



From left, Capt. Andrew Smithey '08, 1st Lt. Landon Eng '09, Capt. Jon Kennedy '07, and 1st Lt. Pete Laclede '10, alumni of Air Force ROTC Detachment 875, display their Hokie pride at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.

Flying over Afghanistan on April 16, U.S. Navy Lt. Gordon Robertson '07, a former 3rd Battalion commander, proudly displays a Virginia Tech flag inside his F-18 in remembrance of the university's 32 fallen Hokies.



# CorpsRevie

FEATURES

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Gary Lerch '72, Chairman

Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart, Commandant of Cadets

Col. Patience Larkin '87, Alumni Director and Editor

David Stanley VT'95, Art Director

Juliet Crichton, Assistant Editor

Sarah R. Woods '04, Editorial Assistant

Col. David L. Spracher '70, Director of Development

Michael Diersing, Bradley Larkin, Randal Fullhart, Kathy Fullhart, Photography

Melissa Richards, Assistant Vice President for Marketing and Publications, University Relations

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Front cover: A rendering of the winning design concept for the Upper Quad by the architectural firm of Clark-Nexsen. Please see the commandant's column on page 22 for more details.

Back cover: From left, Class of 2015 cadets Thomas Denson and Cameron Geno play bagpipes in front of Burruss

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Working Things Out

Capt. Kim French Biddle '05, U.S. Air Force

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Real Life, Real Challenges

**Corps Alumni Board's Newest Members** 

**Admissions Update 2013** 

The Civilian in the Ranks

Jeananne Tiffany VT'07, the Corps of Cadets' residential learning coordinator, has immersed herself in Corps culture, even living among cadets in Thomas Hall.

**Hokie Hero Program** 

During radio broadcasts of Virginia Tech football games, the Corps of Cadets' Hokie Hero program pays tribute to our deployed alumni.

**Recruiting for the Corps** 

Sponsored by Sen. Mark Warner, D-VA, the commonwealth's annual Service Academy Day hosts students interested in attending a military school—and the Corps is well represented.

Remembering Brig. Gen. Earl C. Acuff

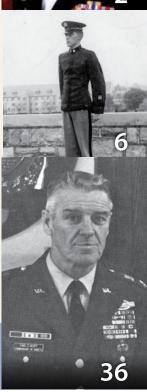
A veteran of three wars, U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Earl Acuff, the former commandant of cadets who died in February, provided a vision that revitalized a dwindling Corps in the 1970s.

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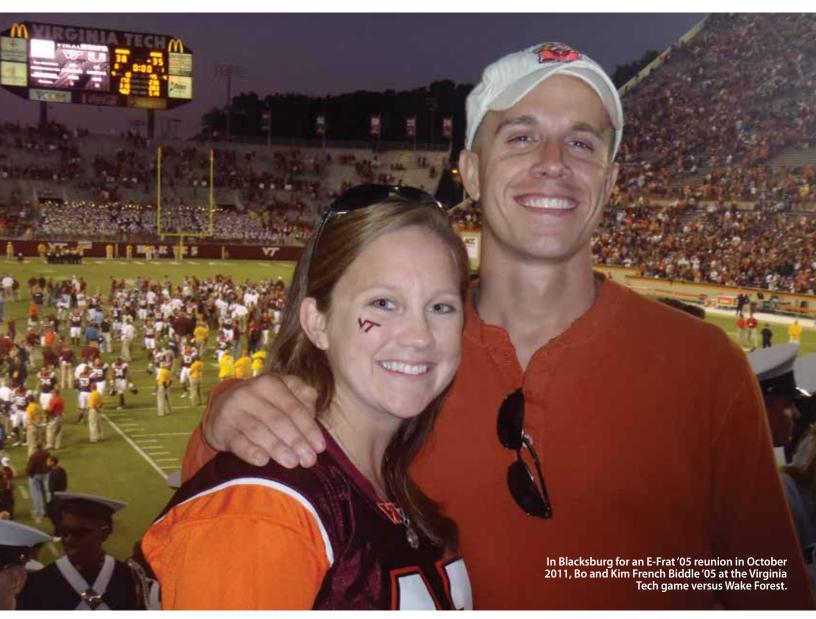
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Lt. Biddle (sixth from left) with her Intelligence Class, 060403, at Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas.



Signing up as a "contracted" cadet in 2003, with Col. Rider, Air Force ROTC Detachment 875's former professor of aerospace studies.



Leading stretches before the Leadership Reaction Course at Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., in 2011.

# WORKING Things Out by Capt. Kim French Biddle '05, U.S. Air Force

I was awestruck in my seventh grade technology class; I met a female NASA astronaut who was an Air Force officer and pilot. I wanted to be her.

That evening, I told my parents that

I, too, would be an Air Force officer and pilot. Because I was a dancer and gymnast, they encouraged me but never anticipated that I would actually go in that direction. I kept my dream alive in my mind and heart until I reached my senior year in high school.

I wanted to go to a service academy, the full experience. After I had considered the Air Force Academy, the Citadel, and Virginia Military Institute, my mom, who attended Virginia Tech, said that I should consider the Corps of Cadets. Having looked into the Corps, I knew it was the place to make my Air Force dream come true.

My time in the Corps began banded to a group of incredible buds, affectionately known as E-Frat '05. I started freshman year with a knee injury that kept me on crutches for six weeks, but my buds were there to help get me back on

track to pursue my goal. Our cadre instilled in all of us a sense of brotherhood that can never be shaken. More than

10 years since we dragged the second floor of Rasche, my buds and I still get together for reunions whenever possible.

During the second semester of my freshman year, I joined the Virginia Tech



Capt. Kim French Biddle '05

Gymnastics Club to get back in shape for my journey to becoming a pilot. In February, I was heartbroken to discover that I was too short to qualify to be a pilot, but an Air Force ROTC Career Day directed me to the possibility of becoming an intelligence officer and targeteer.

In the semesters that followed a tough freshman year, I excelled. I was a member

of the Honor Court as a recorder and investigator, as well as a member of the chaplain staff. I became a teaching assistant in the theatre department and was a founding member of the Tap Ensemble at Virginia Tech. My buds and I also spent many weekends camping out in Jefferson National Forest.

For my senior year, I was named the chief justice of the Honor Court and was one of the medical officers. Working tirelessly with Lt. Col. Homoki in the Air Force ROTC detachment to fill my dream sheet, I knew that my low grades from freshman year left me a slim chance of obtaining my goal, but my faith in God and my faith in the Corps and its Air Force leadership gave me strength.

The week of our final pass and review was eventful. My buds and I proudly fulfilled a lost Echo tradition by painting our feet black and

walking barefoot in the parade; we all cherish the pictures from that day. A few days later, prepping for Corps graduation, I realized I had accidently turned



Lt. Biddle (second from right) and the other women in the Intelligence Class at Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas, in 2006.

in a needed uniform piece. I had 30 minutes to run to the Corps' tailor shop to see if I could borrow one before the ceremony began. As the life-saving tailor shop team retrieved the item, I turned around to see Lt. Col. Homoki and then-Capt. Cox standing in the shop. They delivered the best news ever: I was going to have my chance at becoming an intelligence officer.

I believe that God has a way of working things out. After leaving Virginia Tech, I went directly to Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., for the Air and Space Basic Course with my best friend and E-Frat bud, Dia Kinnaman Ham '05. I then attended the challenging intelligence school at Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas, and excelled with academic honors.

My first assignment was to Creech Air Force Base, Nev., where I became a founding member of the 42nd Attack Squadron (42ATKS), which flies the remotely piloted vehicle (RPA) MQ-9, Reaper. In early 2007, I attended the Combat Targeting Course, was named distinguished graduate of my class, and achieved my goal. I was an intelligence officer and a targeteer in the U.S. Air Force.

Back at the 42ATKS, I held leadership roles in training and operations. I built training scenarios for the flight training, so that in September 2007, the 42ATKS could fly its first MQ-9 mission over Afghanistan.

In 2008, I deployed twice to Southwest Asia as an unmanned aerial vehicle liaison. While deployed, I joined the chapel praise team as a singer. I was blessed to be able to use music and my faith to help me get through long and tiring deployment days.

Upon my return from my second tour, I was "by name" requested to join

the 17th Reconnaissance Squadron as the chief of targeting. My role in this RPA squadron was to give my leadership the ability to engage selected targets successfully using state-of-the-art equipment and techniques offered by the Air Force. I met some of my closest friends at this squadron, and many of us still work together.

In Las Vegas, I learned to love a new sport, triathlon, and I competed in many races up to a half-ironman distance. And most importantly, I adopted my "baby," a bulldog-basset hound mix, Tater.

In 2010, I received orders to Headquarters USAF A9, Studies, Analyses, Assessments, and Lessons Learned. I was assigned to A9FM, Force Structure Analysis. As an intelligence officer in the Pentagon, I am the office's network node to retrieve threat-analysis information for simulation and future planning. When I was first stationed in Washington, D.C.,







Kim (fourth from right) with fellow grads from her Air and Space Basic Course in 2006.

I met the love of my life, Marine captain and pilot, Bo Biddle.

The next year, I was selected to attend Squadron Officer School at Maxwell Air Force Base before deploying the following spring. Taking advantage of the downtime, I began training for the Marine Corps Marathon. During a required 5K run for class, I collapsed, a mile into the run, because of an irregular heart arrhythmia. Devastated, I knew this health issue could affect my upcoming deployment and possibly my career.

After months of doctor's appointments, I was scheduled for heart ablation on the electrical nodes in my heart, with the hope of correcting my heart arrhythmia and putting me back on schedule for my deployment. Thankfully, the procedure was successful, and exactly two months later, on Valentine's Day on Catalina Island, Calif., Bo proposed. I, of course, said yes!

I deployed from March through September 2012 to Afghanistan, where my team provided intelligence analysis to the detention facility in Parwan. This deployment was the toughest I have ever experienced, but one of the sweetest memories was seeing my Echo Company bud, Scott Meskimen '05, at Bagram Air Base.

While I was in Afghanistan working 20-hour days, my solace was volunteering at the Cat in the Hat Language and Learning Center, where I taught English to local Afghan kids. I volunteered more than 50 hours and arranged for school supplies to be shipped from family and friends. Five days before leaving, I attended the graduation of the first class of students.

This year, on May 18, I celebrated my marriage to Bo in front of our family, friends, Tater, and my E-Frat buds. My future Air Force and life plans are to separate from active duty in August, start a family, and join the Syracuse Air National Guard as a fulltime active guard member working out of the National Reconnaissance Office in Chantilly, Va.

Life truly does have a way of working out—if we let it.

Ut Prosim.



In front of the Lincoln Memorial, Kim and her "Grand Dyke" Jonathan Lipscomb '02, giving her the oath of office during her promotion to captain.



Kim (front center) with E-Frat '05 buds at her wedding reception in May.



Dick Dailey writing letters home from Korea ... with a Swedish flag hanging in background.

# Real LIFE, Real CHALLENGES

by Richard Moretz Dailey '53

I was born in 1930 in Roanoke, Va., where I lived until my dad decided that an electrical degree was needed for his future, so we moved to Virginia Tech. After he had received his degree, he went to work for Westinghouse in New Jersey, where I started at Verona High School during my sophomore year and graduated in 1948. I was undecided about what direction to take in furthering my education, so I opted to attend Upsala College for a year.

The engineering program at Upsala was lacking, so I applied to Virginia Tech, where my dad had received his degree in 1935. I was accepted and decided that the Corps of Cadets was an option that I wanted to explore.

During my "rat" year in the Corps, I found a great way to hide snacks, which were not allowed in freshmen rooms. Living on the second floor, I could reach out my window and put snacks in the rain gutter so they could be retrieved when the upperclassmen were not nearby.

For wrongdoings, we "rats" received demerits that had to be served at attention in the middle of the quadrangle. Although my freshman year was a real challenge, I made it through with very few demerits. When I was finally a sophomore, I was glad that I could berate the new "rats" for all they did wrong.

On Aug. 30, 1952, Rosemary DeWitt and I married in Verona, N.J. That same year, Rosemary had graduated from New Jersey College for Women, now Rutgers University. We moved back to Blacksburg so that I could finish my studies in mechanical engineering at Virginia Tech. Rosemary worked in the agricultural economics department, and I completed my degree work, specializing in heat transfer. Little did I realize how important that



Cadet Richard Dailey

specialty would become in my later work with IBM.

Following my graduation in 1953, I had to fulfill my two-year Army commitment. After several months living on a tidal flat of the Potomac River, I was given transfer orders. Because Rosemary was pregnant with our first child, I requested a delay, and our daughter, Kathi Lee, was born on Sept. 27, 1952. Although my original orders had been to Europe, because of the delay, my new orders were to go to Korea.

While in Korea, I served with the United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission, maintaining facilities for the Swedish and Swiss members of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission (NNSC). My time in Panmunjeom, Korea, was a lifechanging experience, and when I look at the black-and-white pictures I have in an album, the memories come back very quickly.

Facilities maintenance included taking care of sleeping facilities (tents), toilets, and bathing accommodations, as well as maintenance of the roads to and from the camp. Also needed were water facilities: All water used by the NNSC members was pulled from a river, treated to make it potable, and then trucked to the water towers at Panmunjeom.

The time spent serving the Swiss and Swedish members of the NNSC was especially gratifying because I made many friends with whom I continued to communicate for many years after leaving Korea. Gradually, however, we all moved on and lost contact with each other.

After my service in Korea, I left the Army to pursue my business career. My first job was with Frigidaire, designing heat exchangers for refrigerators, in Dayton, Ohio, where our son, Thomas, was born.



The Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission (NNSC) camp at Panmunjom, Korea.



and Swedish members of NNSC.



A 1954 Christmas fire celebration for Swiss Dailey (right), with Capt. Eichorn, inspecting a deactivated personnel mine at the Military Demarcation Line in Korea.

In the fall of 1956, I moved on to work with IBM in Owego, N.Y., on a B-52 electronic system cooling design—and my heat transfer knowledge came into use. The electronic tubes were mounted in copper sleeves on the inside of copper cans, which were cooled by passing cold air over the outside of the cans. Travel to Boeing facilities in Washington State was necessary to coordinate the copper can design for the electronics.

While I pursued my career with IBM, our family continued to grow. Our daughter, Kim, was born in 1958 in New York, and another son, James, followed in 1960.

An opportunity arose to move to Huntsville, Ala., where I was privileged to work on the Saturn Apollo V program. My first assignment was at the Marshall Space Flight Center with the Astrionics Laboratory's engineering team, many of whom were from the original Von Braun team. One of the first needs was to determine the flatness and



Dailey discussing the instrument unit of the Saturn V vehicle at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center.

finish requirements for the cold plates that would hold all the electronics in the instrument unit (IU) that would control the Saturn V vehicle once it had left the launch pad at Cape Canaveral in Florida.

Approximately one and a half hours after the vehicle had left Earth orbit, the IU held the vehicle stable while the three astronauts turned around in their command module to pick up the lunar lander. From there, they continued on to the moon. Then the IU performed its last function, commanding the third stage to fire again and sending it on a trajectory away from any interference with the astronauts. I am proud to say that IBM played a major role in putting the first man on the moon in July 1969.

After the Apollo program was completed, I was transferred to the Washington, D.C., area and worked in both Bethesda, Md., and Manassas, Va. For my wife and me, my job with IBM in Manassas was just marking time until I could retire. In 1985, we decided it was time to retire to enjoy the

children and their families.

My wife and I have now passed 60 years of marriage with four children, eight grandchildren, and three greatgrandchildren. We are truly blessed.



The instrument unit of the Saturn V vehicle.



Dick and Rosemary celebrating their 60th anniversary at Guntersville Lake in Alabama.

# Corps Alumni Board's Newest Members

Incorporated in 1992, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Inc. (VTCCA) supports the Corps of Cadets in various ways. The VTCCA Board of Directors meets twice a year to offer alumni insights to the commandant of cadets and to support him and his staff in a range of opportunities. Three new members joined the board at its spring meeting.

Col. "Rock" Roszak '71, U.S. Air Force (retired), served on active duty in the



U.S. Air Force for 27 years before joining the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets staff. He received his navigator wings in 1972 and accumulated

more than 2,000 flight hours in a variety of aircraft, most notably the B-52D/F/G, B-1B, and KC/C-135.

Roszak's assignments included a number of staff tours during which he performed duties as the special assistant to the Air Force chief of staff and as the liaison officer for strategic aircraft programs to the House and Senate Armed Services Committees. In 1991, Roszak spent two years leading technical negotiations to provide assistance to the former Soviet Union in dismantling its nuclear weapon launch systems. He spent his final four years of active duty as the commander of the Virginia Tech Air Force ROTC detachment. After retiring from the Air Force, Roszak worked for the Corps of Cadets for 14 years, including 11 years as its first alumni director.

A native of Staunton, Va., he is married to the former Patty Loveless of Arlington, Va., also an alumna of Virginia Tech. They have two daughters: Amy, a 1995 Tech graduate; and Kelly, a 1998 Tech graduate. He is enjoying retirement and being close to his family, including five grandchildren, with a sixth on the way.

**Lt. Col. Scott Pearl '84**, U.S. Air Force (retired), is a proud graduate of E



Squadron and the College of Engineering's industrial and systems engineering department. He later earned an M.S. in engineering management

from the University of Dayton and an M.S. in manufacturing systems engineering from the University of Maryland.

Pearl spent 21 years on Air Force active duty as a manufacturing engineer and as an acquisition program manager, working on a variety of weapon systems across the full lifecycle of development and sustainment. He led government and industry teams developing and producing the F-101 engine, the B-1B, the F-22, and the Joint Standoff Weapon, as well as modifications and sustainment of C-9, C-12, C-21, C-38, and KC-10 aircraft. His career assignments took him to Ohio, Maryland, Oklahoma, and Washington, D.C.

Upon retirement, Pearl became a civil servant, working as the deputy division chief of the manufacturing and industrial technologies division within the Air Force Research Laboratory at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. He and his family, which includes three active boys, live in Beavercreek, Ohio.

William J. "Will" Gouldin III '04, a member of Hotel and Delta companies,



earned a B.S. in finance from the Pamplin College of Business. He played bagpipes for the Corps for four years and worked with the Honor Court and rap-

pel tower during his junior and senior years.

Upon graduation, Gouldin commissioned into the U.S. Army field artillery and deployed with his unit, Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery, from Fort Sill, Okla., as platoon leader in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom V.

Upon completion of three years of service, Gouldin returned to Richmond, Va., to work full-time as treasurer of his family's business, Strange's Florists, Greenhouses, and Garden Centers. He is a member of the Retail Merchants Association of Richmond, richSEC Security Awareness Group, and Midlothian Lodge No. 211 A.F. and A.M.



by Lt. Col. James D. Fain '87, U.S. Air Force (retired)

I had absolutely no idea what was about to happen. We were wearing our blue jeans and white T-shirts, assembled into our first formation and marched off to the dining hall. As we approached Shultz Hall, I began to hear a horrible noise. The sounds intensified as we got closer.

Why were all of the cadre members so upset and yelling so much? Certainly, this must be some kind of a mistake. I'm sure the commandant is not aware that this is happening. Oh, wait. There's our commandant, Gen. Lane.

My first day in the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets ... this is college life?

Although it wasn't quite what I had expected, I did bond rather quickly with my fellow new cadets in Charlie Company. While my high school friends were out enjoying their college experiences on Friday nights, we were waxing the hall floors and memorizing the names of the regimental staff, the "Old Hokie" cheer, the Virginia Tech fight song, and other important new-cadet knowledge.

Our cadre members made quite an impression on me. They were sharp. Our commander, Cadet Capt. Dan Bair, was a graduate of the U.S. Army's Ranger School. He was a tough and impressive leader. Through his leadership and

through his cadre, he molded his new cadets and his unit into the best in the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. We proudly wore the coveted Gold Cord at the end of the year. It was a stressful first year at times, but paying those dues built a foundation upon which to handle pressure and stress in the future. Charlie Corps Forevermore!

I was very proud of that Gold Cord, but as a freshman, I knew that I also wanted another one: the light/dark blue cord of the Gregory Guard. During one of the early orientations to the Corps, the Gregory Guard had performed a rifle routine. I was immediately hooked and



C-37A (Gulfstream V) flown by Major James D. Fain 309th Airlift Squadron, 86th Airlift Wing, Chievres AB, Belgium, 2000-2004 Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Class of 1987

wanted to become a part of this very impressive honor society. The guard's routine was perfect, and I was in awe.

It would indeed become a huge honor for me to be a part of this team. I thoroughly enjoyed representing the Corps while performing in perfect synchronization to the applause of the audiences. Go, Guard!

I remember being interviewed as a freshman by the Air Force ROTC Professor of Aeronautical Science Col. Blum,

and he asked if I wanted to become a pilot. My answer was, of course, "Yes sir!" And I thought to myself, "Who wouldn't want to be a pilot?"

While enduring the academic rigors of the College of Engineering, I remember hearing a classmate say that the flight instruction program (FIP) was getting in the way of his classes. I remember thinking that his priorities were out of whack. I was only getting the engineering degree as a pathway to becoming a pilot. In



In 2008, Lt. Col. Fain (right) was presented with his retirement certificate from the U.S. Air Force by Col. Armstrong.

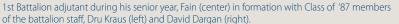


Fain stepping out of his C-37A (Gulfstream V) aircraft in Bosnia.



Fain (left) with then-Sen. Bob Dole, whom he flew to







Fain at the stick during his final flight in the awesome Gulfstream V aircraft in 2004.

my mind, the academics were getting in the way of my flying. Completing FIP successfully was my first priority. If that didn't happen, then I would not get orders to attend undergraduate pilot training (UPT), the ultimate goal.

FIP included about 10 hours of flight instruction at the Blacksburg airport. After we had learned some of the basics of aviation, it was time for the first solo ride—a day all pilots will always remember! After that, there was a Federal Aviation Administration check-ride, and the program was over. I had flown a total of 11 or 12 hours, soloed, and passed my check-ride. I would not fly again until I entered pilot training.

I arrived at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas, with Tweets (T-37s) and Talons (T-38s) filling the sky in the busy traffic pattern. I found it difficult to imagine that I'd actually be flying those jets in a very short time. That year of training was hectic, stressful, and intense, but when I walked across the stage and had wings pinned on my chest, it was one of the happiest days of my life.

I had some really great assignments during my 20 years of flying. First, I was off to Mather Air Force Base, Calif., to fly the T-43, an Air Force Boeing 737 used to train navigators—a pretty good deal, given to only four UPT graduates a year. A few years later, I moved 45 minutes away to Travis Air Force Base, Calif., to train as a C-5 pilot.

Have you ever been on a C-5? Every time I walked up to this aircraft, I was amazed at its size. It could hold 100 VW Beetles inside. The Wright Brothers' first flight could have taken place inside the C-5.

Flying the C-5 was great. I really enjoyed seeing the world, and there was a lot of variety to our missions. Aerial refueling was also a very enjoyable challenge. One of my first missions was a quadruple aerial refueling mission from Travis to Mogadishu, Somalia. After we had downloaded our cargo, we repositioned



Cadet Capt. Fain's senior portrait.

to Cairo. Resting up after our 28-hour day, we were able to play golf or tennis near the base of the ancient pyramids, visit the Cairo museum, or just lounge by the pool.

Having worked through the challenging upgrades of aircraft commander, instructor pilot, and, finally, flight examiner, I was faced with a decision. Was it time to leave the Air Force or to try and take it to the next level? Many of my fellow squadron pals had interviewed for and been hired by the elite 89th Airlift Wing at Andrews Air Force Base, Md.

I decided that if I could get hired by that "selectively manned unit," then I would continue on active duty. The interview process itself was quite interesting, and I was very happy to hear the news that I'd be flying C-20s (Gulfstream III and IV) at Andrews.

At the 89th Airlift Wing, we provided safe and reliable transportation to many of our nation's leaders. One of my most memorable trips was flying former President Gerald Ford from Andrews back to his home in Palm Springs, Calif. The Gulfstream III had one lavatory in the back of the aircraft, and on the long flight west, I had to visit the lav.

When I left the cockpit to walk through the DV compartment, there was the president sleeping in the comfortable

reclining chair with his legs propped up on the couch on the other side, effectively blocking the only aisle to the lav. I asked myself, "Do I wake the president, or do I step over the president?" He had looked pretty tired while boarding, so I decided not to disturb him. I'm really glad I didn't fall on him and break his leg.

Those four years at Andrews passed very quickly, and my wife and I had a beautiful daughter, Elizabeth. Another fantastic opportunity presented itself, so I asked my wife if she would like to go on a great adventure to Belgium. Though hesitant at first, she finally agreed. It proved to be the best assignment of my career. I would soon be flying the incredible C-37 (Gulfstream V) for the supreme allied commander of Europe, and my three-year-old daughter would soon be speaking fluent French.

Chievres Air Base, Belgium, is a small base near Mons, an hour south of Brussels and only about two hours north of Paris. My family has so many great memories of our travels in Europe. France, Germany, Ireland, England, Spain, the Netherlands, Italy, and Sicily were a few of our vacation destinations.

My job was to fly the general to whatever European capitol he wanted or to fly him back to Andrews for his meetings in the D.C. area. The job and schedule were great, but the best part of the Belgian adventure was when our son, John, arrived, and we became a family of four.

As our four-year adventure came to a close, I was once again toying with the idea of separating from active duty. I had not yet had a staff tour and thought I'd be given a desk job next. Much to my surprise, I was allowed to continue flying in the T-1 Jayhawk at Columbus Air Force Base, Miss., and I was promoted to O-5. Off to Possum Town we went.

Used to train airlift/tanker pilots, the T-1 is a business jet with some very nice avionics and a decent autopilot. Eventually, I was asked to serve in some significant leadership positions as our T-1 squadron's director of operations and then later as the chief of standardization/ evaluation for the operations group.

During this assignment, the size of my family doubled. We quite possibly had watched too many episodes of "The Brady Bunch" while growing up, as we adopted a sibling group of four from California. We are now blessed with six children—three boys and three girls.

It's hard to believe how quickly those 20 wonderful years passed, but what rewarding years they were! A retiree now for four years, I still work at Columbus as a T-6 simulator flight instructor, a great job that balances well with family life. I still use my flying experience and serve our great country by helping my students achieve that same dream of pinning wings on their chest. And every once in a while, I get to train a fellow Hokie.

It continues to be a wonderful life.

Ut Prosim! Go, Hokies!



Lt. Fain with his T-38 during undergraduate pilot training, Class 90-03, in 1989 at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas.

#### **Spring Events**

Spring semester came in like a lamb, slowing down after a busy fall football and academic season, but went out like a lion, with many Corps activities and events.



Virginia Tech's head football coach Frank Beamer was guest speaker at the Corps of Cadets' Class of 2013 senior banquet. In thanks, the regimental commander presented the coach with a beautifully framed picture of the regiment formed up on the Drillfield.



The Gregory Guard precision rifle drill team gave an outstanding performance prior to the Military Ball in Squires' Commonwealth Ballroom.



The third annual Women of the VTCC breakfast was held in late February, bringing together all 140 current female cadets and more than 20 Corps alumnae. The cadets and alumer an 140 Current ternale cauets and more than 20 Curps adminde. The cauets and add nae ate breakfast together, then moved to breakout sessions to discuss future careers.



Lt. Col. Denise Greenfield '88, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve (retired), was the keynote speaker for the women's breakfast. Shown here (sixth from right) with current and other former members of Hotel Company, Lt. Col. Greenfield was the Corps' first female regimental commander.



A squad takes a break between events during the squad tactical challenge, a competition that tests cadets' physical and mental skills in various events, including the obstacle course and the tests cadets' physical and mental skills in various events. Corps knowledge test.



Racing the clock between events, squads competing in the tactical challenge double-timed from one side of campus to the other.



The annual Jaffe Eager Squad competition was held on a freezing-cold day in March. The test began with each squad reporting in for personal inspection.



In a long-standing Ring Dance tradition, cadets in the junior class march into the ballroom and form a figure in the shape of their class year's numbers--in this case, one and four. Their dates then bring them their rings, which they haven't before seen until that time.



The spring Caldwell March culminated with the freshman class, in battle dress uniforms, "turning" into upperclassmen and being congratulated by their new colleagues.



For the competition, a designated drill pad was created, and squads were expected to accomplish a 50-item set of drill and ceremony movements in a timed event, all while remaining



Members of the Class of 2014 received their class rings at the annual Ring Dance in late March. The tremendous pride in their new rings that cadets exhibit never changes.



Spring is also the time for service projects. Cadets, many from Ranger Company, helped C.J. Wills, a local Blacksburg youth in a wheelchair, make his way up to the Cascades waterfall in Giles County. *Ut Prosim*!



As part of the Corps' "Spend the Night" program, Cadet Mary Trotter (left), Class of 2016, hosted prospective cadet Amanda Carter, who will enter the Corps' Class of 2017.

# **Admissions Update 2013**

by Lt. Col. Gary N. Jackson '78, U.S. Army (retired), senior assistant director, Office of Undergraduate Admissions

As I write this column, another exciting and competitive year in admissions is nearly completed. This year, almost 1,600 students applied for entry into the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets, approximately 90 less than the previous year.

The university as a whole received more than 19,300 applications for the fall 2013 term. Among the students offered admission, the average GPA was 4.0, and the average SAT score was 1,252 (math and critical reading). Among the cadet applicants offered admission, the average GPA was 3.94, and the average SAT score was 1,244. The writing portion is not counted in the admissions process.

We expect to welcome more than 350 new cadets in the fall, a number that indicates a very good year for the Corps. The last two years have been most competitive for engineering applicants. As a whole, the university is moderately competitive, offering admission to more than 13,400 students who applied. Final official statistics were published in May.

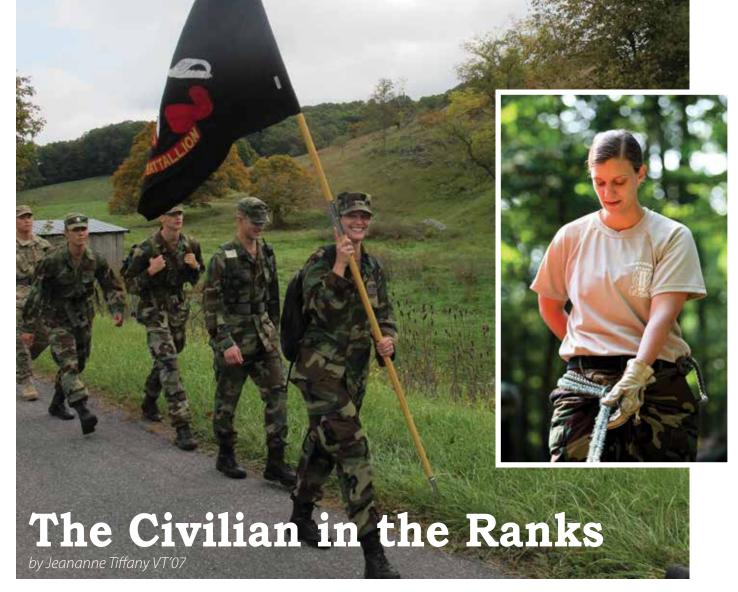
If I were asked to share with prospective students what they should do to be competitive in the admissions process, I would tell them to take a strong curriculum throughout their high school careers. Their coursework, the most important criterion for admission, should be a solid mix of advanced courses honors, Advanced Placement, dual enrollment, or International Baccalaureate, for example—when these classes are available at their schools.

Although the more advanced courses the better, students need to present a strong B+ in all of their core academic classes. Seniors should never have any C's on their mid-year grade reports. SAT scores should exceed 1,160 between the math and critical reading sections, even though 25 percent of the students offered admission had lower scores. More weight is given to the strength of the curriculum and grades than to the SAT. An equivalent ACT score is approximately 25.

Extracurricular activities are also important and will bolster any additional consideration that cadet applicants receive based on leadership potential. It should be emphasized that extracurricular involvement does not compensate for academics in the admissions process. Engineering, architecture, industrial design, and interior design applicants must meet additional requirements.

The transfer option is available for cadets. For more information, the transfer guide can be accessed online at www. registrar.vt.edu/tranguide.

My sincere thanks are extended to Corps alumni who spoke to any high school student—whether at a college fair, a social event, a sporting event, or the dinner table—about the Corps and its opportunities. Your efforts do not go unnoticed, and I hear about them frequently from prospects. Keep up the outstanding work, and let's maintain a 1,000-cadet Corps!



Have you heard about the civilian living in Thomas Hall with the cadets? She sure wasn't there when you were a cadet, so just what is she doing?

My name is Jeananne Tiffany, and I have the pleasure of working for Virginia Tech's Housing and Residence Life, as well as the Corps of Cadets, in my role as a residential learning coordinator. I assist in crisis management and serve as a liaison to campus partners in order to enhance the daily life and development of our cadets.

As a proud Hokie who was raised in a military family—my mother, stepdad, and brother served in the U.S. Air Force—I seized the opportunity to work with the commandant's staff and cadets when this position was created last summer. Having finished what can only be described as my "new cadet year," I now have a stronger connection to the full Hokie experience.

The main focus of my job is to serve cadets, working closely with the cadet commanders and acting as an advocate and resource. Early on, I decided that if I were to do my job well, I should fully understand the cadet experience, immersing myself in the culture and traditions of the Corps. And what better

way to do so than to fully participate in Cadre and New Cadet weeks?

I have pushed myself to take part in a range of new experiences: wearing a battle dress uniform, joining the new cadets on the rappelling tower, attending morning formations, joining physical training with VPI Company, and completing both legs of the Caldwell March. All of these activities have proven to be very rewarding. It also has been incredibly fulfilling to work alongside the commandant's staff and ROTC commanders, investing in our military and citizen leaders of the future and preparing them for the challenges they are sure to face in their careers.

My immersion in Corps culture has allowed me to glimpse the history and traditions that laid the foundation for this instituion that I so dearly love. As a result, I have gained a deeper appreciation for the Pylons and the impact that the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets has on the larger Hokie experience. I hope to share this newfound appreciation and respect for the legacy and traditions of Virginia Tech with others, inspiring them to invest in our future leaders.

# Hokie Hero Program Honors Corps Alumni Serving Worldwide

by Maj. Carrie Cox, U.S. Air Force Reserve



Col. Frank Huber '85, U.S. Army

What started as a simple conversation about the amazing contributions of Hokies serving in the military far from home has turned into a tradition as proud as the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets itself.

"The Hokie Hero program reminds me that Americans do care about our soldiers, that I am not forgotten, and that the sacrifices of my family and myself are meaningful and deeply appreciated," said U.S. Army Col. Frank Huber '85, who earned a degree in electrical engineering.

The Corps of Cadet's Hokie Hero program, started in 2006 by IMG College and sponsored by the University Bookstore, honors deployed alumni during radio broadcasts of Virginia Tech football games. In addition, those alumni are highlighted

on the Corps of Cadets website, in the Corps Review, and by Virginia Tech News.

Col. Huber added that the Hokie Hero program is "an important way to bring home that Virginia Tech is unique. The university's motto—Ut Prosim (That I May Serve)—is more than just a trite phrase. It is an important part of the education of students as exemplified by those who join the Corps of Cadets to begin a life of leadership. As we all know, true leadership begins with service."

Fourteen Hokie Heroes are selected each year, 12 for regular season games, plus two for a possible ACC Championship game and a bowl game. If necessary, two alumni are highlighted at the bowl game. The process of choosing the Hokie Heroes begins in late spring, when the Corps' alumni director sends out a request for the names of alumni who will be deployed during the upcoming football season. Family and friends also send in nominations.



1st Lt. George Hogg '10, U.S. Army

"Growing up in the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets, I had always looked up to those alumni who were out supporting the global war on terrorism, and it gave me motivation and direction to do just the same. I really appreciate the chance and opportunity to be a Hokie Hero," said U.S. Army 1st Lt. George Hogg '10, who earned a degree in geography and a minor in leadership studies.

Most Hokie Heroes are serving in the military, but on occasion a civilian contractor deployed in support of the military has been recognized. "I was very flattered to be considered a Hokie Hero," said U.S. Navy Cmdr. Bill Balding '89, who earned a degree in history. "Being a Virginia Tech grad has always been a point of pride with me, and I've worn the colors literally around the world. Adding to this was the excitement of meeting other alumni around the world."

Sportscasters Bill Roth and Mike Burnop talk about the Hokie Hero during each game's radio broadcast. Roth, whose conversation seven years ago with the Corps' alumni director started the program, said that he and Burnop believe the segment is the most important part of any broadcast. "These Hokies are real people with real names and actual families, and they are all so important," Roth said. "We're grateful to all of them, and I know our listeners are, too. Our radio broadcasts are a great vehicle to help spread the word to listeners who might not be aware of the Corps' importance to our school and our country."

Burnop said that the program adds an important perspective to each broadcast. "As I have said many times on the air, we talk about the heroes on the football field a lot-who made a gamechanging play or scored a touchdown or made a key tackle," he



1st Lt. Justin May '10, U.S. Air Force

said. "That's a three-hour game. The Hokie Heroes are on the field 24/7, sleeping with one eye open when they can so we can broadcast and the fans can see that football game. They keep us and the world safe so we can have these privileges."

U.S. Air Force 1st Lt. Justin May '10, who earned a degree in sociology and a minor in leadership studies, said, "To be able to represent my school, along with some of the greatest patriots who have ever graduated from Virginia Tech, gave me a great sense of pride, not just in my school, but in my service to my country."

Perhaps most importantly, the Hokie Hero program helps remind servicemen and women that they're not forgotten when they're overseas. "When I am deployed for a year, my only real connection to what is going on back home is through the news media," said Huber. "When my part of the war is not considered newsworthy, I begin to feel as though I am forgotten and that no one at home, beyond my immediate family, cares anymore that I am again spending a year away. The Hokie Hero program reminds me that Americans do care about our soldiers, that I am not forgotten and that the sacrifices of my family and myself are meaningful and deeply appreciated."

#### 2012 Hokie Heroes

The following alumni were named Hokie Heroes for the 2012 football season:

- 1st Lt. Randy Coggin '09, Georgia Tech game
- Capt. Kim French '05, Austin Peay game
- 1st Lt. Mark Angelo '10, Pittsburgh game
- 1st Lt. Justin May '10, Bowling Green game
- 1st Lt. George Hogg '10, Cincinnati game
- Col. Frank Huber '85, North Carolina game
- Capt. Andy Howell '07, Duke game
- Cmdr. Bill Balding '89, Clemson game
- Capt. Mark Amos '08, Miami game
- Maj. Ryan Crowley '01, Florida State game
- Lt. Cmdr. Faye Rozwadowski '01, Boston College game
- 1st Lt. Pete Laclede '10, Virginia game
- Maj. Lisa Wnek '99 and Lt. Cmdr. Jennifer Zuniga '99, Russell Athletic Bowl



by Maj. Gen. Dan Dick '70, U.S. Air Force (retired)

Donald Rogers talk with a prospective cadet.

Each year, Sen. Mark Warner, D-VA, sponsors a Service Academy Day in the historic Paramount Theater in Charlottesville, Va. I've been privileged to represent the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets at this function for the past two years. More than 500 high school students and their parents attend, which means that some 200 young men and women are looking to attend a military school and serve their country in one of the branches of the armed forces.

The day's presentations focus primarily on the service academies' general requirements and admissions process and feature representatives from the Air Force, Military, Naval, Merchant Marine, and Coast Guard academies. In addition, both Virginia Military Institute and Navy and Army ROTC representatives from the University of Virginia made presentations, and Virginia Tech's Col. John Montgomery, professor of aerospace science, spoke about Air Force ROTC and how it fits with the Corps of Cadets.

I was joined this year by Class of 2015 Cadet Donald Rogers of K Company. Our presentation emphasized that Virginia Tech offers the best of both worlds: the experience of military-style leadership training like at a service academy, coupled with the widespread opportunities afforded by a large university. Cadet Rogers also highlighted Tech's outstanding ROTC programs, the option to pursue a minor in leadership studies, and some of the impressive accomplishments of our cadets over the past several years.

After the formal presentations, each academy and school occupies an information table for several hours to meet with the students and parents, distribute literature, and answer questions. Col. Montgomery, Cadet Rogers, and I were very busy talking with many attendees who wanted to learn about the Corps,

our ROTC programs, and our Emerging Leader Scholarship program.

I'm always amazed at how many Virginia families are unaware of Virginia Tech's military student body. It was exciting to witness the interest generated in students and their families after they had learned more about Virginia Tech and what the Corps has to offer.

The Service Academy Day, high school college fairs, and our Emerging Leader Scholarship presentations are all very rewarding functions. I highly encourage all Corps alumni to support these types of events in your area. They are fun, and I guarantee you will be impressed by the wonderful young people who are interested in our Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.

If you're interested in participating, contact Maj. Rewa Mariger, our assistant commandant for recruiting, at 540-231-6858.



### A Debt of Gratitude to Past **Commandants**

by Gary Lerch '72, chairman

In mid-March, I attended the internment at Arlington National Cemetery of Maj. Gen. Stan Musser, who had served so very capably as Virginia Tech's commandant of cadets. The day was bonechilling cold with a piercing wind, but the Air Force Band, Honor Guard, and U.S. Army troopers mounted upon black horses drawing the caisson never flinched in their duties. They honored a warrior as only the U.S. military can—with dignity, professionalism, and respect. The internment, and the preceding chapel service, honored a life well lived, and a life lived in service to our nation.

I did not have the honor to work with Gen. Musser and only met him at various functions, but I knew him by reputation. Clearly, he had served the Corps well and was instrumental in dramatically improving the training and leadership preparation of our cadets. Gen. Musser, along with key alumni, also established the Emerging Leader Scholarship program, a key element in the Corps' increasing enrollment.

Recently, we lost another former commandant, Brig. Gen. Earl Acuff, whose last active duty assignment was as the professor of military science (PMS) of the Army ROTC detachment at Virginia Tech. Upon his retirement, he was asked by then-Virginia Tech President T. Marshall Hahn to become commandant of cadets and to, in blunt terms "save the Corps."

I didn't know Gen. Acuff as commandant, but I did know him as the Army

ROTC PMS. I was a cadet in Army ROTC at the time, and I was in awe of him. A combat infantry veteran of three wars, he was a soldier's soldier, and he looked the part. In those turbulent times of the early 1970s, Gen. Acuff was clearly proud to be a professional soldier and proved to be an outstanding role model for us young cadets. I also remember him predicting that our next wars would be in the Middle East, not in Europe against the Warsaw Pact—a prediction that, of course, became reality.

Both Gen. Musser and Gen. Acuff, as professional military officers with illustrious careers, became commandant of

cadets not because they sought a pleasant retirement in a beautiful mountain location, but because they believed in the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. They both approached the job with energy and intensity. They applied the lessons and experiences from their years of military service, and they made a difference. We are deeply indebted to both of them, and we mourn their passing.

In the spirit of *Ut Prosim*, until next time,

Gary



In October 2012, a memorial wreath was placed in front of the Rock in memory of Maj. Gen. Stan Musser.



## **NOW ... MORE THAN EVER** The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets

by Commandant of Cadets Maj. Gen. Randal D. Fullhart, USAF

As I write this, Col. Larkin and I are en route to Chattanooga, Tenn., for a gathering of Virginia Tech alumni. It is a great privilege to travel around the country to share the good news that is today's Corps of Cadets and to see our alumni's pride and enthusiasm as we embark on many new initiatives for a growing, vibrant Corps.

Earlier this season we had the opportunity to travel and meet with alumni in San Francisco, San Diego, and Anaheim, Calif., and Portland, Ore. In conjunction with new Corps parents' clubs that are forming, we have also been to the Baltimore area, Northern Virginia, Richmond, Va., and the Hampton Roads area of southeastern Virginia.

There is much to share and to look forward to, so let's get started. First, our enrollment numbers for the fall look very good with estimates of some 350 new cadets and the Corps' total size remaining at more than 1,000 cadets.

When our new cadets arrive, many will have new addresses. This summer, construction begins on two new cadet barracks that will become the welldeserved home of the Corps. Rasche Hall will be the site of the first new barracks. The architectural firm of Clark-Nexsen, which won the design contract, will be partnered with the construction management firm of Barton Malow.

We expect that it will take two years to complete the Rasche Hall replacement and one year for Brodie Hall. Once completed, these two barracks will house the Corps, and Thomas and Monteith

halls will be removed. In the interim, 2nd Battalion will call Main and West Eggleston halls home. In addition, the Corps Museum has been temporarily located in Newman Library.

Honoring tradition, the entire Corps will continue to form up for flag raising and lowering on the Upper Quad, but will gather behind Lane Hall during the construction. The "VT" in front of Lane Hall will remain and will perhaps be enhanced with bricks, including new bricks etched with donors' names. More details on these plans will be forthcoming.

As part of our interest in preserving Corps history, Lane Hall will be placed on the state and national registries of historic sites, and a separate effort will

be undertaken to ensure the structure's longevity.

In other exciting news for our cadets and alumni, the architectural firm has been asked to develop schematics for our new Corps Leadership & Military Science Building. This structure will bring together the commandant's staff, the Rice Center for Leader Development, the Corps Museum, the ROTC staffs, and dedicated classrooms. The proposal is to erect the new building at the back of Shank's Plane, along Old Turner Street.

Unlike the barracks, which are paid for through student fees, the new building will be backed by a combination of state funding and private donations. While the building's construction is cur-



The commandant (far left), along with his staff (back row) and members of the Class of '62's regimental staff (front row), review the regiment.

rently slated to begin in only five years, accelerated private donations could influence consideration of an earlier start.

Meanwhile, I am very pleased to announce the commonwealth's recognition of the importance and growth of our program. With that recognition came increased funding that is allowing us to address a chronic shortfall in staffing. This summer, we hope to interview and hire as many as three non-commissioned officers—experienced veterans—to partner with our deputy commandants in each of our battalions. These additional staff members will provide greater contact time as mentors and coaches, especially to our cadets who are performing roles as non-commissioned officers.

With support from the Corps of Cadets alumni board, we are expanding our outreach to companies in various sectors and to government agencies. Paralleling our Corps alumni board, we are working to establish a board of advisors to the Rice Center for Leader Development. This expansion builds on our work to

enlist alumni support for connecting cadets with internships and post-graduation career opportunities and to reach out to those organizations that may not presently have Corps alumni in their ranks. At the time of this article's writing, we are pleased to note that both the Boeing Co. and Advance Auto have indicated a willingness to be part of this new board.

These efforts are designed to expand the opportunities for our growing Citizen-Leader Track cadets to take their hard-earned leadership skills and make a difference across wide-ranging career paths. I'm also very excited by the changes that those cadets have been working on with strong support and mentorship from Lt. Col. Don Russell, our deputy commandant who focuses on the Citizen-Leader Track.

As we wrapped up the year, we were proud of a graduating class of some 145 cadets—up from 122 last year—with 92 cadets receiving their commissions upon graduation and five more expected to commission this summer.

The Corps has continued to lead the way through its many community service efforts and set, yet again, a new record for blood donations. Moreover, the cadets remain the single largest non-corporate sponsor of the National D-Day Memorial; and with the continued support of alumni and friends such as Peggy Reed, this fall's new cadets will be making their trip to visit with veterans at the memorial.

Embarking on the fundraising effort for the new Corps Leadership & Military Science Building, while maintaining important and necessary support for our scholarships and the commandant's priorities operating account, will be of utmost importance during the next few years. I know that many of you have been waiting for a long time. We are going to get this done-with your strong and generous support. Our nation needs our graduates, and the Corps needs you.

Thanks for your continued loyalty, example, and leadership.







#### Rasche Hall Memories

Rasche Hall on the Upper Quad was named for William Henry "Bosco" Rasche, a professor of mechanism and descriptive geometry from 1895 to 1951. The original section of the dorm, called Barracks No. 2, was completed in 1894, and the new section was built more than 60 years later and completed in 1958. Several Corps alumni board members dropped by Rasche Hall in May to reminisce, get one last look at the old halls, and take photographs in their former dorm rooms.



John Cahoon '59 (center) was a senior in 1958, when 2nd Battalion moved into the new section of Daysha Hall Halis Banked by the members of the Class of 2016, the last class of any other section. John Canoon: 39 (center) was a senior in 1936, when 2nd battailor moved into the flew sector of Rasche Hall. He is flanked by two members of the Class of 2016, the last class of new cadets



E Company alumni Hal Schneikert '65 and Scott Pearl '84 visited the current residents of room 207, where they both lived, though 20 years apart.



E-Frat alumni took time to remember Samuel A. Carson, an alumnus from their unit who died in the 1960s and is remembered and honored with an award in his name presented to the



John Cahoon '59 inspected Golf's unit books on its company desk.



Hal Schneikert '65 and Scott Pearl '84, standing in one of the shower areas of a latrine in E Company, reminisced about E-Frat pool parties of the past.



Sandy Seay '66, who served as guidon bearer and supply sergeant during his senior year, visited room 217, where he lived in 1965-66 as a member of H Company.





G Company alumnus Casey M. Roberts '06 dropped by room 425, where he lived while serving on 2nd Battalion staff during his senior year.



Greg Godsey '86, a member of the Highty-Tighties, met the current cadet occupants of room 235, where he lived during his sophomore year.



The Rasche dirt cellar has been home to armory equipment, Gregory Guard bricks, maintenance supplies, lots of unit and class-year graffiti, and, at one time, Highty-Tighty instrument storage.



The Corps Museum has been housed for 25-plus years in a room (the old study lounge) on the first floor of Rasche Hall. Museum items are now temporarily displayed or stored at Newman Library.



The original Skipper cannon, pictured here with Vice President for Alumni Relations Tom Tillar VT'69, is temporarily housed at the Holtzman Alumni Center museum.



### **Moving History Isn't Easy**

by Col. Patience Larkin '87, alumni director, 540-231-9369, patience@vt.edu

One of the responsibilities that falls under my purview as the Corps' alumni director—and one that I particularly enjoy—is oversight of the Corps Museum. The museum began in 1985, when then-Commandant Lt. Gen. Howard M. Lane asked Col. Joseph Reich '75, then a captain and an Air Force ROTC detachment instructor, to start a Corps museum. It has primarily been a diverse collection of Corps memorabilia: old uniforms and historical artifacts passed down and donated by alumni over the years. When I graduated in 1987, the museum was small enough to reside in Rasche Hall's guard room, but the collection has doubled in size since then and has been housed in Rasche's study lounge area. Over the years, its primary caretakers have been local alumni, the Corps historian and his or her staff, and Col. Rock and Patty Roszak.

With Rasche Hall slated to come down this summer, the museum had to be moved to a temporary location until a more permanent home could be built. In late fall 2012, a small team comprised of members of the university's history department, Newman Library, and the Corps, along with Corps alumni and cadet historians, got together to set out a plan for the museum's interim move to Newman Library.

The commandant insisted, and rightfully so, that the items needed to be inventoried to ensure we maintained a permanent record of the collection's historic materials. The history department loaned us two fantastic interns, Tyler Bergeron and Cort Rushton, who spent the spring semester photographing, tagging, and describing close to 1,000 items before either carefully wrapping each one for storage or preparing it to be moved to the library for display.

Other critical members of the team were our library specialists led by the tireless Therese Walters. Adrienne Serra of Special Collections and Scott Pennington of Digitization and Collection Management worked the details behind the effort and made sure that storage space was secured, the correct paper was used for wrapping sensitive items, and the photography of items was captured correctly.

Newman Library donated a beautiful area on the fourth floor to hold the museum's display cases. Adrienne, along with Jim Flynn '64 and cadets Sturgill and Rhoads of the historian staff, ensured that all museum items were identified, packed, and tagged in identifying

boxes. The entire team helped move the boxes from Rasche to the library, while the university's carpentry shop moved the display cases.

The original Skipper cannon was also moved to a temporary home in the Holtzman Alumni Center's museum, thanks to Vice President for Alumni Relations Tom Tillar VT'69. The cannon is on public view and will be polished during the school year by our capable F-troop cadets.

This move was neither a small nor an easy project, and I thank all the members of the museum "move team" for their dedication and hard work. To our alumni and friends visiting campus, be sure to stop by Newman Library or the Holtzman Alumni Center to see the Corps Museum items and the Skipper on display!

Ut Prosim!



Corps Museum items displayed in their temporary home in Newman Library.

# ALUMNI ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### **Reminder: Hokie Gold Program**



As reported in previous editions of the Corps Review, the Hokie Gold program is underway, and the Class of 2014 rings distributed at Ring Dance in March included the "special addition" gold from legacy rings melted in 2012. In order to continue this tradition, the program is accepting ring donations to be included in melts for future class rings. For more details, including

forms necessary for donating a ring, go to www.alumni.vt.edu/ classrings/hokiegold.

#### New Face in the Corps' Alumni Office

In early June, the Corps welcomed Lisha Farrier as the new executive assistant in the Corps alumni office. Lisha, who's been on campus for 13 years, comes to us from the College of Engineering's Via Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. She and her husband have three wonderful children and live on the family farm in Newport, Va. We are delighted that Lisha has joined the Corps fam-



ily, and she looks forward to meeting all Corps alumni, especially during Corps Homecoming or the Highty-Tighty reunion.

#### **Dates to Note**

Aug. 24: New Cadet Parade

Sept. 19: Gunfighter Panel

Sept. 20-21: Corps Homecoming Weekend (Virginia Tech vs. Marshall University)

Sept. 28: Caldwell March

Oct. 5: Virginia Tech Homecoming (Class of 1963 50th Old Guard Reunion) and Highty-Tighty Reunion (Virginia Tech vs. University of North Carolina)

#### **Options for Continuing** your Virginia Tech Education

#### Virginia Tech's Executive MBA Program

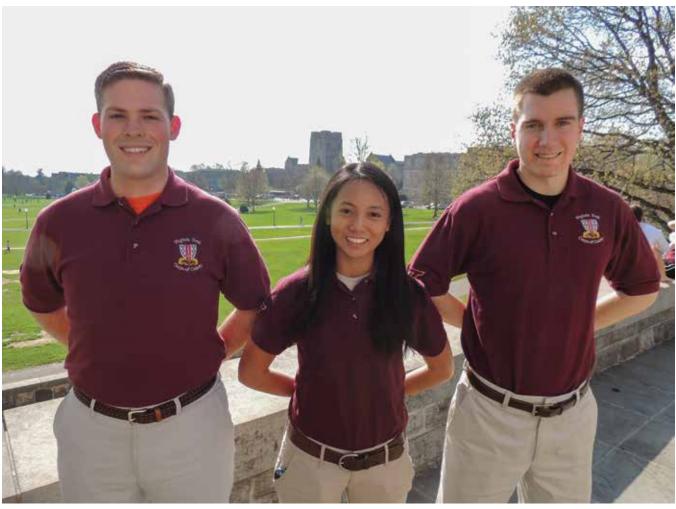
An 18-month program with classes held every other weekend at the Virginia Tech Research Center-Arlington's state-of-the-art facilities in Northern Virginia, the Virginia Tech Executive MBA (EMBA) Program includes an opening residency, a New York City residency, and a 10-day study abroad. With cohorts starting in August and January, the EMBA Program welcomes active duty military officers and veterans, offering them the tools to advance their military careers and prepare for the private sector. Of those entering the January cohort, 48 percent had a military background. For more information, including opportunities for class visits, go to www.mba.vt.edu/emba.

#### Distance Learning at Virginia Tech

A world-class distance-learning leader, Virginia Tech expands educational opportunities for its alumni and students by creating global access via distance learning. The portal to the university's online undergraduate and graduate course offerings, which includes an array of programs and graduate certificates, is Virginia Tech Online at www.vto.vt.edu. The master of science in aerospace engineering, focusing on topics ranging from aerodynamics and structures to flight mechanics and propulsion, allows students to learn in both asynchronous and synchronous environments. To learn more, go to www.aoe.vt.edu.

#### VPI Company Needs YOU, Alumni

The Citizen-Leader Track is on the brink of major transformation, spurred by numerous initiatives to improve the leadership development program for cadets destined for public or private sectors. As alumni, you understand best how to leverage your Corps experiences into your chosen professions, and great opportunities exist for you to give back to those following in your footsteps. One area in which Corps alumni can help is cadet outreach. If you would like to be involved with networking, career coaching, mentoring, or recruiting our Citizen-Leader Track cadets, please contact Lt. Col. Don Russell at druss135@vt.edu.



From left, cadets Alex Zuchowicz, Class of 2014; Kristine Mapili, Class of 2016; and Adam Henriksen '13.

## Why I Joined the Corps ... AND WHY I STAYED!

by Deputy Commandant of Cadets Lt. Col. Don Russell, VPI Company, 540-231-0490, druss135@vt.edu

It takes a special individual to join the Corps of Cadets' Citizen-Leader Track and dedication to stick it out through graduation. This fact is not lost on Corps alumni, who in hindsight truly appreciate the unique value of their Corps experiences. Today's VPI Company cadets are no different; they all have personal stories. Here are three, in the cadets' own words.

Adam Henriksen '13, civil engineering

#### Why did you join the Corps?

I began at Virginia Tech in 2009 in the engineering program. During my freshman year, I realized something was missing. I saw opportunity with the Corps and ROTC and decided to join and take my chances. For medical reasons, I was released from Army ROTC three weeks into red phase. I was closedminded as a new cadet and didn't see all of the benefits of the Citizen-Leader Track program, so I decided to pursue my dream in Air Force ROTC. Weeks before I was to attend field training, I was medically disqualified and disenrolled from ROTC. I spent the next two years in the civilian-track training for officer candidate school in any branch, when

finally, last fall, my medical status made it clear that becoming an officer was not to be. This was devastating to me.

#### Why did you stay?

My life fell into place just one week after I had received the bad news from the Air Force. For a VPI Company assignment, we were to attend a career fair and talk to employers. I was not expecting much, but it was there that I spoke with my future employer; and four weeks later, I had a job offer starting three weeks after I graduate. The offer came in October 2012, and I graduated in May. My employer, Norfolk Southern, was attracted to the leadership experience I received in the Corps, and I relied heavily on Corps experiences and values during the interviews. Mine was a winding path through the Corps, but looking back, I don't regret a single moment and am thankful for the lessons I learned.

#### Alex Zuchowicz, biochemistry, Class of 2014

#### Why did you join the Corps?

In high school, I did not particularly stand out. I played sports, had an average GPA, and was an Eagle Scout, but was certainly not considered popular by my peers. The one area I did excel in was music. When I applied to Virginia Tech, I knew about the Highty-Tighties. To join this legacy gave me a sense of purpose and drive for attending college. Joining the Corps, an organization focused entirely on leadership development, seemed like the perfect opportunity for me. The Highty-Tighties are why I joined the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets; however, the Corps offers much more. Because my career goals

don't involve commissioning into the armed forces, I became a member of VPI Company.

#### Why did you stay?

In the Corps, I've attended labs teaching public speaking, interviewing skills, résumé and cover letter writing, and what I consider to be the most valuable gift above all: how to be a good leader. This sets the Corps apart and is the reason why I stayed. Not only are we taught leadership, each of us is enabled to live it. Twenty-four hours a day, we're immersed in a program dedicated to developing our moral character, and we're given opportunities in a military structure to evolve from followership as freshmen to command as seniors. This is why I embrace this program for all it is worth.

#### Kristine Mapili, mechanical engineering, Class of 2016

#### Why did you join the Corps?

When I first heard about the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets, I knew there was no way I could do it. I didn't want to wake up at five in the morning for physical training. I didn't want to be constantly told what to do and to have to do it. I didn't want to wear a uniform every day. After I was awarded a full Air Force ROTC scholarship, I thought, "Maybe if I give up civilian life for cadet life, it just might be worth it." For the next few months, I mentally prepared myself for the Corps. Eventually, I was declared medically ineligible to serve in the Air Force and lost my scholarship. My future plans disappeared, and I was crushed. After a day or two, this feeling actually turned into a sense of relief.

#### Why did you stay?

My mind was still set on being a cadet, so I began my first semester in VPI Company. Now, nearing the end of my freshmen year, I have never once regretted being a part of Virginia Tech's oldest tradition. I've grown in ways that I know would not have been possible had I not been a cadet. I see how I've changed. I'm more confident in myself in everything that I do. I'm more inclined to take the initiative to get things done. In addition, living every day by Ut Prosim, I've become less focused on myself and more focused on others. I want to graduate as a completely different person than I was before I arrived. Sometimes, life's bumps can be blessings. After losing my scholarship, something in me wanted to stay in the Corps anyway, and I've never been so proud of everything that I've done and gone through in my first year of college. Sometimes, something great has to be lost in order for something even greater to be gained.

Now numbering more than 220 cadets, the Citizen-Leader Track continues to grow in all facets, and its membership comprises nearly a quarter of the Corps' strength. Anticipation abounds, for when the regiment returns for the new academic year in the fall, VPI Company will become VPI Battalion with three subordinate companies. A future article in the Corps Review will highlight this transformation.

Ut Prosim.



## **Educating the Whole Cadet**

by Col. Dave Miller, Ph.D., director, Maj. Gen. W. Thomas Rice Center for Leader Development

The academic component of the Corps' leader development program is very robust. All cadets take a total of eight classes offered through the Department of Management in the Pamplin College of Business—a series that cadets call Corps Lab.

The cadets begin at a basic level in their freshman year by learning selfunderstanding and followership, and they take a new course each semester in a sequential, building-block fashion until they graduate from the Corps knowing what it means to be a leader. Through these courses, cadets earn 10 credits (A-F), and all courses count towards a minor in leadership studies managed by the Maj. Gen. W. Thomas Rice Center for Leader Development.

Cadets in the Citizen-Leader Track also take accredited courses from the

time they enter VPI Company until they graduate and transition into business, industry, and other career fields. These eight accredited courses totaling 16 credits (A-F) follow a similar building-block sequence and parallel those taken by cadets in their respective ROTC programs; however, the course content is designed to give Citizen-Leader Track cadets the skills, knowledge, and abilities needed to become a high-functioning employee in corporate America.

As I write this, the academic year is coming to a close, and I want to update you on some curricular and co-curricular activities we scheduled this year for the cadets in VPI Company. We believe these experiences play an important role in preparing our cadets for the challenges of finding and entering a career field.

During the fall semester, freshmen cadets learned how to compile a résumé, and the seniors were tasked with critiquing the résumés and assisting in revisions to prepare for the fall career/job fairs. Freshmen also learned about emotional intelligence and established a baseline from which to measure growth in their emotional quotient.

A panel of experts in business addressed the sophomores, juniors, and seniors, advising them on how to prepare for internships and their careers. The juniors participated in a class on dining etiquette presented by Career Services, and the seniors attended a five-course dinner at The Inn at Virginia Tech, where they practiced the social graces in a business environment. All the cadets had a chance to either observe or participate in a mock interview—a

great experience to prepare for the senior sergeant and command interviews held in February and March.

The seniors also learned project management in class and took on a "realworld" project to manage. One such project was the production of "The Regiment's Got Talent," an evening that featured cadets demonstrating their talents before a paying audience in the Haymarket Theater. This project raised more than \$700 for a charity in Roanoke, Va. Another group of seniors planned an entire Saturday for a group of seventh and eighth graders from Radford, Va., to attend a Virginia Tech women's basketball game. A company project involved planning and executing the logistics of moving the entire company from Blacksburg to Roanoke to march in the Veterans Day Parade and to assist disabled veterans. The detailed planning required of these events is excellent preparation for what these cadets will experience as they begin their careers.

During the spring semester, a number of co-curricular opportunities were

designed to enhance the VPI Company cadets' education. Those cadets hoping to attend graduate school received guidance from an expert with the Virginia Tech Graduate School on how to plan for and gain acceptance to graduate school.

Freshmen and sophomores took the Strengths Quest assessment to help them understand more about themselves and also completed MyPlan, a program designed to help them determine how best to choose and prepare for their career field. These cadets also had the opportunity to visit various locations that matched their career interests. For example, engineers toured Moog Engineering; science majors toured the Virginia Bioinformatics Institute to see how DNA is tested; and computer science majors observed a demonstration of HokieSpeed, the cluster of networked computers in the Corporate Research Center.

The sophomore class hosted three VPI Company alumni for a citizenleader panel of experts, a very successful presentation of concrete advice on how

to transition from the Corps into business and industry. Similarly, the freshmen, sophomores, and juniors heard from several experts in various career fields who explained the ins and outs of law enforcement, the CIA, and the U.S. Coast Guard, fields of interest to many of our cadets. During that time, the seniors heard from a panel of recent graduates who presented specific advice on how to enter the workforce and what to do and not do in the early days of a new job.

To close out the year, the seniors planned a reception for the larger graduating class, with invitations extended to students from the Pamplin College of Business and the German Club, as well as leaders from Greek organizations and Omicron Delta Kappa, the National Leadership Honor Fraternity. Finally, the semester culminated with an awards and change-of-command ceremony, all planned by the cadets.

These are just a few of the experiences that Citizen-Leader Track cadets had this year. Next year promises to be even



In "Hokie Bag," VPI Company enjoys a reception following the panel discussion.



From left, Maj. Gen. Fullhart, Gary Lerch '72, and Bill Swan '66 presented an Emerging Leader Scholarship to new cadet transfer Joshua Disney, whose parents, Debbie and Mike Disney, and brother, Cadet Jordan Disney, Class of 2014, were in attendance.

## **Volunteers Strengthen Our Corps**

by Bill Swan '66, Recruiting Task Force leader

I always like to start my column on a high note, and this one is no exception. Your volunteer support at college fairs in Virginia, Maryland, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, New York, and Florida included several first-timers in addition to the cadre of more-seasoned representatives. These events generated more than 10,000 contacts with potential Virginia Tech students and cadets who are high school juniors or younger.

The three Congressional Academy Day events in Virginia were well attended and helped interested students and parents compare the lifestyle of the service academies to our Corps' unique student-directed leadership opportunities. In February and March, alumni volunteers from the Roanoke and New River Valley supported three "Spend the Night" events, helping Maj. Mariger, the Corps' recruiting officer, respond to questions from parents and visiting students.

The prospective Emerging Leader Scholarship (ELS) recipients list was distributed to Regional and Area Team Leaders (RTLs and ATLs) by mid-April; and with the help of the RTLs, ATLs, and ELS volunteer presenters, we were able to coordinate better with school officials and accomplish more face-to-face ELS presentations.

This year's ELS awards boasted a much broader geographic reach—30 states, U.S. residents on overseas tours, and three foreign countries—than in the past, plus a larger group of home-schooled and transfer students. We scheduled "family and friends" ceremonies for home-schooled and transfer students. Nonetheless, there were more than 140 potential awardees in Virginia and a similar number out of

Although our goal was to arrange a school ceremony for every ELS recipient, there were many areas in which we were

unaware of the presence of Corps alumni volunteers. If you are from an area where there are few Corps alumni, please contact us. We'd love to include you in this very rewarding experience of awarding scholarships to our incoming freshman cadets.

Finally, to eliminate duplications of effort and to offer better guidance to our helpers throughout the year, we've updated and streamlined the how-to "Guide for Volunteers."

If you'd like to participate, please call me, Col. Bill Swan, at 912-265-7530 or email me at twoswans911@comcast.net anytime.

Many thanks to the many volunteers, both old-timers and newbies, who stepped up to help with one or more events this year. We hope you will be motivated to continue or expand your support of our Corps!



Steve Barry '80 (center) and Cadet Artillery Sgt. Will Farrah (left) presented an Emerging Leader Scholarship (ELS) to incoming freshman Peter Wilson.



John "Bones" Marshall '70 (right) presented an ELS certificate to future new cadet Dillon Faust in Mt. Pleasant, S.C.



Bob Harrison '70 (right) traveled to Rural Retreat, Va., to hand-deliver an ELS certificate to incoming Class of 2017 cadet John Sylva.



Lonnie Brooks '67 promoted both Virginia Tech and the Corps of Cadets at a Ponte Vedra, Fla., college fair. Brooks was alone, but not afraid.

#### **ALUMNI VOLUNTEER EFFORTS:**

Corps alumni volunteers are supporting the Corps around the country by helping to spread the word as the backbone of Corps' recruiting efforts. We are always looking for more alumni to help with presenting Emerging Leader Scholarships to incoming new cadets or working a booth at a local college fair. If you are interested, please contact Bill Swan, whose contact information is on page 34.



Lee Sharpe '66 (left) was a first-time volunteer at a college fair in Gaithersburg, Md. We thank Lee for working two sessions on succeeding days!



On Memorial Day, Rich Carpenter '67 (center), accompanied by his wife, Libby, presented an ELS to incoming new cadet Alston Pugh at Alston's grandparent's home in High Point, N.C.



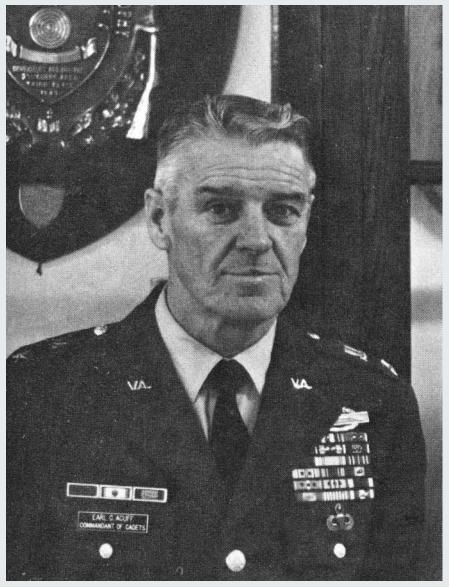
Marshall Hiatt '69 (left) provided Corps handouts and information to dozens of high school students at a Charlotte, N.C., college fair.



Bill Sterling '80 presented an ELS to inbound new cadet Lauren Allen at the Randolph-Macon Academy in Front Royal, Va.

## Remembering Brig. Gen. Earl C. Acuff

by Sarah R. Woods '04



Brig. Gen. Earl C. Acuff in a photo taken for the 1977 Bugle.

A veteran of three wars during a 33year career in the U.S. Army, Brig. Gen. Earl C. Acuff died Feb. 13 at age 94.

Many Corps alumni remember Gen. Acuff—some as their professor of military science, others as the commandant of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets, a position he held from 1974 to 1980. Many are not aware, however, of the history behind the man who helped

shape and guide the Corps through the difficulties and successes faced in the post-Vietnam War 1970s.

A Golden Gloves boxing champion by the age of 16, Acuff played football on scholarship for the University of Idaho, where he enrolled in the ROTC program and met his future wife, Mary-Low Fahrenwald. After graduating in 1941, he was commissioned into the U.S. Army

and was immediately called to service in World War II.

While on a reconnaissance mission to keep lookout for Japanese planes, Acuff was recruited by the 1st Combat Intelligence Platoon, known as the Alaskan Scouts or Castner's Cutthroats. Established by Col. Lawrence Castner, an Army intelligence officer, the Scouts were men selected for their survival skills. hunting skills, and self-sufficiency. The group's mission was to provide reconnaissance and intelligence and to spearhead amphibious assaults.

Fellow Alaskan Scout Edgar Martin Walker in his book, "My Life and Times," reminisced about meeting Acuff for the first time. "[He] came down that mountain; I swear he was taking 30-foot steps. ... He met us on the beach and wasn't even breathing hard after that feat. God, what a guy! That was Lt. Acuff."

Along with the Scouts, Acuff fought and served in the Aleutian campaign on the western edge of Alaska. The Scouts remained active until 1946, during which time Acuff led more than 20 surveying patrols mapping the western coastline of Alaska.

After the war, Acuff left the military and started a family. He remained in Alaska and became a bush pilot and a big-game guide. He also taught physical education until 1949, when the Army requested that he return to service.

In 1952, as the commanding officer of the 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry, 7th Infantry Division, Acuff was sent to Korea, where he later fought at the Battle of Pork Chop Hill, earning a Purple Heart, his second Combat Infantryman Badge, a Silver Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star with four Oak Leaf Clusters and V for Valor. In 1968, Acuff was again called to serve overseas and earned

his third Combat Infantryman Badge for his tour in Vietnam.

In 1970, Acuff, then a colonel, came to Virginia Tech as the professor of military science for the Army ROTC department. After three years, then-Virginia Tech President T. Marshall Hahn asked Acuff to assume the position of commandant of the Corps of Cadets in order to help the rapidly dwindling program. Acuff accepted and was promoted to brigadier general in the Virginia Militia.

As commandant, Acuff placed emphasis on recruiting and mandated changes in policies to improve retention. He worked to eliminate hazing, a problem within the Corps for years. With assistance from the university's administration, in 1977, the Corps saw its first enrollment increase in 10 years.

Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Inc. board member Lt. Col. David Williams '79 remembers Acuff fondly. "The stories he shared of his career and his physical fitness made all of us aware that there was no doubt he was a soldier in the truest sense of the word," Williams said. "Brig. Gen. Acuff and Col. Marin choosing me to command the Highty-Tighties has forever impacted my life; for that, I am grateful."

Under Acuff's leadership, women, who were first admitted to the Corps in 1973, continued to be successfully incorporated into the program. Emily P. Davis, a former member of L Squadron, said, "Brig. Gen. Acuff's vision helped the program to survive and flourish. He was determined to make it happen."

The first female cadet joined the Highty-Tighties in 1975. By 1978, progressive changes to the female cadets' uniforms made for a more unified appearance with their male counterparts; and in 1979, the first woman commanded a traditional gender-integrated line unit.

According to Acuff's daughter, Ardis Acuff, her father grew up poor and as

a result believed that there were many opportunities for anyone in the military. "He believed that the military was based on citizenship and performance, nothing else."

Joyce Davis Longrie, who worked for Acuff from 1977 to 1980 as the secretary to the commandant, summed up his time at Virginia Tech the best. "He was a true leader in every way who loved the Corps and the military. He led the Corps by example," she said.

Following his retirement from Virginia Tech in 1980, Acuff remained active, including earning 20 national and international gold medals in racquetball tournaments. After the death of his wife, Mary-Low, in 2005, he returned to Blacksburg, where he lived until his death.

During World War II, Franklin D. Roosevelt said, "To some generations much is given. Of other generations much is expected. This generation of Americans has a rendezvous with destiny."

With much expected of him, Acuff excelled. And the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets has the distinction of having benefitted from both his history and his vision for the future, for which the Corps will always be grateful.



Brig. Gen. Acuff (left) speaking to a cadet on the steps of Brodie Hall.



Brig. Gen. Acuff (top) and his staff, Col. Laddie Marin and Joyce Davis Longrie, gathered for the annual staff photo.



Lt. Acuff (right) with a fellow soldier while serving with the Alaskan Scouts in the Aleutian Islands.

## **Army ROTC News**



Upon earning the German Army Proficiency Badge, Cadet Benjamin Burk'13 is congratulated by German military officers and non-commissioned officers.

#### **German Army Proficiency Badge**

by Cadet Elaine Altman '13

In March, 44 Army ROTC cadets from Virginia Tech and Radford University gave up a few days of their spring break for the opportunity to earn the German Army Proficiency Badge, which requires meeting certain standards of marksmanship and physical fitness. A prestigious award, the badge is one of the few foreign badges that U.S. cadets and soldiers are allowed to wear on their uniforms.

Cadets needed to qualify on an Berretta M9 with five out of five shots on a target to earn the gold badge, four out of five for silver, and three out of five for bronze. The track and field portion of the test consisted of such events as a 100-meter sprint, a 5,000-meter run, shot put, long jump, and high jump. For the many cadets who had no experience with track and field

events, the experience was quite challenging. Another portion of the test included swimming between 200 to 1,000 meters. The final stage of testing was a ruck-march. Depending on their scores in the other events, cadets could ruck 12 kilometers in 120 minutes to earn gold, nine kilometers in 90 minutes for silver, or six kilometers in 60 minutes for bronze.

The testing culminated in an awards ceremony during which 35 cadets received the Gold Proficiency Badge, seven cadets received silver, and three cadets received bronze. For all cadets, the opportunity to test themselves physically and to gauge how they measured up to training standards of other armies proved invaluable. In addition, working with commissioned and non-commissioned officers of another military provided insight into the importance of training conducted between the U.S. Army and its allies.



At the start of the joint field training exercise, cadets gathered in the rain to receive instruction and garrison positions.

#### Joint field training exercise

by Cadet Steve Hamilton, Class of 2014

This year's joint field training exercise was a true test of the skills and abilities that the cadre previously had taught cadets. Utilizing the expansive Radford Army Ammunition Plant in Dublin, Va., as our training site, cadets arrived Friday morning, received garrison positions, and conducted reception activities before the start of the day portion of the land navigation course. Although thunderstorms brought these exercises to a halt, cadets took advantage of the downtime by getting to know their peers from other schools and developing standard operating procedures for Saturday's platoon-sized tactical exercises.

After the skies had cleared, cadets received their landnavigation packets, plotted their points, and went on their way. Since some of our time had been spent sequestered because of the inclement weather, what would have been two separate land-navigation exercises was compressed into one.

Waking up dry, albeit cold, on Saturday, most cadets were motivated to get out there and sequester some opposing forces. Although 13 hours may seem like a long time to conduct lanes, our platoon loved it. Platoon tactical exercises couldn't last forever, however, and we finished our last lane and began patrol base operations. I was tasked to be platoon sergeant and enjoyed being involved with the decision-making and execution of the platoon's activities. Patrol base operations were a blast, and I had a great time making sure that security was in place and that work priorities were executed.

Our platoon survived the night and the morning without an enemy attack. We packed up quickly and moved out for "squad

dead reckoning" training, during which we completed each objective swiftly and efficiently. Overall, I would deem the spring's field training exercise a huge success, a great forum to test our motivation, domain knowledge, and resilience.

#### Army program's trip to Taiwan

by Cadet Stephen McNight, Class of 2015



Cadet McKnight with Taiwanese military-academy cadets.

For three weeks during the summer of 2012, I was privileged to travel to Taiwan with 24 cadets from various American universities as part of the U.S. Army's Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency (CULP) program. Each year, Cadet Command sends some 1,300 cadets from schools nationwide to more than 32 different countries for cultural awareness training.

Before our 12-hour flight to Taiwan, we met at Fort Knox, Ky., for a few days of pre-deployment training, which included information on the country's culture and politics, along with the basics of Mandarin Chinese. Once in Taiwan, a beautiful island that's about as large as Maryland and Delaware combined, we visited the cities of Taipei, Hualien, and Kenting and several historical sites, including the temples of Chang Kai-Shek and Sun Yat-Sen, founding fathers of modern Taiwan. We also visited the grounds of Kinkaseki, a Japanese prisoner-of-war camp for American and British prisoners during World War II.



Students from ROTC programs nationwide participated in a CULP trip to Taiwan.

The most significant part of our trip was the week spent at the Republic of China Military Academy (ROCMA) in Kaohsiung. We lived with the Taiwanese cadets in their barracks and wore their camouflage duty uniforms. I will always remember their faces when they were trying to fit us large Americans into their clothes and boots.

Shortly after our arrival at ROCMA, we had a meeting with the academy's commandant, a Taiwanese general. On behalf of the American cadets, I was given the opportunity to thank the commandant for hosting us. During the week, we played basketball with the Taiwanese cadets, observed their airborne training, toured their military museum, received a lesson in Tai Chi, built rope bridges, and shadowed the Taiwan infantry during urban-terrain training.

We were given plenty of time to explore Taiwan on our own and enjoyed walking the streets, exploring night markets, and trying different kinds of food. I promised myself I would try everything put in front of me, including pig blood cake. Peculiar food notwithstanding, the trip proved to be a wonderful learning experience.

#### Alpha Company commander's freshmen report by Cadet Lehman Smith '13

As Army ROTC's Alpha Company commander, I was responsible for planning and executing training for freshman Army cadets during the spring semester. The cadets attended weekly classes taught by Capt. Erickson McCleary '06, as well as a two-hour lab run by senior cadets. The platoon leaders and platoon sergeants in charge of the freshman platoons worked tirelessly to make sure every cadet received excellent training.

Throughout the semester, freshmen were trained in various drills and exercises that will be used throughout their ROTC career at Virginia Tech. Practical exercise work completed during the semester included battle drills, first aid, radio skills, and land navigation training. Near the end of the semester, the cadets participated in a squad tactical challenge, allowing them to step into positions of leadership. Racing against time, the cadets had to navigate and complete obstacles set up across campus. Recalling exercises and training from previous labs, the cadets in leadership positions maneuvered their squads through the stations to the best of their abilities.

The freshman cadets also participated in training on the battalion level, including field training exercises (FTX) and combat water survival training (CWST). Struggling through the FTX's rough weather conditions and long days, cadets employed skills learned throughout the year in such exercises as day and night land navigation and force-on-force, as well as the field leader reaction course.

Along with the FTX, freshman cadets must complete CWST in order to commission into the Army as an officer. At the swimming pool in War Memorial Hall, cadets performed a 25-meter equipment swim, an equipment don-and-ditch, and a five-meter blindfolded drop. CWST is designed to test the cadets' confidence in the water and their ability to complete each event.

Freshman year in the Army ROTC program allows cadets to establish a foothold within the Army battalion, learn the basic skills of followership and teamwork, and be introduced to the expectations of leadership. Balancing physical training at 5:30 a.m. with strenuous academics, the Corps of Cadets, and ROTC can be tough for some individuals. Nonetheless, this lifestyle prepares our cadets for life after graduation as an officer in the U.S. Army.



Army ROTC cadets participated in many different training events during the

#### Commissioning





Congratulations to the following new Army second lieutenants who commissioned and graduated from the Corps of Cadets on May 17:

Elaine Altman, Transportation Corps David Bisacre, Armor Robert Borgard, Adjutant General Benjamin Burk, Aviation Tyler Bush, Armor John Collick, Infantry Luke Cox, Infantry Jourdan Dible, Signal Corps Sean Dixon, Military Police Corps Zara Durney, Signal Corps Lawrence Galera, Transportation Corps Jordan Gill, Infantry Andrew Gilliam, Aviation John Goodman, Field Artillery Collin Hayward, Transportation Corps Nathan Holcomb, Field artillery Charles Huber, Armor Abhijit Joshi, Armor Evan Kaleda, Engineer Corps Christopher Kelleher, Transportation Corps

David Kennie, Infantry

Daniel Kidd, Infantry David Kidd, Ordinance Corps Andrew Kress, Transportation Corps Weston Lahr, Infantry Catherine Lijewski, Military Intelligence Mario Lopes, Transportation Corps Robert Macdonald, Armor Jack Manning, Aviation Daniel Marotto, Armor Ryan McMahon, Infantry Michael Morgan, Ordinance Corps Ian Newell, Infantry Raquel Pantin, Quartermaster Corps Jonas Pasion, Armor William Perlik, Aviation Aaron Rider, Military Police Corps Stephanie Romero, Field Artillery Peter Seggel, Field Artillery Frank Shelton, Field Artillery Jacob Shores, Aviation Lehman Smith, Aviation Brandy Smoot, Signal Corps Christopher Sullivan, Aviation Kyle Treubert, Engineer Corps Catherine Wahlman, Chemical Corps Thomas Watson, Armor John Witte, Engineer Corps







## **News from the Development Office**

by Dave Spracher '70, director of development, 800-533-1144, dlsprach@vt.edu

Hello once again from beautiful Blacksburg, where the wind never blows, and the temperature is always moderate. If you believe those statements, it's time for you to make a trip back to campus to refresh your memory. I required three layers of clothing for the change-of-command review on May 4.

In the spring, we set a new record for the number of cadets sponsored in the Caldwell March as 211 cadets wore the nametag of their sponsor or someone else the donor chose to honor. The spring march resulted in gifts of \$124,500 to our Commandant's Priorities account, which pays for our operating expenses.

Many parents have found the Caldwell March to be a good way to support their cadet and the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets (VTCC), but many alumni and friends also sponsor cadets. If you want to sponsor a cadet for the fall march or just would like more information, please visit our website at www. vtcca.vt.edu and click on "Giving." We hope to reach the point where every freshman has at least one Caldwell March sponsor.

Sarah Woods is planning to leave the Blacksburg area this fall to pursue coursework abroad and graduate school. Until that time, she will be working as a special assistant to the commandant on the Upper Quad. Golf Company commander from the Class of 2004, Sarah did a great job in development and made many friends for the Corps. She will be hard to replace, but the search is underway. If you think you might be interested, please visit www.vt.edu/careers/ to learn more.

#### Major Gifts (\$25,000 and above)

Alton B. Harper Jr. '64 and Charles N. Harper '71 have made provisions in their estates to benefit the Corps; their wills will establish scholarships in each of their names, as well as that of their father, Alton B. Harper Sr. '37, a member of A Company who graduated with a degree in business administration. Alton B. "Butch" Harper Jr. was a member of A Squadron and earned a degree in business administration, and Charles N. Harper was a member of H Squadron and earned a degree in management. Butch Harper and his classmate, Homer Hickam '64, were instrumental in the creation of the Corps' cannon, the Skipper, in the early 1960s. Both Butch and Charles have

been active supporters of the Corps of Cadets since their graduation.

Under the leadership of Reed Schweickert, David Lowe, and John Bates, members of the Class of '63 are establishing a fund that will ultimately benefit the new building planned for the Corps. Until the funds are needed for the capital project, the fund will be endowed and will produce income for cadet scholarships in the name of the Class of '63.

Bill Barkley, Bill Barlow, Bill Grossmann, and Bill Roberts of the Class of '58 are working with classmates and friends to endow a scholarship in memory of two members of their regimental staff who recently died. The VTCC Thomas S. "Skip" Lewis '58 and Robert C. Richardson '58 Memorial Scholarship



Class of 2016 cadets who were sponsored for the spring Caldwell March gathered at the Pylons.

will provide scholarship support for the Corps of Cadets. The fund agreement states the following:

Skip Lewis was the consummate Hokie who rose through the ranks to be the regimental executive officer for the Class of '58. He devoted his days at Tech to the Corps and the Honor Court. Bob Richardson was commander of the Pershing Rifles and followed a similar path to become the regimental adjutant for the Class of '58. Both Skip and Bob paid a price academically for their work for the Corps, yet both later obtained their PhDs. Skip became the dean of engineering at the University of Hartford and, subsequently, executive vice president of HSB Insurance Co. Bob became professor of physics and vice provost for research at Cornell University. To this day, Bob is the only graduate of Virginia Tech to have won a Nobel Prize. Skip's and Bob's accomplishments, both as cadets and as Virginia Tech alumni, single them out as examples for future cadets to emulate.

#### Class Scholarships

When the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Inc. (VTCCA) was incorporated in 1990, the board of directors set a goal of raising a minimum of \$50,000 from each Corps class to endow an Emerging Leader Scholarship (ELS). The agreement with the Virginia Tech Foundation required that each scholarship reach a minimum level of \$25,000 in contributions by a set date or the fund would be terminated and the gifts would be pooled with other classes' to create a fund that would have the minimum amount required to produce income for our ELS program.

Sadly, for a variety of reasons, a number of our scholarships have not met the minimum and are therefore not producing income to help cadets. We have largely ignored this problem in hopes that continued efforts would increase the funds. However, our increasing enrollment now requires that we squeeze every possible nickel from all our scholarship accounts, including those that are underfunded.

The VTCCA Board recently voted to authorize the pooling of scholarships with less than \$25,000 and at least 10 years old. We will delay this action until the end of the calendar year to give you time to act. You may check how your class is doing by visiting www.vtcca. vt.edu and clicking "Giving" and then "Class Giving."

Please be aware that you may designate your gifts to your class scholarship simply by telling the student caller your desire or by indicating your preference on any written solicitation by checking the "other" block and writing in your class ELS (e.g., Class of '70 ELS). You may also designate online gifts to your class scholarship.

As always, thank you for your support of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. If I can help you in any way or answer any questions, please write or call.

Ut Prosim, Dave



At the completion of the spring Caldwell March, the regimental commander explained new privileges to the "just-turned" freshmen cadets.

# Donate Your To-Do List

by Judith Davis, Office of Gift Planning

Summertime ... and the grass needs mowing. If you own more than one property, several lawns or possibly many acres may need mowing—regularly. Distant property may require your working with a hired manager. There's so much to do when you'd rather relax.

And selling real estate can require more time and effort than you wish to expend.

If unneeded property has become a burden, and you're considering a gift to the Corps, donating that real estate can simplify your life and reduce your cash outlay for taxes, insurance against loss and liability, and other expenses. You may also realize tax savings that further reduce the effective cost of your gift, allowing you to support the Corps with a larger gift than might otherwise be possible.

Donating real estate simplifies your estate for your heirs, as well, freeing them from the responsibility for covering the property's taxes and maintenance costs and from the need to manage or sell the property, perhaps at an inopportune time.

Virtually any type of real estate can be considered for a charitable gift: a primary residence, vacation or second home, farm, unimproved land, or rental, commercial, or other property.

Allow extra time to complete a gift of real estate, which takes longer than donating cash or securities. Real estate gifts must undergo a review and appraisal process that will likely take a minimum of several weeks, and not all real estate gifts can be accepted. The Corps' development office and the Virginia Tech Foundation will provide information and assistance to you and your financial advisor or attorney as you complete this process.

It is important to note that in order to gain the full tax benefits of your gift, you must avoid negotiating or completing the sale of real property prior to donation. The property you donate should be transferred directly to the Virginia Tech Foundation Inc., which then typically handles the property's management and sale.

To learn more about supporting the Corps with a gift of real estate—or with any gift—contact Dave Spracher, director of development for the Corps of Cadets, at 800-533-1144, or email dlsprach@vt.edu.

## In Memory

Ranald T. Adams '45 1925 - 2012



Ranald T. Adams Jr., U.S. Air Force (retired), of Alexandria, Va., died Dec. 30, 2012. Born in Ft. Sill,

Okla., Adams attended Virginia Tech for two years before receiving an at-large appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, where as an air cadet he graduated and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Army Air Corps in 1946. A fighter pilot, Adams served in the Air Force with distinction until 1981, when he retired as a lieutenant general with the Distinguished Service Medal.

Predeceased by his wife of 58 years, Jeannette, Adams is survived by a son, two daughters, three grandchildren, and his companion, Doris Goffus.

Robert C. Richardson '58 1937 - 2013



Robert C. Richardson, a Nobel Laureate in Physics for work done in conjunction with two colleagues for their discovery of superfluidity

in a rare form of helium, died Feb. 19 in Ithica, N.Y.

Born in Washington, D.C., Richardson earned both a B.S. and an M.S. in physics from Virginia Tech. A proud member of the Corps of Cadets, he served as regimental adjutant, captain of the Pershing Rifles, and a member of Scabbard and Blade. Commissioned into the U. S. Army, Richardson served in the ordnance corps at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., before deciding to pursue a Ph.D. in physics at Duke University.

In 1966, as a postdoctoral researcher at Cornell, Richardson, colleague David Lee, and Douglas Osheroff, a former graduate student, were awarded the Nobel Prize for their discovery that the helium isotope, helium-3, can be made superfluid, or made to flow without resistance, at about .002 of a degree above absolute zero. Richardson was named an assistant professor at Cornell in 1968.

Cornell's first vice provost for research from 1998 to 2003, Richardson was a member of the board of trustees at Duke University from 1997 to 2007, was twice a Guggenheim fellow, and was a member of both the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Preceded in death by a daughter, Richardson is survived by his wife, Betty; a daughter, and four grandchildren.

Melvin C. Hobson '47 1926 - 2013



Melvin Clay Hobson of Hyannis, Mass., died April 7 in Yarmouth, Mass. Born in Ft. Myers, Fla., Hobson graduated from Virginia

Tech in 1948 with a degree in chemistry. Originally Class of 1947, he served with the U.S. Marine Corps in China during World War II before returning to receive his degree. Hobson, who earned a doctorate in physical chemistry, was a research chemist, a professor of chemistry, and an internationally known expert in the field of Mössbauer spectroscopy.

Preceded in death by his wife of 50 years, Patricia, Hobson is survived by three daughters and four grandchildren.

R. Paul Farrell Jr. '49 1927 - 2013



R. Paul Farrell Jr. died Jan. 12 in Schenectady, N.Y. Born in High Point, N.C., Farrell received a degree in 1949 in electrical engineering from

Virginia Tech, where he served as the G Company commander and Honor Court judge in the Corps of Cadets. A licensed professional engineer in the states of Kentucky, New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, Farrell held a dozen U.S. patents. In 1967, he transferred with General Electric from Louisville, Ky., to Schenectady, where he retired in 1997 from the Environment/One Corp.

Preceded in death by his first wife, Susan, in 1996, Farrell is survived by his wife, Jane; two children, two grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Randy Wray Sinclair '67 1945 - 2013

Randy Wray Sinclair of Danville, Va., died April 22. A native of Abingdon, Va., Sinclair graduated in 1967 with a degree in history from Virginia Tech, where he was a member of the Gregory Guard, the Arnold Air Society, Scabbard and Blade, and the Virginia Tech German Club. He served as the regimental commander of the Corps of Cadets during his senior year.

After commissioning in the U.S. Air Force and serving four years, Sinclair earned a J.D. at the University of Rich-



mond School of Law. He joined several law firms over the years until starting his own practice in 1996, practicing law for 39 years in the City of Danville.

Sinclair was appointed assistant commissioner of accounts for the Circuit Court of Danville in May 1996 and commissioner of accounts in February 2002.

He was a member of the Danville Bar Association, Virginia State Bar, and American Bar Association and served on the board of directors of the Conference of Commissioner of Accounts.

Sinclair is survived by his wife, June "Cookie" Sinclair; three children, and four grandchildren.

#### Frank Conrad Martin Jr. '54 1932 - 2013



Frank Conrad Martin Ir. died May 11. A native of Roanoke, Va., Martin graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in business administration

and was commissioned into the U.S. Army, serving for two years.

Martin worked for Dr. Pepper and WDBJ television before opening his own regional marketing research company, Martin Research Inc., with offices in four Virginia cities, in 1970. He served on various boards, including Blue Cross Blue Shield of Southwestern Virginia, Mary Baldwin College, Trigon Health Care, and the Roanoke Valley Chamber of Commerce, serving as president of its Backbone Club. He also served as chairman for the Roanoke Civic Center Commission.

Preceded in death by his daughter, Martin is survived by his wife of 60 years, Martha Clay (Lunsford) Martin; three children and thirteen grandchildren.

#### Raymond H. Barker '68 1946 - 2013



Raymond H. Barker Jr. died May 3 in Alexandria, Va. A native of West Paterson, N.J., Barker earned both a B.S. and an M.S. in aerospace

engineering from Virginia Tech. While in the U.S. Air Force, he earned a doctorate in astronautical engineering.

Barker's career included work on projects such as Minuteman, Star Wars, SDI, and Milstar and coordination of space programs across all branches of the military from the Office of the Secretary of Defense. After serving for 25 years and achieving the rank of colonel, Barker joined the private sector and continued working in the field of aerospace, most recently at Alion Science and Technol-

Barker is survived by two daughters and two grandchildren, as well as his parents, Raymond and Edna Barker.

#### Jack Williams Webb Sr. '44 1923 - 2013



Jack W. Webb Sr. died on Jan. 30 in Suffolk, Va. A Suffolk native, Webb attended Virginia Tech as a member of the Corps of Cadets until the end of his

sophomore year when the Class of 1944 was called into service during World War II. Before heading to duty in the Pacific, he married Faye Nimmo; following the war, he returned to complete his business degree at Virginia Tech as part of the renowned Class of 1944.

After a short time in the family trucking business, Webb began a 50-year insurance business career in Bluefield, W.Va., at Top Flat Insurance. His career interrupted by his service as a training officer during the Korean War, Webb returned to Suffolk in 1957 and established Nansemond Insurance Agency, which became a successful family busi-

Webb belonged to many civic organizations and business partnerships and served on the Suffolk City Council, the Suffolk School Board, and the Suffolk Industrial Authority.

Webb's wife, Faye, passed away on March 1, one month after his death. They are survived by two sons and a daughter, nine grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

#### Stage Edmund Miller '55 1932 - 2013



Stage Edmund Miller died Jan. 2 in Jerome, Va.

A Jerome native, Miller graduated with honors from Virginia Tech with a degree in biological sciences in 1955. He then attended

the Medical College of Virginia, graduating in 1958 with a doctor of medicine. After interning at Winchester Memorial Hospital, he settled in Mt. Jackson, Va., where he was a family physician for 28

Preceded in death by a son, Miller is survived by his wife of 57 years, Doris Pendleton Jackson Miller; three daughters, five grandchildren, and three greatgrandchildren.

#### Hollis B. "Skeets" Cahoon '63 1941 - 2013



Hollis B. "Skeets" Cahoon died March 16 in Greensboro, N.C. Originally from Covington, Va., Ca-

hoon attended high school in Sullivan, Ind., and graduated from Virginia Tech in 1963 with a degree in electrical engineering. He was commissioned into the U.S. Army and served as a field artillery officer in Korea from 1965 to 1966.

Beginning his career as an HVAC sales engineer, Cahoon later owned and operated Brightwood Mechanical, a plumbing and HVAC construction company, and eventually established an electrical and mechanical engineering consulting practice. In addition, he helped to create Collegiate Tartan, a company that designs and registers tartans for colleges and universities, which originated from his desire to honor Virginia Tech. One of Cahoon's most notable contributions to his alma mater was to develop and officially register the Virginia Tech tartan, which, at his insistence, includes a blue and white stripe to honor the Corps of Cadets. Cahoon generously donated all rights to the tartan to the university.

Cahoon is survived by his wife of 48 years, Katherine Kress Cahoon VT'65, three daughters and their husbands, and seven grandchildren.



"Skeets" with the Virginia Tech tartan that he developed and registered.

#### LEST WE FORGET

Robert Nathaniel "Nat" Lancaster '38, Richmond, Va., 1/4/13.

John E. Wetsel '41, Amelia, Va., 4/3/13.

Henry B. Copenhaver '41, Blacksburg, Va., 3/23/13.

Worth William Boisture '42, Henderson, N.C., 1/3/13.

Angelo J. Ingrassia '44, Middletown, N.Y., 3/21/13.

Thomas J. Chaffin Jr. '45, Lynchburg, Va., 4/16/13.

Max C. Kurbjun '45, Yorktown, Va., 3/21/13.

Albert Winquist Jr. '45, West Bend, Wis., 4/3/13.

Lewis B. Connelly III '45, Kingsport, Tenn., 4/25/13.

Frank L. Padan Jr. '46, Jonesboro, Ark., 4/16/13.

Charles H. Russell III '46, Richmond, Va., 2/3/13.

Robert H. Keith '47, West Boylston, Mass., 4/22/13.

H.R. Stebbins Jr. '48, Richmond, Va., 4/15/13.

Benjamin T. Sharp '48, Torrance, Calif., 2/1/13.

Elmer D. Trotter '49, Williamsburg, Va., 4/5/13.

Carlos K. Dale '49, Mathews, Va., 3/30/13.

Anderson F. Johnson Jr. '50, Richmond, Va., 3/25/13.

John S. Long '52, McGaheysville, Va., 3/31/13.

William D. Miller '53, Forest, Va., 3/21/13.

James T. Vaughan '53, Fredericksburg, Va., 2/8/13.

Alex R. Valdo '53, Sun Lakes, Ariz., 2/2/13.

Philip T. Rutledge Jr. '55, Varina, Va., 4/8/13.

Robert Reid Hudgins '56, Jacksonville, Fla., 12/24/12.

John E. Kurz Jr. '57, San Mateo, Calif., 3/22/13.

Benjamin N. Joyce Sr. '58, Stuart, Va., 4/8/13.

Allen R. Stickley Jr. '58, Starkville, Miss., 4/18/13.

Ronald Harley Trull '59, Hopewell, Va., 12/22/12.

Robert B. Kilgore '59, Abingdon, Va., 4/4/13.

Charles T. Perkins Jr. '60, Pensacola, Fla., 3/10/13.

Walker D. Goad '66, Peoria, Ill., 2/3/13.

John W. Bartholomew '66, Southport, N.C., 4/1/13.

Richard D. DeRoche '67, Chesapeake, Va., 2/3/13.

Robert B. Hollett '68, Athens, Ga., 4/23/13.



## Corps Homecoming • September 20-21, 2013 Virginia Tech vs. Marshall University



Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets alumni, return to campus to celebrate our annual Corps homecoming! This is a great opportunity to reconnect with old friends who shared the cadet experience that forged in us the importance of values and character.

This year, registration opens on Friday afternoon at 3:00 p.m. Formal retreat by the regiment will take place on the Upper Quad at approximately 4:45 p.m. The Friday night Cadet Leadership Reception and Dinner at The Inn at Virginia Tech is a coat-and-tie affair where you can meet and hear from today's cadet leadership.

Saturday will feature our annual homecoming meal, which we anticipate being a post-game dinner at The Inn at Virginia Tech after the Hokies' victory. This casual-dress event will include good food and fellowship, as well as the opportunity to hear from a special guest speaker, Maj. Gen. Dan Dick '70, U.S. Air Force (retired). In addition, Commandant of Cadets Maj. Gen. Randy Fullhart will present an update on facilities upgrades and continuing improvements to the leader development program.

Plan to participate in a special annual tradition, the alumni regiment march onto Worsham Field at Lane Stadium before kickoff. Join your classmates for this unique experience, and rally to your unit guidons!\*\*

\*\* Please register online for Corps Homecoming. You can choose the specific events you want to participate in, as well as order Corps alumni hats and polo shirts to be worn during the march-on. Prices for all events and merchandise can be found on the registration site.

### **Corps Homecoming Registration Website**

www.alumni.vt.edu/reunion/vtcc/index.html

#### Corps Homecoming Registration Details

#### **Cancellation:**

- The last day to receive a refund for cancellation is 30 days prior to the event date.
- If you cancel your event registration, your accompanying request for game tickets will be canceled. Ticket refunds will be processed only if the canceled ticket can be resold.
- Individual hotel cancellation policies apply. Please see lodging information below.

#### Game Tickets (when applicable):

- Game tickets purchased as part of event registration are for registered event participants only.
- Game tickets are \$50 each and are limited in quantity, available on a first-come, first-served basis.
- There is a limit of one ticket per paid registrant and a maximum of four game tickets per registration form.
- Game tickets will not be mailed. They will be available for pickup photo ID at event registration.
- Everyone who enters Lane Stadium must have a game ticket, including infants.

#### Lodging (when applicable):

- Rooms are limited and are offered on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Room preferences are not guaranteed.
- Telephone reservations are not accepted at The Inn at Virginia Tech.
- Confirmation will be provided by the hotel. Please review this confirmation for accuracy of arrival and departure dates.

#### **Confirmation:**

- Confirmations detailing event registration will be sent prior to the event.

Come to Corps Homecoming 2013 and Reunite with Old Buds and Classmates!



