Board of Visitors Members

(Appointed by the Governor to terms expiring on dates indicated.)

June 30, 2012: Frederick Cobb, Richmond; Beverley Dalton, Altavista; Douglas Fahl, Leesburg; Calvin Jamison, Richardson, TX.

June 30, 2013: Michele L. Duke, Middleburg; George Nolen, Centreville.

June 30, 2014: William B. Holtzman, Mt. Jackson; Suzanne S. Obenshain, Harrisonburg; Michael Quillen, Bristol; John G. Rocovich, Jr., Roanoke

June 30, 2015: Cordel L. Faulk, Charlottesville; John C. Lee, IV, Middleburg; Deborah Petrine, Hardy.

Mr. Paul W. Rogers, President of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (ex officio), Wakefield, VA

Dr. Bruce Pencek, Faculty Representative
Ms. Michelle McLeese, Graduate Student Representative
Mr. Matthew Banfield, Undergraduate Student Representative
Ms. Maxine Lyons, Staff Representative

Addresses

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School of Law
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Ms. Suzanne S. Obenshain
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Ms. Deborah Petrine
President
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Mr. Michael Quillen
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Ms. Maxine Lyons  
Staff Representative  
Administrative & Fiscal Coordinator  
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Ms. Michelle McLeese  
Graduate Student Representative  
Graduate Life Center at Donaldson Brown (0186)  
Room 23A  
Blacksburg, VA 24061

Mr. Matthew Banfield  
Undergraduate Student Representative  
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Blacksburg, VA 24061

Ms. Kim O'Rourke  
Secretary to the Board  
Office of the President  
Virginia Tech (0131)  
Blacksburg, VA 24061

Officers

George Nolen, Rector

• Michele L. Duke, Vice-Rector  
• Ms. Kim O'Rourke, Secretary

Member Biographies

Board Members

Mr. Frederick J. Cobb

Mr. Cobb is the owner and President of Cobb Technologies, Inc., a distributor of document imaging products and Virginia’s leading independent document solutions dealer with offices in Blacksburg, Fredericksburg, Richmond, Roanoke, Lynchburg, Charlottesville and Newport News/Tidewater, Virginia. Mr. Cobb is also a private real estate investor. He is a Virginia Tech alumnus, graduating in 1979 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications.

Ms. Beverley E. Dalton
Ms. Dalton is an owner and Chair of the Board of W. C. English, Inc., which is engaged in general heavy construction services. She has been a member of the town council in Altavista, Virginia, and was the first woman to serve as chair of the Board of Trustees at Randolph-Macon College in 1993. She serves as a trustee of the W. C. English Foundation, the Virginia Historical Society, and on the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Jefferson’s Poplar Forest. She graduated from the University of Richmond with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education in 1970.

Ms. Michele “Shelley” Duke

Ms. Duke is owner and Manager of Rallywood Farm, located in Middleburg, Virginia. Ms. Duke is also chairperson of Virginia Tech’s Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center Council, a premier full-service equine hospital located in Leesburg, Virginia, that offers advanced specialty care, 24-hour emergency treatment and diagnostic services for all ages and breeds of horses. She is also a member of Virginia Tech’s Women and Leadership in Philanthropy Council. Formerly, she held positions with Shearson Hayden Stone, Inc., J. A. Sanford and Company, and Blythe and Company, Inc. She was designated as an honorary Virginia Tech alumna in 2005.

Mr. Douglas R. Fahl

Mr. Fahl is Executive Vice President for Dewberry & Davis, LLC in Leesburg, Virginia, a firm with offices in more than 40 locations and 18 states providing services in program management, planning, engineering, architecture, surveying, geographic information services, and the environmental sciences. He is a planner and engineer with over 30 years’ experience in urban and regional planning, the land use regulatory process, land planning, and site engineering. He is a Virginia Tech alumnus, graduating in 1967 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering.

Mr. Cordel L. Faulk

Cordel L. Faulk earned a bachelor’s in political science in from Virginia Tech in 1998. He earned a law degree in 2001 from the University of Virginia, where he has been director of admissions for the law school since October 2009, and formerly was director of communications, media, and research for the university’s Center for Politics. Prior to that, Faulk was an editor and columnist for The Richmond Times Dispatch. While enrolled at Virginia Tech, he participated in the University Honors program. Faulk has served as an instructor and advisor for that program.

Mr. William B. Holtzman

William B. Holtzman, class of 1959, is the president and owner of Holtzman Corporation, which includes Holtzman Oil Company and a number of divisions that range from food to equipment and construction to fuel transport. In 1972, he began Holtzman Oil Company, which now owns 60 convenience stores and service stations and is one of the largest employers in Shenandoah County. He was named an Ernst & Young Retail Entrepreneur of the Year in 2001. Over the years, he has been a major donor and actively engaged in numerous aspects of the university. He served on the Virginia Tech Foundation Board, and the Holtzman Alumni Center was named in his honor.

Dr. Calvin D. Jamison, Sr

Dr. Jamison is the Vice President for Business Affairs at the University of Texas at Dallas. Prior to his current role, Dr. Jamison served as Senior Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer at Hampton University, and is also the former CEO/City Manager of Richmond, Virginia. Prior to serving as City Manager of Richmond, Dr. Jamison spent 14 years in higher education with faculty and administrative roles at Virginia Commonwealth University and Virginia Tech, including a position as Assistant to the President at Virginia Tech. He is a Virginia Tech alumnus, graduating with a Bachelor's degree in 1977, a Master's in 1981, followed by a Doctorate degree in 1988, all in Education.

Mr. John C. Lee, IV
John C. Lee IV is chairman and chief executive officer of Lee Technologies located in Fairfax, Virginia. The company, which he founded in 1983, is nationally renowned for its expertise on data centers, including their design, construction, commissioning, staffing, operations, maintenance and 24x7 monitoring. Lee Technologies serves customers across industries including the federal government, financial services, telecommunications, information technology, and healthcare. On April 1, 2011, Schneider Electric, a Paris-based global specialist in energy management, acquired Lee Technologies and its full repertoire of data center services. Mr. Lee continues to serve as chairman and CEO of the company he founded. He earned bachelor’s degrees in economics and business administration from Randolph-Macon College.

Mr. George C. Nolen

Mr. Nolen is past President and Chief Executive Officer (retired in 2009) of Siemens Corporation in New York, NY (U.S. corporate headquarters), one of the world’s largest global electronics and engineering companies. Founded over 160 years ago, the company, with global headquarters in Munich, is a leader in the areas of medical technology, power generation, factory automation, transportation, lighting, and building and water technologies. Previously, Mr. Nolen served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Siemens Information and Communications Networks, Inc (now Siemens Communications, Inc.) in the United States and Siemens Enterprise Networks, LLC. He is a Virginia Tech alumnus, graduating in 1978 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing.

Ms. Suzanne S. Obenshain

Suzanne S. Obenshain is a 1984 Virginia Tech graduate with a BA degree in history. After years working as a licensed nursing home administrator for Sunnyside Presbyterian Retirement Communities, Mrs. Obenshain turned her attention to her family and local philanthropy and community affairs. She has served on the Commonwealth Council on Aging; the Valley Program for Aging Board; and as a founding Board member of Generations Crossing, an intergenerational adult and childcare facility. She served as co-chair of the Generations Crossing Capital Campaign in 2007 and personally raised over one million dollars. She has served on the Sunnyside Presbyterian Retirement Community Corporate Board and its Regional Board, and as an Elder of First Presbyterian Church. Mrs. Obenshain serves as Secretary of the Harrisonburg Electoral Board. She enjoys gardening, cooking and reading.

Ms. Deborah Petrine

Deborah Martin Petrine earned her bachelor’s in business administration from Virginia Tech in 1978. She is president and chief executive officer of CCR (Commonwealth Care of Roanoke Inc.), which owns and operates eleven long-term-care facilities in Virginia. Petrine founded the company in 2001. In 2009, she also became president of Longleaf Senior Living LLC, which managed 32 assisted living facilities in North Carolina. Petrine has served on the advisory board for the management department of Virginia Tech’s Pamplin College of Business. She also has served on the advisory board for the Virginia Tech Center for Gerontology. In 2005, Petrine received the Virginia Health Care Association’s James G. Dutton Award for lifetime achievement in the long-term-care field in the commonwealth. She is the recipient of the Pamplin College 2011 Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Mr. Michael Quillen

Mr. Quillen is an alumnus of Virginia Tech’s Class of 1971, having graduated with a master’s degree in civil engineering. He is currently chairman of the board of Alpha Natural Resources in Abingdon, Virginia, where he formerly served as president and CEO. Prior to joining Alpha in 2002, Mr. Quillen served for four years as Executive Vice President for Operations of AMCI Metals and Coal International, Inc., where he was also responsible for AMCI’s Australian properties. Mr. Quillen has over 30 years of experience in the coal industry, beginning as an engineer and rising to the senior executive level. He has held positions as vice president for operations of Pittston Coal Company, president of Pittston Coal Sales Corporation, vice president of AMVEST Corporation, vice president for operations of NERCO Coal Corporation, and president and CEO of Addington, Inc. He currently serves on the board of Martin Marietta Materials, Inc.
Mr. John G. Rocovich, Jr.

Mr. Rocovich is an alumnus of Virginia Tech’s Class of 1966, having graduated with a bachelor’s degree with honors in business. He went on to earn a juris doctorate from the University of Richmond and the LL.M. degree in taxation from New York University. Mr. Rocovich is serving his third four-year term on the Board of Visitors, having previously served from 1997 to 2005. Mr. Rocovich was elected Rector of the Board in 2002 and held that position for two years. Among the myriad ways Mr. Rocovich has served his alma mater, he has been a director and president of both the Virginia Tech Foundation, Inc. and the Virginia Tech Alumni Association, and he currently is a member of the National Campaign Steering Committee for the Campaign for Virginia Tech. His involvement in higher education extends beyond the bounds of Virginia Tech. From 1999 to 2000, he served on the Governor’s Blue Ribbon Commission on Higher Education. He was also the driving force behind the creation of the Edward Via Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine with campuses in Blacksburg, Virginia, and Spartanburg, South Carolina. He has a long record of community involvement, having served on the boards of numerous non-profit, for-profit, and religious organizations in the region.

Mr. Paul W. Rogers, Jr.

Mr. Rogers is owner of Rogers Farms, a 1,200-acre farm, growing crops of cotton, peanuts, and grains and producing timber on another 300 acres in the Southampton, Sussex, and Surrey Counties of Virginia. He is in partnership in Rogers Farms with his son, Paul Rogers, III. Mr. Rogers serves as an ex-officio Board member by virtue of his role as Chairman of the Virginia Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services, a board that promotes the agriculture interest of Virginia, advises the governor on the state of the industry of agriculture, and works with members of the agricultural community and with federal and state agencies to develop and implement programs that will provide for a strong and viable Virginia agriculture. He is a 1969 graduate of the North Carolina State University-Agriculture Institute, receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture, and a 2000 fellow (graduate) of the University of Virginia, Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership.

Constituents

Undergraduate Student Representative:  Mr. Matthew Banfield

Matt Banfield is a senior Theatre Arts and Cinema student from Williamsburg, VA. With a focus in performance, he was featured in two main-stage productions during the School of Performing Arts’ 2010-2011 season. Outside of theatre, Matt has spent a year serving as Associate Justice and Executive Liaison with the Judicial Branch of Virginia Tech’s Student Government Association. More recently, however, he served as the Chairman for the Class of 2012 Ring Dance Committee as well as a member of the Class of 2012 Ring Design Committee. In addition, Matt can be seen volunteering in the community, working alongside Alumni with the Student Alumni Associates, or giving tours to prospective students with Hokie Ambassadors. During summer breaks, Matt has spent the last three years working at the Jamestown 4H Center in Williamsburg where he serves as a camp counselor. After graduation he is hoping to pursue a career in politics, entertainment management, or some combination of both. He is very thankful for the opportunity to serve with the Board this year and is looking forward to the great things to come.

Graduate Student Representative:  Ms. Michelle McLeese

Michelle McLeese of Blacksburg, Va., is a doctoral candidate in the department of Sociology. McLeese has earned a bachelors of Science in Psychology and a bachelors of Science Sociology in 2004, as well as a masters in Sociology in 2005, all from Virginia Tech. In the Spring of 2006, McLeese won the Leland B. Tate Award for outstanding scholarship, leadership, and service in the department of Sociology. She was inducted into the Alpha Epsilon Lambda graduate honors society in the spring of 2009 and was inducted into the Order of the Gavel, in the Fall of 2009. Ms. McLeese is the former chair of the Commission on Student Affairs (2009-2010), former president of the Graduate Student Assembly (2010-11) and was the recipient of the Virginia Tech Graduate Woman of the Year, the highest graduate honor at Virginia Tech, in 2010.
Staff Senate Representative: Ms. Maxine Lyons

Maxine has a BS degree from Radford University and has worked for Virginia Tech for almost 11 years. In the College of Architecture and Urban Studies (CAUS), she is the Office Manager of the Community Design Assistance Center. Maxine first became involved in governance at VT in 2000 when she was elected as the president of the CAUS Staff Association; she was re-elected in 2006. She then became a Staff Senator and served on University Council and the Commission on Equal Opportunity & Diversity. She was elected as secretary of the Staff Senate in 2006. Maxine has served on several planning committees, the most recent being the planning committee for the Employee Advisory Committee (EAC). She also sat on one of the initial focus test groups which were set up in response to the Higher Education Restructuring Act. An artist with a degree in Commercial Art, Maxine teaches painting and has used her art skills to design many promotional pieces.

Faculty Senate Representative: Dr. Bruce Pencek

Dr. Bruce Pencek has been the College Librarian for Social Sciences in the University Libraries since 2001. In that capacity he provides instruction and research consultations, and manages the library collection to support the departments of History, Political Science/International Studies, Science and Technology in Society, ROTC, the School of Public and International Affairs, and several interdisciplinary programs. He received the Association of College and Research Libraries' Marta Lange/CQ Press Award in 2010 for "distinguished contributions to information service to law/political science." A 1977 graduate of Dickinson College, he earned his graduate degrees in land-grant universities: PhD in government at Cornell (1988), MS in library and information science at Illinois (1998). Before entering librarianship, he taught political science in several public universities in the western United States. Pencek was secretary of the Virginia Tech chapter of Phi Beta Kappa for half a dozen years and delegate to PBK's national governing meetings. In his spare time, he is an avid fly fisherman.