

# VirginiaTech

*magazine*

spring 2010 | vol. 32, no. 3

**The inner glow of Hokie Stone**  
Haiti in our hearts | A new spring break

# Diminishing state funding forces rising tuition

BY CHARLES W. STEGER '69

Periodically, I have addressed in this magazine the effects of state funding on university operations. Too many times during the past 10 years, we've discussed the impact of non-funding—indeed, a disinvestment. The current fiscal landscape for higher education is as bad as anything I've experienced during four decades in higher education.

Funding cuts already incurred and those on the horizon threaten Virginia's laudable colleges and universities. Today, state funding for instruction at Virginia Tech is \$40 million less than when the decade began, even though in-state undergraduate enrollment has increased by 13 percent since 2005 (about 2,000 more Virginians). Less than one-third of the funding for the University Division, where instruction takes place, comes from the state. Using figures adjusted for inflation, the commonwealth will provide, for the coming fiscal year, 48 percent less for every in-state student than it did in 2000-01. The state share of the overall university budget, which includes residence halls, dining halls, research, athletics, and other operations not funded by the state, is now about 23 percent.

We have, on many occasions, demonstrated the tremendous payback states obtain from educated citizens, directly through increased tax collections and indirectly via the public benefits of an educated populace. The effects of higher education on economic viability and attendant national security implications are well understood—but we're beyond communicating benefits now. States cannot or will not fund higher education.

After decades of cuts, simple belt-tightening is not an option. With the baby boom echo in full swing, more

students than ever seek seats at this table. Cutting enrollment or cutting programs is not a viable choice. The net effect, here and in other states, is a huge cost shift to the shoulders of students and their families. To keep the doors open, to continue to provide the quality expected from Virginia Tech, tuition has risen significantly in this decade and will continue to rise.

We will not forget those who are struggling financially. We are fully cognizant of educational empowerment. When tuition rises, we allocate a portion to the financial aid budget. We are efficient. Our cost to educate a student is less today than it was 10 years ago.

Our prices will remain competitive with peer universities. Indeed, when looking at the overall cost to attend Virginia Tech, we still rank in the lower quartile when compared to our 23 peer institutions. If you check the costs of our sister schools in Virginia or comparable flagships in the mid-Atlantic region, you will see that we remain a great value. At the end of 2009, *Kiplinger* again ranked us among the nation's top 20 best values for public universities. *U.S. News & World Report* considers us to be among the best 30 public universities in America. Early this year, *Princeton Review* ranked us among the nation's top 10 values for public universities.

So, the university remains strong and well-respected and is educating more students than at any time in its history. However, our financial structure—the way we keep the doors open—is changing. Tuition is paying an ever-increasing share of the bills. Please know and understand the reasons why, and please know that such changes are absolutely essential to preserving Virginia Tech as we know it.

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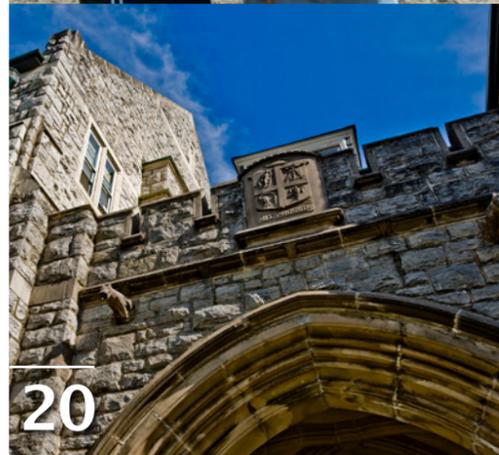
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## Tech remains among best values in public higher education

Virginia Tech continues to rank among the top public colleges and universities in the nation for offering a high-quality educational experience at an affordable price, according to *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* magazine. The magazine's "100 Best Values in Public Colleges" list, which appeared in the February issue, ranks Virginia Tech 16th among 100 institutions "that combine outstanding economic value with a first-class education." The university continues to increase funding for student financial aid, with more than 70 percent of students receiving some form of financial aid.



**More hybrids added to 'Green Fleet'**  
 Virginia Tech's Fleet Services is continuing its "Green Fleet" efforts by replacing older models with five new Honda Insights. These new cars join the Ford Escape Hybrids and the Chevy Malibu Hybrid acquired over the past four years. The Honda Insight has several features that allow the driver to take control over how "green" his or her driving is. The additional hybrids reflect the dedication to the Green Fleet Initiative implemented by Fleet Services in May 2007.



**Robert J. Bodnar**

## Geoscientist named Virginia's 2010 outstanding scientist

Virginia Tech University Distinguished Professor Robert J. Bodnar's work has led Gov. Bob McDonnell and the Science Museum of Virginia to name him Virginia's Outstanding Scientist 2010. Bodnar, the C.C. Garvin Professor of Geochemistry in the College of Science, is internationally recognized as a

leader in his specialized field of fluid inclusions, which are microscopic droplets that are trapped in minerals when they form beneath Earth's surface. He uses fluid inclusions to study volcanic eruptions and to predict the explosiveness of future eruptions. His work focuses on the formation of and exploration for economically important mineral deposits of copper, gold, lead, zinc, silver, and uranium.

## Management of university's endowment ranks No. 2

The 24/7 Wall St. website cites Virginia Tech as having one of the best-managed endowments of colleges and universities for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009. In an article appearing on the widely utilized site for investment information, the Virginia Tech endowment was ranked second among the nation's 17 best-managed endowments.

## Virginia Tech research expenditures grow

Virginia Tech reported \$396.7 million in expenditures for fiscal year (FY) 2009, which ended June 30, 2009, to the National Science Foundation. The figure represents an increase of \$23.4 million or 6.27 percent over FY 2008, when the university ranked 46th in the country. Federal funding grew,

as did institutional funding and other revenue streams, such as cost sharing and foundation funding. Industry, state, and local funding dropped slightly.

## Undergraduate students win Associated Schools of Construction competition

A team of five students from the Colleges of Architecture and Urban Studies and Engineering won first place in the 2009 Associated Schools of Construction-Associated General Contractors Region II Heavy-Civil competition in Jacksonville, Fla. The team—Jason Lieb, Stephanie Savoia, Josh Zilke, Vaibhav Gupta, and Gavin McDuff—was given a construction problem statement at 7 a.m. and had until 8 p.m. that day to develop a solution, an estimate, and a construction schedule.

## Students sweep design competition in San Francisco

Four teams of students from the Industrial Design Program in the School of Architecture + Design swept the five award categories at an international design competition sponsored by Ardicca, which received more than 100 submissions. Eight finalist groups gathered in San Francisco, charged with designing and creating an outdoor product that

integrated the Moshi Power Pack, which is a flat, flexible battery system. The team of Kyle McCrory, Patrice Hsia, and Greg Lefevere designed the first-prize winner, the "Voltage" sleeping bag. Second prize and the People's Choice Award went to the "Aeolus" coal-mining respirator, designed by Matt Saunders and Tony Smith. Danny Calabrese, Brad Johnson, and Matt Manganti designed the third-prize winner, the "Photogenesis" backpack. The Student Design Award was won by Crosby Reinders for his ski-patrol vest design.

## Tech spearheads \$3.8 million job-creation effort

A Virginia Tech-led team of almost 20 partners has won \$3.8 million in federal stimulus money to train workers for green jobs in the construction industry. The project is expected to train some 400 workers over two years. College of Engineering and College of Architecture and Urban Studies faculty members will work with three community colleges to develop green curriculums in communities that have been hit hard by job losses. Community Housing Partners in Christiansburg, Va., is managing the U.S. Department of Labor grant, which will include a \$474,000 outlay to Virginia Tech as well as almost \$2 million to the community colleges.



**Theresa Reineke**

## Grant funds genetic therapy research

The National Institutes of Health has awarded a \$2.3 million grant to a Virginia Tech research team led by Theresa Reineke, an associate professor of chemistry in the College of Science, to continue the team's biomedical research into new medicines. The group is creating carbohydrate-based polymers for the delivery of genetic drugs to combat cancer and heart disease. The New Innovator grant supports research in its earliest stages and holds potential for exceptionally high impact. The awards are designed to stimulate highly innovative research and promising new investigators.

## Engineering team to build battlefield robots for competition

A team of robotics researchers from the College of Engineering will build a team of fully autonomous cooperative battle-ready robots as part of a 2010 international war-games challenge that could spur real-life battle robots. The team, led by Tomonari Furukawa, associate professor of mechanical engineering, will create robots that coordinate, plan, and execute a series of timed tasks. The top three winners will receive cash prizes worth hundreds of thousands of dollars and the chance to work with defense agencies to develop robotic designs that one day may fight alongside soldiers in combat.



**Tomonari Furukawa**



Judy S. Riffle with graduate student Philip Huffstetler in 2006.

### Chemist elected international fellow

Judy S. Riffle, professor of chemistry and director of the macromolecular science and engineering program at Virginia Tech, has been elected a Fellow in the Polymeric Materials Science and Engineering (PMSE) division of the American Chemical Society.

Riffle was one of only three chemists worldwide to be named a PSME Fellow for 2010. She was recognized for making significant contributions to the science and engineering of polymeric materials. Her research has led to the development of materials used in heart transplants, arterial grafts, and contact lenses.

### University receives \$2.5 million for Mali mission

Virginia Tech has won a \$2.5 million contract to manage a program that will promote agriculture-led growth, increase rural incomes, and reduce hunger in Mali. The three-year program is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development Mali mission and will be managed by Virginia Tech's Office of International Research, Education, and Development. The program is an associate award to the Virginia Tech-managed Integrated Pest Management Collaborative Research Support Program, which has had a presence in West Africa since 1993.

### Pamplin College, College of Engineering launch two-degree program

Students will have the opportunity to earn both the master of business administration and master of industrial and systems engineering degrees within the same two-year period in a new cooperative program established by the Pamplin College of Business and the College of Engineering. The

program, which begins this fall, will replace the existing M.B.A. concentration in systems engineering management. Students will complete the core requirements for the M.B.A. and dedicate their elective credits to completing the requirements for the master of science in industrial and systems engineering. The program comprises 53 credit hours, three more than is required for an M.B.A.

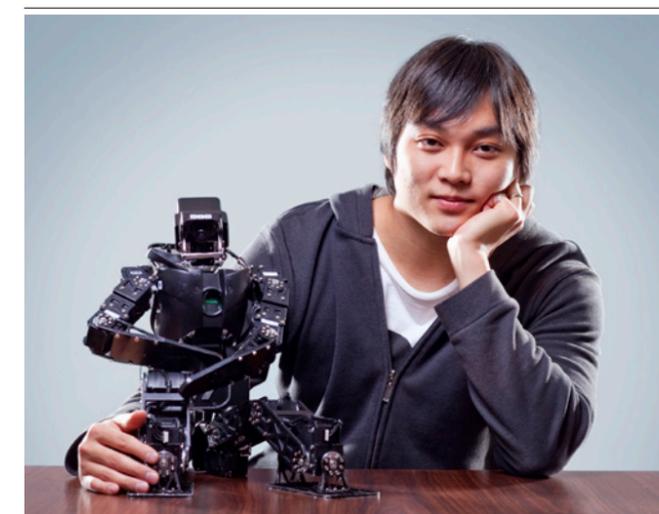
### University takes gold in Best Workplaces for Commuters Race to Excellence

Virginia Tech is one of three higher education institutions in the nation to receive a gold award for its alternative transportation programs in the Best Workplaces for Commuters Race to Excellence. The Race to Excellence encourages sustainable transportation and recognizes organizations that have taken steps to offer transportation alternatives, thereby reducing air pollution, traffic congestion, and fuel consumption. Twenty-seven companies, institutions, and individuals nationwide competed in the event in 2009.

### Corps participates in governor's inaugural events

The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets was well represented at the Governor's Inaugural Parade on Jan. 16 in Richmond, Va. Gov. Bob McDonnell invited the Highty-Tighties, the corps Regi-

mental Band, and the corps color guard to march in the parade. In addition, 20 cadets served as VIP escorts during the parade and swearing-in ceremony. All participating cadets voluntarily returned to campus five days early from winter break to practice and prepare for the event.



### Graduate student wins Golden Key scholarship

Seungmoon Song, a graduate student in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, has been awarded a \$10,000 Ford engineering scholarship from the Golden Key International Honor Society. The organization awards only four such scholarships annually. Song's research focuses on humanoid robotics locomotion and on maximizing the power production of solar cells. Song is a member of RoMeLa's Team DARwin, which actively participates in RoboCup, an international autonomous robotic soccer competition that seeks to develop robots capable of competitively playing against humans by 2050.

### New editor on board

Jesse C. Tuel, director of advancement communications at Emporia State University (ESU) in Emporia, Kan., has been named editor of *Virginia Tech Magazine*; *Virginia Issues & Answers*, the university's public policy magazine; and *VT NetLetter*, a monthly electronic alumni newsletter.



Jesse C. Tuel

At ESU, Tuel edited and wrote for the university's alumni magazine, *Spotlight*; produced *Hornet News Update*, an e-mail newsletter for alumni; prepared the *Honor Roll of Donors & Annual Report*; and directed the communications program for the Alumni Association and ESU Foundation that involved managing print and Web publications, videos, photography, marketing, alumni relations, donor relations, and news releases. He also served in 2008 as interim director of alumni relations.

Tuel was educated at ESU, where he earned a bachelor's degree in business management and a master's degree in English.

In recent years, he was the advisor for Delta Chapter of Sigma Tau Gamma, which presented him with its Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2006, and was a member of the national academic honor society Phi Kappa Phi. He was also active in the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District VI and received a number of CASE district awards.

In addition to his work in higher education, Tuel was a reporter for *The Emporia Gazette* and *The Chanute Tribune* and was recognized numerous times by the Kansas Press Association and Harris Enterprises for his news writing.

Alumni can reach Tuel at [vtmag@vt.edu](mailto:vtmag@vt.edu) or 540/231-5852.

For more news about Virginia Tech visit [www.vtmagazine.vt.edu/spring10/ontheweb.html](http://www.vtmagazine.vt.edu/spring10/ontheweb.html), where you can read such stories as:

Biologists use math to advance our understanding of health and disease

Student-authored e-business guide draws praise

Researchers study the effects of crashes on pregnant women

Student invents toy, receives patent

Engineers explore environmental impact of nanotechnology

# HOKIES UNITE TO STAND WITH HAITI



BY CHELSEA NEWMAN '10

**When a 7.0-magnitude earthquake struck 15 miles outside the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince on Jan. 12, many Hokies felt called to serve.**

**One such Hokie was interdisciplinary studies major Annie MacKimmie. "I went outside to get the paper and just started crying at this photo of a girl with [pulverized concrete] on her face," she recalls. "You feel so helpless in America, but that's when I called Brandon [Carroll, Student Government Association president,] and said, 'What can I do?'"**

At the next meeting of Hokies United, a student-driven movement to help relieve tragedies worldwide, Carroll, MacKimmie, and T.J. Loeffler, along with many others, decided to raise funds for Partners in Health (PIH), a nonprofit based in Boston, Mass., with a long-standing presence in Haiti.

"PIH was our best option in terms of receiving our donations because we knew the money would be used appropriately," says Loeffler, a junior finance and marketing major. Hokies United raised money through T-shirt sales, donations at bookstore checkout counters, donation-request letters, and donation

jars set out around campus.

Another organization at Tech had roots in Haiti before the quake. Since 2008, the Poverty Awareness Coalition for Equality (PACÉ) has been raising money for various projects in the Caribbean republic, including surveying for an orphanage and an adjoining well and rebuilding a coastal city devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

The earthquake hit home for members of PACÉ. "Some of our founding members are closely tied to Haiti," says civil and environmental engineering doctoral candidate Randi Lieberman, director of PACÉ. Lieberman notes that

the decision to partner with PIH was a no-brainer. "We knew so many people on the ground in Haiti working with PIH, so the decision was easy."

One of those PACÉ founding members was Chris Strock, also a civil and environmental engineering doctoral student. After the quake, he flew to Haiti with PIH as part of a small team that worked at the general hospital in Port-au-Prince helping to set up temporary operating rooms and restore electricity to the facility. "The hospital was the only public teaching facility," he says, "and in one of the buildings, 20 nurses were taking an exam when the earthquake struck." The deaths of those nurses increased the need for medical help in Port-au-Prince.

With the assistance of PIH, a 180-bed referral hospital that Strock had begun working on before the earthquake will be finished by January 2011 and will be used as a temporary teaching facility. "Americans are privileged," Strock says.

"It is our responsibility to use our creativity to correct systematic problems."

Faculty member Keith Moore is using his creativity and expertise in natural resource and rural development policy to make long-term improvements in Haiti. Moore is the associate program director of the Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Collaborative Research Support Program (SANREM CRSP), which is sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and aims to support sustainable agriculture and natural resource management in developing countries.

Moore and SANREM CRSP, a program of Virginia Tech's Office of International Research, Education, and Development (OIRE), teach minimum tillage, vegetative cover, and crop rotations. "Since the earthquake, the problem hasn't changed," says Moore. "It has only put pressure on our project. . . . Sustainable agriculture and national transportation of goods will move Haiti toward a more fully articulated economy."

Another way to diversify Haiti's economy is to motivate the workforce, according to Patrick Guilbaud, information technology (IT) program director for OIRE and a Haitian-American. Using a USAID grant, Guilbaud



**Heather Bedlion, a nurse who volunteers with PIH, comforts a patient at a hospital in St. Marc, about an hour north of Port-au-Prince.**

started a partnership in 2008 with the École Supérieure d'Infotronique d'Haiti (ESIH), a school in Port-au-Prince. The partnership aims to strengthen students' knowledge of computer science through a professor exchange and by bringing five ESIH students to Virginia Tech for a two-year program that leads to a bachelor's degree in computer science.

"You have to train the top to train the bottom," Guilbaud explains. "We have the opportunity to replenish the middle class and revive the educational culture."

Guilbaud's students will be able to go back to Haiti and make a difference in the IT sector.

Guilbaud emphasizes that many of the Haitian people do have the nation in their hearts. "We are a country of revolution," he says.

Strock agrees and hopes that the recent disaster starts a new revolution. "It seemed like the earthquake brought peace to cultural class issues, peace to the city. It's like Haiti's motto says, *L'Union Fait La Force*, or 'Unity Creates Strength.'" In Virginia Tech's culture of service, many stand in unity for Haiti. But, Strock cautions, "We need to stand with, not over, Haiti." □

To read more about how Virginia Tech students and members of the faculty and staff are helping Haiti, view a longer version of this article at [www.vtmagazine.vt.edu/spring10/feature1.html](http://www.vtmagazine.vt.edu/spring10/feature1.html).

Chelsea Newman is a senior English major and an intern on the Virginia Tech Magazine staff.



# Encore!

BY JEAN ELLIOTT

Despite a delayed opening on Jan. 22, Squires Student Center is soon abuzz with activity as 500 middle and high school musicians, in various states of anticipation, prepare to audition for the 13th Annual Honor Band at Virginia Tech.

A cacophony of random scales floats out of the woodwind practice room. The brass and percussion areas pulse with drumbeats and tinny warm-up blasts as instruments adjust from the frigid air outside. Nervous laughter echoes in the hallways, a sharp contrast to students' confident smiles—after all, these band members had already made the cut from the 1,500 nominated by band directors at 170 schools in eight states.

After sight-reading audition music, the musicians face a packed weekend. Based on auditions, they are assigned to one of five 100-piece bands—Bronze, Silver, Orange, Maroon, and Gold—where they learn four new pieces before performing in a big concert at Burruss Hall on Sunday.

David Widder, a professor of music, started the Honor Band in 1998 after several teachers urged him to promote music by showcasing the Virginia Tech programs and ensembles. The popular weekend has turned into a recruiting

**Seventeen-year-old clarinet player Alfred Anderson, a student at Hickory Ridge High School in Harrisburg, N.C., prepares to warm up before performing with the Gold Band.**

wonderland for the Hokies. Widder says that in a recent survey of music majors, the Honor Band “was the single most mentioned influence on students deciding to attend [Virginia Tech].” Overall, 29 percent of the majors had participated in Honor Band.

Honor Band weekend falls in the “it takes a village” category. Three student music organizations (Delta Omicron, Kappa Kappa Psi, and Tau Beta Sigma),

music faculty, various guest clinicians, and knowledgeable and patient directors converge to give 500 youths a meaningful three days.

Whitney Mullins, who completed her undergraduate degree in music, continues to help with the music-packed weekend as a graduate student in instructional design and technology. “I just could not give up Delta Omicron,” says the president of the professional co-ed music fraternity.



Shaunn Warmuth, of Caroline County, Va., warms up for Friday auditions.



Flutist Deja Rasberry-Dickey, of Caroline High School in Ruther Glen, Va., practices for the concert.



Scott Humphries conducts the Silver Band in its Sunday performance.

To view a slideshow of the 2010 Honor Band, visit [www.vtmagazine.vt.edu/spring10/feature2.html](http://www.vtmagazine.vt.edu/spring10/feature2.html).

PHOTOS BY JOHN MCCORMICK

a three-time veteran of Honor Band. Although she considered attending the University of Virginia because it was “so close to home,” her Honor Band experience influenced her decision to select Virginia Tech. “Everyone was so nice here, and it’s such an intimate experience. Plus, I was pushed outside my boundaries to do my very best,” she says.

Junior music education major Brandon Cole is also a three-time Honor Band member. A self-proclaimed “band nerd,” Cole confesses that he loves to be in the band room setting up chairs and music stands. “I just wanted to find a way to continue to serve music,” says the Kappa Kappa Psi member. Cole coordinated trips to local high schools to gather “all of the equipment needed for 500 people to get together and play music.”

“Bandarama” highlights Friday night, when the Marching Virginians and the jazz and wind ensembles combine to practically rock the doors off Burruss Hall.

Saturday brings a full day of rehearsals and master classes. By 4:30 p.m., however, the whirlwind learning curve is nearing completion: a catchy ragtime piece emanates from the Silver Band in the Commonwealth Ballroom; castanets are perfected in a spicy Latino number by the Maroon Band up in Haymarket Auditorium; and Assistant Professor Travis Cross pauses the Gold Band in Old Dominion Ballroom to discuss dynamics.

Cole, a French horn player, gives this advice to future participants: “Don’t sweat the audition. Go in and just play. When I came here for Honor Band, I met some faculty, got to see the campus, and fell in love with it.”

Despite the weather, there is little doubt that an Honor Band experience can ultimately build to a Virginia Tech encore. □

Jean Elliott is the communications manager for the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.

# Tearing down animal house

## Dismantling the culture of college alcohol abuse

BY DENISE YOUNG

“Alcohol abuse is a problem on every college campus in America,” says Chris Flynn, director of Virginia Tech’s Cook Counseling Center, and Virginia Tech is no exception.

“The very nature of Virginia Tech has in it some of the environmental factors that lead to fairly high consumption rates,” notes Vice President for Student Affairs Ed Spencer. These factors, including being a large university in a rural location with big athletics and a very active Greek system, all play a role in Tech’s high-risk drinking rate of 56 percent of the student body—higher than the national average of 42 percent.

Every year, Virginia Tech’s judicial system handles between 850 and 950 alcohol-related violations, whether drunk in public, driving under the influence (DUI), or underage drinking. A study showed that 34 percent of students who went to Schiffert Health Center with injuries could attribute those injuries to alcohol use. While most of these cases were just bumps and bruises, the outcome of high-risk drinking behaviors—defined as drinking five or more drinks for men or four or more for women in a two-hour time span—can have serious effects.

Serious falls, alcohol-related car accidents, and alcohol overdose are just some of the tragic consequences that can occur when students abuse alcohol. Every year, more than 1,500 college students nationwide die from unintentional injury due to alcohol-related factors, including alcohol poisoning, says Flynn.

Unlike alcohol dependency, which is defined as a chemical reliance on alcohol and causes withdrawal symptoms when the person goes too long without a drink, alcohol abuse is a pattern of behavior in which the person, while not dependent, engages in dangerous use of alcohol. This behavior can harm a person’s health, relationships, academic work, or other areas of his or her life. A student is more likely to drive while intoxicated, sustain physical injuries from falling or getting into fights, have blackouts, miss classes because of hangovers, and have relationship troubles, which are the fallout of his or her conduct while drinking.

Although dependency is not unheard of in college students, says Flynn, far more students are abusing alcohol without being dependent.

**One of the most effective tools for reaching high-risk drinkers is motivational interviewing, a model focused on helping students examine their behavior and make better choices.**

### **An ounce of prevention: Encouraging low-risk behaviors**

Staff members at Virginia Tech's Campus Center for Alcohol Abuse Prevention are poised at the forefront of awareness and education about drinking on college campuses.

"I won't lie; we're not where we need to be," says Director Steve Clarke. He notes that while the number of high-risk drinkers hasn't changed over the past 10 years, the number of abstainers has increased from 15 to 30 percent.

The center's goal is to reach high-risk drinkers through a harm-reduction model, which focuses less on eliminating underage drinking and more on education and skill building to help prevent DUIs and hospital visits due to alcohol overdose or alcohol-related injuries and to reduce the frequency of hangovers and blackouts.

The center focuses on educating students in high-risk groups: first-year students, Greek students, athletes, and those students facing alcohol-related violations within the university's judicial

system. Additionally, it sponsors an online class called Alcohol-Wise that all freshmen must take or risk paying a fine at the end of the first semester.

While Cook Counseling Center is available for students to discuss a range of issues, including alcohol abuse and dependency and possible co-morbid issues, such as depression, anxiety, and bipolar disorder, professional staff members at the Center for Alcohol Abuse and Prevention provide psychoeducational



opportunities for students in groups or individually.

One of the most effective tools for reaching high-risk drinkers, says Clarke, is motivational interviewing, a model in use at almost every college with an alcohol abuse prevention program. In this model, a facilitator meets the student in a nonjudgmental, two-hour session and takes him or her through the stages of pre-contemplation, contemplation, planning, action, and maintenance. Rather than teaching abstinence, the program focuses on helping these students examine their behavior and make better choices.

Jungmeen Kim, an assistant professor of psychology in the College of Science and director of the JK Life-span Development Lab, has made a careful study of self-worth and family relationships and their effect on alcohol and other substance-use patterns an important part of her research. She says that one of the worst things a person can do is to underestimate the value of counseling in helping to abate alcohol and other substance-abuse problems that stem from other life issues.

"People think too seriously about seeking help, even when the resources are available easily, even for mental issues that aren't viewed as serious—for example, breaking up with a boyfriend—but if that has a risk of increasing substance use, we should be able to help them not go that route," says Kim.

She adds that in late adolescence, ages 18 and 19, the prefrontal cortex—the part of the brain responsible for self-regulation and higher-level decision-making—is still developing. Not only can heavy drinking damage the developing brain, but students at this age are also more likely to act foolishly or not to consider the consequences of their actions. Because their brains are still de-

veloping, they're more likely to consider the immediate reward without reflecting on the negative consequences first.

Clarke notes the importance of not focusing just on the individual but also on the community. Staff members at the alcohol abuse and prevention center also maintain an alcohol hotline where individuals can report issues, along with a Meet Your Neighbor program. Both programs are meant to help students living off-campus to coexist peacefully with town residents without alcohol causing an issue.

To compete with alcohol-related activities, the center sponsors late-night events, such as its Acoustic Café, Gobbler Fest, and alcohol-free tailgates at the Cranwell International Center.

### **Striking up a conversation: Changing social norms**

"The No. 1 thing we can do is use an environmental approach beyond the individual, focus on the campus and surrounding area, focus on creating policies and laws, and on identifying over-serving of alcohol," says Clarke. "It takes time to do that. As long as we keep that dialogue going, I think we'll see a lot of progress."

Unfortunately, says Spencer, the issue of high-risk drinking on college campuses isn't just going to go away, and there's no "magic bullet" solution for the problem. "Sometimes I think we're just treading water to keep people from drowning, just to prevent it from being worse," he says.

Flynn blames part of the problem on what he calls the "Animal House mentality" often present on college campuses. "[Studies have shown that] college students always overestimate the amount of

alcohol their peers are drinking," he says. When you help students to realize that their peers aren't drinking as much or as frequently as they had thought, says Flynn, you can help students to reassess their own drinking behavior.

It is unrealistic to think that most college students won't drink at all, Flynn says. "Most students come to college having already drunk alcohol in high school. The goal is to encourage low-risk behavior.

"I really believe it has to be a community effort to educate students, to get them to look out for each other, to involve the community. We all have to be aware of the consequences of alcohol and talk to our children and work with alcohol establishments in the community to not serve past the point of intoxication."

The dialogue about student drinking doesn't just take place at the national or local level, notes Spencer. Some of the most important discussions take place at the kitchen table. "I think we've got to partner with parents and get parents to partner with us. So much of this begins at home," he says, adding, "Now that we're getting more parents

involved, I hope it improves. Only time will tell."

For now, staff members and administrators are engaging everyone, from students to parents to town citizens, in conversations about alcohol and how to curb high-risk drinking. There may be no quick-fix solutions, but the types of programs implemented at Virginia Tech and other higher education institutions are laying the groundwork for safer student behaviors when it comes to drinking. The problem may never go away, but every step toward diminishing it counts. □

## **The Amethyst Initiative**

Taking on a symbolic name that stems from Greek mythology surrounding the purple stone—its name means "not intoxicated"—the Amethyst Initiative is a coalition of college and university presidents and chancellors who've signed a contract stating that they are willing and ready to facilitate debate on their campuses about lowering the drinking age from 21 to 18.

Among those who've signed the initiative is Virginia Tech President Charles W. Steger. Steger does not view signing the initiative as an endorsement of lowering the drinking age, but rather as a means to open up discussion that could address solutions to high-risk drinking on college campuses. "The time has come for us to have a serious dialogue about underage drinking on college campuses across America. This is a national problem and deserves national attention," he says. "That is precisely why I signed the Amethyst Initiative—to spur a public discussion about how most effectively to decrease underage drinking, binge drinking, and drinking and driving in and around the campus community."



# A break from spring break

## Swapping sand for service

BY HEATHER RILEY CHADWICK

L-R, Melissa Hendricks (human nutrition, foods, and exercise '09); Susan Clark, associate professor at Virginia Tech; and Stephanie Riviere, a Virginia Tech senior, do volunteer work for Heifer International.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SUSAN CLARK

College students + spring break = Fort Lauderdale, Fla., was the long-standing formula that inspired the 1960 coming-of-age movie *Where the Boys Are*. Set in sunny Fort Lauderdale, the movie mimicked the spring break fun of thousands of college students and established the ocean-side city as the national spring break headquarters. This annual pilgrimage regressed in the 1970s from *Where the Boys Are* to “where the cable shows are” and beaches brimming with debauchery free for the filming.

But a much different spring-break trend has grown steadily in popularity since the 1980s—spring breaks wherein students volunteer their time, muscle, and evolving expertise for the benefit of those in need.

At Virginia Tech, students are enthusiastically signing up in increasing numbers for alternative spring breaks through a variety of organizations, both on and off campus. This spring, students wanting to embrace the university’s motto, *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve), traveled to destinations as nearby as Tennessee and as far away as Guatemala.

The university’s Center for Student Engagement and Community Partnerships (CSECP) plays a role, encouraging service; finding resources for volunteer projects; and providing assistance to students, staff, faculty, and community members.

“Because they are powerful learning experiences,” says CSECP Director James M. Dubinsky, “we want to support any and all organizations that conduct them.”

Last summer, CSECP was responsible for Virginia Tech’s selection as one of three universities to host an Alternate Break Citizenship School.

The center is working with YMCA

Student Programs on alternative spring-break leader training. It also sponsors a theme-housing program, SERVE (Students Engaging and Responding through Volunteer Experiences), and a student organization, the Sustainable Food Corps. Students from both groups traveled on service breaks in March. Some participated in a Heifer Alternative Spring Break trip led by Susan Clark, associate professor of human nutrition, foods, and exercise in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. The trip to Perryville, Ark., allowed students to do service work for Heifer International, a nonprofit charitable organization dedicated to relieving global hunger and poverty.

“Not only did my experience . . . expose me to principles and a value system which allow for sustainable solutions, but it helped to narrow my focus in the field of dietetics. I will be working with underserved families to improve their health by increasing their access to healthy and wholesome foods in ways that allow them

to become [more productive] members of their communities,” says Stephanie Riviere, a senior dietetics major and former Heifer-break participant.

But these aren’t the only opportunities available to students wanting to fill their breaks with service rather than sun.

### Engineers without Borders

The Virginia Tech chapter of Engineers without Borders-USA partners with disadvantaged communities to improve their quality of life by implementing environmentally and economically sustainable engineering projects, while developing internationally responsible engineers and engineering students. This spring, an Engineers without Borders group traveled to Xix, Guatemala, to work on a water quality project for a boarding school. A second group journeyed to Verón, Dominican Republic, for a similar project to provide clean water for a school and a medical clinic.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SUSAN CLARK



PHOTO COURTESY OF SUSAN CLARK



# From campus to community

**SGA presidents embrace service and leadership**

BY MEGHAN WILLIAMS

**From one of the first Student Government Association (SGA) presidents to serve Virginia Tech to its current president, a familiar sentiment spans the decades: serving cultivates a lifelong desire for community involvement.**

## Newman Community Catholic Campus Ministry

Participation in the Newman Community Catholic Campus Ministry's spring break service trips has doubled since last year. This year, the Newman Community sent 80 students to Mexico; Chicago, Ill.; Flint, Mich.; Memphis, Tenn.; and Mound Bayou, Miss., to work on a variety of projects.

"The projects we do are secondary to the relationships we build with the people of the area. These trips represent an opportunity to put a face on statistics or news stories of poverty," says Theresa Hebert (psychology '08), Newman Community development director. "We do not expect to fix a community's social and economical problems in one week, but we do hope to come out of this experience with a renewed call to help where we can."

## YMCA Student Programs

The YMCA provides opportunities to develop leadership skills, experience civic engagement through volunteer service, and actively explore career options with hands-on experience. This spring, the Y organized a trip to Galveston, Texas, to help with Hurricane Ike relief efforts.

"What is cool about these relief trips is that we never know exactly what we will be doing until we get there. We are

excited to see what this trip will bring and are ready to help wherever we can," said Sarit Cliffer, a junior in mechanical engineering in the College of Engineering and trip co-leader with Nicole Cadieux, also a junior in mechanical engineering. On past trips, students have worked on everything from tiling and putting up dry wall to assisting with relief paperwork.

## Baptist College Ministries

Baptist College Ministries at Virginia Tech led several trips during spring break. In John's Island, S.C., students worked on the Sea Islands of coastal Carolina near Charleston, repairing a home's rotting foundation, leaky roof, and poor plumbing. On another trip, students aided the homeless and poverty-stricken communities in Orlando, Fla.

## Peacework

A local nonprofit organization, Peacework helps alleviate conditions of poverty and promotes peace and prosperity through economic development partnerships and service around the world. It organizes each project on a case-by-case basis with community leaders according to locally determined development needs and objectives.

In 2008 and 2009, Virginia Tech's College of Architecture and Urban Studies (CAUS) collaborated with Peacework

to develop the college's first two service-abroad projects.

CAUS Dean Jack Davis coordinated the 2009 spring break trip, dubbed a "workation," with Tom Tillar, vice president for Alumni Relations. Tillar, Davis, a group of CAUS students and professors, and university alumni traveled to Punta Cana, a municipal district in La Altagracia, the easternmost province of the Dominican Republic. There, they constructed a playground for the Verón Primary School.

"The enthusiasm of the children on the last two days, as they could see the playground taking shape and when they finally got to scramble all over it, was overwhelming," says Dean Bork, associate professor of landscape architecture, whose team of students sought input from village residents before designing the play park.

While many Hokies still take the opportunity to lie on beaches and recharge their batteries, increasing numbers are joining the ranks and traveling—not to where the boys are, but to where the needy are. □

To view a YouTube video about alternative breaks at Virginia Tech, visit [www.vtmagazine.vt.edu/spring10/feature4.html](http://www.vtmagazine.vt.edu/spring10/feature4.html).

Heather Riley Chadwick is communications manager for the College of Architecture and Urban Studies.

In early 1966, changes loomed on the horizon for student governance at Virginia Tech. Until then, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets had had its own governing body and elected its own presidents. In 1930, male civilian students countered with their own government and president. Not to be left out of the mix, female students in 1934 formed a women's student union. Five years later, in a move to wrest some of the power from the corps, the civilian governments merged to form the Civilian Student body. But with the world around Blacksburg changing and the university's civilian student population rapidly increasing, transformation of student government was inevitable. On April 19, 1966, the civilian and military student governments united under a single constitution, giving rise to today's Student Government Association.

## Serving in the '60s

Serving as SGA president gives students the opportunity to make changes—some of them lasting. Ray Smoot (English '69, MS education administration '71), treasurer of Virginia Tech and chief operating officer of the Virginia Tech Foundation, remembers the changes to student government. "Marshall Hahn was president of the university at the time and had established a very aggressive plan to grow the size and scope of the university. I guess, as many students did, I got caught up in

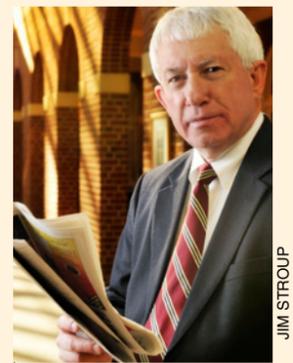
the excitement and I wanted to be a part of it."

Smoot decided to campaign for the SGA presidency in 1968 with two goals in mind: to increase student involvement in the university governance system and to obtain official university recognition of fraternities and sororities. He became a driving force for the atmosphere of positive change throughout campus, and today's Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life is evidence of his dedication and success.

"Serving as SGA president gave me a sense of being

**"Serving as SGA president gave me a sense of being purposefully engaged in advancing Virginia Tech."**

purposefully engaged in advancing Virginia Tech," Smoot says. "It profoundly influenced the course of the rest of my life by virtue of going into university administration. It also reinforced for me a desire to be involved in the community, which I have done since then by serving on the boards of community organizations."



Ray Smoot '69, '71

JIM STROUP

## An '80s president

"Serving as SGA president was really a defining moment in my life. It was my first real taste of leadership," says Russell Thomas (political science '85), president in 1984-85.

Typically more into sports than student government, Thomas "got tired of hearing people talk but do nothing about their concerns. I decided I could do more in the game than on the sidelines," he says about his motivation to join SGA. After serving as an SGA senator, he ran for president and won.

One of his greatest accomplishments during his SGA service was helping to establish a seat on the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors for an undergraduate student representative. Today, that position is highly sought after by some of the university's top undergraduate students.

After completing law school and practicing in Tampa, Fla., for nearly a decade, Thomas is now president of a company in Jacksonville, Fla., that helps improve the healthcare delivery system. Thomas says, "I love Virginia Tech. I think a lot of that feeling comes from the fact that I gave back to others while I was there, and I developed a deep loyalty to the university as a consequence of my service."

## A '90s leader

Just as Smoot and Thomas felt compelled to serve their peers, Missy Byrne Nelson (finance '92) also aspired to make a difference as SGA president.

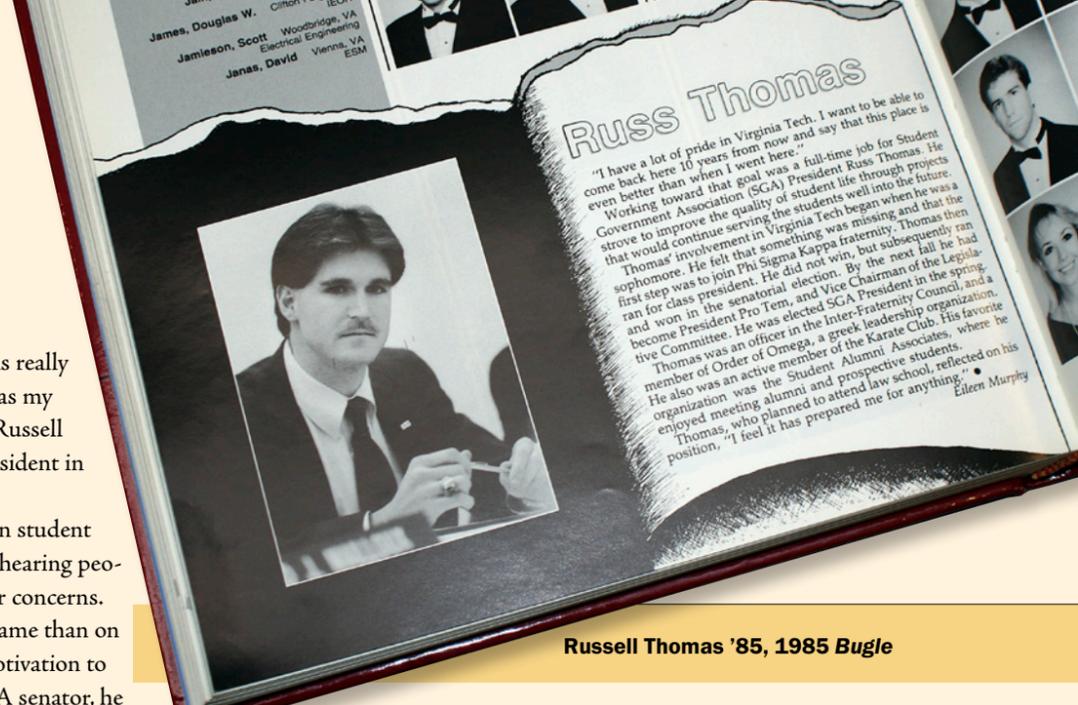
Arriving in Blacksburg from New Jersey in the late 1980s,

Nelson didn't know anyone. She decided to get involved with student government as a way to get better connected with the university and her classmates and was elected class president during her sophomore year. "Serving as class president got me



One of the most prestigious duties of the class president was delivering a commencement speech. Missy Byrne, a senior in finance, talked about the importance of relishing every moment.

Missy Byrne Nelson '92, 1992 Bugle



Russell Thomas '85, 1985 Bugle

hooked on the traditions of Virginia Tech and taught me so much about the history of the institution, but I wanted to be more involved in the current events throughout campus," says Nelson. That's when she decided to run for SGA president, and in 1991 she was elected.

During Nelson's term, she became involved with the Order of the Gavel and worked to improve the representation of student organizations and colleges. She also fostered friendships among the undergraduate and graduate student bodies.

Like her predecessors, Nelson's position as SGA president offered her an opportunity to get to know university administrators. She credits them with helping her realize her potential and encouraging her to pursue a career in medicine, as well as teaching her the importance of community service. Today, Nelson is a pediatrician in Richmond, Va., and gives her time to numerous boards and councils.

## 21st century presidents



Sumeet Bagai '07

Sumeet Bagai was elected SGA president in 2005 and again in 2006. He is one of only two individuals in the university's history to be elected to two consecutive terms. (David Baker served 1987-1989.)

Bagai (business management '07) became involved with SGA as a first-year student and says that SGA quickly became a huge part of his life. "I think I knew when I ran for my first term that it was going to be a two-part mission. While I felt like I had a

## SGA Presidents

The first president of the Student Government Association (Unified Student Body during 1966-67) was elected for the 1966-67 session. In the only split term, Sharon J. Brown, the first woman president, assumed office in mid-year in 1980-81 upon the resignation of the previous president.

## SGA presidents, listed by the academic year in which they served:

1966-67 M.G. Rigney  
 1967-68 William Coulbourne Jr.  
 1968-69 Raymond D. Smoot Jr.  
 1969-70 D.M. Norris  
 1970-71 R.L. Hawthorne  
 1971-72 Fred W. George  
 1972-73 C.C. "Chuck" Lacy  
 1973-74 Neil Burgess  
 1974-75 Gary Clisham  
 1975-76 Steven K. Bannon  
 1976-77 Mark B. Warlick  
 1977-78 Danny J. Ludeman  
 1978-79 L.J. "Chip" Fortier II

1979-80 James W. Tucker  
 1980-81 J.J. Zelloe (resigned)  
 Sharon J. Brown  
 1981-82 Sharon L. Williams  
 1982-83 Bob Jones  
 1983-84 Jeffrey A. Swartz  
 1984-85 Russell S. Thomas  
 1985-86 Walt Williams  
 1986-87 Dan Mahony  
 1987-88 David Baker  
 1988-89 David Baker  
 1989-90 David Gilbert  
 1990-91 James Budd  
 1991-92 Melissa Byrne  
 1992-93 Kevin Motley  
 1993-94 Ronald Stephenson

1994-95 Seth Ginther  
 1995-96 Shiloh Bates  
 1996-97 Jay Hulings  
 1997-98 Steve Schneider  
 1998-99 Jody Olson  
 1999-00 Aaron McClung  
 2000-01 Kylie Felps  
 2001-02 Brian Montgomery  
 2002-03 Sterling Daniel  
 2003-04 Brant Snyder  
 2004-05 Sumeet Bagai  
 2005-06 Sumeet Bagai  
 2006-07 James Tyger  
 2007-08 Adeel Kahn  
 2008-09 Emily R. Mashack  
 2009-10 Brandon J. Carroll

## SGA PRESIDENTS—1966 to present

From History and Historical Data of Virginia Tech (in production)

successful first term, I knew there was more I wanted to do and that I had more left to give to the university," he says.

During his two terms of leadership, student involvement in SGA grew—as did its success. Relay for Life and The Big Event, two SGA-sponsored events, enticed more students to raise money and volunteer their time serving others. In 2005, Bagai was asked by university administrators to represent the SGA in creating and signing the Virginia Tech Principles of Community, a document that affirms the university's commitment to create a welcoming community that nurtures learning and growth for all of its members. He has also been actively engaged in Hokies United and leads student efforts in serving those in need within and outside the university community.

Bagai is currently self-employed, a business decision for which he credits the SGA. "I knew as I evolved as an SGA president that I wanted to run my own company. I owe so much of who I am to SGA," he says.

Brandon Carroll, a senior majoring in agricultural and applied economics in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, is Virginia Tech's current SGA president. Like others before him, Carroll possesses a passion for service. His motivation to run for office was fueled by the university's motto, *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve). "Our motto is a powerful thing," Carroll says. "As Hokies, it means that we put more into relationships than we receive, and we embrace that concept. Where else in my life am I going to be able to have a significant impact on thousands of people?"

KELSEY KRADEL



Brandon Carroll '10

# Hokie Stone

Tech's spirited old rock

BY CLARA B. COX M.A. '84

## Can a rock have spirit?

Some would argue that Hokie Stone contributes to—perhaps even serves as a foundation of—Hokie Spirit.

The native limestone, mined at the university's own quarry, has defined the campus scene for more than a hundred years. The rocks have become so integral to the aura of Virginia Tech that the board of visitors decreed in the mid-1990s that all buildings constructed in the central campus thenceforth must be clad in Hokie Stone.

## History of its use

Campus use of these limestone slabs dates back to the late 1800s, when alumni donated money to construct a building on campus for the YMCA, which advised and counseled students and provided them with social activities. The cornerstone was laid on June 20, 1899.



YMCA Building (now Performing Arts Building)

Richmond architect W. F. West designed the facility, known today as the Performing Arts Building. West produced a Romanesque-inspired design clad in rough limestone, which proved to be popular with President John McBryde (1891-1907) and his faculty, who called the material "our native limestone."

In 1905, the first building was erected that reflected the university's prevailing neo-Gothic architectural style. Plans for the Chapel, which later became the college library, called for a brick exterior, but difficulty in securing the bricks led builders to use easily accessible limestone instead. By then, Tech had located limestone deposits on campus—in the area where Derring and Cowgill Halls now stand—where it quarried dark gray stone, called "black limestone." Another native-limestone-clad building, Price Hall, was completed in 1907.

Still, most buildings were brick and reflected Victorian styles. McBryde's successor, Joseph D. Eggleston (1913-19), compared them to "poverty stricken textile mills" and convinced the board of visitors to hire the architectural firm Carneal and Johnston to develop a plan for campus structures based on the Gothic style of architecture prevalent at European universities.

The first resulting building, the McBryde Building of Mechanic Arts, completed in 1917 and razed in 1966, was constructed of native limestone and became the prototype for numerous buildings that followed, including Burruss Hall.



RICK GRIFFITHS

CHASE MARTINEZ

RICK GRIFFITHS



RICK GRIFFITHS

Workers at the Virginia Tech-owned quarry mine and prepare native limestone for use on university buildings.

### Formation and transformation

Some 300 million years old, Hokie Stone is unique to the Appalachian region of Virginia, Tennessee, and Alabama. Technically a Chepultepec and Kingsport Formation dolomite, which is rich in calcium and magnesium, this sedimentary rock began to emerge at the end of the Paleozoic Age, when the continental drift forced the coastal plains of Africa and North America to collide, creating wrinkled layers of faults and folds. As natural forces pushed these layers near the earth's surface, they formed the stone so popular in the Hokie Nation.

The rock's varied colors—yellows, grays, browns, blacks, and maroons, among others—resulted from different conditions present when the stone was formed. Pinkish tones found in older dolomites resulted from arid, desert-like climates, while darker gray and black stones reflect their creation in swampy and wetter conditions.

Several sites for the limestone exist in the Blacksburg region. In 1975, the Virginia Tech Foundation purchased a 38-acre quarry that had been in operation since 1958 and added 10 more acres in 2007. Located within the Blacksburg town limits, the quarry provides 80

percent of the Hokie Stones used on new campus buildings. To get variations in color, the university purchases the remaining 20 percent from a farm in Montgomery County.

Workers at the quarry use a relatively quiet explosive to fracture the shelf-like



RICK GRIFFITHS

Above: Several sites for the limestone exist in the Blacksburg region. In 1975, the Virginia Tech Foundation purchased a 38-acre quarry that had been in operation since 1958 and added 10 more acres in 2007. Right: A passageway through Eggleston Hall reflects the merging of Hokie Stone with neo-Gothic architecture.



MICHAEL KIERNAN

## Burruss Hall

entering Worsham Field is stroke a Hokie Stone embedded over the Lane Stadium doorway. Beside the stone are the words: "For those who have passed, for those to come, reach for excellence."

The limestone's prevalence in the mindset of the Hokie Nation was reiterated in 2007 when Hokies United placed a block of Hokie Stone in a memorial for each student and faculty member killed on April 16. That memorial inspired the permanent memorial, which includes 32 Hokie Stones, each engraved with the name of one who died that day. "With our native limestone as the base, we have etched their names into the foundation of this great university," said the late

Zenobia Hikes, vice president of Student Affairs, at the dedication ceremony.

In late afternoon or early morning on bright, cloudless days, sunlight striking campus buildings appears to give the Hokie Stones an inner glow. The soft, muted colors stand in stark contrast to the mental image of a hard, grey stone building, visually bringing the buildings to life. That visual image remains in the memory, long after one leaves campus, and the stones often become synonymous with thoughts of Virginia Tech.

Hokie Stone, the heart of campus construction, has become the manifestation of Virginia Tech's resilience and spirit. □

formation. They employ other processes to eventually break the stones into the approximately 2 feet by 1 foot size most commonly used for cutting and for carving the outer face to the desired level of surface relief. Each stonemason uses hammers and chisels to accomplish the last steps by hand, shaping, smoothing, and dressing about a ton of stones per day.

Recently, the university purchased equipment to slice the stone into brick-like depths, reducing the bulk—and the cost—of cladding a building. This technique will be used for the first time on the new Visitor and Undergraduate Admissions Center, scheduled to open in June 2011 (see "Donations fuel high-profile projects" in the winter 2009-10 issue).

The quarry produces approximately 55 tons of Hokie Stone per week, about 2,600 tons per year. Each ton will cover approximately 35 square feet on a building. Typical campus buildings use about 1,500 tons of stone, or more than 82,000 individual stones.

## An emblem of spirit

For the university's football team, Hokie Stone has become a lucky talisman and a symbol of achievement. The last thing each football player does before



JOSH ARMSTRONG

## Donations pave the way for 4-H welcome center

BY ALBERT RABOTEAU

Each year, thousands of young people attend programs at the W.E. Skelton 4-H Educational Conference Center at Smith Mountain Lake.

One reason they go is obvious. Who wouldn't want to spend time on a beautiful, 120-acre property that offers boating, horseback riding, robotics, and other exciting activities? But another reason is that the programs are affordable.

Skelton 4-H center officials are able to charge campers just half of what it actually costs to provide camp programs because the center also has revenue from a donor-supported endowment and from groups that book conferences at the facility when camp is not in session.

"The conference business allows us to stay true to why we are here, which is to help 4-H camping," says Roger Ellmore, the center's executive director.

Now that business is poised to grow, thanks to donors who have contributed more than \$1.6 million toward construction of a 7,200-square-foot welcome center. When it opens in 2011, the new building will make the 4-H center, located in Wirtz, Va., even more attractive to people looking for a site for conferences, retreats, or weddings.

Officials say that increasing their conference business is not only important because of the revenue it brings in directly, but also because of the visibility it gives the center, which helps in fundraising overall.

The 4-H center is named for William E. Skelton, a former director of the state's



Architect's rendering of 7,200-square-foot welcome center (rendering courtesy of Interactive Design Group of Roanoke)

4-H program and dean of Extension at Virginia Tech, who died in 2008. Much of the cost of the new building will be

covered by an estate gift he made.

"[My father] was all about giving people, especially youth, an opportunity that they might not otherwise have had to better themselves. I wanted to be a part of this effort," says John Skelton, who serves on the center's

board and also donated generously toward the project.

"I am excited about this project because it will help to enhance the center even more for this region," says Garnett Smith, who, along with his wife,

Patsy, made a significant donation to the project. Smith has served on the center's board for more than 30 years.

Board member John Montague and his wife, Jean Skelton Montague, William E. Skelton's daughter, contributed substantial funding as well. "In the spirit of giving, we are hoping that our contributions, as well as my brother's, will help to enrich the lives of our youth and to continue the exceptional work being done at the 4-H Center at Smith Mountain Lake," Jean says.

To learn more about the W.E. Skelton 4-H Educational Conference Center at Smith Mountain Lake, including naming opportunities in its welcome center, call Doug McAlister at 540/231-6913.

Albert Raboteau is a writer for *University Development*.



## Alumna takes the path “less traveled by”

BY DENISE YOUNG

**To hear the story of Debbie Hersman (political science and international studies '93) is like hearing the classic Robert Frost poem brought to life: time and again, Hersman has seized opportunities set in front of her, not fearing to take her own path and see where it would lead.**

**Now the current chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), Hersman is prepared to face disaster at the drop of a hat. She always has a suitcase packed, her Blackberry at her side. Should a transportation accident occur in the U.S., Hersman and her agency stand ready to respond, assess the situation, investigate the circumstances, and provide suggestions for safety measures that could prevent such an incident from happening again.**

For Hersman, the path to where she is today began at Virginia Tech. “College provided me with a foundation not just professionally, but also in my personal relationships,” she says, adding that she has remained close friends with four of her sorority sisters, with whom she gets together once a month.

When Hersman reflects on her years at Virginia Tech, what she recalls most vividly are attending football games and visiting the Duck Pond with the man who would become her husband. And, of course, she can't forget those professors who set her world on fire. “I always loved going to class, being surrounded by so many intelligent people—not just my professors, but my peers as well,” says Hersman. She remembers most the professors who posed the most interesting or challenging questions and those who had the most interactive teaching styles.

And, like so many alumni, she cannot forget those long, cold walks across the Drillfield to get to class.

Hersman entered Virginia Tech with her major undecided; she graduated four years later with two majors and three minors. Her time at Tech was full—semesters loaded to the brim with courses to meet the requirements for her majors and minors and plenty of extracurriculars. As a freshman, she even worked in Shultz dining hall.

“I was in leadership sororities and fraternities; I was a resident advisor and a head resident advisor. I had a very busy four years. It taught me to multitask and to take advantage of all the opportunities in front of me,” she says.

Ultimately, it was a series of summer internships in the Washington, D.C., office of former congressman Bob Wise that led Hersman to her current post as head of the NTSB. “Taking that path has made all the difference,” recalls Hersman, who first began as an unpaid intern in Wise's office the summer after her sophomore year at Tech. She enjoyed it so much that she returned for a paid internship the following summer. After graduation, she began working for Wise full time. She credits that time with preparing her for her current line of work.

When acting as an on-call board member for the agency, Hersman is prepared to be at the airport and at an accident site within hours, regardless of where she's heading in the United States. Once on the scene, she acts as the spokesperson for the investigation while other NTSB staff members probe the contributing factors of the incident.

The agency, which consists of 400 staff members and five board members, is responsible for overseeing and conducting investigations related to transportation accidents, making recommendations for safety improvements based upon those findings, and reporting annually to Congress. Board members are on call for one week at a time, prepared to reach an accident scene as swiftly as possible.

President Barack Obama nominated Hersman to serve as board chair in June 2009. Following confirmation by the Senate, she was sworn in on July 28, 2009, as the board's 12th chair. She has been a board member since June 21, 2004.

If her days as a Virginia Tech student were crammed, her time as NTSB chairman is just as packed.

Though the job is unpredictable and fast paced, Hersman says she wouldn't have it any other way. “Since becoming chairman, my days have been very full, and all of my time is sched-



**When Hersman is the NTSB on-call board member at an accident site, she serves as the agency's spokesperson, while NTSB staff members probe contributing factors to the accident.**

uled. But there's not a moment or day that goes by that I don't look forward to coming to work.”

She finds that the agency is able to meet any challenge it faces because of the quality of the staff and the organization's mission. “Part of leadership and management is relying on the team around you. I work for a great agency full of talented people; we have a good mission. Any challenges pale in comparison to the positives.”

Hersman says that each job she's had has been better than the previous one—even when she thought she couldn't enjoy a job more than the one she currently had. And she says she doesn't regret a moment of it or any of the stops along the way. “Life is about taking the opportunities presented to you and following them,” she says.

Her advice for recent graduates or soon-to-be grads? “Don't worry too much about what's next. Follow that path and see where it leads you.”

For Hersman, the courage to embrace these opportunities has truly made all the difference. □

# Gifts-in-kind spur education and research

BY ALBERT RABOTEAU

Greg Jannaman (mechanical engineering '09) had to go through five interviews and give a technical presentation to land his spot in the engineering leadership program at National Instruments, a company that *Fortune* has consistently listed as one of the nation's 100 best places to work.

Fortunately for Jannaman, he was unusually well prepared. During his senior year, he led an undergraduate team that designed a laser-based navigation system that allows blind drivers to steer a dune buggy around a road course.

Several companies, including National Instruments, donated the equipment that made it possible for the Blind Driver Challenge team to complete a working prototype.

Jannaman calls the exercise "the most valuable experience I had in college by far" and says it helped prepare him for the job at National Instruments. "I was kind of worried during my interviews that I was talking about it too much," Jannaman says of his work with the Blind Driver Challenge team, "but not only was it a technically applicable experience with their products, it showed leadership."

National Instruments is one of many companies that have made significant gifts-in-kind—donations of software, equipment, or other valuable materials—that benefit students and faculty at Virginia Tech.

Without such donations, many projects simply would not be possible. For example, gifts-in-kind totaling more than \$2 million have gone into a hybrid electric vehicle that students are entering in the North America EcoCAR challenge—gifts ranging from the vehicle itself, an SUV from General Motors, to \$87,000 worth of parts from battery

manufacturer A123 Systems.

"We need the commitment from the major competition sponsors along with local sponsors to be able to do a prototype vehicle," says Lynn Gantt (mechanical engineering '09), who worked as a graduate research assistant and will start an internship with General Motors in June.

Andrew McCoy, an assistant professor of building construction in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies, says gifts-in-kind were also crucial for the Lumenhaus team, which designed an 800-square-foot solar house full of energy-saving equipment.

"Without contributions, I just think we would have been limited [in our design]," says McCoy, a core faculty advisor for the project. "Donations let us be able to push as many envelopes as we could ..., and that's a real nice thing to do."

Sixty-five companies from a wide range of industries were involved in the Lumenhaus project, which gave many team members an opportunity to interact with professionals in their field, McCoy adds.

Gifts-in-kind are also invaluable to the Joseph F. Ware Jr. Advanced Engineering Lab. Dewey Spangler manages the lab, a 10,000-square-foot facility where many undergraduate engineering teams, including the Blind Driver Challenge crew, work on their projects. He says corporations are eager to support student design teams "because the students who are trained here at Ware Lab go out into the engineering professions ready to design, ready to be productive in the workplace."

From a recruiting standpoint, it's to a company's advantage to get its equipment into the hands of students who could not otherwise access it. "If we could generate enough interest there at Virginia Tech in

using some of our software, it would make sense for us to then recruit those users already familiar with our applications. That would be a real benefit to us," says Matt Heric (Ph.D. educational research '96), CEO of IAVO Research and Scientific.

IAVO donated 125 licenses for its GeoGenesis image processing software, which would have cost more than \$3.8 million to buy outright. The software was designed to help the Department of Defense target weapons but is also useful in a wide range of geographic-information-systems applications.

Though companies may reap some benefits from their donations, that is not the only reason they give. Executives often say that supporting education is a worthwhile goal in itself. "In our collective mind here [at IAVO], we've got the philosophy that if the school can use the software and it helps them fulfill their mission to the students, then go for it," says Heric.

Another perk for companies is that such donations help establish relationships with researchers whose work could help industry, says John Hole, an associate professor of geosciences in the College of Science. His department has received both software licenses and geological data sets that could be used in research with implications for energy exploration.

"None of us are finding oil here in academia, but we're doing work that is closely related," Hole says. "We're either using the same tools in [geological] imaging, which is what I do, or are looking at layering of sediments in marine or river environments, which is what a couple of other professors in this department do. We are able to use similar tools in our own research problems, whether that is data sets or software."

Visit [www.campaign.vt.edu/connect](http://www.campaign.vt.edu/connect) for more stories on how donations are helping Virginia Tech invent the future.

Albert Raboteau is a writer for *University Development*.

STEVEN MACKAY

Greg Jannaman (left) with Patrick Johnson, a graduate student in special education administration, behind the wheel. Jannaman was part of a student team that developed a vehicle for the Blind Driver Challenge.

# Commonwealth CAMPUS CENTERS

BY ANDREA BRUNAIS AND LIZ CRUMBLEY

**Graduation can mean leaving Blacksburg, but it doesn't necessarily mean saying goodbye to Virginia Tech.**

**Virginia Tech's Outreach and International Affairs operates five commonwealth campus centers, placed strategically around the state: the Richmond, Roanoke, and Hampton Roads centers; Reynolds Homestead in Critz; and the Southwest Virginia Center in Abingdon. For those seeking formal education, the centers' programs can lead to certifications or even graduate degrees. Other offerings can help people start businesses, get ahead in the workplace, or simply pursue learning for the fun of it.**

## Roanoke Center

Situated on the seventh floor of the Roanoke Higher Education Center, the Virginia Tech Roanoke Center is within easy walking distance of the downtown market area's bustling restaurants and shops.

The Roanoke Center serves a diverse constituency. Business leaders can learn and also share their expertise in the bimonthly Business Forum series of workshops held October through May. Students seeking entry to MBA programs can take a GMAT (graduate management admission test) preparation course. And members of the community can sit in on Virginia Tech faculty members' first-Friday research presentations, while individuals age 50 or older can take noncredit courses for a nominal fee.

A 22-station computer classroom features upgraded technology and on-site technical support. But the center is down to earth as well. It is the home of VT Earthworks, a regional center that nurtures businesses springing up in agriculture and natural resources.

## Richmond Center

The Richmond Center can customize programming to fit clients' needs and can offer programs at the center, on site at the corporate location, online, or using video conferencing. Engineers, architects, business and public administrators, technical professionals—all can find courses relevant to their fields.

The center offers a number of graduate degrees, including a doctorate in educational leadership and policy studies and master's degrees in both public and business administration, in several engineering disciplines, and in information and instructional technology. Licensure courses for teachers are also part of the mix.

The Richmond Center is also known for helping professionals build a solid foundation for their careers through its series of human-development workshops that not only help with teambuilding but also home in on the all-important

workplace skills of self-awareness and social awareness. Topics include leadership development; communication; and the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, which identifies personality types and their preferred work styles.

## Southwest Center

Housed at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center in historic Abingdon, the Virginia Tech Southwest Center hosts a number of programs popular with alumni.

Each spring, alumni sponsor an event at the center that features a presentation by a noted historian, often James I. "Bud" Robertson Jr., Alumni Distinguished Professor and executive director of Virginia Tech's Virginia Center for Civil War Studies. More than 200 people attend.

Another annual spring program, which has become a favorite among alumni educators, is the School Law Update seminar presented by David Alexander, chair of educational leadership and policy studies at Virginia Tech. Alumni also attend and act as instructors for the center's annual Summer STEM Institute, which updates statewide educators from throughout the state on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education.

Additionally, the center hosts meetings of the Virginia Tech Southwest Virginia Alumni Association. Each year on April 16, the center and the association, joined by the East Tennessee alumni chapter and the local Johnston Memorial Hospital Blood Bank, sponsor a blood drive in Abingdon.

The Southwest Center also offers year-round graduate and certificate programs, workshops, seminars, and training programs in a variety of fields.

## Hampton Roads Center

The Hampton Roads Center in Virginia Beach serves a large regional population with graduate programs. The Educational Leadership and Policy Studies Program offers courses for educators in such subjects as advanced school law, educational administration, advanced school finance, community and interagency collaboration, and delivery of instructional services.

Another popular program is the distance-learning Commonwealth Graduate Engineering Program, sponsored by Virginia Tech and four other state universities. Through the center, alumni can earn master's degrees from Tech in civil and environmental, electrical and computer, or industrial and systems engineering.

In partnership with the Green Jobs Alliance and Greener Results Consulting, the center has developed the Green Jobs



Academy, which will make available a comprehensive package of programs aimed at creating green jobs and practices in the hospitality, construction, and agriculture industries.

## Reynolds Homestead

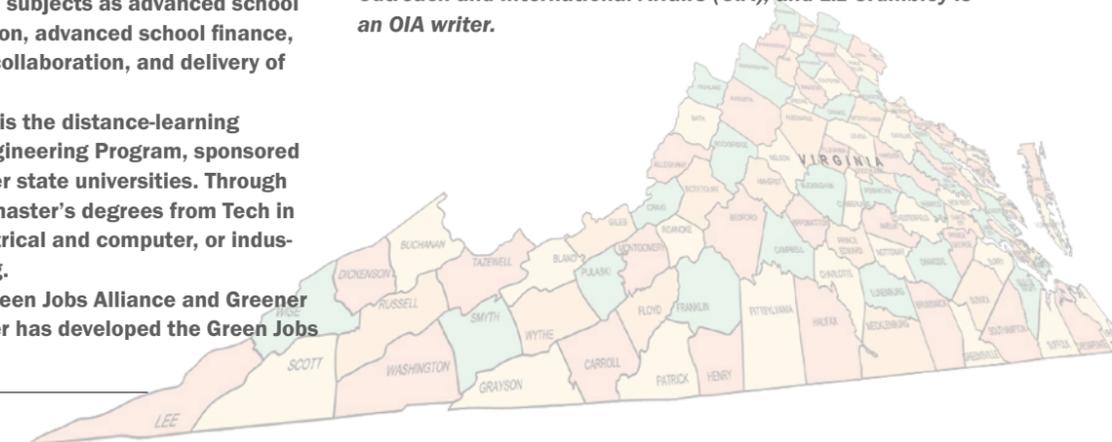
Situated in Patrick County, Reynolds Homestead features the Rock Spring Plantation House, constructed in 1843 and a fully restored registered state and national landmark, and a continuing education center, both operated by Outreach and International Affairs. The College of Natural Resources operates a 780-acre Forest Resources Research Center at the site.

Reynolds Homestead hosts programs throughout the year. Upcoming events include:

- ❖ weekend tours of Rock Spring Plantation House, April through October
- ❖ the College for Older Adults, with classes ranging from hiking and fitness to legal issues for seniors, April 19 through May 27
- ❖ the Spring Frolic on May 1, featuring dance and musical performances, arts-and-crafts displays, and programs by the Virginia Museum of Natural History
- ❖ the 10th annual showcase of Bull Mountain artists in June
- ❖ a traveling exhibit of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in July

For more information about the commonwealth campus centers, visit [www.outreach.vt.edu](http://www.outreach.vt.edu) and click the links to individual center websites.

*Andrea Brunais is the communications manager for Outreach and International Affairs (OIA), and Liz Crumbley is an OIA writer.*



JOHN MCCORMICK



**The Commonwealth Campus Centers help professionals build solid foundations for their careers.**



ROCK ROSZAK

Cadets Ashley Shepherd (left), Peter Laclede (second from left), and Christopher Nimmo (right) meet with Gov. Bob McDonnell on Hokie Day at the state capitol.

## New experiences in democracy

BY ROCK ROSZAK '71

**Hokie Day in Richmond provides alumni, students, and other members of the university community with an opportunity to update state legislators on Virginia Tech and to seek their continued support. Since 2003, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets (VTCC) has joined fellow Hokies for the special event.**

Funding for the VTCC comes from a unique military appropriations line in the state budget that covers both Virginia Military Institute (VMI) and Tech's corps. In December 2002, the governor submitted a budget that left VMI funding intact but reduced VTCC funding by 50 percent in fiscal year 2004 and 100 percent the following fiscal year, threatening the viability of Virginia Tech's longest standing tradition. Concerned, in-state alumni rallied in support of the corps, and legislators fully restored the funding. Since then, the focus of the corps during Hokie Day has been to seek continued state support.

Meeting with cadets helps state

legislators put a face on the military program and provides cadets with a great opportunity to represent the corps—and to play a role in the legislative process.

Three cadets, Peter Laclede, Ashley Shepherd, and Christopher Nimmo, traveled to Richmond on Feb. 3 for Hokie Day 2010. There they met with their representatives and the newly elected governor, Bob McDonnell. They also mingled with numerous corps alumni who traveled to Richmond to support the corps that day, giving cadets, past and present, an opportunity to work together for a common goal.

Laclede, the spring semester regimental commander, attended Bishop Ireton High School in Alexandria, Va., which gave him something to talk about with McDonnell, an alumnus of the same high school. Laclede has held numerous cadet leadership positions and will commission in May as an Air Force intelligence officer.

Shepherd, the current Regimental S-2 after being the Golf Company com-

mander last fall, has attended several specialized Army training courses and was a member of the winning ROTC team in the Army 10-Miler for the past two years. She will commission as an Army intelligence officer in May.

Nimmo is a civilian-track cadet and serves as the recruiting officer on regimental staff. He has also been a member of the Student Alumni Association, the cadet member-at-large for the Class of 2010 Ring Committee, and the Student Government Association representative for VPI Company. Nimmo will graduate in May with a major in political science and minors in history and leadership.

Even with all of the leadership experience of these cadets, Hokie Day 2010 proved to be a learning tool, giving them an opportunity to witness—and to be a part of—democracy in action at the state level.

Col. Rock Roszak '71, USAF (ret.), is the alumni director for the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.



# Alumni Association

Alumni Association News

## Commentary

A lot has changed in the 135 years since the first dozen graduates of Virginia Tech—then Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College (VAMC)—



established the university's first Alumni Association in 1875. Thankfully, they understood that even a small college needed their moral support and advocacy. There was no Hokie Stone, no orange and maroon, no *Ut Prosim* motto, no football team, and no class ring to bind them. But there were important friendships with students and faculty and a fondness for the little town of Blacksburg that had been part of their lives during those past few years.

The students felt a sense of obligation to represent their school admirably and to make sure it continued to attract others to share the experiences that had shaped them. They understood that other colleges had alumni associations, and they knew that VAMC still needed them after they left the campus and town. And so, a new alumni association was born. Little did they know that they were creating an entity that would have a profound impact on their college and give rise to activities and fundraising that would help shape the school's future. Now, 135 years later, we thank those first 12 who carved an important tradition in the foundation of what would become the Virginia Tech we know today.

Just over 50 years after the beginning of VAMC, the first woman joined the alumni ranks, followed soon thereafter by four more. That, too, was an important milestone. Today, men and women from diverse cultural

and ethnic backgrounds comprise the alumni family, which, in 2007, first broke through the 200,000 mark of living alumni.

This loyal family continues to shape Virginia Tech in numerous ways. Certainly, alumni are committed through their philanthropic support, but they also advance Tech's spirit, mission, and quality.

In 2010, we pause to observe an anniversary that marks the many contributions made by the members and leaders of the Alumni Association for these past 135 years. You may read more about the achievements and impact of the association in the following timeline and article.

Many alumni have left their own marks on Virginia Tech's path to greatness since those earliest days in the 1870s. But perhaps the greatest was made by those first 12 alumni, who believed that it was essential to create an association that would always serve and watch over their alma mater.



Alumni Gateway of the Holtzman Alumni Center, erected in 2005, a stylized version of the original 1913 gateway pictured in upper right

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HIGHLIGHTS 1875 - 2010

**1872** Virginia Agricultural & Mechanical College (VAMC) opens



**1875** VAMC Alumni Association established on Aug. 11; first constitution adopted

**1876** Addison Caldwell, first student enrolled in 1872, elected secretary of the young Alumni Association; reunion tradition becomes popular in early years



**1896** Campaign begins by Alumni Association to construct YMCA building adjacent to Upper Quad; first building on campus to be constructed from donations



**1911** Class Ring tradition begins; first ring dance held in 1934





# 135th Alumni Association Anniversary

## Celebrating 135 years: An Alumni Association built on volunteer service and generous support

BY TOM TILLAR '69

Built on 135 years of service and support by the university's graduates, the Alumni Association has a powerful legacy. Addison Caldwell, first student to enroll in 1872, was elected secretary for the association, which had commenced in 1875, the year before he graduated. Although not documented, it is interesting to speculate about what those early graduates sensed was the purpose for this new association. They saw value in having a way to remain connected to each other and to their fledgling alma mater.

Accumulating and maintaining accurate alumni addresses was a priority for early Alumni Association leaders. No one at



**Burruss Hall lighting was a class gift; many classes have made senior class and reunion gifts.**

the college assumed that role, so alumni volunteers accepted the responsibility. Perhaps the most significant leaders of the early association emerged after the first 25 years: J.S.A. Johnson 1898 and H.H. Hill 1904, who developed the first systematic alumni records program. Modest annual alumni dues of \$1, later raised to \$3, were established to designate active alumni.

Helping address the needs of the college was an important mission of the Alumni Association. Since no campus facility even resembled a traditional student center, Alumni Association leaders initiated a campaign to raise funds to erect a YMCA building to serve that purpose. Donations totaled \$20,729, and the cornerstone was laid at the project's completion in June 1899. The Y building, still used today, was the first campus structure constructed of locally quarried limestone.

A campaign, begun in 1919, funded construction of the War Memorial Gym, completed in 1926. The facility provided the first office for the newly appointed alumni secretary, Henry B. "Puss" Redd '19. The association adopted its first articles of incorporation in 1924, leading the way for professional staffing. Alumni chapters and a homecoming day also first appeared during the 1920s.

Following World War II, the association raised funds to construct the War Memorial and Chapel. Planning and fundraising began in 1945; construction commenced in 1951. The memorial was dedicated in 1960, with Maj. Gen. W. Thomas Rice '34, association president, presiding. A modern refurbishment effort, also led by the Alumni Association, concluded with a rededication ceremony in 2000, with Rice serving as the honored guest speaker.

Volunteer leaders of the Alumni Association developed the first fundraising initiatives for Virginia Tech. The Alumni Loyalty Fund provided money to operate the association, as well as to support students and faculty. In the early 1970s, two endowments were created to commemorate the university's centennial. Alumni Presidential Scholarship funds provided merit scholarships to students. Endowed funds for Alumni Distinguished Professorships (ADP) were the first to assist distinguished faculty members with supplements to their university salaries. Approximately 10 professors hold the ADP title at any one time.

With the help of the board of visitors and alumni leaders, other organizations were formed to strengthen private support of the university. The Virginia Tech Foundation, established in 1948, provides a repository for gifts to benefit the university and manages endowments and other invested funds. Today, the foundation's assets are approximately \$1 billion. The Student Aid Association, today's Virginia Tech Athletic Fund, was created in 1950 to support grant-in-aid scholarships for athletes. In 1962, it established a system of Hokie Clubs to cultivate and solicit support. In 1991, the Alumni Association created an endowment for its programs that has grown to \$4 million. Voluntary support for the association comes through the university's Annual Fund as a gift designation to the Virginia Tech Foundation for "Alumni Programs" or the "Alumni Association."

The programs of the Alumni Association range from maintaining records for more than 200,000 living alumni to overseeing programs that involve alumni in the life of the university.



**The Corps 1895-96 Session**



**Groundbreaking for the YMCA building, first campaign for a campus construction project by the Alumni Association**

### ALUMNI ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVES 1926 to present

Henry B. Redd '19  
*alumni secretary 1926-60*

Marcus L. Oliver '44  
*director of Alumni Affairs 1960-65*

Phil R. Oliver Sr.  
*acting director of Alumni Affairs 1965-66*

C. Bruce Ross '57  
*director of Alumni Affairs 1966-67*

Herman L. Pritchard '24  
*acting director of Alumni Affairs 1967-68*

George E. Russell '52  
*vice president for Alumni Relations 1968-95*

Thomas C. Tillar Jr. '69  
*vice president for Alumni Relations 1996-present*



**Henry B. Redd**

### HIGHLIGHTS

**1913** Alumni Gateway constructed at today's intersection of Main Street and College Avenue, where campus main entrance is located (a stylized version of that gateway is replicated at entrance to Holtzman Alumni Center)



**1919** Campaign begins by Alumni Association to construct War Memorial Gym to honor alumni killed in WWI

**1924** Alumni Association officially incorporated as a charitable nonprofit; first *Alumni Register* news periodical published

**1926** Gym opened and dedicated, and first alumni staff offices housed in it; Henry B. "Puss" Redd ('19) hired as first professional "alumni secretary"



**1928** First Homecoming Day designated for alumni by the association

**c.1929** First Alumni Association chapter established

**1938** Alumni Loyalty Fund established as college's first annual giving program



**1948** Association begins campaign to construct War Memorial and Chapel (officially dedicated in 1960) in honor of alumni killed in WWII

**1967** Alumni Association Old Guard established for all alumni who have celebrated 50th reunion

**1968** Alumni staff offices moved from War Memorial Gym to Burruss Hall



**1972** University's centennial year; Alumni Association establishes first student merit scholarship endowment and first faculty professorship endowment

**1975** Student Alumni Associates created

**1984** Alumni offices moved to Alumni Hall wing of Donaldson Brown Center



## 135th Alumni Association Anniversary



**Holtzman Alumni Center's grand hall**

The alumni chapter program has grown to 143 chapters around the world (at least 11 are located abroad). These chapters are open to all alumni and do not require membership dues.

Peer associations have recognized Tech's association for its constituency-relations program. The association has a staff member in each of the university's colleges, as well as multicultural and corps of cadets alumni programs. These operations complement the reunions organized by graduation class year, special student organizations, and athletic teams.

Under the Hokie Nation Serves initiative, Tech alumni annually perform thousands of hours of community service through chapter-organized efforts. Tech's alumni even serve abroad, such as the service recently performed in the Dominican Republic by alumni in collaboration with students and faculty from the College of Architecture and Urban Studies.

This year also marks the fifth anniversary of the Holtzman Alumni Center, which has received tens of thousands of visi-



**Holtzman Alumni Center, opened in 2005**

tors since opening in 2005. Perhaps the most popular stop for visitors is the Alumni Museum, which features memorabilia spanning 138 years of university history. The Alumni Center was headquarters for the media during the week of April 16, 2007, and it displays some of the more than 88,000 pieces of memorabilia sent to campus from all over the world following the tragedy.

The Alumni Association's accomplishments have been made possible only through the creativity and energy of many alumni who have generously volunteered their time and talents to make Virginia Tech a better university.

## Summer Around the Drillfield turns 20



**In addition to the 135th anniversary of the Alumni Association, this year also marks the 20th anniversary of a popular event: Summer Around the Drillfield.**

Plan to come back to Virginia Tech July 22-24 to get a close look at research and other endeavors on campus and to experience some of the New River Valley's outdoor attractions. Summer Around the Drillfield invites alumni to attend a family-friendly event and to take a peek at the ever-changing face of the university's campus.

To celebrate the 20th anniversary, the Alumni Association has gathered presenters from all academic colleges. Faculty will share their expertise in actual laboratories or work settings. The presentations will be appropriate for both children and adults, and some will include an interactive component.

The afternoons will be open, allowing attendees to choose from a wide variety of outdoor activities, including a round of golf at the newly renovated Pete Dye River Course or the on-campus course, tubing on the New River, or hiking to popular sites. Evenings provide further opportunities to socialize, with a Henderson Lawn outdoor concert and a themed dinner on the final night.

Don't miss this special 20th anniversary of Summer Around the Drillfield. For a more detailed look at the schedule of events and to register, visit our website at [www.alumni.vt.edu/reunion/index.html](http://www.alumni.vt.edu/reunion/index.html).



### HIGHLIGHTS

**1991** Formerly independent Alumni Association becomes part of university as Alumni Relations, and position of vice president for Alumni Relations established; a merged annual fund begins operating through University Development

**1992** Alumni Association assumes responsibility for class officer and class ring traditions



**2000** Formal campaign launched for new alumni and conference center; Alumni Association begins staffing constituency alumni relations programs for academic colleges

**2005** Holtzman Alumni Center officially opens; dedicated as part of complex that includes The Inn at Virginia Tech & Skelton Conference Center



**2007** Alumni Association exceeds 200,000 living alumni in its membership and database

**2010** Alumni Association celebrates 135 years of service to the university and fifth anniversary of its permanent home in Holtzman Center; Alumni Association will publish 12th edition of official alumni directory



## Distance learning

### eLearning opportunities sustain solid alumni connections

It's no surprise that Virginia Tech alumni remain actively connected to the university, whether through reading alumni communications or attending sporting or social events. More and more Virginia Tech alumni are also sustaining rich academic connections to their alma mater via online educational opportunities offered through the university's Office of Distance Learning and Summer Sessions. One such alumna is Lavonda Perkins (business and information technology '06, M.A. instructional technology '09).

"I knew I wanted to go to graduate school as soon as I finished my undergraduate degree at Tech and thought it would be really convenient to take the courses online," says Perkins, who enrolled in the online instructional technology master of arts program. "I also wanted to go to Virginia Tech for graduate school because of its strong academic program and reputation."

Freedom and convenience are some of the most appealing attributes of Virginia Tech's online programs, and these factors allowed Perkins to stay on course with her studies while moving three times for her job. "I've grown not only academically in regards to instructional design but have also become even more aware of the importance of education," notes Perkins, who will be putting her master's degree to work by developing eLearning strategies in the field of corporate training.

Perkins says her online educational experience fit perfectly within her lifestyle, citing it for helping her to polish her time-management skills. "My suggestion to anyone who is considering an online degree program is to plan, plan, plan!"

Virginia Tech Online, the gateway to the university's eLearning offerings, serves as a one-stop shop for applying, registering, and selecting courses from anywhere in the world. Visit [www.vto.vt.edu](http://www.vto.vt.edu) today to review all of Virginia Tech's current eLearning offerings, or call 866/791-4898.

### Did You Know...

- ▶ More than 11,400 undergraduate Virginia Tech alumni have earned one or more graduate degrees at Virginia Tech since 1979.
- ▶ Virginia Tech currently offers 17 graduate degrees, 21 graduate or post-baccalaureate certificates, plus two professional studies course series (K-12 teacher focus) through eLearning.
- ▶ Currently with more than 20,000 enrollments per year, Virginia Tech is one of the nation's leaders among public higher education institutions in delivering eLearning courses and programs.
- ▶ Virginia Tech undergraduates' interest in taking individual distance-learning courses while on campus is increasing, with more than 10,000 undergraduate online enrollments in 2009.

**VTO**Online  
eLearning @ Virginia Tech  
[www.vto.vt.edu](http://www.vto.vt.edu)

## Alumni tours

### Make alumni travel your way to experience adventure!

#### Provence: Aix-en-Provence June 1-9: \$2,790\*

Enjoy historic Aix-en-Provence as you take a private tour of Chateau d' Arnajon. Take in the majestic sights, and see the Roman Empire come alive during a visit to the historic monuments of Arles and Pont du Gard.

#### Tuscany: Cortona June 23-July 1: \$2,590\*

Experience Tuscany firsthand. Walk the cobbled streets of Etruscan Cortona, and discover the art, architecture, cuisine, and culture of one of Italy's most beloved regions.

#### Canadian Maritimes July 14-23: \$3,420\*

Immerse yourself in the culture and history of the Canadian Maritimes as you visit Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island. Enjoy the rugged coasts, beautiful lighthouses, charming fishing villages, and a whale-watching cruise.



#### Scotland: Oban & Stirling Aug. 15-23: \$2,620\*

Travel through the cities of Edinburgh, Oban, and Stirling, and attend a folkloric performance that showcases



traditional Scottish music and dance. Visit St. Andrews, known as the home of golf. Witness Edinburgh's famed Tattoo Military Festival.

#### Saxony on the Magnificent Elbe River Sept. 24-Oct. 2: \$2,740\*

Sail through the breathtaking scenery of the Saxon Alps to Prague. Visit some of Germany's most picturesque cities, including Potsdam, Wittenberg, and Torgau. Once divided, Berlin is the perfect prelude for a journey into one of Europe's most majestic and historic regions.

#### Mediterranean Inspiration: Rome (Civitavecchia) to Venice Oct. 17-30: \$3,739\*

Set sail aboard the deluxe and intimate 684-passenger Oceania Cruise Nautica. Cruise along Italy's treasured west coast, and see the shores of Monaco, Greece, Montenegro, and Croatia. Airfare included.

#### China and the Yangtze River Oct. 31-Nov. 13: \$3,340\*

Cruise the scenic Yangtze River aboard the *Viking Century Sky*, and marvel at the Three Gorges. See such legendary wonders as Beijing's Imperial Palaces and Great Wall, Xi'an's Terra Cotta Warriors, and the Bund in Shanghai, and watch a traditional Peking Opera performance and a show by the Shanghai Acrobatic Theater.

#### Germany's Legendary Holiday Market Cruise

Nov. 26-Dec. 4: from \$2,195\*

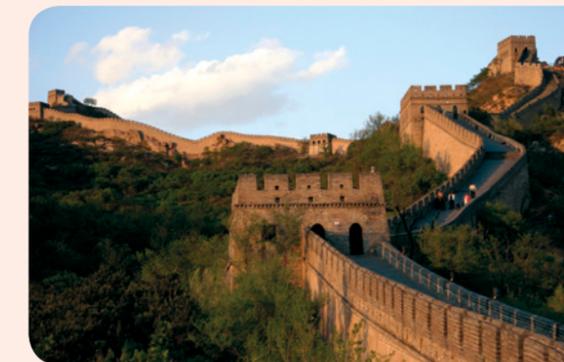
Recapture the magic of the holidays and step into scenes that glitter with fairy-tale charm in Germany. The smell of warm glühwein, roasted chestnuts, and spicy gingerbread will fill the air as you shop in the best of Germany's famed Christkindlmarkts. All excursions included.

\*Prices may vary per person and are based on double occupancy. Airfare and V.A.T. taxes are not included, unless otherwise noted. Special airfare available from most major cities. Dates and prices are subject to change. If you have any questions, please contact Gwen Harrington, alumni travel coordinator, at 540/231-6285 or [alumnitravel@vt.edu](mailto:alumnitravel@vt.edu).

#### Alumni Travel Insurance

The Virginia Tech Alumni Association strongly recommends that travelers purchase travel insurance when traveling internationally. An alumni tour is a major investment. Travel insurance will protect that investment. To learn more or to purchase alumni travel insurance, go to [www.alumni.vt.edu/travel](http://www.alumni.vt.edu/travel).

To learn more about alumni travel tours or to request a brochure, visit [www.alumni.vt.edu/travel](http://www.alumni.vt.edu/travel).



## Class of 1959 celebrates 50th reunion

**M**embers of the Class of 1959 arrived on campus in October to celebrate their 50th anniversary reunion. A record number of class members enjoyed a special weekend filled with fun, fellowship, and an induction into the Old Guard. Former Virginia Tech cheerleader Don Williams, along with the current squad and the HokieBird, kicked off the reunion festivities with an Ol' Hokie cheer. Additional highlights included a presentation on the history of the class ring, complete with vintage film from past ring dances, and an update on the corps of cadets. Several cadets who were receiving the Class of '59 Emerging Leaders Scholarship were recognized.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at the newly constructed Graduate Life Center Amphitheatre, made possible through the generosity of class members as part of their 50th anniversary gift. Following a remembrance service in the War Memorial Chapel, the corps of cadets honored the class with a dedicated pass in review on the Drillfield.

Friday evening, members of the Class of 1959 attended their 50th reunion banquet, where Virginia Tech President Charles W. Steger was the guest speaker. The class presented



Steger with two facsimile checks, one for \$5.5 million, representing class gifts to the university since its 45th reunion, and another one for \$12.3 million, representing lifetime giving from the class. The next day, class members enjoyed a festive brunch and Homecoming football game.

Congratulations to members of the Class of 1959, now eligible to attend their first Old Guard Reunion, May 19-21, 2010.

## UPCOMING EVENTS ▶▶▶

### Homecomings and reunions [www.alumni.vt.edu](http://www.alumni.vt.edu)

#### VT vs. James Madison University ⊙ Sept. 10-11

Class of 1985 reunion  
Corps of cadets homecoming  
College of Engineering homecoming

#### VT vs. East Carolina University ⊙ Sept. 17-18

Class of 1975 reunion  
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences homecoming

#### VT vs. Central Michigan University ⊙ Oct. 8-9

Class of 1965 reunion  
College of Science homecoming  
College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences homecoming

#### A Day in the Life of College Admissions ⊙ July 16-17

#### 20th Anniversary of Summer Around the Drillfield ⊙ July 22-24

#### VT vs. Wake Forest University ⊙ Oct. 15-16

Traditional downtown parade  
Class of 1960 reunion  
Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary  
Medicine homecoming

#### VT vs. Duke University ⊙ Oct. 22-23

Class of 1970 reunion  
Pamplin College of Business homecoming

#### VT vs. Georgia Tech ⊙ Nov. 4-5 (Thursday game)

Class of 1980 reunion  
College of Natural Resources homecoming  
Graduate alumni homecoming

#### VT vs. University of Virginia ⊙ Nov. 26-27

Young alumni reunion: '97-'99, '06-'08  
College of Architecture and Urban Studies homecoming

# Awards

## Alumni board and award nominations

### Outstanding Recent Alumni Award nominations

The Alumni Association invites nominations for the 2010-11 Outstanding Recent Alumni Awards, which recognize professional achievement and leadership by alumni who have graduated since 2000. Nominations are due by Aug. 15, 2010, and should be mailed to Outstanding Recent Alumni Awards, Virginia Tech Alumni Association, Holtzman Alumni Center (0102), Blacksburg, VA 24061. Please include the candidate's biographical information and qualifications.

### Alumni board nominations for 2011-14

The Alumni Association is seeking nominations for its board of directors for the next three-year term, beginning in 2011. Nominations are due by June 1, 2010, and should be mailed to Alumni Board Nominations, Virginia Tech Alumni Association, Holtzman Alumni Center (0102), Blacksburg, VA 24061. Please include each nominee's full name, class year, address, and specific qualifications for service on the board. Self-nominations are welcome.

### Multicultural Alumni Advisory Board

The Alumni Association is looking for nominations for the Multicultural Alumni Advisory Board, which represents the interests of multicultural alumni constituencies. The board works closely with the Alumni Association and the Office for Diversity and Inclusion to assist with diversity initiatives and to strengthen alumni programs, admissions programs, and general networking among constituents. Send nominations to Multicultural Alumni Advisory Board, Virginia Tech Alumni Association, Holtzman Alumni Center (0102), Blacksburg, VA 24061.

### Alumni Humanitarian Award

The Alumni Association is seeking nominations for its Humanitarian Award, presented when deemed appropriate to an alumnus or alumna who has performed exceptional service outside his or her profession or career. The scope of service should be such that it has had significant regional, national, or even international impact. Send nominations, along with supporting documentation and descriptions of the service and its impact, to Alumni Humanitarian Award, Virginia Tech Alumni Association, Holtzman Alumni Center (0102), Blacksburg, VA 24061.



Kathleen Rollins, seated, widow of Forrest Rollins '36, the former faculty advisor to the Cotillion Club, poses with her hosts, Mary and Rick Monroe, at the reunion.

### German Club and Cotillion Club alumni hold joint reunion

Last fall, alumni of the German and Cotillion clubs held a joint reunion at the German Club Manor near campus. For nearly 70 years the two dance clubs fostered a friendly rivalry of competitive dances on the same weekends each quarter.

The German Club, founded in 1892, and the Cotillion Club, founded in 1913, held dances in Squires Hall and the War Memorial Gym, serving all students on campus. They also jointly sponsored spring campus concerts. Throughout their rivalry, they sometimes merged both dances into a single event when one club's band canceled.

The German Club continues a tradition of sponsoring a dance each February in Squires Student Center. The Cotillion Club dissolved in 1970 to reactivate the original 1873 chapter of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity. Nearly 200 people attended the joint reunion, which included a reception, dinner, and dancing. Two distinguished guests in attendance were Evelyn Gordon, widow of Charles Gordon '42 and lifelong supporter of the German Club, and Kathleen Rollins, widow of Forrest Rollins '36, the former faculty advisor to the Cotillion Club. Both couples chaperoned formal dances for the clubs for many years.

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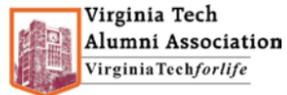


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## Chapter and class scholarship recipients

BY MELISSA VIDMAR

**The Alumni Association's chapters often make scholarship support for freshmen from their communities a primary goal. Events such as golf tournaments, art and gift auctions, wine tastings, chili feasts, crab feasts, and pig roasts generate thousands of dollars annually for these scholarships.**

For the 2009-10 academic year, alumni chapters awarded \$187,600 in scholarships—up from \$175,000 the previous year—to 164 students. Awards are presented at high school graduation ceremonies or at local summer student send-off picnics.

But it takes more than a chapter scholarship to attract recipients to Virginia Tech.

### Richmond Chapter scholarship recipient

Samantha Stephenson, who is studying architecture, applied to Virginia Tech because of its top-ranked architecture program. Once she was accepted, she says, she was excited to be part of such a beautiful campus and to share the pride that comes along with being a student.

"I was happy to learn through an awards assembly at Hermitage High School that I had won [the scholarship]," she says. "Now at Tech, what I find most challenging is the architecture design lab. It's interesting to see other students' ideas since most assignments are open to interpretation."



### Amherst-Nelson Chapter scholarship recipient

An engineering major, Andrew Apperson says he applied to Virginia Tech because of its Hokie Spirit. Upon his acceptance, he learned of a scholarship opportunity with the local alumni chapter and applied.

"I have always been interested in engineering. I was hesitant about coming to such a large school, so I applied for early admission to help make the choice for me and was excited when I got accepted in December. It was an honor to learn I had won and to accept the scholarship at my high school awards ceremony at Nelson County High School," he says.



### Philadelphia Chapter scholarship recipient

Brandon Rothenberger, a major in construction engineering and management, applied to the university because it was one of only a few colleges that offered his major, but he found other attractions as well. "What made me actually decide to come to Virginia Tech was the friendly atmosphere, real campus feel it had, and the fact that everyone strives to help others succeed."

After receiving a letter from the Philadelphia Chapter about its scholarship opportunity, he applied and soon learned that he had won. "With the education gained from Virginia Tech, I will be a great asset to any employer who wants a construction manager."



## Chapter and class scholarship recipients

### Alleghany Highlands Chapter scholarship recipient

Kaylie Fitzgerald, a biological sciences major, toured the Virginia Tech campus during a leadership conference and learned about the university's excellent biology program, student activities, and school spirit. Once accepted, she decided to apply for a scholarship with her local chapter. While attending senior night at Alleghany High School, she received notice that she had won.

"I enjoy being at Virginia Tech and part of everything this school has to offer," she says. "The pride my fellow students and I have for this school is evident, whether at a football game or just walking around campus."



### Class of 1956 University Honors Scholars

Reunion classes celebrating 50th anniversaries frequently have endowed scholarships through the Virginia Tech Foundation. One, the Class of 1956, created the University Honors Scholarship. These awards provide deserving honors students with beyond-the-classroom opportunities in the last two years of undergraduate study. Scholars, who receive financial assistance for the usual college costs and a stipend for travel, research, or other activity, complete their education by seeking experience commensurate with the highest standards of intellectual and moral life.

University Honors Scholars are expected to demonstrate significant personal development—or the potential for such development—in intellectual curiosity and achievement; the mental agility to handle the unexpected and solve problems; a questing spirit to pursue greater challenges; moral character to establish exceptional standards of personal and public ideals; and confirmed leadership skills to serve, lead, and be recognized by a peer group.

### Class of 1956 University Honors Scholar

John Hoffman, who is studying physics, math, and French, says he has learned a great deal about himself through travel. "[The Class of 1956 scholarship] has allowed me to create a learning experience that was 100 percent catered to me, the things I wished to learn, in a way that I wished to learn them. In the regular curriculum, I can't imagine any way to learn about Nikola Tesla, da Vinci, and Voltaire all in one experience, nor could I attempt to understand the nature of their creative genius better than seeing their work and creations firsthand."



### Baltimore Chapter scholarship recipient

Stephen Rosenfelder, an architecture major, applied to Virginia Tech because of its strong program in his chosen field. After applying for a scholarship through the Baltimore Chapter, he found out he had won while attending an awards ceremony at his high school. "I really like the atmosphere everyone creates at Virginia Tech and have really enjoyed my Foundation Design Lab class most of all," he says.



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Dallas/Fort Worth :: Kari Lane, [kari.zerbe@gmail.com](mailto:kari.zerbe@gmail.com)

Houston :: Penny Feldser, [houston.hokies@gmail.com](mailto:houston.hokies@gmail.com)

Lubbock :: Rebecca Daly Cofer, [rebecca.daly@ttu.edu](mailto:rebecca.daly@ttu.edu)

San Antonio :: Greg Wattis, [gwattis@swbell.net](mailto:gwattis@swbell.net)

UTAH :: Bruce Fritzges, [fritzges@msn.com](mailto:fritzges@msn.com)

#### WASHINGTON

Seattle :: Eric Bowman, [ebowman@deloitte.com](mailto:ebowman@deloitte.com)

#### WEST VIRGINIA

Kanawha Valley :: Melissa Stricker, [wvhokie@verizon.net](mailto:wvhokie@verizon.net)

Morgantown :: Contact needed

WISCONSIN :: Todd Clegg, [twclegg@gmail.com](mailto:twclegg@gmail.com)

#### WYOMING

Greater Yellowstone Region :: Ann Spencer, [ann.spencer@vt.edu](mailto:ann.spencer@vt.edu)

### INTERNATIONAL

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EGYPT :: Mohamed Ibrahim Saleh, [msaleh@vt.edu](mailto:msaleh@vt.edu)

HONG KONG :: Jesse Ho, [jesse\\_ho@hotmail.com](mailto:jesse_ho@hotmail.com)

MALAYSIA :: Edy Wan, [wanedy@mas.po.my](mailto:waneddy@mas.po.my)

PANAMA :: Anabel Tatis, [tatisana@pan.ops-oms.org](mailto:tatisana@pan.ops-oms.org)

FRANCE :: Wilfried Duchez, [wilfried-duchez@netcourrier.com](mailto:wilfried-duchez@netcourrier.com)

PHILIPPINES :: Cora Villareal, [cavenetgazer@com.ph](mailto:cavenetgazer@com.ph)

UNITED KINGDOM :: Sunil Vaswani, [sunil.r.vaswani@gmail.com](mailto:sunil.r.vaswani@gmail.com)

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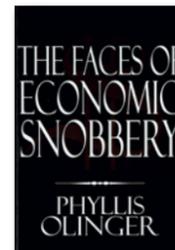
See these items and much more at [www.bookstore.vt.edu](http://www.bookstore.vt.edu)

## Off the Shelf

Virginia Tech Magazine is pleased to note books by alumni, faculty, and staff or books about Virginia Tech. To submit a book, please mail it to Book Notes, Virginia Tech Magazine, 105 Media Building, Blacksburg, VA 24061. You can also e-mail a high-resolution image of the book cover, along with your name, the name of the publisher, and a brief description of the book, to [vtmag@vt.edu](mailto:vtmag@vt.edu). For more information about Book Notes policies, please go to [www.vtmagazine.vt.edu/bookreview.html](http://www.vtmagazine.vt.edu/bookreview.html).

### Faculty and staff

In her poetry collection, *The Faces of Economic Snobbery*, **Phyllis Olinger**, an administrative assistant in University Relations/University Publications, explores the emotional realities of poverty, often finding their intersection at the crossroads of pain and despair.



The publisher is PublishAmerica (P.O. Box 151, Frederick, MD 21705); [www.publishamerica.com](http://www.publishamerica.com).

### Alumni

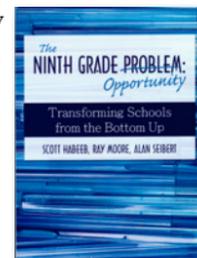
*A Marketer's Guide to Market Research: A Strategic Approach to Reach the Right Customers*, by **Daniel Fell** (biology '87) and C. David Shepherd, takes a strategic, data-driven approach to healthcare marketing.



The book is published by HCPro Inc. (200 Hoods Ln., Marblehead, MA 01945); [www.hcmarketplace.com](http://www.hcmarketplace.com).

**Scott Habeeb** (history '97, M.A. education '97), **Ray Moore** (English '71), and **Alan Seibert** (secondary education natural science '91, Ph.D. educational

leadership and policy studies '00) have published *The Ninth Grade Opportunity: Transforming Schools from the Bottom Up*, which provides educators with a useful framework for establishing freshman transition programs to ensure students' success.



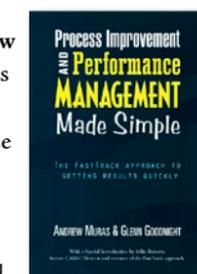
The book is self-published through iUniverse Inc. (1663 Liberty Dr., Bloomington, IN 47403); [www.iuniverse.com](http://www.iuniverse.com).

*Finding the Funny Fast: How to Create Quick Humor to Connect with Clients, Coworkers, and Crowds*, by **Jan McInnis** (communication '82), teaches readers how to use humor to craft memorable communications, connect with coworkers and employees, and diffuse tense situations.



The book is self-published (537 N. Adams St., No. 209, Glendale, CA 91206); [www.theworklady.com](http://www.theworklady.com).

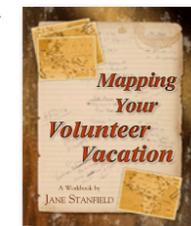
*In Process Improvement and Performance Management Made Simple*, **Andrew Muras** (M.S. systems engineering '89) and Glenn Goodnight use their years of experience in implementing and teaching at both commercial and governmental organizations to detail an activity-based management approach.



The book is self-published through Xlibris (1663 Liberty Dr., Ste. 200, Bloomington, IN 47403); [www.xlibris.com](http://www.xlibris.com).

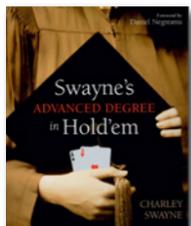
*Mapping Your Volunteer Vacation*, written by **Jane Stanfield** (animal science

'81) and illustrated by Rhonda Taylor, helps readers plan and organize their domestic or international trip, from finding the right agency to packing lightly—even touching on tax deductions and tracking purchases for customs.



The book is self-published through Where She is Heading (P.O. Box 27492, Lakewood, CO 80227); [www.janestanfieldwish.com](http://www.janestanfieldwish.com).

*Swayne's Advanced Degree in Hold'em*, by **Charley Swayne** (mechanical engineering, business administration '65), offers the reader textbook-style advice on the psychological and mathematical aspects of Texas Hold'em.



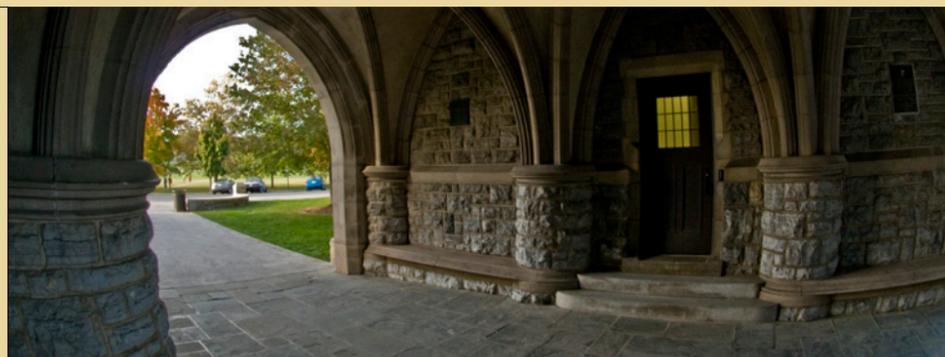
The publisher is ECW Press (2120 Queen St., E., Ste. 200, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4E 1E2); [www.ecwpress.com](http://www.ecwpress.com).

*Silicon vs. Carbon: Fundamental Nanoprocesses, Nanobiotechnology, and Risks Assessment*, edited by Yuri Magarshak, Sergey Kozyrev, and **Ashok K. Vaseashta** (Ph.D. materials engineering '90), considers issues related to environmentally friendly nanotechnologies and risk assessments; environmental and biological risks of nanobiotechnology, nanobionics and hybrid organic-silicon nanodevices; fundamental nanoprocesses; and the social aspects of nanotechnological revolution.



The publisher is Springer (233 Spring St., New York, NY 10013); [www.springer.com](http://www.springer.com).

Alumni, we want to hear what you've been doing. Although we cannot print stories or obituaries, we can post on-line photographs of weddings, babies, and spirited alumni. Mail photos to *Virginia Tech Magazine*, 105 Media Building, Blacksburg, VA 24061, or e-mail them to [vtmag@vt.edu](mailto:vtmag@vt.edu). Please mail career, retirement, wedding, birth, and death notices to Alumni Notes, Virginia Tech Alumni Association, Holtzman Alumni Center, Blacksburg, VA 24061; send them via e-mail to [fleets@vt.edu](mailto:fleets@vt.edu); or submit them online at [www.vtmagazine.vt.edu/submit.classnotes.html](http://www.vtmagazine.vt.edu/submit.classnotes.html).



### '30s

'39

**Harold H. Higgins** was honored by the Rotary International Club, which made a donation in his name to eradicate polio (P.O. Box 442, Amherst, VA 24521).

### '60s

'60

**William E. Laine Jr.** received the 2009 Wright Brothers Award from the Federal Aviation Agency for 50 years of safe flying (1400 Magruder Rd., Smithfield, VA 23430).

'62

**Frank E. Ferrante** was re-elected by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Computer Society to the society's board of governors (142 Mimosa Dr., Williamsburg, VA 23185).

**W.M. Phillips** was honored by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers for his outstanding contributions to mechanical engineering and engineering education through service and leadership (University of Florida, P.O. Box 115500, Gainesville, FL 32611).

**James T. Roberts Jr.** is an international political officer for law enforcement matters in support of the commanding general, 3rd Infantry Division in Iraq (46 Chaucer St., Savannah, GA 31410).

'65

**George L. Hanbury II** is president and chief operating officer of Nova Southeastern University (333 Sunset Dr., Apt. 807, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301).

**John F. Tarburton** is director of Maryland/Delaware Rural

Development for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (9579 Shore Dr., Milford, DE 19963).

'66

**John T. Scott** was inducted into the Lynchburg Area Sports Hall of Fame (302 College Park Dr., Lynchburg, VA 24502).

'68

**J. Jefferies Miles** was selected by his peers for inclusion in the 2010 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* (6254 Kingfisher Ln., Alexandria, VA 22304).

**Leo A. Vecellio Jr.** is chairman of the American Road & Transportation Builders Association Transportation Development Foundation Board of Trustees (589 N. County Rd., Palm Beach, FL 33480).

'69

**Clota D. Gerhardt Jr.** retired from the Caroline County School Board as director of budget and finance after more than 38 years of service (7361 Walnut Grove Dr., Mechanicsville, VA 23111).

### '70s

'71

**Michael R. Mills** received the 2009 Governor's Transportation Aviation Safety Award (14370 Lancaster Farms Dr., Disputanta, VA 23842).

**Susan S. Wood** is vice chancellor for academic services and research for the Virginia Community College System (3236 Patch Terr., Glen Allen, VA 23060).

'72

**G. Daniel Walling** retired

from the City of Atlanta as a consultant after 32 years (3330 Woodleaf Way, Marietta, GA 30062).

'73

**Murray K. Coulter Jr.** was nominated as a 2009 Super CPA by *Virginia Business* magazine (3115 Somerset St., S.W., Roanoke, VA 24014).

**John E. Grinnalds** received the 2009 IFMA Fellow Award from the International Facility Management Association (1 Deep Pond Ct, New Freedom, PA 17349).

**Kathy Dye Spradlin** is an assistant professor of developmental math at Liberty University (1132 Moreview Dr., Lynchburg, VA 24502).

'74

**John C. Harves** was honored by Radford University with an endowed scholarship in his name for his success as the men's varsity soccer coach from '77 to '79 (3445 Dartmoor Ln., Olney, MD 20832).

'75

**Robert L. Harrison Jr.** received the Madge McDaniel Leadership in Reading Award from West Virginia Reading Association's Annual Conference (2106 Kanawha Blvd., E., No. A-312, Charleston, WV 25311).

**Meade P. Horne** is a vice president at BB&T (611 Temple Ave., Emporia, VA 23847).

'77

**Melinda Turner Chitwood** was nominated as a 2009 Super CPA by *Virginia Business* magazine (6231 Midsummer Ln., Roanoke, VA 24018).

**Richard M. DiSalvo Jr.** is chair of the Virginia section of the American Water Works Association for 2009-10 (2805 Heritage Ln., Blacksburg, VA 24060).

**Jeffrey N. Lighthiser** is chief executive officer and president of Draper Aden Associates (13916 Riverbirk Trace Rd., Midlothian, VA 23112).

**Amy Griffin Ray** was nominated as a 2009 Super CPA by *Virginia Business* magazine (1125 LeMontvue Dr., Lynchburg, VA 24503-3771).

'78

**Richard L. Anderson** is the 51st House District delegate to the Virginia General Assembly, representing Prince William County and Woodbridge in Richmond (11239 Ramrod Rd., Woodbridge, VA 22192).

**William F. Bailey** was named an engineering Fellow at DuPont (6000 Summerston Pl., Charlotte, NC 28277).

'79

**John W. Coates** is director of parks and recreation for the City of Carlsbad, Calif. (1191 Avenida Esteban, Encinitas, CA 92024).

**Jean Wilson Hale** has published a book entitled *Greetings From Ekaterinburg* (65 Wisteria Dr., Dayton, OH 45419).

### '80s

'80

**Gerald H. Luttrell** was named the A.T. Massey Coal Company Professor at Virginia Tech by the Society of Mining Engineers (1907 Shadow Lake Rd., Blacksburg, VA 24060).

'81

**James L. Smith** received the U.S. Geological Survey's 2009 John Wesley Powell Award (1822 Swiss Oaks St., Switzerland, FL 32259).

'82

**Mark C. Vlahos** is the assistant director of operations for the U.S. Air Force (Apt. 436, 12 West Park, Universal City, TX 78148).

'84

**Keith R. Koontz** is lead consultant at Kevin Kennedy Associates (2008 Bay Rd., Virginia Beach, VA 23451).

'85

**Brian G. Abbott** was selected as the 2010 Civilian Engineer of the Year for the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Mid-Atlantic (3360 Kings Neck Dr., Virginia Beach, VA 23452).

**Kenneth W. Bible** is an assistant program executive officer for Enterprise Information Systems in Washington, D.C. (92 Ashley Ave., Charleston, SC 29401).

**Rebecca Ingram Boone** earned a master of arts degree in liberal studies from Duke University (105 Pinoak Ct., Chapel Hill, NC 27514).

**Lynne Martin Doughtie** was named to *Consulting* magazine's list of 2009 Women Leaders in Consulting (2450 Goodwyn Lake Ct., Powhatan, VA 23139).

**Timothy N. Madison** is president of the Baptist General Association of Virginia for 2010 (184 Fernridge Ct., Madison Heights, VA 24572).

'87

**Ayad N. Al-Saigh** is a captain in the U.S. Naval Reserve (4548 Marguerite Ln., Fort Worth, TX 76123).

**Dennis J. Beal** earned his Ph.D. in management science from the University of Tennessee (2511 Caspian Dr., Knoxville, TN 37932).

**Lynda P. Fulford** is the associate vice president for university relations at California Lutheran University (2650 Pheasant Hill Rd., Camarillo, CA 93010).

**Shelby Jordan Kline** is principal of North Fork Middle School in Quicksburg, Va. (4607 Swartz Rd., Maurertown, VA 22644).

'89

**Wendy A. Ceccucci** won the 2009 Distinguished Paper Award at the Information Systems Educators Conference and the 2009 Conference for Information Systems Applied Research (85 Heritage Blvd., Middletown, CT 06457).

### '90s

'90

**Sudip Bhattacharjee** was named the Konrad W. Kubin Junior Faculty Fellow by the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors (5813 Jarvis Ln., Bethesda, MD 20814).

'92

**Barbara A. Board** was honored with the title of district director emerita by the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors (13811 Turtle Hill Rd., Midlothian, VA 23112).

**John P. Loegering** was a 2009 recipient of the prestigious Horace T. Morse University of Minnesota Alumni Association Award for Outstanding Contributions to Undergraduate Education (905 Groveland Ave., Crookston, MN 56716).

'93

**Patrick J. Kelly** received his master of science in operations research from the Naval Postgraduate School (1968 Aquamarine Dr., Virginia Beach, VA 23456).

**Mark S. Leavitt** is commander of the Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron FIVE (1827 Moorings Cir., Middleburg, FL 32068).

**Donna L. Middleton** was inducted into the National Women's Baseball Hall of Fame (1544 Scandia Cir., Reston, VA 20190).

'94

**C. Patrick Hogeboom IV** was selected as a Hokie

Hero for the Virginia Tech vs. Georgia Tech football game (1418 Luz De Camino Way, El Paso, TX 79912).

'95

**Gary M. Hess** is vice president of innovation at Lastar in Dayton, Ohio (6183 Zachary Ave., Springfield, OH 45502).

**Michelle J. Krusiec** performed her one-woman show, "Made in Taiwan," at Virginia Tech's Theatre 101 (1625 Bruce Ct., Los Angeles, CA 90026).

**Mark B. Sherkey Jr.** was selected as a Hokie Hero for the Virginia Tech vs. Miami football game (236 Hibiscus Dr., Chalfont, PA 18914).

**Thomas J. Strassberger** was selected as a Hokie Hero for the Virginia Tech vs. University of North Carolina football game (8 EAMS/DO, APO, AE 09309).

'96

**Kiersten Elliott Maryott** is an assistant professor at the University of Pittsburgh Katz Graduate School of Business (1104 Rural Ridge Dr., Cheswick, PA 15024).

'97

**Kendall Taney Cummings** received the 2009 Dr. Robert Wiggs Outstanding Candidate award from the American Veterinary Dental College (11908 Renwood Ln., Rockville, MD 20852).

'98

**James G. Jenkins** was named the William S. Gay Junior Faculty Fellow by the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors (202 Mateer Cir., Blacksburg, VA 24060).

**Daniel J. Pilone** published *Head First iPhone Development* with Tracey Chadwick Pilone (5815 Helmsdale Ln., Alexandria, VA 22315).

**Kathryn Klawiter Snead** is chair of the Multi-Agency Radiation Survey and Site Investigation Manual Workgroup in 2009 (13 Jermyn Ct., Sterling, VA 20165).

### '00s

'00

**Christopher A. Banta** was nominated as a 2009 Super CPA by *Virginia Business* magazine (2619 Alberta Ave., Roanoke, VA 24015).

## Accountant leads by example

Lynne Martin Doughtie (accounting '85) had already earned accolades for her work from *Diversity Journal* and *Accounting Today* when she learned in December that she was one of only eight women being named to *Consulting* magazine's 2009 Women Leaders in Consulting. To Doughtie, though, the award had broader meaning.

"I am honored to be selected as a Woman Leader in Consulting, but the real value in this award is to encourage other women to step into leadership roles and realize the contribution they can make to their firms and the profession," she says.

In addition to her work with clients, *Consulting* recognized Doughtie for her leadership role within KPMG, where she serves as a mentor for young professionals.

Doughtie has spent her entire career at KPMG, an audit, tax, and consulting firm. She started out as an auditor but after 10 years moved to the information technology advisory side. She's now a national managing partner and recently became the firm's global clients leader, where she helps develop strategy and manage operations for KPMG's consulting business.

The Richmond native was originally drawn to Virginia Tech because when she visited friends who were Hokies, she felt a "deep sense of community" on campus. It was a perfect fit.

"My experience at Tech helped me in two important ways," Doughtie says. "First, I received an excellent education. Second, I have learned that the benefits of college extend beyond what was learned in the classroom. Since graduating, I have increasingly appreciated the value of developing broad relationships and honing your interpersonal skills." She also met her future husband, Ben Doughtie (agricultural and applied economics '82, M.S. '84), at Tech, and their son, Schuyler, is a member of the Class of 2012.

Doughtie has remained connected to her alma mater. She serves on the Pamplin College of Business advisory council and the Department of Accounting and Information Systems advisory board. In 2007, she received the Pamplin College of Business Distinguished Alumnus Award.

"I formed lasting relationships with so many people at Tech—students, members of the faculty and the administration, and others—who have continued to play a vital role in my personal and professional life," Doughtie says.



Lynne Martin Doughtie

'01

**Jacqueline C. Merrill** earned her Ph.D. in biochemistry and molecular genetics from the University of Virginia (2350 Cattail Run Dr., Mechanicsville, VA 23111).

**John I. Thomas** created an iPhone application called

Buckets (132 Grayrock Dr., Crozet, VA 22932).

'02

**André DuPont** published a book entitled *An American Solution for Reducing Carbon Emissions: Averting Global Warming Creating Green Energy and Sustain-*

*able Employment* (2008 Storm Dr., Falls Church, VA 22043).

**Deborah L. Hall-Greene** received a Special Recognition Award for Professional/Community Service from the MITRE Corporation (1712 Old Drummer Boy Ln., Fort Washington, MD 20744).

## Teacher receives a different kind of “Oscar”

On Dec. 9, 2009, Ann Lam Wong (biology '94) and virtually everybody else at West Springfield High School in Fairfax County, Va., thought they were attending a hastily called assembly to hear a guest speaker. They were—sort of.



DONNIE BIGGS/FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Wong was “shocked and thrilled” when the speaker, Jane Foley, senior vice president of the Milken Family Foundation Educator Awards, announced that the biology teacher and coordinator of West Springfield’s Advanced Placement (AP) program had won the “Oscar” of teaching, the Milken Educator Award.

“I had no idea this was coming,” Wong says. “I broke down into tears but had to compose myself pretty quickly when they told me they wanted me to share a few words.”

The Milken recognized Wong for firing up excitement about biology and AP courses at West Springfield. In the past two years, 100 percent of her students passed the Virginia Standard of Learning for biology, and 75 percent of her AP students scored a 3 or better on the AP examination (3 is the minimum score that students need to be eligible for college credit for the AP course). Wong also mentors students struggling with the transition to high school, and she set up an AP summer academy.

“Teaching is my passion,” Wong says. “Teachers I had growing up were my role models, along with my parents, and I wanted to be that role model for others. I truly believe teachers make a difference and help guide and motivate young adults.”

“In her classroom, Ann creates an environment of excitement and the expectation of working hard,” says West Springfield Principal Paul Wardinski.

Wong grew up in Falls Church, Va., and became hooked on Virginia Tech when she visited an older sister who was already a Tech student. While at the university, she served as color guard captain in the Marching Virginians and met her future husband, Ryan Wong (interior design '96). She’s been teaching at West Springfield for 16 years.

“Tech offered so much and opened my eyes to many possibilities and helped me realize that teaching was my calling,” Wong says.

As for the \$25,000 that goes with the award, Wong says much of it will go into college savings for her three young boys, with the rest going to the high school’s science department.

**Kramer D. Luxbacher** is principal investigator for a study issued by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health to study the effects of roof falls, bumps, or explosions on underground mine ventilation systems (309 Center St., Pembroke, VA 24136).

**Stacy E. Spadafora** earned her master’s of science in national resource strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces (Apt. 806, 1000 New Jersey Ave., S.E., Washington, DC 20003).

'03

**Timothy R. Dillera** was selected as a Hokie Hero for the Virginia Tech vs. Boston College football game (209 Sunridge Ln., Pikeville, NC 27863).

**Christopher K. Marston** is the assistant Virginia division bridge engineer for the Federal Highway Administration (Apt. 2A, 2533 Potomac Hunt Ln., Henrico, VA 23233).

**Jonathan A. Noyalas** has authored a book entitled *The Battle of Cedar Creek: Victory from the Jaws of Defeat* (139 Virgo Ln., Martinsburg, WV 25401).

**Emmett A. Sumner III** presented the 2009 Robert J. Dexter Memorial Lecture (8509 Caldbeck Dr., Raleigh, NC 27615).

'04

**Alberto Fonseca** is an assistant professor of Spanish at North Central College in Illinois (908 Summerfield Ct., Lawrence, KS 66049).

**Michael A. Martinez Jr.** was selected as a Hokie Hero for the Virginia Tech vs. Duke football game (6638 Eastern Clouds, Converse, TX 78109).

'05

**Rachael E. Budowle** is a sustainability coordinator for Virginia Tech Housing and Dining Services (506 Edgewood Ln., Blacksburg, VA 24060).

**Deanna L. Fisher** was selected as a Hokie Hero for the Virginia Tech vs. Virginia football game (430 Chandler Dr., Chesapeake, VA 23322).

**Timothy A. Fong Jr.** was selected as a Hokie Hero for the Virginia Tech vs. Duke football game (14370 Lancaster Farms Dr., Disputanta, VA 23842).

**George R. Mallory** was

selected as a Hokie Hero during the Virginia Tech vs. Virginia football game (2803 Scottsdale Dr., Killeen, TX 76543).

'06

**Christopher D. Horsfall** was selected as a Hokie Hero for the Virginia Tech vs. Marshall football game (8703 Iliad, Universal City, TX 78148).

**Dawn M. South** is an associate at the law office of Bremner, Janus, & Stone (P.O. Box 1105, Mathews, VA 23109).

'07

**Kathryn E. Riley** received the Association of Environmental Professionals Channel Counties Chapter Summer Internship Fellowship Prize for 2009-10 (1666 Thenia Pl., Woodbridge, VA 22192).

**Charles M. Weeks** received a transdisciplinary team science fellowship from the Virginia Bioinformatics Institute (6622 Suncrest Dr., Roanoke, VA 24014).

'08

**Romelin Adams** was named a 2009 All Star of Technology by *Women of Color* magazine (40 Madrid Dr., Hampton, VA 23669).

**Brian A. Alberts** was selected as a Hokie Hero for the Virginia Tech vs. East Carolina University football game (1553 A St. Apt. 214, Anchorage, AK 99501).

**Thomas A. Lenz** was selected as a Hokie Hero for the Virginia Tech vs. North Carolina State football game (18399 Fox Mountain Ln., Culpeper, VA 22701).

'09

**Sandra E. O'Connor** was awarded a fellowship with the Food and Drug Administration in Washington, D.C. (450 Oaktree Blvd., Christiansburg, VA 24073-1489).

## Wedding News

**'65 Ronald E. Johnson** and Laurie E. Finch, 10/24/09 (46 S. Main St., P.O. Box 436, Tioga, PA 16946).

**'90 Carma Stephens O'Sullivan** and Joseph M. O'Sullivan, 1/8/09 (835-D Esplanade Ave., New Orleans, LA 70116).

**'93 Ronnie T. Burchett** and **'01 Amy Morris**, 8/15/09

(6815 Sahalee Cir., Radford, VA 24141).

**'98 Michelle Carter Parks** and James E. Parks, 9/26/09 (2013 N. Vermont St., Arlington, VA 22207).

**'99 Andrius T. Benokraitis** and **'02 Kristin L. Koch**, 4/25/09 (9 Gingerwood Ln., Durham, NC 27713).

**'99 Angela K. Holland** and Thomas J. Bell, 9/26/09 (3151 Berry Ln., Apt. 4, Roanoke, VA 24018).

**'00 Christopher A. Myers** and **'02 Sarah M. Szabo**, 9/12/09 (4501 Sawgrass Ct., Alexandria, VA 22312).

**'01 Scott A. MacMeekin** and **'05 Chelsea A. Stahr**, 6/6/09 (8300 Clarasa Cir., Raleigh, NC 27613).

**'02 Fallon R. Arthur III** and Amy N. Brannan, 10/10/09 (5207 Fordwick Dr., Roanoke, VA 24018).

**'02 Brian D. Koch** and Barbie Spellman, 8/29/09 (2328 Longmont Ln., E., Jacksonville, FL 32246).

**'02 Shannon Donovan McDonald** and Jason McDonald, 9/19/09 (907 Weatherbee Rd., Towson, MD 21286).

**'02 Crystal Powell Schaeffer** and Mark A. Schaeffer, 6/29/09 (561 Rosemont Ave., Parkersburg, PA 19365).

**'02 Paul M. Tassell** and Linde Rickert, 10/3/09 (Apt. 4B, 260 Riverbend Dr., Charlottesville, VA 22911).

**'02 Bryan M. Williams** and Ginger Hansen, 8/22/09 (450 Windsor Dr., Christiansburg, VA 24073-6352).

**'03 Caprice Swan Atwell** and **'04 Donald T. Atwell**, 11/7/09 (2060 Neptune Rd, Indialantic, FL 32903).

**'03 Eric R. Collins** and Alison M. Dormer, 10/24/09 (6412 Lookout Point Cir., Midlothian, VA 23112).

**'03 John A. Majeski** and **'03 Meagan Schroeder**, 9/11/09 (38 Blevins Ave., Middletown, NJ 07748).

**'04 David P. Check** and Courtney Green, 9/6/09 (19118 Partridge Wood Dr., Germantown, MD 20874).

**'04 Matthew D. Hickman** and **'04 Tara L. Smith**, 10/24/09 (6164 Dublin Farm Rd., Horntown, VA 23395).

**'04 Justin M. Sadler** and Stephanie Marrero, 10/3/09 (25 Hull St., Warwick, RI 02888).

**'05 Christopher C. Hall** and **'06 Alison Doherty**, 9/26/09 (3624 Trent St., Charlotte, NC 28209).

**'05 Kristen Hawrylak Shreckhise** and **'06 Robert F. Shreckhise**, 7/4/09 (778 Lebanon Church Rd., Mt. Sidney, VA 24467).

**'06 Thomas M. Bortner** and **'07 Stephanie J. Myers**, 8/1/09 (12568 McIntire Dr, Woodbridge, VA 22192).

**'06 Jessica Miller Druck** and Aaron B. Druck, 9/6/09 (955 26th St., N.W., No. 705, Washington, DC 20037).

**'06 Meghan East Eggleston** and **'08 Eric M. Eggleston**, 12/13/08 (2467 Preston Rd., Martinsville, VA 24112).

**'06 Steven A. Kyriakides** and Annie E. Parsons, 9/5/09 (112 Warrenton Way, Simpsonville, SC 29681).

**'07 David W. Allen** and **'07 Erin K. Kirks**, 5/30/09 (9547 Fawn Park Ln., Mechanicsville, VA 23116-6211).

**'07 Heather Igo Donohoe** and **'08 Patrick K. Donohoe**, 10/24/09 (8317 Niyah Way, Raleigh, NC 27612).

**'07 Jennifer Harris Miller** and Bryan A. Miller, 9/12/09 (P.O. Box 265, Locust Hill, VA 23092).

## Births and Adoptions

**'86 James E. Reaney** and **'91 Kristin A. Wiederholt**, twin sons, 11/17/09 (930 Chumash Tr., Vista, CA 92084).

**'87 Frank B. Meador III**, a daughter, 9/25/09 (716 Redgate Ave., Norfolk, VA 23507).

**'88 Timothy A. Consolvo**, a daughter, 5/30/09 (1725 Tropical Dr., Raleigh, NC 27607).

**'90 Carma Stephens O'Sullivan**, a daughter, 9/23/09 (835-D Esplanade Ave., New Orleans, LA 70116).

**'92 Derek W. White** and **'94 Maria Guanlao White**, a son, 10/9/08 (1927 Fifth St., Richlands, VA 24641).

**'93 Eric D. App**, a son and daughter, 1/7/09 (11273 Old Scotland Rd., Glen Allen, VA 23059).

**'93 Andrew S. Carpenter** and **'01 Lori A. Carpenter**, a daughter, 4/29/09 (204 Fort Branch Rd., Pearisburg, VA 24134).

**'93 Todd A. Peterson** and **'06 Alison Peterson**, a daughter, 12/02/09 (P.O. Box 253, 2201 Grafton Shop Rd., Forest Hill, MD 21050).

**'93 Aaron F. Snyder**, a son, 6/10/09 (1636 Cheney Rd., Knoxville, TN 37922-5850).

**'93 Lucinda Fannon Vance**, a daughter, 8/10/09 (37 Meadow Ln., Lyndhurst, VA 22952).

**'94 Christopher D. Linthicum**, a daughter, 9/8/09 (630 Robinson Station Rd., Severna Park, MD 21146).

**'94 Jason P. Livingston**, a son, 10/12/09 (4203 Hickory Nut Pl., Midlothian, VA 23112).

**'96 Nicole Saunders Alvarez**, a daughter, 6/3/09 (3732 Flowerfield Rd., Charlotte, NC 28210).

**'96 Kiersten Elliott Maryott**, a son, 4/10/09 (1104 Rural Ridge Dr., Cheswick, PA 15024).

**'97 Jamie Reckis Bailey**, a son, 6/2/09 (13 Newton Pl., Sturbridge, MA 01566).

**'97 Michelle Cherwa Boyle** and **'00 Michael T. Boyle**, a son, 8/30/09 (8 Longspur Dr., Wilmington, DE 19808).

**'97 Wendy Hedrick Jones**, a son, 6/3/09 (687 Meadowview Dr., Danville, VA 24541).

**'97 Amanda Pfeiffer Lezcano**, a daughter, 7/17/09 (891 Kamus Pl., Fox Island, WA 98333).

**'98 Paul A. Bastuscheck**, a daughter, 12/8/09 (2001 N. Adams St., Apt. 619, Arlington, VA 22201).

**'98 Christiana M. Boone** and **'98 Jonathan T. Smith**, a son and daughter, 6/9/09 (14602 Cedar Knoll Dr., Centerville, VA 20120).

**'98 Harry A. Hogan** and **'98 Laura Hawpe Hogan**, a daughter, 2/28/09 (Unit 3-I, 10300 Rein Commons Ct., Burke, VA 22015).

**'98 Peter J. Hohm** and **'01 Elizabeth Darnell Hohm**, a daughter, 10/9/09 (7318 Venice St., Falls Church, VA 22043).

**'98 Megan Debranski Kelhart**, a son, 2/1/09 (1613 B Hunting Creek Dr., Alexandria, VA 22314).

**'98 Sara Hearne Kunkle** and **'01 Jeffrey W. Kunkle**, a son, 5/9/09 (903 Marbank Dr., Yorktown, VA 23692).

**'98 Leigh J. Perry** and **'98 Susan White Perry**, a daughter, 2/7/09 (2053 Decathlon Dr., Virginia Beach, VA 23453).

**'98 Heather Bridges Topich**, a daughter, 10/12/09 (7431 Johnsonville Way, Mechanicsville, VA 23111).

**'98 Anne Morgan Vig** and **'99 Gregory S. Vig**, a daughter, 11/5/09 (15598

Mountain Rd., Montpelier, VA 23192).

**'99 Terje Aasland** and **'99 Valerie Renton Aasland**, a daughter, 7/29/09 (1416 Carnegie Dr., Vestal, NY 13850).

**'99 Rebecca Ross Bernacki** and **'04 Dennis W. Bernacki**, a daughter, 7/4/09 (109 Hall St., Richmond Hill, GA 31324).

**'99 Holly Funkhouser Cucuzzella**, a daughter, 11/12/09 (142 Evergreen St., Mt. Holly, NJ 08060).

**'99 Michael M. Huffman**, a daughter, 10/20/09 (1612 General Howe Dr., Phoenixville, PA 19460).

**'99 Tennille Keatts Powell**, a son, 8/11/09 (113 Shepard Dr., Williamsburg, VA 23185).

**'99 Noelle Mooney Stanley**, a son, 2/3/09 (9116 Battle St., Manassas, VA 20110).

**'99 Jason W. Thomasson** and **'99 Katharine Mirick Thomasson**, a daughter, 7/20/09 (501 Valley Mede Dr., Durham, NC 27713).

**'00 Patrick D. Branagan**, a daughter, 7/23/09 (Apt. 312, 1631 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60616).

**'00 Dennis B. Cook**, a daughter, 7/23/09 (14510 Sully Lake Ct., Centerville, VA 20120).

**'00 David A. Hewitt**, a son, 8/17/09 (703 Front St., Klamath Falls, OR 97601).

**'00 Catherine Bruce Petry**, a son, 6/16/09 (2400 Glade Dr., Christiansburg, VA 24073).

**'00 Jason V. Smart** and **'02 Suzanne Rich Smart**, a daughter, 11/4/09 (2506 Redstart Ln., Birmingham, AL 35226).

**'01 Todd S. Baker** and **'02 Courtney Hilber Baker**, a daughter, 6/13/09 (5338 Blue Aster Cir., Centerville, VA 20120).

**'01 Jason C. Gladden**, a son, 5/3/09 (16180 Watley Creek Ct., Beaverdam, VA 23015).

**'01 Kerry B. Hutcherson** and **'03 Casey Southard Hutcherson**, a son, 10/27/09 (1900 W. Cary St. Unit A, Richmond, VA 23220).

**'01 Michael R. Kirkman** and **'02 Ashley Liu Kirkman**, a daughter, 9/18/09 (1828 Greystone Rd., N.W., Atlanta, GA 30318).

**'01 Rebecca Fezie Menejia**, a daughter, 5/19/09 (1008 Glen Oak Ct., La Plata, MD 20646).

**'01 Andrea King Thompson** and **'01 Patrick J. Thompson II**, a son, 9/11/09 (717 Kewanna Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15234).

**'01 Donna Ritchie Young** and **'02 Anthony D. Young**, a son, 6/3/09 (607 Seventh St., Grottoes, VA 24441).

**'02 Wilburn C. Dibling III** and **'02 Natalie Bordeaux Dibling**, a son, 9/21/09 (1506 Highcrest Way, Rock Hill, SC 29730).

**'02 Edward J. Manlucu**, a daughter, 6/22/09 (9300 Rustic Breeze Ct., Bristow, VA 20136).

**'02 Ashley Schultz Sayen** and **'03 Joseph D. Sayen**, a son, 7/20/09 (5919 Wild Brook Ct., Centreville, VA 20121).

**'02 Anton J. Schaeffer** and **'04 Meghan King Schaeffer**, a son, 10/6/09 (925 Carrington Ave., S.W., Roanoke, VA 24015).

**'02 Melissa Hargus Somers**, a daughter, 10/6/09 (146 Gresham Ln., Mooresville, NC 28117).

**'03 David D. Francke** and **'03 Rebecca Heath Francke**, a son, 10/24/09 (2250 Cherry Ave., Huntington, WV 25701).

**'03 Brett J. Higginbotham** and **'04 Elizabeth Lockwood Higginbotham**, a son, 9/16/09 (130 Briarwood Pl., Yorktown, VA 23692).

**'03 Jeremy C. Johnson**, a daughter, 9/9/09 (22145 Johnson Ln., Carrollton, VA 23314).

**'03 Sarah Ammons Milans** and **'03 Seth A. Milans**, a daughter, 7/15/09 (12410 Rock Ridge Rd., Herndon, VA 20170).

**'03 Patrick F. Mish**, a daughter, 5/21/09 (1311 Waneta Ct., Odenton, MD 21113).

**'03 Lindsey Love Harrison Radack** and **'05 Kevin P. Radack**, a son, 8/31/09 (914 Elrond Dr., Charlotte, NC 28269).

**'04 Constance Cardovilla Edwards**, a son, 9/4/09 (778 Wilderness Way, Newport News, VA 23608).

**'04 Jason P. Henrich**, a daughter, 6/30/09 (1327 W. College Ave., Appleton, WI 54914).

**'04 William A. Rendleman**, a daughter, 10/29/09 (1202 Monticello St., Greensboro, NC 27410).

**'05 Alexis Reuther Pruitt**, a daughter, 6/13/09 (2114 Pinnacle View Dr., Kings Mountain, NC 28086).

## Deaths

**'30 Labon Backer**, 9/6/09 (99 Norumbega Rd., Apt. 237, Weston, MA 02493).

**'37 Harry M. Meyers Jr.**, 10/19/09 (Apt. C31, 8302 Old York Rd., Elkins Park, PA 19027).

**'38 Charles I. Abbitt**, 9/27/09 (955 Harpersville Rd., Apt. 2019, Newport News, VA 23601).

**'38 James S. Tate**, 8/16/09 (500 Elmington Ave., Apt. 320, Nashville, TN 37205).

**'39 Charles E. Fuqua**, 8/25/09 (P.O. Box 263, Williamsport, PA 17703).

**'39 Emanuel Tsourounis**, 10/30/09 (1728 Kirby Rd. No. 111, McLean, VA 22101).

**'40 Charles W. Miller**, 10/16/09 (113 Meadow Ln., Bridgewater, VA 22812).

**'40 William F. Newman**, 9/29/09 (Lakewood Manor, 1900 Lauderdale Dr. HSB 242, Henrico, VA 23238).

**'40 Max Singer**, 11/6/09 (24 Wyckham Rd., Tinton Falls, NJ 07724).

**'41 J.H. Hayes Jr.**, 10/20/09 (22 Trail Rd., Bristol, VA 24201).

**'42 Guy L. Alphin**, 10/5/09 (867 Mt. Joy Rd., Buchanan, VA 24066).

**'42 W.H. Dickey**, 10/4/09 (225 23rd St., Unit 203, Roanoke, VA 24014).

**'42 Herman D. Hawley**, 10/29/09 (3400 Lenox Ct., Greensboro, NC 27408).

**'43 James B. Morrison**, 10/31/09 (5262 18th Ave., N.E., Seattle, WA 98105).

**'43 Hugh W. Sigmon**, 7/28/09 (3355 Woodland Dr., Roanoke, VA 24015).

**'43 Paul C. Worthy**, 6/25/09 (512 Meadow Park Ln., Media, PA 19063).

**'44 W.E. Abriel**, 9/10/09 (514 Nutmeg Cir., Deland, FL 32724).

**'44 Samuel G. Karn**, 11/10/09 (1 Mayfair Rd., Holmdel, NJ 07733).

**'44 T. Frank Smith Jr.**, 9/22/09 (4806 Lockgreen Cir., Richmond, VA 23226).

**'44 Morton Wood Jr.**, 8/10/09 (9221 Holly Oak Dr., Bethesda, MD 20817).

**'45 Raymond E. Banks**, 10/2/09 (Westminster Woods RC, 4536 Chicksaw Rd., Kingsport, TN 37664).

**'45 Robert W. Barnes**, 10/17/09 (20 Adams St., Apalachicola, FL 32320).

**'45 Randolph C. Heard**, 11/6/09 (2939 Tamarack Tr., Roanoke, VA 24018).

**'45 Charles R. Hoover**, 10/26/09 (1029 Maxwell Hill Rd., Beckley, WV 25801).

**'45 Jane Hardcastle Jones**, 10/26/09 (1503 Palmer Dr., S.E., Blacksburg, VA 24060).

**'45 Theodore Lok**, 11/14/09 (2 Ashlar Village, Wallingford, CT 06492).

**'45 Hobart M. Thomas Jr.**, 9/4/09 (12434 Cottage Rd., Culpeper, VA 227014361).

**'46 William C. Bishop**, 9/20/09 (175 Wood Wedge Way, Sanford, NC 27332).

**'48 Benjamin Squires**, 9/18/09 (7521-A Lexington Club Dr., Delray Beach, FL 33446).

**'49 J.G. Ayers**, 3/11/09 (85 Morningside Dr., Falling Waters, WV 25419).

**'49 R. Kenneth Cassada**, 10/12/09 (1304 Friend Ave., South Boston, VA 24592).

**'49 Roland D. English**, 11/10/09 (304 Woodbrook Run, Newport News, VA 23606).

**'49 William C. Grimsley**, 8/26/09 (213 W. Tazewells Way, Williamsburg, VA 23185).

**'49 Gwyndolyn Ward Keil**, 9/5/09 (7111 Bradford Cottage Ct., Mechanicsville, VA 23111).

**'49 Shirley D. Pritchard**, 9/25/09 (3631 Collins Ferry Rd., Morgantown, WV 26505).

**'50 Jesse M. Bratton**, 11/6/09 (1834 Pembroke Dr., Vinton, VA 24179).

**'50 H. Paul Oliver**, 9/19/09 (11817 Coat Bridge Ln., Richmond, VA 23233).

**'50 John A. Ruffin III**, 9/16/09 (P.O. Box 696, Antioch, IL 60002).

**'51 Robert C. Peterson**, 3/31/09 (104 Santa Rita Dr., Odessa, TX 79763).

**'51 Samuel R. Wilson Jr.**, 11/13/09 (1480 Blue Heron Dr., Englewood, FL 34224).

**'52 James L. Berlin**, 10/19/09 (7117 Morton Dr., Lynchburg, VA 24502).

**'52 W. Stuart Johnson**, 9/6/09 (1562 Heathrow Ln., Keswick, VA 22947).

**'52 James E. Whipple**, 10/7/09 (208 Middle Brook Rd., Greer, SC 29650).

**'53 Charles W. Chamberlain**, 10/16/09 (P.O. Box 1076, Waverly, VA 23890).

**'53 Glenn C. English Jr.**, 9/4/09 (243 Baier Dr., Salem, VA 24153).

**'53 F. Richard Quible**, 11/9/09 (501 Mill Pointe Rd., Blacksburg, VA 24060).

**'53 William A. Wilmarth**, 10/24/09 (1202 W Cedar Ln., Arlington Heights, IL 60005).

**'54 William O. Warwick**, 10/13/09 (35 Aspen Dr., Daleville, VA 24083).

**'55 Sylvia Scheel Carts**, 6/10/09 (8812 Gateshead Rd., Alexandria, VA 22309).

**'55 Joseph F. Graninger Jr.**, 9/16/09 (5214 Green Meadow Rd., S.W., Roanoke, VA 24018).

**'55 Ralph W. Kitson**, 8/30/09 (20 Gordon Pl., New Providence, NJ 07974).

**'55 Arno Tamm**, 8/20/09 (4525 Henry Hudson Pkwy., Apt. 1203, Bronx, NY 10471).

**'56 Pauline Gregory Holloway**, 10/6/09 (520 Briarwood Dr., Vinton, VA 24179).

**'56 Glenn M. Oxley**, 10/15/09 (290 Emerald Lake Dr., Fayetteville, GA 30215).

**'57 Martin C. Nielsen**, 5/30/09 (1941 Sevilla Blvd., W., Atlantic Beach, FL 32233).

**'57 Meredith R. Standley**, 9/19/09 (521 Mt. Pleasant Dr., Locust Grove, VA 22508).

**'58 J.A. Bailey**, 9/28/09 (618 Thalia Rd., Virginia Beach, VA 23452).

**'58 Victor M. DuPont**, 9/7/09 (P.O. Box 1361, Middleburg, VA 20118).

**'58 T. Skipwith Lewis**, 10/10/09 (96 Wheatland Rd., Lewisberry, PA 17339).

**'58 Linwood C. Newton**, 9/23/09 (2071 Rosemary Ct., Hemet, CA 92545).

**'58 J.B. Pollock**, 11/10/09 (4912 Montford Dr.,

Wilmington, NC 28409).

**'58 Herbert M. Sproles**, 10/18/09 (P.O. Box 273, Alexis, NC 28006).

**'59 S.W. Calder**, 10/18/09 (800 Gwynne Ave., Waynesboro, VA 22980).

**'59 Eugene A. Fitzgerald**, 8/14/09 (17146 S.E. 23rd Dr., Unit 48, Vancouver, WA 98683).

**'59 R.H. Maness**, 11/16/09 (404 W. Woodland Dr., Grafton, VA 23692).

**'60 Alfred T. Campbell**, 9/27/09 (9 Bramble Ln., Bristol, VA 24201).

**'60 Nelson L. Emmons**, 9/6/09 (3005 Catalina Ave., Suffolk, VA 23434).

**'60 Frederic D. Fraley**, 10/27/09 (213 Huntingwood Blvd., Lynchburg, VA 24503).

**'60 Albert H. Smith**, 11/12/09 (415 Creek Ave., Hampton, VA 23669).

**'60 Robert H. Thompson**, 2/22/09 (13534 Lavender Mist Ln., Centreville, VA 20120).

**'61 H. Joseph Lawler**, 9/8/09 (2773 Joel Pl., Atlanta, GA 30360).

**'61 Grayson H. Via**, 8/3/09 (237 N. Dogwood Tr., Southern Shores, NC 27949).

**'61 William R. Wells**, 5/22/09 (3561 Gallup Ct., Las Vegas, NV 89121).

**'62 Samuel H. Hodges**, 10/26/09 (1315 Belle Aire Ln., Roanoke, VA 24018).

**'63 James E. Carico**, 3/24/09 (8441 Charlemont Rd., Goode, VA 24556).

**'63 R.W. Critz**, 10/28/09 (P.O. Box 3847, Martinsville, VA 24115).

**'63 Charles M. Heartwell**, 10/19/09 (Charlie's Charmers, 25 Panorama Way, Beverly, WV 26253).

**'63 Samuel E. Pope Jr.**, 11/7/09 (23373 Royal Oak Ln., Drewryville, VA 23844).

**'64 Samuel J. Hall**, 4/30/08 (3964 Blandfield Dr., Vinton, VA 24179).

**'64 Vernon D. Lucy III**, 11/19/09 (11089 Sugarloaf Dr., Mechanicsville, VA 23116).

**'64 William A. Reed**, 9/5/09 (35 Willow Rd., Tequesta, FL 33469).

**'64 Joseph E. Urban Jr.**, 10/23/09 (4158 Salem Bottom Rd., Westminster, MD 21157).

**'64 Joseph G. Vance**, 9/14/09 (7100 Park St., Hollywood, FL 33024).

**'65 Glenn E. Wilmer Jr.**, 10/25/05 (6520 Green

Meadow Rd. N.W., Huntsville, AL 35810).

**'66 Richard C. McNeel**, 9/13/09 (202 Gayle Ave., San Antonio, TX 78223).

**'67 F. Samuel Baechtel**, 10/3/09 (10711 Joshua Ln., Fredericksburg, VA 22408).

**'67 Thomas R. Costin Jr.** (234 High St., Appomattox, VA 24522).

**'67 John M. Stout**, 8/3/09 (4025 Lynn Cir., Shelby, NC 28152).

**'68 John A. Floyd II**, 9/17/09 (440 Smithwood St., Fuquay Varina, NC 27526).

**'68 John E. Strauss**, 10/27/09 (P.O. Box 156, Christiansburg, VA 24068).

**'70 Harold E. Hamilton Jr.**, 9/9/09 (P.O. Box 390, 5150 Wardell Rd., Pounding Mill, VA 24637).

**'71 Louis T. Whittaker Jr.**, 10/22/09 (118 Atwill Dr., Reedville, VA 22539).

**'72 Juanita Krentzman Snipes**, 4/30/09 (1321 Park Bayou Dr., Houston, TX 77077).

**'72 Kenneth E. Turner**, 9/1/09 (511 Carolina Blvd., Isle Of Palms, SC 29451).

**'73 Robert D. Lowe**, 5/17/09 (8910 Jameson St., Lorton, VA 22079).

**'73 Ronald C. Poff**, 10/11/09 (2722 Ellison Ave., Salem, VA 24153).

**'74 Michael L. Conner**, 9/17/09 (946 Leisters Church Rd., Westminster, MD 21157).

**'74 Anne M. Gaare**, 10/24/09 (2005 Clairmont Terrace, N.E., Atlanta, GA 30345).

**'74 J. Frederick Gabbert Jr.**, 10/18/09 (P.O. Box 351, Bland, VA 24315).

**'75 Gary E. Day**, 9/6/09 (86 Bidwell Pkwy., Buffalo, NY 14222).

**'75 Randall E. Hall**, 9/2/09 (208 Sherwood Ave., Rural Retreat, VA 24368).

**'75 William A. Naff**, 11/9/09 (2808 Hawks Landing Blvd., Panama City, FL 32405).

**'75 Steven D. Reese**, 10/4/09 (416 Race St., Macungie, PA 18062).

**'76 Bruce A. Causseaux**, 6/15/09 (6210 Falcon Landing Ct., Burke, VA 22015).

**'79 John I. Creigh**, 10/22/09 (13116 Laurel Glen Rd., Clifton, VA 20124).

**'81 Donna Luedtke Sutton**, 4/16/09 (2 High View Dr., Boulder, CO 80304).

**'82 Philip G. Thompson**, 10/9/09 (16260 Franklin Turnpike, Dry Fork, VA 24549).

**'83 Jonathan R. Caless**, 12/1/08 (6709 Manatee Ct., Waldorf, MD 20603).

**'86 Mark A. Kusiak**, 9/28/09 (PMB 802, 4725 Dorsey Hall Dr., Ste. A, Ellicott City, MD 21042).

**'87 John M. Christopher**, 9/26/09 (4051 Snow Goose Cir., Roanoke, VA 24018).

**'88 Edward B. Dail**, 9/19/09 (10030 Bella Pointe Dr., Culpeper, VA 22701).

**'88 Angela L. Farrar**, 8/20/09 (2989 Paseo Hills Way, Henderson, NV 89052).

**'88 Melvin E. Franks**, 9/14/09 (315 Mobley Dr., Statesboro, GA 30458).

**'88 Mark F. Warren**, 10/19/09 (319 N. Jones St., Marion, VA 24354).

**'89 Jane D. Reagor**, 10/14/09 (416-B Sioux Tr., Chattanooga, TN 37411).

**'89 Norrine Bailey Spencer**, 9/23/09 (4005 Tall Oaks Dr., Blacksburg, VA 24060-8114).

**'91 Robert E. Lowry**, 9/28/09 (1318 Wills Way, Forest, VA 24551).

**'92 Won S. Um**, 7/16/09 (4510 Haywagon Way, Ellicott City, MD 21043).

**'94 Henry B. Bodzioney**, 10/6/09 (4925 Eastdale Cir., Roanoke, VA 24019).

**'96 Nancy M. Gilmore**, 9/30/09 (765 Mountain View Rd., Fredericksburg, VA 22406).

**'97 Eric S. Albano**, 11/1/09 (228 Robinhood Dr., Marion, VA 24354).

**'00 Susan M. Bean**, 1/13/09 (125 S. Pershing Dr., Arlington, VA 22204).

**'00 Christa M. Dawn**, 11/16/08 (6712 Fields Landing Rd., Hayes, VA 23072).

**'01 David S. Mitchell**, 10/25/09 (431 Neptune Ave., Encinitas, CA 92024).

**'05 John W. Corbett**, 9/11/09 (308 Ellett Rd., Blacksburg, VA 24060).

**'07 Adam S. Katz**, 9/10/09 (6212 Falcon Landing Ct., Burke, VA 22015).

**'08 Hunter D. Richardson**, 11/27/09 (9336 Rivershore Dr., Suffolk, VA 23433).

**Morgan Dana Harrington** (Class of 2011), 10/17/09 (8301 Strathmore Ln., Roanoke, VA 24019).

## Donation to fight polio honors teacher for decades of service

After polio damaged Henry Higgins' left arm when he was just 7 years old, his mother, Della Hampton Higgins, told him he would eventually need to earn a college degree because his injury wouldn't allow him to follow his father into farming.

Higgins (agricultural education '39) took that sage advice and turned it into a 47-year teaching career at Amherst (Va.) High School after earning his bachelor's degree from Virginia Tech. In late 2009, the Amherst Rotary Club honored Higgins' long years of mentoring students by making a \$2,000 donation in his name to Rotary International as part of an effort to eradicate polio worldwide.

"It really hit me hard," Higgins says when asked about the recognition. "I was very much impressed and very much pleased."

Higgins grew up in Grayson County, Va., where he graduated from tiny Coal Creek High School. He decided to continue his education at Virginia Tech because he knew people who had gone into vocational agriculture after earning their agricultural education degree there. He might not be able to run a farm because of his arm, but he could still work in agriculture.

During his college days, he met his future wife, Thelma Cox, who attended Radford College.

After graduation, Higgins taught for a couple of years in Sparta, N.C., before moving to his wife's hometown of Amherst, where he knew there was an opening for a vocational agriculture teacher. He became a fixture there. He was also devoted to Future Farmers of America and, later, to Rotary.

"Mr. Higgins was an outstanding person and a great teacher," says Amherst High Principal Ernie Guill. "He was like a father figure to many of his students."

"I was doing something I enjoyed, and I was working with some people I was crazy about—young men," says Higgins, who adds that one of his biggest joys is to run into his former students.

Higgins is 92 now, and his ability to get out of the house is limited, but, he says, "I was a die-hard Hokie as long as I could be." He spent 47 years honoring *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve). Now, his community has honored him with a donation in his name.



Henry Higgins '39



## Former university first lady dies

Peggy Lee Hahn, wife of university President Emeritus T. Marshall Hahn Jr., died Dec. 10, 2009, at age 85.

She was the university's first lady from 1962-74, a period of great change in which enrollment nearly tripled and Virginia Tech became a comprehensive research university.

According to her husband, her talent for entertaining and maintaining relationships with university stakeholders helped make it possible to transform the institution.

She was also a generous benefactor to the university, especially its Hahn Horticulture Garden, which was renamed in her honor in 2004. A garden pavilion and meadow garden are named for her as well.



## Earle B. Norris: The president's "right arm"

BY CLARA B. COX M.A. '84

Since April 16, 2007, just the word "Norris" spurs memories of violence and grief. But Earle Bertram Norris, one of Virginia Tech's greatest educators, lived a life poles apart from what happened in the building whose name honors his memory.

Norris's contributions to VPI (today's Virginia Tech) during his tenure were so impressive that President Julian A. Burruss wrote to him, "When Gen. [Stonewall] Jackson died, Gen. [Robert E.] Lee said he had lost his right arm. I am far from being a Lee, but I should feel as Lee did if for any reason you should be lost to VPI—such a loss is unthinkable."

Born in 1882 in Jamestown, N.Y., and educated at public schools in Warren, Pa., Norris graduated from Pennsylvania State College with honors in mechanical engineering. After working in industry and getting married, he returned to Penn State and earned a master of engineering in 1908.

With graduate degree in hand, he taught at the University of Wisconsin; was an industrial commissioner; served in World War I, where Gen. John J. Pershing, commanding officer of the Ameri-

can Expeditionary Force, cited him for meritorious service; and spent nine years as dean of engineering at the University of Montana before being tapped in 1928 to head engineering at VPI.

In Blacksburg, Norris's talents blossomed. He grew the engineering school, doubling the accredited curricula to 12, the fourth largest number in the country; assumed responsibility for the local airport; chaired the Administrative Council; directed the Virginia Engineering Experiment Station for 20 years; helped organize the Student Engineering Council; and served as faculty advisor to the *Virginia Tech Engineer* staff. He co-wrote a textbook and updated two he had co-authored earlier. He also recommended the creation of several new positions: dean of men, director of admissions, and director of guidance and placement.

Additionally, his off-campus engineering programs provided a jump-start for higher education throughout the commonwealth. Norris set up the first engineering courses at William & Mary College's Norfolk Division, which evolved into today's Old Dominion University. He also developed courses that enabled students to study for one or two years at home before enrolling in VPI, leading to the establishment of several two-year institutions and, according to Willis G. Worcester, a later dean of engineering, to the growth of Virginia Commonwealth University.

Students admired Norris and dedi-



Norris Hall

cated the 1940 yearbook to him: "For his untiring efforts resulting in the enlargement and betterment of an engineering school, for integrity, for intelligence, for his own great achievements, for accomplishments in every field within which he has endeavored, we dedicate this 46th volume of *The Bugle*." And the American Society of Mechanical Engineers recognized his contributions to the field by elevating him to the status of Fellow.

Norris retired on his 70th birthday in 1952 and died in 1966. A year later, the school he had served with such dedication and foresight renamed the Engineering Building in his memory.

In 1969, VPI unveiled a portrait of Norris, which was hung in Norris Hall. At the time, the *Blacksburg Sun* called him one of Virginia Tech's "all-time great educators," and President T. Marshall Hahn said at the unveiling ceremony: "Tech's development toward becoming a great university was made possible by the outstanding contributions of those who led the way. We will be forever in his debt."

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