020

George Daland Webb III died April 30. He earned a degree in forestry from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and was a member of the Corps of Cadets. He commissioned into the U.S. Army, where he served with the 14th Combat Engineer Battalion in South Vietnam and was awarded the Bronze Star. He went on to work as a real estate broker for the family business, United Services Homeowner Association in Northern Virginia. He then worked and retired from Hecht's as an independent retail professional. He was preceded in death by his wife, Cynthia. He is survived by two sons and two step-children.



CLAUDE JAMES STAYLOR III '66

1944 - 2020

U.S. Air Force Col. Claude "Jim" James Staylor III (retired), died June 3. He was a graduate of Virginia Tech and served in the U.S. Air Force for 13 years. He was a fighter pilot in Vietnam who flew over 350 missions. He was given the Air Medal 17 times and Distinguished Flying Cross twice. He retired in 1979 as a colonel. He then became a pilot for Federal Express for over 30 years. He loved real estate and owned many commercial properties over the years. He is survived by his daughter.



IRVIN RODNEY GOINS II '86

1964 - 2020

Irvin Rodney "Rod" Goins II died Aug. 23. He attended Virginia Tech, where he was a member of the Corps of Cadets and graduated second in command with the rank of cadet lieutenant colonel. He was an advocate for human equality and actively served on various boards at both the local and state level. Rod enjoyed traveling, spending time with family, and anything dealing with his beloved Hokies. He is survived by his husband of over 25 years David "Dave" Rogers.

LEST WE FORGET

James T. Stephens '41, Henrico, Virginia, 5/13/2020
Edward B. Hale '43, Blacksburg, Virginia, 4/24/2020
O. Watts Gills '44, Roanoke, Virginia, 6/29/2020
John S. Prince '44, Emporia, Virginia, 5/19/2020
Fred R. Chapman '45, Woodland Park, Colorado, 6/10/2020
Robert A. Cox '45, Richmond, Virginia, 4/9/2020
Theodore C. Felger '45, Charlottesville, Virginia, 4/5/2020
Raymond F. Heck '45, Sun City Center, Florida, 7/24/2020
Marshall L. Bailey '46, Charlotte Court House, Virginia, 7/1/2020
Edward S. Smith '46, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, 7/29/2020
C. Thomas Tate '46, Blacksburg, Virginia, 7/30/2020
William K. Warriner '46, Herndon, Virginia, 7/26/2020
Stanley J. Marcus '47, Montvale, New Jersey, 8/5/2020
Walter F. Green '48, Harrisonburg, Virginia, 4/28/2020
H. Leon Hodges '49, Chesapeake, Virginia, 6/5/2020
Thomas P. Inge '49, Blackstone, Virginia, 5/25/2020
Kenneth E. Clevenger '50, Blacksburg, Virginia, 7/27/2020
Michael P. Mauzy '50, Hamilton, Illinois, 5/4/2020
Jack A. Thalhimer '50, Springfield, Virginia, 4/8/2020
Joseph Alexander '51, Alexandria, Virginia, 8/30/2020
Ernest J. Hopkins '51, Glasgow, Virginia, 6/30/2020
Percival A. Lewis '51, Manassas, Virginia, 5/3/2020
Carroll E. Mahaney '51, Pembroke, Virginia, 6/4/2020
Ned L. Sours '51, Richmond, Virginia, 6/19/2020
Fred G. Sutherland '51, Sandston, Virginia, 4/23/2020
John C. Thompson '51, Davidson, North Carolina, 4/14/2020
Robert J. Wachter '51, Alexandria, Virginia, 8/16/2020
George T. Ward '51, Marshall, Virginia, 6/26/2020
Richard D. Webster '51, Ocean View, Delaware, 7/27/2020
Ernest P. Wellford '51, Richmond, Virginia, 4/14/2020
Martin H. Alman '52, Aventura, Florida, 6/1/2020
George A. Bonner '52, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, 8/10/2020
George D. Greer '52, Blairsville, Georgia, 5/13/2020
A. Lee Hall '52, Mooresville, North Carolina, 7/18/2020
Edward B. Scruggs '52, Roanoke, Virginia, 5/22/2020
William E. Shackelford '52, Columbus, Montana, 4/27/2020
Chuck D. Hutton '53, Charlotte, North Carolina, 4/7/2020
Rector A. Engleman '54, Lexington, Virginia, 8/28/2020
James D. McGhee '54, Lynchburg, Virginia, 8/26/2020
Billy R. Price '54, Kimball, West Virginia, 5/1/2020
Thamo C. Cruise '55, Seymour, Tennessee, 7/25/2020
Johnny C. Fender '55, San Angelo, Texas, 7/26/2020
Hal G. Prillaman '55, Aledo, Texas, 6/11/2020
Robert J. Taylor '55, Gaithersburg, Maryland, 7/29/2020
William J. Monta '56, Hampton, Virginia, 7/24/2020
Bobby M. Coggsdale '57, Suffolk, Virginia, 7/26/2020
Willie R. Gilman '57, Glen Allen, Virginia, 4/28/2020
Leonard P. Harris '57, Hagerstown, Maryland, 6/18/2020
Jack L. Horne '57, Orangeburg, South Carolina, 5/27/2020
Edward T. Jones '57, Richmond, Virginia, 6/13/2020
Frederick W. Louis '57, Gainesville, Virginia, 4/29/2020
Pierson S. Morrill '57, Scottsville, Virginia, 7/2/2020
Bruce C. Clough '58, Haymarket, Virginia, 5/12/2020
Raymond O. England '58, E Greenwich, Rhode Island, 7/18/2020
Dean T. Mook '58, Blacksburg, Virginia, 6/19/2020
Donald A. Bowers '59, Ashburn, Virginia, 4/28/2020
Frank H. Hubbard '59, Winston Salem, North Carolina, 6/26/2020
Robert V. Lawrence '59, Colonial Heights, Virginia, 8/24/2020
Kenneth W. Washburn '59, Athens, Georgia, 6/30/2020
Thomas R. Burdette '60, Atlantic Beach, Florida, 4/10/2020
Archer W. Cook '60, Spartanburg, South Carolina, 7/12/2020
Donald V. Dalton '60, Tucson, Arizona, 7/28/2020
Charles E. Elks '60, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 7/25/2020
James W. Hammond '60, Kingwood, Texas, 6/5/2020
Leonard J. Hite '60, Clarksville, Virginia, 8/23/2020
William R. Mahler '60, Fredericksburg, Virginia, 5/2/2020
William H. Pletta '60, Seneca, South Carolina, 8/6/2020
Theodore A. Fritz '61, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 5/1/2020
George K. Priggen '61, Penhook, Virginia, 7/27/2020
Grover C. Jennings '62, Marion, Virginia, 6/8/2020
Richard A. Johnson '62, Clinton, Iowa, 6/15/2020
Russell E. Still '62, Danville, Virginia, 7/19/2020
David B. Claudepierre '63, Simpsonville, South Carolina, 5/5/2020
Frederic C. Garber '63, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 7/29/2020
Price J. Giampocarò '63, St Petersburg, Florida, 5/28/2020
Charles E. Tilson '63, Blacksburg, Virginia, 4/18/2020
W. B. Bolling '64, Huntington, West Virginia, 5/10/2020
Lester B. Carroll '64, Winchester, Virginia, 6/12/2020
Michael W. Stoner '64, Hagerstown, Maryland, 4/21/2020
John D. Dearing '65, Newport News, Virginia, 8/11/2020
Curtis J. Mimna '65, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, 5/16/2020
Francis R. Porter '65, Concord, North Carolina, 6/25/2020
John M. Rogers '65, Georgetown, South Carolina, 6/19/2020
Thelbert S. Shields '66, Sterling, Virginia, 6/27/2020
Salvador Garcia '67, Sloansville, New York, 8/17/2020
Robert E. Garrison '67, Louisville, Kentucky, 6/20/2020
Edward A. Herndon '68, Erwin, Tennessee, 6/18/2020
Rene C. Fix '74, Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, 6/21/2020
Hubert N. Mayhew '75, Cabot, Arkansas, 4/1/2020



On Nov. 6, the university honored 1st Lt. Gary Lee Miller during a small, outdoor ceremony. Participants included the color guard and the Gregory Guard.

A NEW NAME IS ADDED TO THE CENOTAPH

By Travis Williams

More than half century after taking on the ultimate act of service, the name of 1st Lt. Gary Lee Miller has been rightly placed in a position of honor at Virginia Tech.

A unit commander in the U.S. Army, Miller died from wounds he received after smothering an enemy grenade to save the men he was leading in South Vietnam on Feb. 16, 1969.

He posthumously received the Medal of Honor, but his connection to Virginia Tech remained mostly unknown until recently brought to light by Char-

lie Wood VT'70 of Richmond, Virginia.

Miller's name has been etched alongside Virginia Tech's seven other Medal of Honor recipients on the marble cenotaph at the center of War Memorial Court. He was honored during a ceremony on Nov. 6.

"I'm just glad he's finally going to be recognized there," said Wood, a 1970 graduate and 2017 recipient of the Alumni Distinguished Service Award.

"Those names represent the highest level of service a person can give. Lieutenant Miller's service and sacrifice truly represent our university, *Ut Prosim*" (That I May Serve).

A resident of Covington, Virginia, Miller attended Clifton Forge-Covington Community College during a period when it was designated a branch of Virginia Tech. In 1967, Virginia established the community college system. The

branch colleges in Clifton Forge, Danville, and Wytheville became community colleges, at which time the Clifton

“**LIEUTENANT MILLER'S SERVICE AND SACRIFICE TRULY REPRESENT OUR UNIVERSITY.**”

Forge-Covington branch became Dabney S. Lancaster Community College.

Miller attended Clifton Forge-Covington for four quarters, spanning 1965 and 1966. Protocol for inclusion on the cenotaph is for the Medal of Honor recipient to be an alumnus, whether a graduate or not.

Miller's connection to Virginia Tech was well known to Wood, who grew up in Alleghany County, which surrounds the independent city of Covington. Though not close friends, the two shared mutual acquaintances during high school and attended the community college at the same time.

Wood said he had long revered those who gave their lives in defense of the United States and was particularly moved by the war memorial during his time as a student in Blacksburg. He entered the Army after graduating in 1970.

"I spent a lot of time there at night, walking back from the library to the dorm," Wood said. "I'd go up and read the names of those enshrined on the War Memorial and try to comprehend their service and sacrifice. Doing so did and still has the most influence on me of anything at Virginia Tech."

Wood first began to inquire about getting the fallen soldier's name represented by the university in 2005. For years, he struggled to find the necessary documentation, and in 2018 he was able to connect with Miller's younger brother, Michael Miller VT'75.

"I was just kind of floored that this fellow had worked so hard for so long to make this happen," Michael Miller said. "Obviously, my brother made a big



President Tim Sands speaks during the ceremony. Photo by Megan Watkins '21.



Cadets Ben Janosy (left) and Anthony Gaspar '21 stand at attention as the Gregory Guard performs as 21-gun salute. Photo by Megan Watkins '21.

impression on him."

Six years younger than Lt. Miller, Michael Miller described his brother as a "regular kid" who was interested in architecture and science, had a paper route, and was a wrestler at Covington High School. He recalled him achieving the Boy Scouts of America's God and

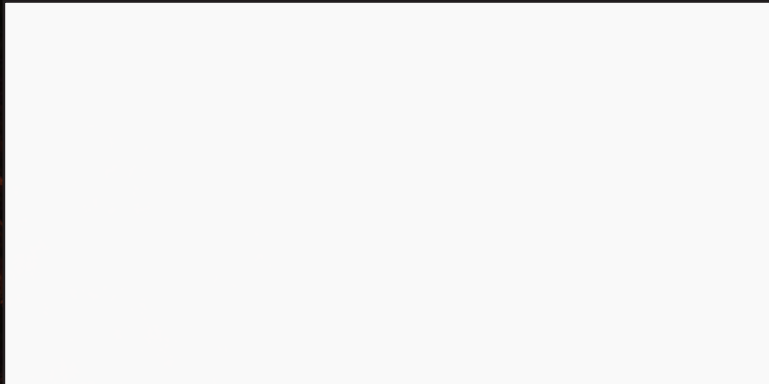
Country award and several awards for marksmanship once in the Army.

Michael Miller said he is proud that his brother will now be remembered at the War Memorial along with other Hokies who paid the ultimate price.

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