

Vol. 22 No. 3 Summer 2012

# CorpsReview

The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Magazine





Capt. Erikson McCleary '06 (center) shows his Virginia Tech pride with his gun truck crew. When this photo was received in May, McCleary, a Highty-Tighty alum, was deployed to southwest Afghanistan's Camp Leatherneck as the commander of the 594th Gun Truck Company.

More Virginia Tech pride is shown by Lt. j.g. Anthony LaVopa '09 (left) and Ensign Matt Abeyounis '12, who were afloat in the Arabian Gulf on the USS Porter (DDG-78) when this photo was taken in May. Both are alums of the Third Battalion, Abeyounis from India Company, and LaVopa from Band Company. LaVopa is headed to the U.S.'s newest Navy ROTC unit at Rutgers University.



# CorpsReview

The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Magazine

## FEATURES

Summer 2012, Vol. 22, No. 3

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**Inside back cover photo:** Bert Kinzey '68

**Back cover photo:** Ivan Morozov (M.S. '98, Ph.D. '04)

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# Living the DREAM

by Cary Pao '71

**In fall 1967, I arrived at Virginia Tech filled with excitement about beginning the next chapter of my life. My interest in model airplanes had begun at age 11, and I knew that my future had to include airplanes and aerospace engineering. Virginia Tech offered the best program, so there I was.**

Because our nation was in the midst of a prolonged war in Vietnam, I wanted some control over my future. Air Force ROTC and the Corps were a good complement towards my career ambitions. Although I knew little about the cadet program, an obscure phrase—“freshman system”—in the college catalog should have tipped me off! Inklings of Corps reality began to sink in that first week when I learned how to “brace up” and “drag” and carry out other freshman “traditions.”

To this day, I hold very special the bond and camaraderie I share with my friends from the Corps. Some of my fond memories include German Club formals; a solo cross-country in a Cessna 150; marching in the Gregory Guard;

friends calling Vic Mikai and me “oriental staff” instead of “regimental staff” because we stood together in formation; and the legendary Thanksgiving Day football game in Roanoke when VMI cadets rescued, face-first, a manure-filled papier-mâché kangaroo from being blown up by our Skipper cannon.

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**“To this day, I hold very special the bond and camaraderie I share with my friends from the Corps.”**

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After graduation, I completed pilot training at Laredo Air Force Base, Texas, and was assigned to Reese Air Force Base, Texas, as a T-38 instructor pilot. My favorite missions were two-ship formation flights and cross-country navigation flights to faraway places. Some memo-

rable war stories come to mind: radioing my solo student-wingman to break out of formation while I dove my plane to avoid collision with another T-38 when I finally saw him up close—afterwards, you could hear a pin drop on the approach control frequency; using two barrel rolls to get my two-ship extended trail formation into the right practice area after my flight examiner pointed out I was in the wrong practice area; making a perfect three-point landing in a severe thunderstorm crosswind with minimum fuel, which took full right aileron and left rudder to keep from being blown off the runway; and seeing the moon below the horizon near dusk while cruising at flight level 370 over El Paso, Texas.

In 1976, I sought an assignment to Los Angeles Air Force Station, Space and Missile System Organization, as a project manager in the Inertial Upper Stage (IUS) Program office. The IUS was part of the national Space Transportation System, which consisted of the shuttle and upper stage to send large spacecraft from the shuttle’s low-earth orbit to higher geosynchronous orbit or planetary trajectories. The Air Force developed the IUS and planned to operate “blue” shuttles

“In retrospect, the Corps provided me the structure for my early development and gave me a great start towards my career. Although the values carved onto the Pylons—Duty, Honor, Service, Sacrifice, Loyalty, Leadership, Brotherhood, and Ut Prosim—were not explicitly drilled into us, we absorbed them every day within the Corps’ traditions and daily conduct.”

out of Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., before budget cuts in the late 1980s.

My job was to make the IUS compatible with the Titan 34D expendable launch vehicle to provide a backup capability to the shuttle—which did occur, on my birthday, with the Challenger accident. The highlight of this project was being onsite at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., to witness the Enterprise approach-to-landing test following release from the 747 carrier aircraft. It was an eye-watering experience!

Southern California was the heart of the booming commercial space sector. Rather than being assigned anywhere else, I separated from the Air Force after eight years to pursue a career in the industry. I hired on with Hughes Aircraft Company’s space and communications group when it dominated the commercial communications satellite market. Among its many milestones, Hughes developed the Syncom 3 satellite that beamed the first transpacific broadcast, of the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, to the U.S.

I was part of a small Hughes team that worked on console at NASA’s Johnson Space Center in Houston to deploy

many of the HS-376 satellites from the orbiter. In February 1984, after we had deployed both satellites, problems left them in useless orbits; they were declared a total loss. That November, Hughes executed a coordinated plan with NASA to maneuver both satellites down to low-earth orbit, rendezvous with the orbiter for retrieval, and return them to Earth. The operation was successful, and both satellites were eventually relaunched. Hughes and NASA shared many missions together in those days, and the astronaut crews would frequently fly out in their T-38s to have dinner with us and share their war stories.

Soon after my move to Los Angeles from Lubbock, I developed a deep friendship with Anita, a Minnesotan of Norwegian descent whom I eventually married. Born in Peiping, China, of Mongolian parents, I never thought my wife would have red hair and freckles, as I’m sure she’d never imagined marrying an Asian. Our son, Eric, now 22, is studying graphic design at San Diego State University.

From 1988-1992, I was given the opportunity to run the Hughes Mission



Top: Pao and the Hughes team at NASA's Johnson Space Center flight control room. Courtesy of NASA.

Below: Shuttle Enterprise during its approach-to-landing test flight, Edwards Air Force Base. Courtesy of NASA.



(From left) Cary, Eric, and Anita Pao with their pet menagerie. Courtesy of Anita Strand Pao Photography.

Control Center in El Segundo, Calif. The promotion to laboratory manager entailed significant responsibility since we performed the last phase of the delivery process for the division's commercial satellites. A typical transfer orbit mission took about 10 days with round-the-clock operation. Of the 12 satellites my group delivered on-orbit, seven were completed within 11 months, all successful!

In 1992, following the Rodney King riots, the Los Angeles area became a very dangerous place to live. My wife, Anita, and I elected to return to Northern Virginia, where I had grown up, to raise our three-year-old son, Eric. There, I was fortunate to be part of Orbital Sciences Corp.'s Pegasus Program at a time when NASA's "Faster, Better, Cheaper" initiative yielded many small satellites that were launched on Orbital's privately developed Pegasus and Taurus space-launch vehicles.

In eight years at Orbital, I participated in 26 Pegasus and four Taurus launches and brought in five launch-service contracts totaling \$86 million for our product lines. These were exhilarating times with many personal and

professional challenges demanded by aggressive schedules and an entrepreneurial corporate culture.

In 2001, our family decided to move back to Southern California to live at the beach and reconnect with our friends. I was fortunate to join the Aerospace Corp. supporting the Air Force's Space and Missile Systems Center (SMC) at Los Angeles Air Force Base. As a Delta IV mission manager for the Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle Program, I was able to plan and orchestrate the first controlled re-entry of a rocket's upper stage in order to mitigate orbital debris. A tricky programmatic issue, the controlled re-entry maneuver was flawless, and the stage safely impacted the Pacific Ocean within 19 miles of its target.

I was invited to join the development planning group to work on SMC's next-generation missile-warning space system. I had to learn a new set of technologies related to sensors, but the benefits of being at the front end of a program were undeniable. As a sensor-system engineer, I now understand how challenging it is to make these complex instruments work and operate in space.

In September 2011, we launched an instrument on a French Ariane V rocket. The Commercially Hosted IR Payload program will demonstrate the feasibility of hosting a complex government payload on a commercial satellite. A huge success, the program is a model for future SMC space missions.

In my current job, I've come full circle to where my aerospace career began 35 yrs ago. In retrospect, the Corps provided me the structure for my early development and gave me a great start towards my career. Although the values carved onto the Pylons—Duty, Honor, Service, Sacrifice, Loyalty, Leadership, Brotherhood, and *Ut Prosim*—were not explicitly drilled into us, we absorbed them every day within the Corps' traditions and daily conduct. These important attributes for success are applicable to all walks of life, not just in the military, and are essential to everyone, not just the leader, in today's corporate environment. I see these attributes in almost all the successful people and high-performance teams with whom I've worked.

*Ut Prosim!*



Col. Wes Fox and Dottie Lu, his wife, were the honorees of the Town of Blacksburg's April 29 parade welcoming home our veterans from Iraq. Fox was the parade's grand marshal. The Corps of Cadets accepted Blacksburg's invitation to participate; shortly after the town's parade, the regiment headed to the Drillfield for the annual Change of Command Parade.

# Who recruited Col. Fox?

By Lt. Cmdr. Anthony Hughes '98, USNR

**The name of Col. Wesley L. Fox is well known to every member of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets (VTCC), both past and present. Fox served from 1950 to 1966 as a career Marine Corps non-commissioned officer before accepting a commission as a second lieutenant during the height of the Vietnam War. Awarded the Medal of Honor for bravery and courage in February 1969, Fox went on to serve an additional 24 years before retiring in September 1993.**

Fox's career, as well as his leadership in later years as deputy commandant of cadets at Virginia Tech, has served as an inspiration for countless young men and women. That was certainly the case for me when I first met him in August 1995. I was a new, freshly sworn cadet in VTCC's Alpha Company, and Col. Fox was present during cadre week, inspiring the young cadets and offering mentorship and guidance wherever and whenever he could. As a new cadet, I learned of Col. Fox's career history and his Medal of Honor citation, as well as his many other achievements.

Years later, I had the pleasure of reading Fox's memoirs, "Marine Rifleman: Forty-Three Years in the Corps," and I was enthralled enough to read the entire book in a single day. I was amazed by the stories of Fox's years in the Marine Corps and his stories of valor, particularly the story of how he had initially joined. In the first pages, Fox tells of how an 18-year-old in rural Virginia had driven to Washington, D.C., in the summer of 1950 to enlist in the U.S. Marines at the outbreak of the Korean War.

As I read those early passages, I found myself imagining the initial meeting between Fox and his Marine Corps recruiter. Who was this recruiter who had inspired the young man to "sign on the dotted line" and join the Marines? What motivation had the recruiter offered that inspired Fox to embark on a Marine Corps career? Who was it, actually, who had recruited Col. Fox? I decided to find out.



Pfc. Wesley Fox



Capt. Warren Lloyd



Master Sgt. Alfred Caron

My first source of information was Col. Fox himself. In his book, he had written of a “Captain W.F. Lloyd,” who had encouraged him to enlist in the Marine Corps. I wrote to Fox at his home in Blacksburg, asking who had enlisted him in the Marines. He responded promptly, informing me that he had “enlisted himself” but also made reference to the Capt. Lloyd from his book. I had a rank, a last name, and two initials—not much to go on.

I next contacted the Marine Corps Historical Society in Quantico, Va., and requested details on the Marine Recruiting Stations in Washington, D.C., during the early years of the Korean War. An answer came a few weeks later, explaining that during the 1950s, the Marine Corps had operated a recruiting area known as the Northeastern Recruiting Division, which had included Northern Virginia and Washington, D.C. In the nation’s capitol, the recruiting division had maintained both a headquarters and a recruiting station located near the Washington Mall on 1400 Pennsylvania Ave. In July 1950, when Fox enlisted, the recruiting station was under the command of Capt. Warren Francis Lloyd. I’d found the man who had recruited Fox.

With the identity of Col. Fox’s recruiter known, I began a historical

investigation of Lloyd. Through Marine Corps historical records, I learned that Lloyd had enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve in fall 1938 and had served on inactive duty until called up in 1940 as World War II approached.

Commissioned an officer in 1942, 1st Lt. Lloyd participated in several major Pacific battles and was awarded the Silver Star for courage under fire at Okinawa, as well as the Bronze Star and Purple Heart for various other actions. Stationed in Quantico after the conclusion of World War II, Lloyd was posted to command the Marine Corps Recruiting Station in Washington, D.C., during the summer of 1948.

In September 1951, a year after Fox had enlisted in the Marines and deployed to Korea, Lloyd was transferred to Korea, where he was awarded a second Bronze Star for logistical leadership during wartime. Lloyd concluded his Marine Corps career at Parris Island, S.C., serving as a lieutenant colonel and head of the weapons-training battalion. He retired in July 1966 and died 40 years later in December 2006.

Learning the history of Col. Fox’s recruiter also led me to a second Marine of interest, Master Sgt. Alfred Caron, who had been the senior enlisted non-commissioned officer at the Washington

recruiting station during the summer of 1950. His contact with Fox may have been limited, but it was Caron who had processed the new recruits immediately following enlistment and had arranged transportation to Parris Island, for basic training.

Caron had enlisted in the Marines in February 1936 and served at various Marine Corps barracks facilities along the East Coast until the outbreak of World War II. Deployed to the Pacific, he served in several engagements, including the liberation of the Philippine Islands. After the war, Caron attended recruiting school and was the recruiting district first sergeant when Fox enlisted. Just months later, Caron was commissioned a second lieutenant and served in various staff positions before retiring from Camp Lejeune, N.C., as a captain in 1957. He died thirty years later.

The research to discover the identity of the two Marines, Warren Lloyd and Alfred Caron, directly responsible for recruiting Wesley L. Fox was fulfilling. I was left with admiration and respect for those service members who had gone before me, as well as admiration for the men who launched Fox into a career that has touched so many in the years since.



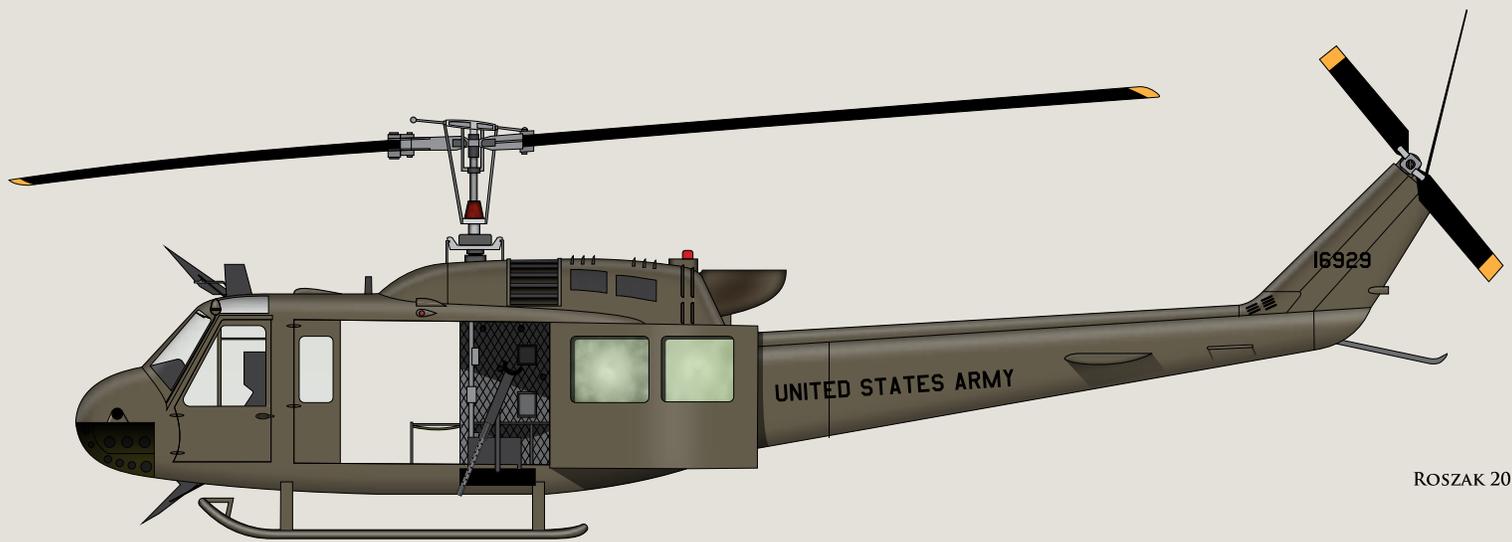
# Operating at the strategic level

*by Col. Kathleen Burr '86*

One of my earliest memories from childhood is of my father leaving for Vietnam. I remember the olive drab car coming to a stop in front of our house in Manassas, Va., and my father waving as he opened the door and settled into the back seat of the waiting vehicle.

What I didn't know then is that it was the third time he had made the trip. I do know that I chose the Army because of my father's courage. And I know that our family endured my father's many deployments because of my mother's strength.

My military dedication solidified when I joined the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets (VTCC) as a freshman in the fall of 1982. Because of my upbringing, I knew the Corps was the path I wanted to take—following in my father's footsteps as an Army officer. The four years I spent as a cadet in the



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*Bell UH-1H Huey flown by 1st Lieutenant Kathleen Burr  
Operation Desert Storm, Saudi Arabia, December 1990 -- May 1991  
Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Class of 1986*

VTCC, culminating as Bravo Company commander, undoubtedly prepared me for my military career. At the end of my junior year, I was selected for my first choice of branch: aviation. What better way to follow in my father's footsteps than to get selected for what is, I am sure, the most challenging branch in the Army.

My military career began in June 1986, when I graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree and a commission as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. One of my proudest memories is of my

father pinning my brand-new gold bars on my uniform.

After graduation and commissioning, I headed to Fort Rucker, Ala., to begin flight training. Both challenging and rewarding, initial flight training was one of the most intense courses I've ever attended. Hovering a UH-1H helicopter for the first time was an extreme adrenalin rush. Actually, flight school was a nine-month, continuous adrenalin rush. Upon graduation, I left Alabama for my first real assignment, as a "green" second lieutenant platoon leader in Germany.

Most of my flight class had been assigned to Germany. It was 1988: The political climate was still Cold War-focused, and our military presence was very strong in Europe. I was assigned to the 25th Aviation Company, later reorganized as 4th Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment, 11th Aviation Brigade, in Stuttgart, Germany.

I remember getting off the plane in Germany with eyes as big as saucers. I had no idea what to expect. Tactical training became significant when I attended my first classified threat briefing



Kathy Burr with her husband, David, in Hawaii in 2010.



Senior Cadet Kathleen Burr, Bravo Company commander.

and realized that this was the real thing. The “schoolhouse” scenario ended. Flight missions to the Fulda Gap and elsewhere and training over significantly different terrain from that in Alabama, although challenging, became the norm as the months progressed.

The threat changed in August 1990, however; and in November, my unit received word that we would deploy to Saudi Arabia in support of Operation Desert Shield/Storm. I was again infused with adrenalin, anticipating what was to come. A new battlefield for U.S. forces in Germany was drawn. Forces in Europe were no longer looking east.

By that time, the wall separating East Germany and West Germany had been down for a year. South-West Asia (SWA) was now the focus. Remembering what my mother had endured with my father’s deployments, I immediately called my parents to let them know. That was the toughest call I’ve ever made. My mother could not believe her daughter was being deployed to war. Mom had thought that my father’s last deployment had meant those times were behind her. I departed for Saudi Arabia less than three weeks after notification.

Our mission in Saudi Arabia was not unlike our mission in Germany, with two significant differences: The terrain was vastly unique in SWA, and there was always the threat of being shot down. Our mission included flying the 7th Corps commander, his staff, and subordinate commanders around the area of operation encompassing a substantial “footprint.”

Fortunately, for our American military, the war was short. My unit’s deployment was a little more than six months. I was part of a small contingent of six aircraft (UH-1Hs) with crews and a maintenance cell who stayed behind for a few weeks supporting a portion of the 7th Corps staff who remained in theater.



Upon returning to Germany, I made a difficult career decision and left active duty in August 1991. With no break in service, I entered the Army Reserve and was assigned to the 166th Aviation Regiment in Illeisheim, Germany, the only Reserve aviation unit in Europe. Again, I was afforded the opportunity to enhance

my experiences as an officer and aviator as the operations and training officer (S3) air.

After spending several more years in Europe, I was assigned as the HHC company commander for 5th Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment, at Fort Eustis, Va. I commanded the company for three years until I was sent back to Fort Rucker in 1999 for the CH-47D transition course. Flying UH-1Hs will always be my first love, but the advanced avionics and control systems of the CH-47Ds made flying as smooth as silk. In 2000, I was promoted to major, graduated with an M.S. in foundations of education and was reassigned to the 244th Aviation Brigade staff at Fort Sheridan, Ill., serving as a brigade S3 air and liaison officer.

In September 2001, as the world watched, Bin Laden systematically attacked the United States. A new threat had emerged. The U.S. military was again called to war. The next month, I met my future husband, Lt. Col. William David Wood, a career Army infantry officer, truly a kindred spirit. We were married in 2005, and David retired in 2011.

As the war in Afghanistan and then Iraq unfolded, everyone anticipated being called. My unit was notified in February 2003 that we would mobilize and deploy to Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. I broke the news to my parents and David gently. The 244th Aviation Brigade’s mission was as the theater aviation brigade in control of reserve component aviation assets in the theater of operation: Kuwait and Iraq. My task specifically was scheduling

flights to transport Army personnel and equipment, along with equipment for the U.S. Marines, with our CH-47Ds and UH-60s. The demand for lift support was never ending.

Although the United States' involvement in the war in Afghanistan continues (having recently ceased in Iraq), my unit's deployment in Kuwait was approximately six months, short by today's standard. Because I still wanted to support the war effort, I joined David in Virginia volunteering to be assigned at the Pentagon with the Army Operations Center's crisis action team in 2004. There, we tracked the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan for the Army senior leadership, briefing daily on current operations in both areas of operation.

I continued through 2009, when I joined the Capabilities Integration Directorate within HQDA G-3/5/7 (operations). This directorate is significant in supporting the war-fighter. Units requiring equipment above current authorizations or an improved capability submit their requests through this directorate. It is amazing to observe this vital process and be part of these strategic decisions.

I have spent eight years within HQDA supporting the global war on terror. I arrived as a major and since that time have been promoted to colonel and graduated from the Army War College. These eight years have taught me a great deal about how the Army operates at the strategic level. The war continues, and significant strategic decisions are made daily by competent leaders.

In my 26 years of service, I have never forgotten what I learned as a cadet at Virginia Tech. The VTCC core values enhanced the Army values and remain with me today. Those, along with the courage and strength my parents instilled in me, ensured my success as an Army officer and aviator.

*Ut Prosim!*



Capt. Burr rappelling with HHC 5 Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment, in 1996.



Burr with her parents, Noel and Col. Ralph Burr, USA (retired).



Burr receiving her M.S. in foundations of education from Troy State University in 2000.



# Admissions update 2012

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

As I write, another exciting and competitive year in admissions is nearly over. This year, more than 1,700 students applied for entry into the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets (VTCC), only a couple dozen less than last year. The university as a whole received more than 20,500 applications for the 2012 fall term. Among the students offered admission, the average GPA is 3.98, and the average SAT score is 1,250 (math and critical reading). Among the cadet applicants offered admission, the average GPA is 3.88, and the average SAT score is 1,236.

We expect to welcome more than 400 new VTCC cadets in the fall, a figure that indicates a third spectacular year in a row. I extend a “well done” both to alumni and friends of the Corps for getting the word out and to my co-workers in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions who review applications. In my 12 years in admissions, this year was the most competitive for engineering that I’ve ever experienced. As a whole, the university is moderately competitive, offering admission to more than 13,500 students who applied. Final official statistics were published in May.

If I were asked to talk to prospective students about 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 course work, the most important criterion for admission, should be a solid mix of advanced courses—honors, Advanced Placement, dual enrollment, or International Baccalaureate, for instance—when these classes are available at their schools.

Although the more advanced courses the better, students need to present a solid combination of A’s and B’s in all of their core academic classes. In short, students should determine how much they can handle academically. Because all school districts grade differently, the admissions review committees do not look at GPAs. Instead, review is limited to the core academic areas: math, science, English, history, government, social studies, and foreign language. In these courses, the committees want to see a strong combination of A’s and B’s, preferably more A’s. I am not suggesting that a C means that the student will be denied admission, but stu-

dents should do their best not to receive any C’s. If a student does have one or two C’s, they are less problematic if they were received in the ninth grade in a foreign language class. If a student received C’s in later grades, he or she can still apply for admission, but if the same number of high-quality applications are received, the competition will be more difficult.

Optimally, students should not have any C’s on their senior 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 curriculum and grades than to SAT scores. In addition, extracurricular activities are important and will bolster the additional consideration that cadet applicants receive, but it should be emphasized that extracurricular involvement does not compensate for academics in the admissions process.

Engineering applicants needed especially strong grades in their math and science courses. Preference this year was given to those students who scored a 650

on the SAT math; had taken AP calculus, AP physics, and all advanced math and science courses, if available, throughout their high school career; and had earned more A's than B's in all math and science courses. Successful applicants must also have three years of lab science in biology, chemistry, and physics.

Students should not be afraid to indicate engineering on their applications because the committees automatically review in regular decision for a second-choice major. In the past, the second-choice major has been university studies (general studies), but applicants next year can specifically identify another choice as long as the second choice is not a restricted major, which includes engineering, architecture, industrial design, and interior design.

For students who are not admitted as freshmen, transferring to the university and the Corps is a viable option. The review of applications for transfer is not, however, comparable to the review of freshman applications. In particular, students cannot transfer into architecture, industrial design, and interior design; and students at Virginia's community colleges

receive preference in the transfer process. Otherwise, only two criteria exist for transfer applicants to be competitive: the completion of college freshman requirements for math, English, and science and a 3.0 GPA in all college course work. For a more detailed explanation, refer to the Office of University Registrar's Transfer Guide at [www.registrar.vt.edu/tranguide](http://www.registrar.vt.edu/tranguide).

Transfers to Virginia Tech can occur after one or two years of college course work, but it is better to transfer in as a sophomore if the student wants to enroll in ROTC. Students who transfer in as juniors and want to enroll in Army ROTC can potentially catch up with military science courses by attending a basic camp, the Leader's Training Course, held at Fort Knox, Ky. If interested in this option, students should contact Army ROTC in the spring semester of their sophomore year for more information.

This year, there were 131 transfer applicants to the Corps, and the number continues to grow each year. In your conversations with potential cadets, please emphasize that students who are not admitted as freshman will still have the transfer option. I know rejection can be

devastating for a high school senior, but that disappointment can be turned into admission with the proper planning.

Because there are many myths related to Corps admissions, please try to eliminate them if you can. Often, students and parents mistakenly think that a student cannot enroll in ROTC without an ROTC scholarship. Students can in fact enroll in ROTC if they do not receive an ROTC scholarship. In addition, prior enrollment in JROTC is not a requirement to be a cadet in our Corps, nor does enrollment in the Corps obligate a cadet to join the military. Finally, a civilian-track cadet is not simply a student who wears a uniform only once a week. Civilian-leader track is the modern term for what used to be referred to as Corps only or non-ROTC cadet.

My sincere thanks are extended to everyone who spoke to any high school student—whether at a college fair, a social event, or the dinner table—about the Corps and its opportunities. Your efforts do not go unnoticed, and I hear about them from prospects on a daily basis. Keep up the outstanding work!



Virginia Tech's new Visitor and Undergraduate Admissions Center, which opened in 2011.

## *Ring in 100 years of Virginia Tech tradition:*

# The 2010s by Laura Wedin VT'84

### *The next 100 years ...*

The start of the current decade ushered in planning to celebrate the first 100 years of the Virginia Tech class ring tradition and new ways to connect with class members.

The single greatest impact on the rings of this decade has been the classes' widespread use of social media—Facebook, YouTube, and now Twitter—to market their ring and associated events, such as Ring Premiere and Ring Dance. The Class of 2011 posted videos of its ring premiere on YouTube, and the classes of 2012 and 2013 created their own YouTube channel to display their videos. Nonetheless, old-school methods, including posters around campus, A-frame signs on the Drillfield, and table cards at the dining centers, still remain effective ways to

communicate to a class of more than 5,000 students.

While each ring continues to include long-held Tech traditions, newer ones have made their way onto the rings' class side. The 2010 ring, for instance, features the “key play,” a common practice at Hokie football games during which fans jingle their keys before an important play. In a similar vein, the 2012 ring depicts the Lane Stadium tunnel and the words “Start Jumping,” which alludes to fans jumping to “Enter Sandman” as the team takes the field.

Considerably more-solemn representations also appear on the rings since the April 2007 campus tragedy. The 2009 ring featured a VT

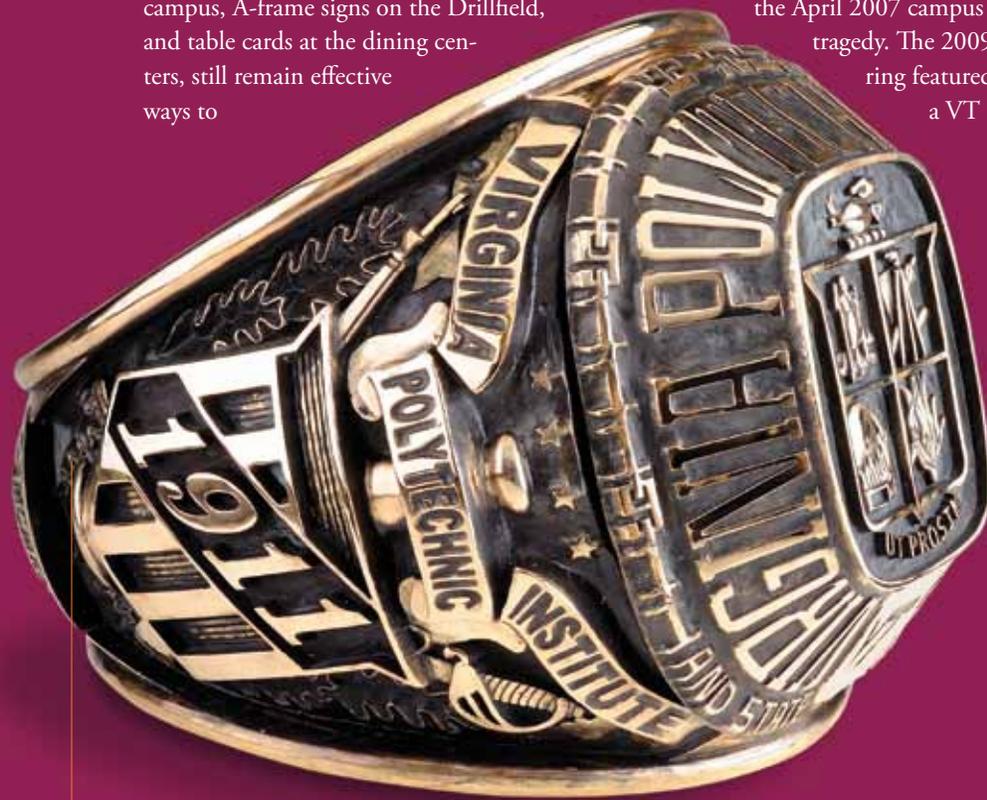
ribbon on the Drillfield on one side and “We will prevail” on the other, while the 2010 ring was the first to depict the April 16 Memorial in front of Burruss Hall. Each ring since then has included an element that pays tribute to the 32 students and faculty who were lost.

The Class of 2011 fully celebrated the centennial of the ring tradition by selecting President and Mrs. Charles W. Steger, both alumni of Virginia Tech, as the namesakes of the class's ring collection. In addition, a special video, “Virginia Tech: A Century of Tradition,” was produced and features several Corps alumni, beginning with Maj. Gen. W. Thomas Rice '34. The video can be viewed online at <http://youtu.be/BK5RvZSeCDQ>.

For the Class of 2011 ring, actual Hokie Stone, in either a light or a dark shade, was made available for the first time as a gem choice. The lower part of the rings' shanks also features a depiction of Hokie Stone, an element that continues on current rings.

The theme of the 2011 Ring Dance, Moonlight and VPI, recognized the heritage of the Fred Waring song played at every ring dance since 1942. Attendance at the dances increased, but because of the new enforcement of building capacity, the Class of 2011 was the first to impose limits on attendance. As a result, tickets, though still free, were issued prior to the event and limited to juniors.

As its class gift, the Class of 2011 selected a large cast bronze of the Centennial Ring, which was dedicated in





September 2010. Housed in the atrium of Squires Student Center on a custom-made wood base with Hokie stone, the “Big Ring” depicts a re-created 1911 ring on one side and the 2011 ring’s university side on the other.

In addition, since November 2011, the ring tradition has been celebrated daily by way of a wrapped Blacksburg Transit “Ring Bus” proclaiming “Wear the Tradition,” alongside a depiction of the Centennial Ring.

Withstanding the ups and downs of gold pricing and a century of change, the Virginia Tech class ring, like the Corps of Cadets, continues on a strong course for another 100 years of tradition.

For more information, go to [www.alumni.vt.edu/classrings](http://www.alumni.vt.edu/classrings).



On May 3, the inaugural Hokie Gold Legacy ring melt was held on campus at the Kroehling Advanced Materials foundry, also known as VT FIRE. Six Virginia Tech class rings donated by alumni or their families were melted to create Hokie Gold. Attending this first melt was program founder Jess Fowler '64, along with Jim Flynn '64, both of M company. Members of the Class of 1964 supported Fowler's establishment of the program as the class's 50th-anniversary legacy. One of the ring donors, James F. Johnson '60, was also present at the melt.

The gold refined from the resulting ingot will be incorporated into the upcoming Class of 2014 rings ordered by December 2012. A small portion will be saved to include in the ring melt for the Class of 2015 and will continue for future classes so that a tiny portion of the original Hokie Gold will always be included in all future class rings. For more on Hokie Gold, go to [www.alumni.vt.edu/classrings/hokiegold](http://www.alumni.vt.edu/classrings/hokiegold).

# Our alumni board's newest members

Incorporated in 1992, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Inc. (VTCCA) continues to support the Corps of Cadets in a variety of ways. The board of directors meets twice a year to provide alumni insights to the commandant of cadets and to support him and his staff in a wide range of opportunities. At the spring 2012 board meeting, three new members joined us.



**Tom Verbeck '73**, who received a B.S. in electrical engineering, was a member of the Highty-Tighties and several campus organizations. Commissioned in the Air Force and serving for 34 years, Tom rose to the rank of brigadier general before he retired in 2009. That year, he began a consulting business and has contact with many companies in the military industrial arena. An accomplished teacher and speaker worldwide, Tom brings to the board extensive personal and business contacts. In fall 2007, Tom was the speaker at the cadets' commissioning service. Currently a vice president and CIO for the National Capital Region's Government Systems Group, Tom and his wife are residents of Burke, Va., and Newport, Va. He will serve on the Outside Organizations Task Force.



**Deborah Tillotson '78**, a member of the first all-female cadet unit, L Squadron, from 1974 to 1978, was a pioneer at Virginia Tech. She received a B.S. in mechanical engineering and was commissioned in the Air Force, later earning a master's degree in systems engineering. Having worked primarily with Lockheed Martin and the SI Organization Inc., Deborah brings 32 years of industry experience to the board. She has been active with on-campus recruiting for both GE and Lockheed Martin, has funded an Emerging Leader Scholarship, and is part of the College of Engineering's Committee of 100. She also serves on the parents council of the Virginia Tech Dean of Students Office. Deborah resides in Washington Crossing, Pa., with her husband, Dan, a pilot, and their son, Ian, a sophomore in the Corps of Cadets' Kilo Battery. Deborah will serve on the Outside Organizations Task Force.



**Casey M. Roberts '06**, who received a B.A. in history with a minor in leadership studies, participated in Army and Air Force ROTC during his days as a cadet. He earned a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from Regent University in 2009, and an education specialist degree in educational leadership and administration from The George Washington University in 2010. Currently completing a doctoral degree in educational administration and policy studies from The George Washington University, Casey is employed as an administrator in the Virginia Beach City Public Schools system and is active in several Tidewater-area organizations. Casey and his wife, Renelle Roberts, reside in Chesapeake, Va. He will join the Recruiting Task Force.

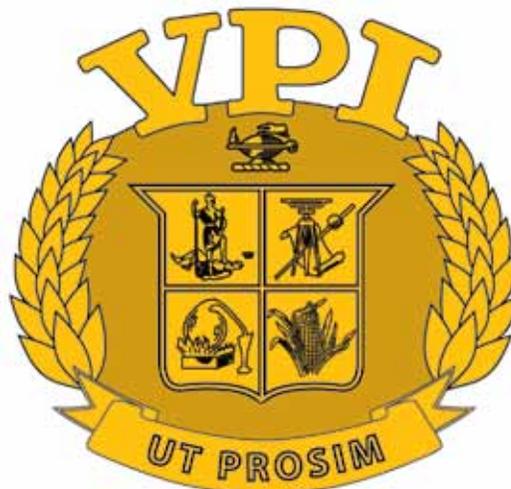
The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Inc. has had a board of directors for nearly 20 years. The mission of the VTCCA is to promote and preserve the fraternal, educational, and leadership qualities embodied in the Corps of Cadets through the constructive, organized efforts of its alumni. If you have the desire to help the Corps of Cadets and wish to be considered for board membership, please contact Gary Lerch at [gdlersch@verizon.net](mailto:gdlersch@verizon.net) or Rick Monroe at [coalbank@comcast.net](mailto:coalbank@comcast.net).

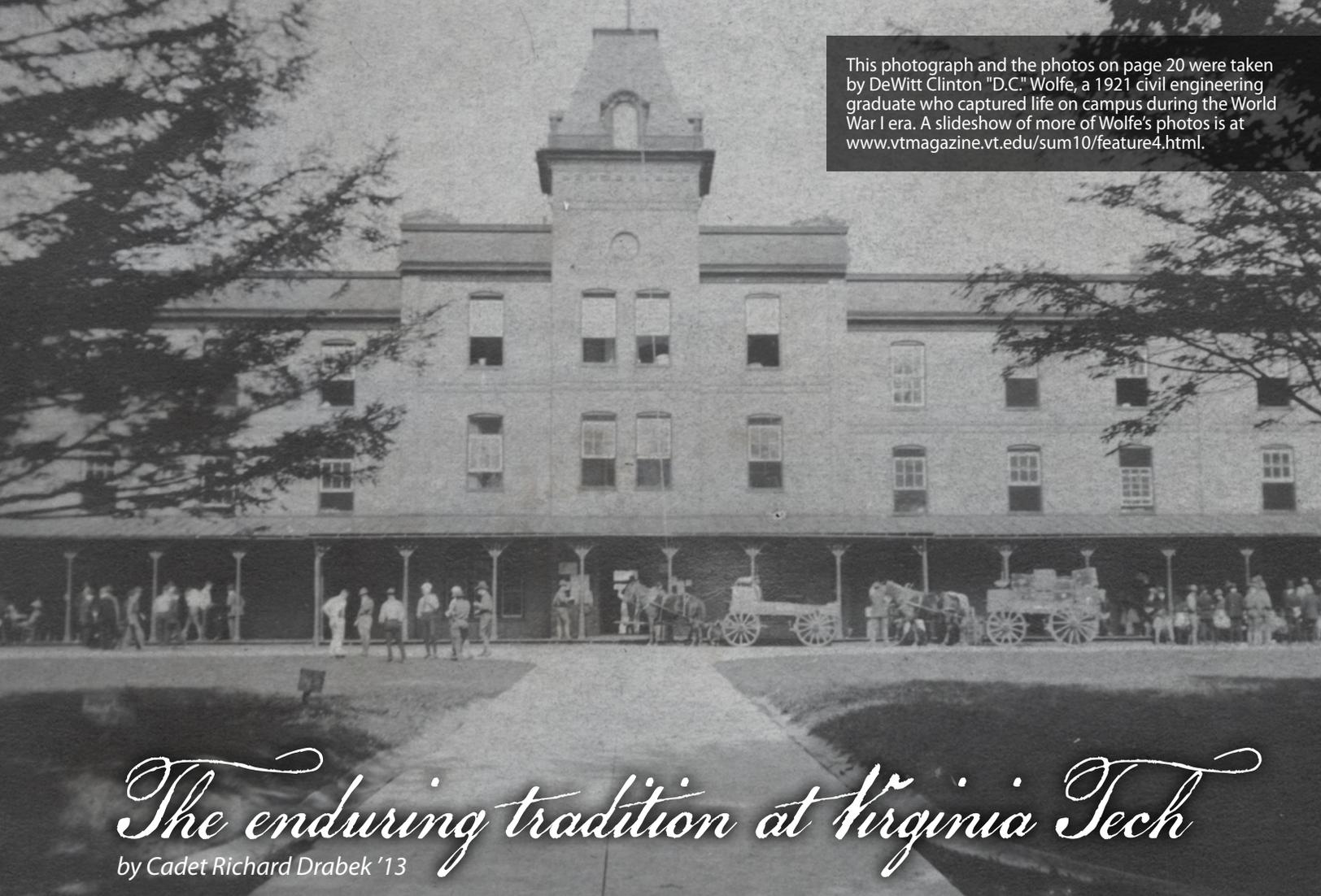
### The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Inc. Board of Directors

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Dave Williams '79  
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Sarah Woods '04  
Ray Yount '68





This photograph and the photos on page 20 were taken by DeWitt Clinton "D.C." Wolfe, a 1921 civil engineering graduate who captured life on campus during the World War I era. A slideshow of more of Wolfe's photos is at [www.vtmagazine.vt.edu/sum10/feature4.html](http://www.vtmagazine.vt.edu/sum10/feature4.html).

# *The enduring tradition at Virginia Tech*

by Cadet Richard Drabek '13

The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets (VTCC) has a long and outstanding history of producing great leaders for our country. At its inception in 1872, the Corps was comprised of 132 cadets; in fall 2011, the cadet population reached 949, a number that should surpass 1,000 when the regiment returns in the fall. In those 139 years, the Corps has undergone major structural reorganizations as a result of changes in size: from just two companies to a full-sized brigade and everything in between.

In 1872, cadets at the Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College (Virginia Tech's original name) formed only two companies, A and B. The First Battalion was formed with the addition of C Company in 1887. Six years later, the first artillery unit, E Battery, was formed, along with an official Band Company, which replaced the Glade

Cornet Band. In 1902, F Company was the last company to be added until 1922. By the beginning of the 1900s, the Corps stood at some 670 cadets.

More and more companies were added as the Corps continued to grow and its structure continued to change. In 1917, Army ROTC was established at Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College and Polytechnic Institute, the first of the university's several name changes. Originally, Army ROTC was solely for the infantry branch, but engineering and coastal artillery were added in 1919. In addition, G and H companies were formed in 1922. By then, the Corps had grown so large that it was reorganized into a regiment in 1923.

That same year, President Julian A. Burruss (civil engineering 1898) made Corps enrollment optional after the completion of two years, but the growth

didn't stop. In 1927, a third battalion consisting of batteries I, K, L, and M was added to the regiment.

Because of the Great Depression, Corps enrollment saw a sharp decline in the mid-1930s, dropping by more than 500 from 1931 to 1935. During the buildup before World War II, however, the Corps grew to the largest it has ever been. In fact, the large number of young men who joined the Corps required a fourth battalion in 1939.

The Corps reached its peak in enrollment of 2,850 cadets in 1941. At the same time, the regiment was reorganized into the first and only brigade-sized unit ever to exist at Virginia Tech. The five battalions of the brigade were segmented by ROTC branch. First Battalion was infantry; Second Battalion was engineering; and Third, Fourth, and Fifth battalions were all coastal artillery.

Army Air Forces ROTC was installed in 1946, resulting in the formation of the first cadet squadron. Because the Air Force would become a separate service the following year, R Squadron was formed for only one year until its members were integrated back into regular companies. Squadrons would not return to the Corps until 1956.

After World War II, the huge influx of veterans who were not required to enter the Corps resulted in civilian students outnumbering cadets for the first time on campus. As the veterans graduated near the end of the decade, Corps enrollment was again larger than civilian enrollment.

In 1948, all battery units at Virginia Tech were eliminated. The number of cadets spiked to 1,554 in 1949 and continued to climb during and after the Korean War until 1962, when the regiment consisted of 2,227 cadets.

After 1962, the size of the Corps rapidly declined for several reasons. When

membership was made completely optional in 1964, the Corps lost 539 cadets between 1964 and 1965. In addition, the Vietnam War and the civil unrest it generated at home contributed to the Corps' waning membership, a trend that would continue until 1976.

In the midst of dropping enrollments, the structure of the Corps of Cadets was reorganized significantly. In 1969, the Corps consisted of two groups (1st and 4th) and two battalions (2nd and 3rd), along with the Regimental Band, which operated as an independent unit. This configuration made for a total of 17 companies and squadrons although there was, for a time, an 18th unit—T Company—which consisted of varsity athletes who lived apart and attended ROTC as a class.

By the summer of 1970, the Corps had dwindled to 732 cadets, and the regiment reorganized that summer into one battalion (First Battalion) and one

group (Second Group), plus the band. This restructuring, which brought the total number of companies and squadrons to nine, was undertaken in a unique fashion with no unit maintaining lineage, to keep the experience fair to all cadets.

In 1973, women were allowed to join the Corps of Cadets and were assigned to L Squadron as an all-female unit. Three years later, Corps enrollment reached a low of 325 cadets. Navy ROTC was added in 1983, making Virginia Tech one of the few universities in the United States to offer all three branches of ROTC. By 1984, Corps membership had climbed back up to 723 cadets, only to start falling again to some 400 cadets in 1990-94.

Since 1994, Corps enrollment has increased dramatically. A large part of this growth is due to the Emerging Leader Scholarship program, funded jointly by Corps alumni and the university, and the Rice Center for Leader

Size of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets, 1872 - 2011



Development, which has raised the academic leadership curriculum to new heights. These, coupled with a dedicated staff and the inspired leadership from the past three commandants of cadets, Maj. Gens. Stan Musser, Jerry Allen, and Randal Fullhart, have helped raise the total number of cadets enrolled in the program today.

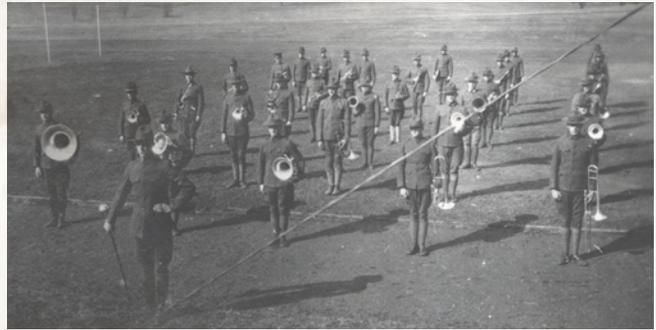
Because of the increasing enrollment numbers, Third Battalion was reactivated in 1998, which incorporated the re-established India Company and Kilo Battery, along with the Band for

administrative purposes. In the past four years, 2008 to 2011, the Corps has grown by more than 240 members to its current strength of approximately 949 and could grow by as much as another 100 in August. This growth has resulted in the return of L Company, and Band Company has been structured to include two sections, Band A and Band B.

The numbers don't lie. Even though the Corps of Cadets at Virginia Tech has experienced its share of ups and downs over the years, it continues to be the enduring tradition at our great university.

**Editor's note:** *Cadet Drabek approached me with an interest in doing some sort of historical article on the Corps. I shared with him a copy of the enrollment data that the late Col. Harry Temple '34 had left me and gave him access to the "Bugle" collection in the museum. Cadet Drabek was off and running, and I was so pleased with his work that I wanted to share it with our Corps alumni and friends.*

Photos by DeWitt Clinton "D.C." Wolfe '21.



A visual timeline of the Corps' structure. Each grouping represents a battalion or group, and each lettered block is a company or squadron.

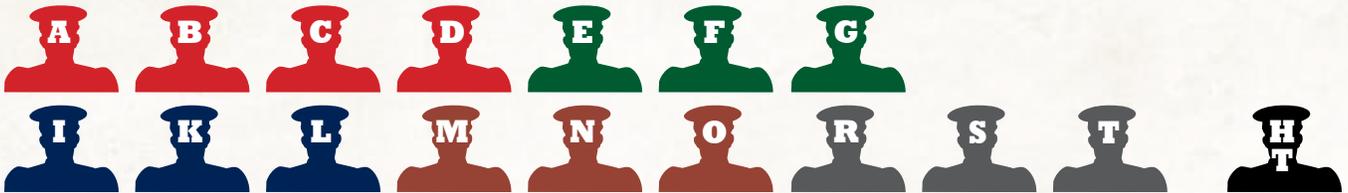
**1917 Battalion**



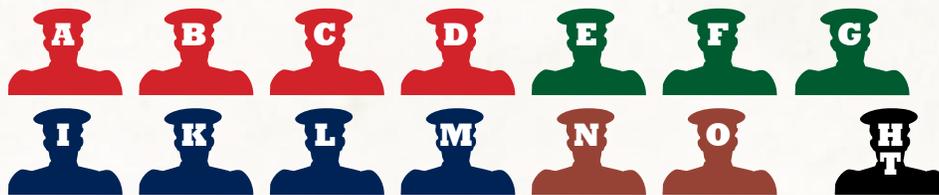
**1924 Regiment**



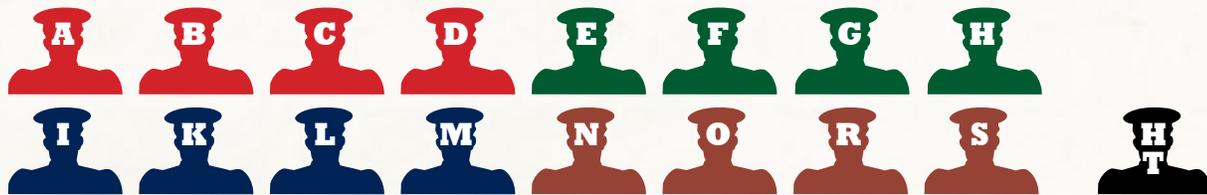
**1943 Brigade**



**1956 Regiment**



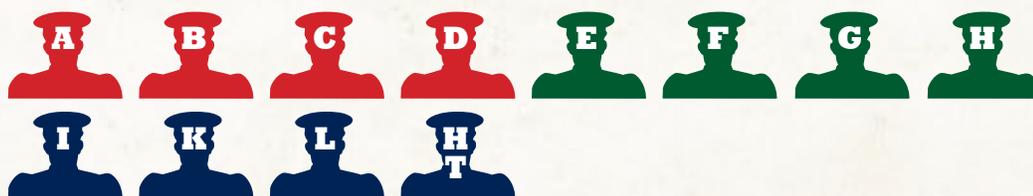
**Regiment before the Reorganization (1970)**



**Regiment after the Reorganization (1971). The Letters above are the "parent" companies.**



**2012 Regiment**



# Army ROTC news



Some of the 34 newest lieutenants in the U.S. Army (from top): Leigh Compton, Grace Rollins, Kyle Amonson, and Miles Sonntag.

## New officers

On May 12, 34 members of the Virginia Tech Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) New River Battalion raised their right hands, swore their oaths, and received their commissions as second lieutenants in the United States Army. Our graduates entered the service as officers in the infantry, air defense, transportation, quartermaster, military intelligence, military police, adjutant general, ordnance, armor, aviation, chaplain, engineer, and medical service corps. Congratulations to them all!

## Field training exercise

In April, the New River Battalion conducted its spring field training exercise (FTX) at the Radford Army Ammunition Plant areas in Radford and Dublin, Va.

The spring exercise prepares junior-class cadets for their participation in the Leadership Development and Assessment Course (LDAC) during the summer. Leading platoon-sized elements, the juniors were assessed on their ability to develop, communicate, and execute a well-rehearsed plan. Paintball guns were used during the training.

The land navigation course familiarized cadets with using a compass, map, and protractor to navigate in any situation. For the day portion, cadets were given five hours to find five of eight points; during the night navigation, they were given three hours to find three of five points. Although there were periods of rain, the cadets powered through, benefiting from the training.

As the final cumulative training event for the semester, the FTX required participation from all cadet classes. Senior-class cadets planned the entire exercise and were responsible for gathering all the necessary equipment and ensuring that the training ran smoothly. The juniors, practicing skills that will be expected of them at LDAC, served as mentors to the freshmen and sophomores who were introduced to the skills, activities, and roles they will be expected to learn and progress through in the Army ROTC program.

## Combat water survival test

In February, cadets successfully completed the combat water survival test at the pool in War Memorial gym. This annual training consists of a series of water exercises: a 15-meter swim in combat uniform, sneakers, and load-bearing equipment (LBE) with M-16; and a 3-meter drop while blindfolded and



carrying weapon and LBE, requiring cadets to shed the blindfold and swim to poolside without losing their weapon. Cadets also practiced discarding weapons and LBE and swimming to the side of pool.

### Operation Warrior Forge

This summer, 76 Virginia Tech Army ROTC cadets are attending the LDAC known as Operation Warrior Forge at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington.

LDAC is the capstone exercise on the way to becoming a lieutenant in the U.S. Army. By way of a tiered structure using light-infantry tactics as the instructional medium, the course trains ROTC cadets to Army standards, develops leadership skills, and evaluates officer potential. The course's highlights include land navigation, confidence training, field leader's reaction course, U.S. weapons familiarization, cultural awareness, tactics, and first aid.





### **Cadet professional development training**

During the summer, several of our cadets, as follows, are attending professional development training.

#### **Air Assault School**

Michael Baker  
Trey Bright  
Daniel Gaines  
Thomas Grabaskas  
Zachery Lloyd  
Rebecca McAfee  
Andrew Palmer  
Jeremy Sipantzi  
Brandon Torres  
Alejandro Valdez  
Seth Webb  
Grayson Williams

#### **Northern Warfare School**

Thomas Murphy

#### **Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation**

William Perlik

#### **Airborne School**

Aaron Barragan  
Benjamin Matthews  
Zachary Stilwell  
Dylan Taylor

#### **Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency**

Benjamin Burk  
Dustin Caranci  
John Collick  
Luke Cox  
Christopher Kelleher  
Andrew Kress  
Catherine Lijewski  
Robert Macdonald  
Daniel Marotto  
Ian Newell  
Raquel Pantin  
Aaron Rider  
Justin Shelton  
Brandy Smoot  
Christopher Sullivan  
Kyle Treubert  
Catherine Wahlman  
James Webster

## Celebrating more than 20 years of service

by Michelle McCormick

Most of us come to work and then go home. For Debra Harry, however, being a Virginia Tech employee is more than just a job, more than just a career. Simply put, it is home.

Debra started working at Virginia Tech in the alumni department in 1983; ten years later, she transferred to the Army ROTC department. As the university secretary for AROTC, Debra goes above and beyond the call of duty in her efforts to help the other human resource administrators (HRA) complete tasks, such as scholarship processing. She is the go-to person for both the fall and the spring commissioning ceremonies—not to mention the continuity of this office for nearly twenty years.

The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets prides itself on the value of selfless services. *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve) is not only a motto; it is a lifestyle. In the Army ROTC department, we all strive to go beyond the call of duty to ensure that our cadets exude the university's motto. In conjunction with the seven Army values of loyalty, duty, respect, honor, selfless service, integrity, and personal courage, Debra adds an extra value to this organization: compassion.

One of the newest HRAs to our team, Tom Borosky, said, "She always thinks of others and never says 'no' to anybody. On my birthday, she researched and made a special cake that I used to eat when I was stationed in Pennsylvania. Who does that these days?"

Debra hails from a long tradition of family members who have worked or still work on campus in positions in the mailroom, the library, the tailor shop, and custodial services. She has a niece who works in the same Army ROTC office. Not surprisingly, Debra's daughter, Heidi, just finished her first year of college life as a Hokie.

"Debra is the glue that holds us all together," said HRA co-worker Michelle McCormick. "Without her, I would not be where I am today. This job has allowed me to grow, experience the military, and develop personal relationships and friendships that I will have for life."

Her abundant compassion and dedication have allowed Debra to build relationships with former Army ROTC cadets who have since started their own families and careers. Several have returned to Tech as military science instructors, and they all have special memories of their time as cadets in the program.



Debra Harry

"Debra is trustworthy, family-oriented, and humble and a take-charge person. She is creative, devoted to her job and her co-workers, and helpful to everyone she comes in contact with," said fellow HRA LaShaun Tillman.

Through all the office moves and the changes, Debra has had a tremendous impact on the lives and careers of the cadets and cadre who have walked in and out of our doors. In addition, she cherishes her lifelong friendships with sister services. Said Carolyn Dudding of Tech's Naval ROTC department, "Debra's always there for me, and I try to be there for her." Theirs is a friendship of more than 25 years.

"When I first got this assignment, I thought, 'Great, I'll be working with Debra Harry, the famous rock star of the 80s.' As it turns out, our Debra Harry has been our rock star and has been there for everything this department has needed," said Col. David W. Chase, professor of military science.

All of us thank Debra Harry for her dedication and service to Virginia Tech's Army ROTC program.

## Spring Events

Spring semester is always a contrast to the fall and its football games, around which our training schedule is built. Because Tech's football schedule is usually front-loaded with home games in September, things slow down a bit as the season progresses. In the spring, that pace is reversed: There are few events before the break, but it's non-stop after that.



Air Force Maj. Cate Wattendorf Todd '97, who was the Corps' regimental executive officer in 1997, was the keynote speaker at the second-annual Women of the VTCC event in February. Here, she accepts a regimental coin from Regimental Commander Amanda McGrath.



Army Maj. Clara Abraham '99, one of a dozen or so alumni who attended the women's event, talked to cadets about her experiences since graduation, which include three wartime deployments.



Military Ball featured the traditional entry of senior cadets and their dates. Pictured is Cadet Kyle Amonson '12, now an Army officer.



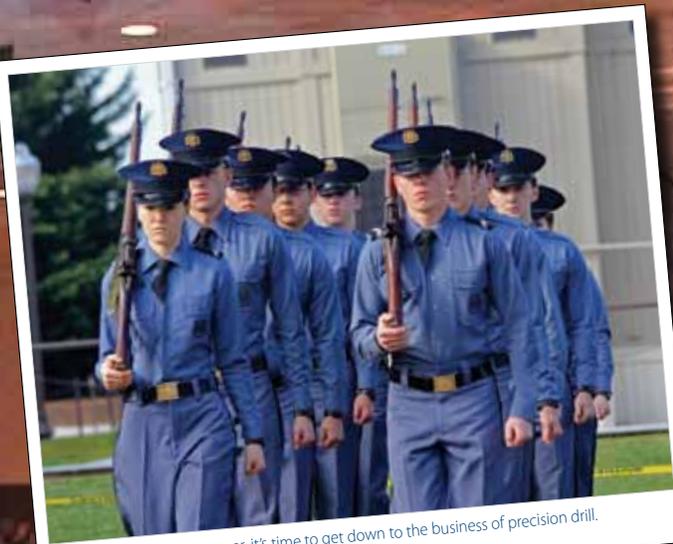
One of the first events after spring break was the annual Jaffe Eager Squad competition. The test begins with each squad reporting in for personal inspection.



Personal appearance, uniform correctness, and weapon status are all meticulously checked and graded.



The Jaffe event is fiercely competitive, evident by the focused intensity on each cadet's face.



Once the inspections are over, it's time to get down to the business of precision drill.



Late March hosted the Ring Dance for the Class of 2013. David Lowe '63, shown with his wife, Sharon, was the namesake for the '13 class ring.



The tremendous pride that cadets show in their new rings never changes.



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



The annual cadet awards ceremony was held during the week following the Caldwell March. Here, the commandant presents the Jaffe Eager Squad trophy to the winning squad leader, Cadet Corey Combs, of Band Company.



One of the final events of the year was a final dinner celebration at Shultz Hall, which is now closed. Shown are Cadet Catherine Henderson, recipient of the Shultz Family Scholarship, and Lt. Col. Bob Shultz Jr. '52.



Photo by Daniel Lin

## Serving our own

by Maj. Carrie Cox, Corps executive officer

Joint training is one of the major benefits of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets and does not apply only to our ROTC units. Starting in spring 2010, VPI Company—the civilian-leader track program—began serving as the Opposing Force (OPFOR) for the Army ROTC field training exercises (FTX) each semester.

Starting small—with an idea from cadets to help free up all Army cadets to participate in their training instead of using underclassmen to serve as the OPFOR—the enterprise has developed into an established program that benefits both Army and VPI cadets alike. The Army FTX is just one of many examples of teamwork between the ROTC programs and the Corps that benefits our cadets and makes this “joint” program the best in the nation!

Cadet Jon Watson, a rising senior, describes his experiences as the cadet in charge of the OPFOR team of VPI Company cadets:

*When I first heard about OPFOR, I thought that it would be a great chance to go out in the woods, play paintball, and have fun with the Army cadets. Now that I have done it, I've realized that OPFOR is a lot more. The opportunity to go out and participate with the Army cadets and help them prepare for their careers in the military is something that I look forward to every semester.*

*When the Army ROTC conducts its FTX weekend each semester, VPI Company sends a group of 20-30 cadets. The OPFOR team serves as terrorists, local populations, and sometimes even media teams that interact with the Army cadets as they run through training scenarios. A scenario can*

*be anything from an assault on a bunker to a patrol scouting out a minefield.*

*In the weeks leading up to the FTX, VPI Company cadets are briefed by senior Army cadets on the purpose of OPFOR, the scenarios they will be running, and the gear they will bring. In the end, our purpose is “to lose,” but we provide the Army cadets with training that is as realistic as possible. The realism comes in the form of firefights, fake bombs, and booby-trapping bodies. Sometimes the OPFOR spends the night out in the field; other times we are bussed there the day of the FTX and return the same night. The Army ROTC provides sleeping gear and MREs (Meals Ready to Eat).*

*A typical scenario pits two or three VPI cadets against a squad-sized unit in the fall or a platoon-sized unit in the spring. We are given liberty to make the scenarios more*

interesting, but our job is to help the Army cadets train. In one scenario, the OPFOR might fall within the opening moments of a firefight. In another, we might fight on for a few minutes before finally surrendering.

Although I've participated in only two OPFOR events, I have enjoyed the time out in the woods and the training. The longer that VPI Company has been running the OPFOR program, the more involved and exciting it has become.

Sgt. Maj. Hugh Anderson, the battalion sergeant major for Army ROTC, explains why VPI cadet participation as the OPFOR is so valuable to the training:

*The VPI Company OPFOR is invaluable to Army ROTC training. While sharing the same environment as the Army cadets, these young men and women act as the thinking, assessing, and reacting enemy, which adds more realism to each field scenario. We pride ourselves in training as realistically as possible, and the Army motto, "Train as you Fight," is exemplified in this interaction with the VPI OPFOR.*

*The most informative aspect that the OPFOR provides is during after-action reviews. Once a training scenario is complete, all cadre, Army cadets, and OPFOR gather to review how the scenario played out. The OPFOR cadets provide feedback that can be relayed only from their perspective and so allows the Army cadets a whole new vantage point of how they performed.*

*Working with the VPI Company cadets makes for a terrific combination with Army ROTC, and we look forward to working with them for many years to come.*



Cadet Jon Watson '13, a VPI Company cadet, participated as part of the OPFOR during a recent FTX.



Photos by Daniel Lin.

# Enhancing the leadership practicum



Cadets meet with Col. Dave Miller and Jamie Lau on academic issues.

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

During the spring 2012 semester, the Rice Center was fortunate to have Jamie Lau work with the Corps to complete the requirements for a leadership practicum. A graduate student pursuing a master's degree in higher education, Lau works full-time as the business manager of the Virginia Tech Police Department (VTPD).

Not only does her work give her a unique perspective on what we do in the Corps, Lau was able to take relevant ideas and experiences back to the police department. For example, she observed the command interviews we conduct and the process by which we prepare cadets for the interview process, practices directly related to her work in recruiting and retention for the VTPD.

Lau also shared her talents and expertise with VPI Company when she organized and led a law enforcement panel for one of our classes. Experts from the FBI, CIA, Virginia State Police, and Blacksburg Police Department provided our civilian-leader track cadets with detailed information on a law enforcement career and how to position oneself for entry into the field.

As part of her in-processing, Lau interviewed all members of the commandant's staff to learn more about the Corps' mission, vision, and contributions to the leader development program. Her work then focused on supporting the curriculum development program and developing an online course for cadets. The tasks completed

by Jamie during the semester were both significant and helpful to the Rice Center. In the following paragraphs, Lau explains what she learned through her practicum experience:

*Spring semester working with Col. Miller and the Corps of Cadets has been a rewarding and enlightening experience. Learning about the intentionality of the organization in developing future military and civilian-track leaders left a lasting impression. My experiences can be categorized into three key areas: personnel, students, and values.*

*The dedication demonstrated daily by the personnel within the Corps of Cadets is exceptional. As Col. Miller indicated, I had the opportunity during the semester to interview the faculty and staff within the*

organization. Even though they were busy, they welcomed me into their offices with a smile and spent at least 30 minutes, in most cases an hour, discussing their role with the Corps. It became quickly evident that the Corps staff work long hours with limited resources. When I questioned why they were willing to continue in their current role, I found a common theme—they care. They care about the students, the organization, and the university, and they care about the greater good.

Because I have worked at Virginia Tech for 10 years, I was aware that cadets in the Corps go above and beyond the normal expectations of other college students. However, I hadn't realized the willingness they demonstrate to assume additional responsibilities, take more courses, and meet physical fitness standards.

One of the most memorable experiences of the semester was observing command

interviews. Listening to cadets explain their leadership style, I wondered if non-Corps students could articulate their leadership style and explain how that style could be applied to a leadership position.

I spent a significant portion of my time this semester assisting Col. Miller in transitioning the current traditional leadership courses to an online course. Doing so allowed me the chance to review the course's learning objectives and content, as well as the opportunity to gain a more thorough understanding of exactly what cadets are learning about leadership. These courses build a foundation for servant leadership and followership that are exemplary.

I have had the privilege of working at the Virginia Tech Police Department, where law enforcement leaders and officers have exhibited the values that are shared by the faculty, staff, and students in the Corps of Cadets. The values shared by both organiza-

tions are those found on the Pylons: Duty, Honor, Brotherhood, Loyalty, Service, Leadership, Sacrifice, and Ut Prosim. These values provide a bond between the Corps and the police department that I hope we can continue to encourage and foster. Some partnerships between the organizations have already begun, including the participation of Corps faculty in promotional processes at the police department, as well as a panel discussion for cadets on law enforcement.

The benefits and knowledge gained from the Corps will continue to help me on both a professional and a personal level. Not coincidentally, one of my favorite quotes about leadership was written by John Quincy Adams: "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, and become more, you are a leader." His words remind me of how much I have learned from the faculty, staff and students of the Corps of Cadets during my practicum.



Col. Dave Miller and senior class cadets watch a broadcast during one of the weekly leadership laboratories that the Corps holds as part of its leader development curriculum.



## Looking back ... looking forward!

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

This column marks the completion of my first year as commandant of the Corps of Cadets. And what a wonderful year it has been!

The Class of 2012 graduated 123 members. With years of outstanding leadership experience and a world-class education to build on, they're off to take on life's adventures.

The new command and senior sergeant slate have been announced for the classes of 2013 and 2014. These cadets are preparing to return for cadre training in anticipation of another great New Cadet Week in August and the beginning of the academic year.

The Class of 2015 completed a rigorous and demanding first year. Several cadets will be back for New Cadet Week as "black shirts" to support the cadre. In addition, these cadets will receive training to prepare for key roles as Fire Team leaders who, beginning with the white phase of training, have direct supervisory responsibilities over freshmen.

Working with our alumni executive committee and board of directors, we have forged new goals for active alumni involvement in our efforts to engage with both private and public organizations to explore possibilities for internships, post-graduation employment, and even

financial support of the Corps. Integral to these efforts is active communication with our alumni, which will take everyone's support, especially Class Champions who will stay in contact with as many classmates as possible.

We've also been making new friends in the statehouse in Richmond. With leadership from our alumni who are elected members, along with alumni willing to donate their time to help us deliver our message, we've made a small start at closing the gap between the funds we receive and those that are due us to support Corps operations. The funds appropriated will allow us to hire an



After the Change of Command Parade in late April, Maj. Gen. Fullhart, members of his staff, the ROTC commanders, and the regimental staff presented a going-away gift to Vice President for Student Affairs Ed Spencer, who is retiring after more than 30 years of exemplary service to Virginia Tech.

additional deputy commandant whose primary focus will be mentoring VPI Company (civilian-leader track) cadets and growing the company that now constitutes more than 20 percent of Corps membership. But we still have work to do. With our larger Corps, the state must address our funding shortfall, or we will face some difficult challenges next year.

Illustrating the Corps' growth, our Change of Command Parade gave us the opportunity to uncuse three new flags: one for Lima Company and, for administrative purposes, two sections within Band Company, which is also experiencing strong growth.

The Highty-Tighties continue to flourish with growing numbers and are coming off a season that, among many accolades, saw them winning first place in their division in the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Regarding facilities, I am pleased to report that significant progress is being made to provide the facilities that our Corps and our future cadets deserve and need. A design competition is anticipated this fall, and construction on the first of two new residence halls on the Upper Quad is expected to begin a year from now. The names of the halls, Brodie and Rasche, will remain. In replacing the current structures, however, we will be moving from facilities that can barely sustain 600 cadets—to ones that will be able to support a population of as many as 1,100 on the Upper Quad.

I shall close with two things. First, thanks to all of you, the alumni and friends of the Corps who continue to contribute strong moral and financial support to this institution and all that it represents.

Second, I'd like to acknowledge and honor, with all of you, the selflessness and unmatched leadership shown by Col. Rock Roszak and Patty, his wife, to the Corps. Rock and Patty have certainly earned our respect—and the opportunity to spend more quality time together here and, I'm told, around the world since a little bit of travel is coming up.

I'm pleased that Rock and Patty will still reside in the area, and I know they will continue to be an inspiration and strong backers of our continuing efforts. No one can ever fill Rock's shoes, but I am pleased to announce that Col. Patience Larkin '87 will be bringing her own shoes as the Corps' new director of alumni relations.

To Rock and Patty, and all of you, thanks for being who you are—and for all you mean to this Corps.



Commandant of Cadets Maj. Gen. Fullhart presents the regimental colors to the newly appointed regimental commander, Cadet Kareim Oliphant, during the Change of Command Ceremony. Oliphant, who hails from East Orange, N.J., is a civilian-leader track cadet and a Highty-Tighty.



## Thank you to a friend

by Gary Lerch '72, chairman

By now, the word has been widely spread that Col. Rock Roszak '71 is retiring from his position as alumni director for the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. We say this with sadness but also with profound appreciation for all that Rock has done for the Corps.

Many people were instrumental in saving the Corps and rebuilding it into the strong and vibrant organization that it is today: about to surpass the goal of 1,000 cadets. Rock deserves a large part of the credit, however. When he arrived here in the mid 1990s as the newly assigned head of the Air Force ROTC detachment, the very survival of the Corps was in doubt. Upon successfully completing that assignment, Rock continued to serve the Corps as a deputy commandant and then as alumni director.

Rock, more than any other one person, has worked to build the reputation of the Corps by establishing a network of contacts throughout the university, engaging alumni, and telling our story at every opportunity. Rock and Gen. Allen were famous for their "road show." The Corps Review has become a masterpiece under his guiding hand. Additionally, Rock has shown each current crop of cadets what it means to be an alumnus of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. If there is any one individual associated with the Corps that all alumni know, it is Rock Roszak.

Yes, I do remember Rock as a cadet. We were both in what was then 4th Group. I was in "O" Squadron, and he was a year ahead of me in "S" Squadron. Since becoming re-engaged with the

Corps, I have become friends with Rock; and Dawn and I consider Rock and Patty to be a very special couple whose friendship we value. We wish them both a happy and well-deserved retirement.

One question remains. Rock has worn a uniform continually since 1967: cadet gray for the first four years, Air Force blue until now. What is he going to wear now? Knowing his affinity for nearby Claytor Lake, I suspect he'll be wearing Crocs, shorts, a T-shirt, and a Corps cap—at least in warm weather. The rest of the year is unknown. One thing for certain is that he won't be letting his hair grow.

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

Gary



Cadets Domonique Corey and Tim Rackowski were outstanding representatives of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets at the Memorial Day ceremony at the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond. The Corps was fully represented as Lt. Gen. Joe Inge '69 was the event's keynote speaker. We salute Bob Chandler '61, who always coordinates our interaction with the memorial. Photo by Suzanne Feigley, Virginia War Memorial.



Outstanding alumni continue to represent the Corps of Cadets by presenting Emerging Leader Scholarships to graduating high school students. Pictured above are Roy Burrows '61 (left) with Brandon Mrvan, and Del. Rich Anderson '78 (right) with Kacey Adams. Both Kacey and Brandon report for duty on Aug. 18, and we look forward to their arrival.

# Recruiting—an ongoing process

by Bill Swan '66, Recruiting Task Force leader

A wise man once said, “The only way to pay volunteers is with gratitude for their time and efforts.” I want to express my personal appreciation to each and every Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets (VTCC) alumni volunteer who helped with college fairs and Emerging Leader Scholarship (ELS) presentations during the spring 2012 term. Although a lot of “old hands” helped at these events, first-timers included recent graduates and alumni from the sidelines.

The feedback from both groups was very positive. This year was our busiest—and at times seemed our most chaotic—year on record as we supported both the commandant’s full-time staff and the ROTC staffs at more than a dozen college fairs in ten locations from January to May. At two of the fairs, we were THE Virginia Tech representatives.

Even before the college fair dust had settled, ELS presentations took place at 186 schools in 22 states and Washington, D.C., along with three American high schools in Germany and Spain.

A snappy salute to each and every one of the Corps alumni who stepped up to the challenges of representing Virginia Tech and our Corps to incoming cadets, parents, friends, and educators across the country. It meant a lot to the new cadets—and even more to their parents. We know it’s not easy to get time off from work or to forego family activities to attend a college fair or present a scholarship, but your time and effort in reaching out to award-winners’ families made a strong and lasting impression as their sons and daughters prepared to join the Corps and the Hokie Nation.

The VTCC Recruiting Office responded to your concerns from previous years about the award elements not being received in a timely manner. Maj. Mariger mailed the presentation folders and signed ELS certificates directly to the award coordinator at each of the 186 schools that had a scholarship winner; several schools had multiple winners.

This year’s ELS awardees received a HokieBird cadet decal. And in late June,

we called each non-ELS new cadet to welcome him or her to the Corps.

Finally, many of you commented on the “how-to” Guide for Volunteers we posted on the Corps alumni website in December. Your constructive criticism will be used to revise procedures before next fall’s college fair season.





## Corps development news

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

Hello again from Blacksburg, the home of Virginia Tech and the nation's best corps of cadets. My rankings are not based on any scientific data or surveys conducted by national news media. And they certainly are not based on the quality of our facilities that have not changed since I graduated (other than getting old and creaky like me). Instead, my metrics are our alumni and our willingness to persevere in supporting our Corps and our cadets despite the challenge. We believe in our Corps, and we believe that the country needs our product, young men and women instilled with honesty and integrity who will live up to the university's motto, *Ut Prosim*. We heed the call to contact our legislators when necessary and inform them of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets and its contributions to the commonwealth and to the nation, and we support our Corps as best we can with our financial contributions. I'm proud to be a member of your ranks, and I thank you.

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

I want to first ask for your help to fully endow the VTCC **Joshua L. Lilliston Memorial Scholarship**. Joshua joined the Corps in fall 2010 as a member of the Class of 2014. He entered the University Studies program and intended to major in mechanical engineering and minor in leadership. A trumpet player and bugler in the Highty-Tighties, he made the Dean's List in his freshman year and was an active member of Trinity Lutheran Church and Boy Scout Troop 777, as



The first recipient of the VTCC Joshua L. Lilliston Memorial Scholarship is Cadet Paulo Sossa Taborga, pictured at the spring awards ceremony with Cadet Lilliston's mother, Kathy, and the commandant.

well as an advocate for Relay For Life and other outreach programs. An inspiration for his incredibly positive outlook, Joshua died in his home on Oct. 30, 2011, from a rare eye cancer.

The Lilliston Memorial Scholarship gives preference to a Highty-Tighty who is a civilian-leader track cadet of VPI Company and has been disqualified from ROTC for medical reasons. Josh's mother, Kathy, attended our awards ceremony in April and presented the first Lilliston scholarship to Cadet Paulo Sossa Taborga.

The Camp-Younts Foundation created the **Laurie V. Atkinson Endowed Scholarship** to benefit cadets from Southampton County, Va., and its adjoining regions. Laurie, a proud alumnus of Virginia Tech who received his degree in civil engineering in 1948-49, has been very active in alumni activities and a

loyal supporter of the Corps. The Camp-Younts Foundation created this endowment to honor Laurie with a scholarship for cadets that will last in perpetuity.

Dick and Pat Hilliard recently named the Virginia Tech Foundation the beneficiary of a retirement account that will one day fund the VTCC **Patricia R. and Richard A. Hilliard Jr. '61 Scholarship**. Dick was a member of L Company, and Pat was a student at Radford, so they both appreciate the value of the cadet experience and believe cadets are "a breed apart from other college students." They wish to provide expanded opportunities for future Virginia Tech cadets and to fulfill our motto, *Ut Prosim*.

George Mouser '73 has made provisions in his estate to benefit the Corps with a gift that will support essential operations as determined by the commandant. After graduating from Virginia

Tech with a degree in industrial arts education, George enjoyed a successful career with the U.S. Army, retiring as a colonel with 26 years of service. George continued to engage in Army modernization, leading advanced development programs for Northrop Grumman and General Dynamics Robotic Systems. He currently owns and operates Mauser-Works LLC, which provides consulting services for program management, advanced technology development, and business development related to the U.S. Army.

Jim Moore '74 and his wife, Ellen, are funding two scholarships to honor the memories of their fathers. The **VTCC Victor J.D. Moore '34 Scholarship** honors Jim's father who, like Jim, graduated with a degree in chemical engineering. The **VTCC William A. Manson '42 Scholarship** honors Ellen's father who graduated in mechanical engineering and, like Jim, was a member of the Eighty-Tighties. Both scholarships benefit cadets in good standing, with the Manson scholarship giving preference to band members.

Gen. Tom Richards and his wife Meredyth funded a charitable gift annuity that will endow the **VTCC Meredyth and Thomas C. Richards '56 Scholarship**. The scholarship will benefit

cadets who are enrolled in Air Force ROTC. Gen. Richards graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in business and earned letters in both football and track. After a very successful career in the Air Force, becoming the Corps' only four-star graduate to date, he served as the administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration. More recently, he has served as a member of his 50th class reunion committee, chairman of his Corps class, and member of the Corps alumni board. He was honored with the University Distinguished Achievement Award in 1990 and was inducted into the Virginia Tech Aviation Wall of Fame in 2006.

We told you about an unrestricted gift from Hazel and P. C. Shields '39 in the last issue of the Corps Review. Since then, the Shields have sent additional funds to endow the **VTCC Hazel P. and Pleasant C. Shields '39 Scholarship**. P.C., who received his bachelor's degree in agriculture in 1939, was a member of O Battery for two years before finishing as a civilian student. For all four years, he was involved in intramural athletics and was a member of the Agriculture and Seminole clubs. He created this endowment to provide expanded opportunities for future members of the Corps.

Louise Taylor has made provisions

in her estate to benefit Virginia Tech. Her bequest will fund the **VTCC Scott A. Sturgill '85 Scholarship** to honor her son who recently retired from the Air Force. Scott and his wife, Doris, have previously funded a scholarship in memory of his older brother, Arthur E. Sturgill Jr. '83, who was also a cadet and Air Force officer. Scott has been a strong advocate for the Corps and an active member of the Virginia Tech Alumni Association. The scholarship will benefit a cadet enrolled in Air Force ROTC.

Marilyn and George Vockroth '49 have funded a charitable gift annuity to create the **VTCC Vockroth Scholarship** after their passing. George, who was Third Battalion commander during his senior year and a member of the 1949 Ring Dance committee, graduated with a degree in geology. A member of the Corps executive committee and Cadet Senate, he graduated as a Distinguished Military Student. George and Marilyn created this endowment to provide support for cadets in perpetuity.

As always, thank you for your support of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. If we can help you in any way, please let me or Sarah Woods know.

*Ut Prosim,*

Dave



Members of the Class of 2015 surround the Addison Caldwell statue in the week prior to the spring Caldwell March. Each of these cadets was sponsored by an alumnus through a gift of at least \$500. The total raised by this year's two marches was \$130,000.

# *When this you see, remember me ...*

by Judith Davis, Office of Gift Planning

At Virginia Tech, we are surrounded by reminders of people whose lives exemplify the spirit of *Ut Prosim*.

We are inspired not only by those honored on the Pylons, but also by those whose names we see on buildings, centers, programs, professorships, and scholarships that will continue to support the Corps and change the lives of individual cadets for generations to come.

Creating a named endowment is one way you can make a gift that both supports the Corps and serves as a reminder of the person for whom it is named. Your endowed gift can carry your own name as a lasting statement of your values and your love for the Corps. Or you can create an endowment that honors or memorializes someone else. Either way, the name you choose will be remembered in perpetuity.

Endowments can be created with gifts of cash, securities, real estate, or other assets. You can make an immediate gift, or you can create a deferred gift. Some deferred gifts, such as charitable trusts, first pay you lifetime income and then provide your gift to the Corps when the plan ends, typically after your lifetime.

While any gift to the Corps can be made in memory or in honor of someone, endowments add the impact of continuing in perpetuity. Year after year, your named endowment will support the Corps and remind future generations of those for whom it is named.

Learn how you can create a named endowment or other named gift that will make an enduring difference for the Corps and inspire others far beyond your lifetime. Call David L. Spracher, director of development for the Corps of Cadets, at 800-533-1144, or email him at [dlsprach@vt.edu](mailto:dlsprach@vt.edu).

# MORE WAYS TO SHOW YOUR CORPS PRIDE!



**VTCC Decal—\$5**



**Corps Decal—\$5 • Magnet—\$10**

Order your VTCC car decal, Corps decal or magnet, VT memorial magnet, or jacket patch. These items are a great way to show your pride in the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.



**VT Memorial Magnet—\$10**



**VTCC Jacket Patch—\$5**

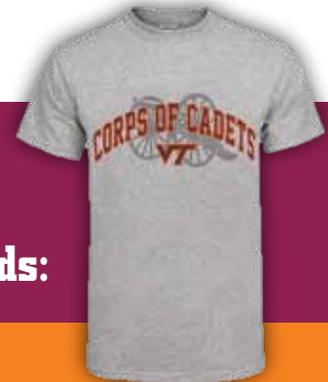
- \_\_\_ VTCC Decals            x \$5.00 = \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ CORPS Decals        x \$5.00 = \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ CORPS Magnet        x \$10.00 = \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ VT Memorial Magnet x \$10.00 = \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ VTCC Jacket Patch    x \$5.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping: \$1.00

TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

Send your check, payable to the Virginia Tech Foundation, to

**VTCC Alumni Office (0213)**  
143 Brodie Hall  
Blacksburg, VA 24061



**We're partnering with the Campus Emporium to bring you more Corps of Cadets merchandise. Visit the Emporium's website to check out the goods:**

[www.campusemporium.com/vt-corps-of-cadets.html](http://www.campusemporium.com/vt-corps-of-cadets.html)

## Squad Tactical Challenge

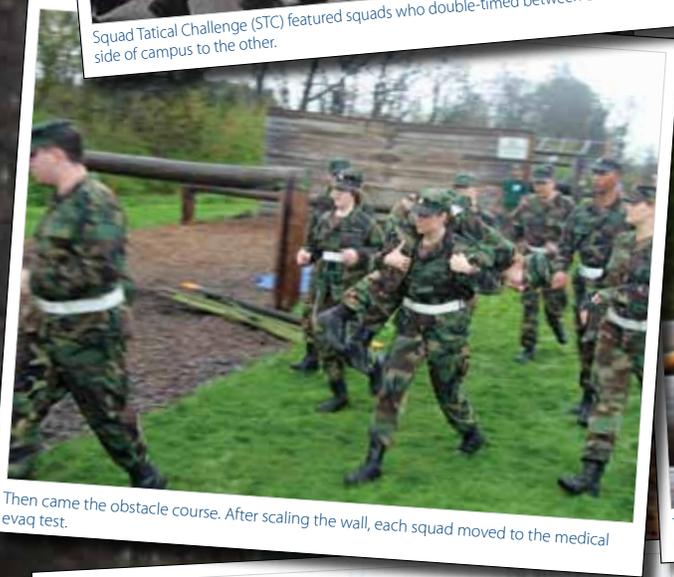
Several years ago, cadets developed a new spring semester competition, the Squad Tactical Challenge (STC). Up to that time, the annual spring competition of note, the Jaffe Eager Squad event, tested 11 cadets from each company in uniform correctness and precision drill. The cadets wanted an additional event that tested all cadets and recognized their physical and mental skills in ways that reflected what would be expected of them after graduation. As a result, the STC has become one of the outstanding events of the year.



Squad Tactical Challenge (STC) featured squads who double-timed between events from one side of campus to the other.



The first event was Kim's Game, Part 1, in which leaders had 20 seconds to memorize items.



Then came the obstacle course. After scaling the wall, each squad moved to the medical evaq test.



The second part of the medical evaq test was the litter-carry through the log course, requiring that the stretcher not touch the logs and the bearer's heads not go above the log line.



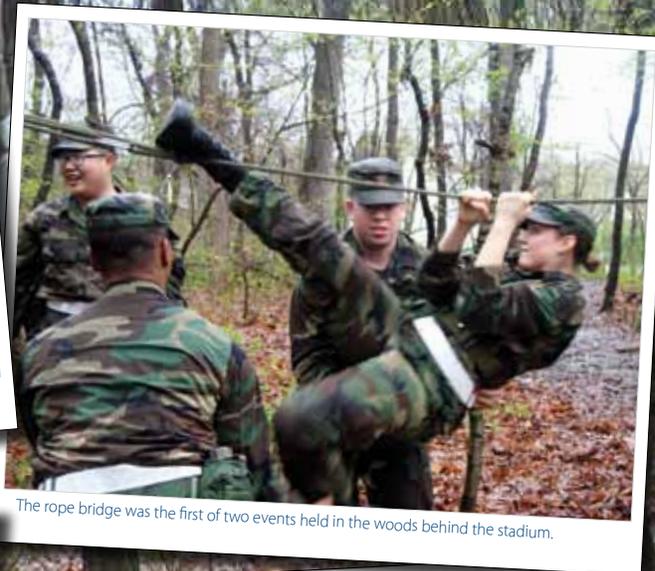
Mission complete!



Next came the log-carry ...



... followed by the grenade toss.



The rope bridge was the first of two events held in the woods behind the stadium.



Knot-tying was the second event.



All events were monitored and graded by the senior-class evaluators, identified by their maroon ball caps.



Then it was back to the Upper Quad for the rifle-assembly test.



The final event was a test of Corps knowledge, followed by the report out of the Kim's Game event that had begun the challenge.



## Big changes need to happen

by Col. Rock Roszak '71, (540) 231-9369, vtcc71@vt.edu

I sit down to write my last column with truly mixed emotions. I've been on the commandant's staff for almost 14 years, the last 11 of which I've had the privilege of being your alumni director. It's been the most rewarding job I've ever had. Working with the best alumni constituency the university has, coupled with the opportunity to interact with cadets on a daily basis—which keeps you young—gives a level of job satisfaction that I did not anticipate. There is a lot I'm going to miss, and I leave with my head high and a smile on my face.

There's a reason for the mixed emotions, though. Our Corps of Cadets is its most robust in more than 40 years, but some significant things need to change if the program we've built up over the last 20 years is to continue to improve. The crux of the matter is that we've outgrown the facilities we occupy, and some important decisions need to be made to provide today's regiment what it needs.

If I could turn back the clock, I would turn it back 25 years. The Upper Quadrangle was still "intact" then, but the Corps was in decline, and the university had no indication that the dropping enrollment would ever turn around. Highty-Tighty alumni organized themselves in the mid-1970s to help the band, but there was no VTCC alumni organization until Henry Dekker '44, Charlie Cornelison '67, and Harold Hobbak '53 started the VTCC Alumni Inc. in 1992, energizing our alumni base. By then, Major Williams Hall was already in modification to become an academic building, and Shanks was about to go the same route. In fact, when I returned

to campus in 1994 to command the Air Force ROTC detachment, the university plan called for the Corps to move to Eggleston and Campbell halls and for the staff and ROTCs to move to the second floor of War Memorial Gym.

So much has changed since then. Through the generosity of our alumni, the support of the university administration, and the leadership of our past three commandants, the Corps has experienced a rebirth into a leader development program equal to any in the country. This fall, the Corps will be more than 250 percent the size it was in 1994, we have some of the most successful commissioning programs in the country, and we're the first senior military college to provide academic credit and a full academic minor for our leadership program. But we stand at a crossroads of a crucial decision as to whether our facilities will limit the quality and size of our program.

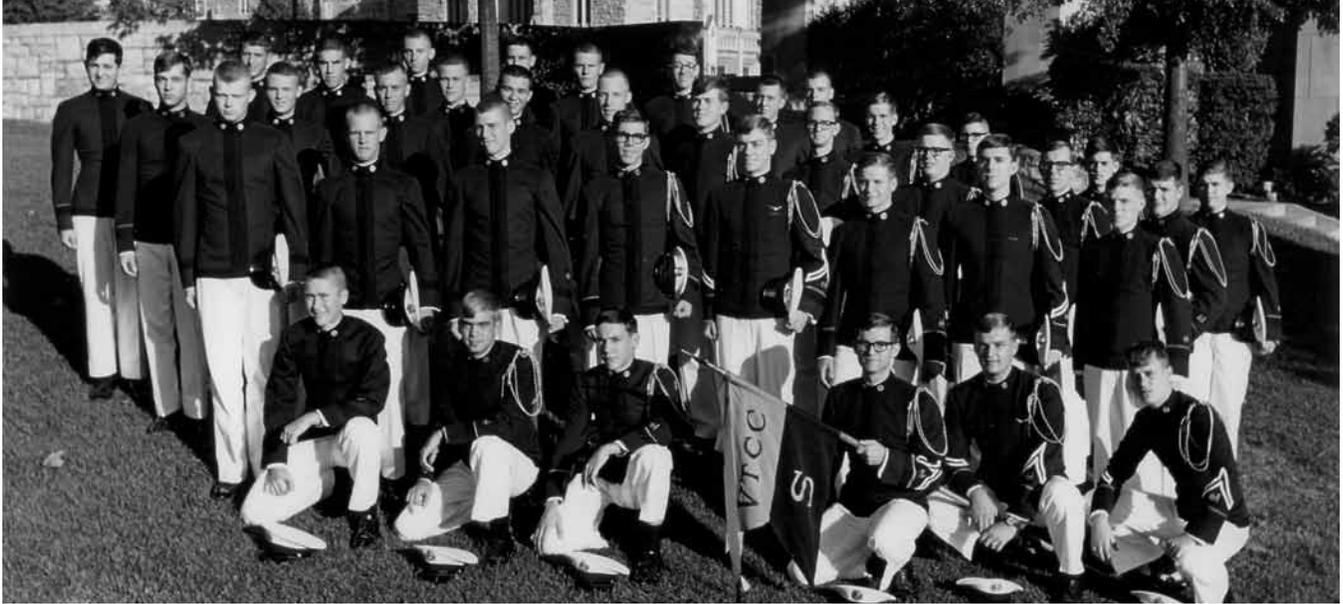
Four dormitories exist today on the Upper Quadrangle: Brodie, Rasche, Monteith, and Thomas. We will fill every bed in all four of those dorms this fall, and then some. We'll actually start the academic year above normal capacity.

The small, old section of Brodie was completed around 1900, and the "new," larger section was completed in 1957; they have not been renovated in the past 55 years. The small, old section of Rasche was completed in 1894, and the newer, large section in 1957, without renovation since. Monteith and Thomas were both completed in 1949 and renovated in 1970, 42 years ago. Thomas got a facelift in 2004. Among these four buildings at normal capacity, we have beds for 1,004 cadets.

Thomas and Monteith are both limited utility buildings; they are the smallest dorms we occupy and closest to the coal plant. Because of their loca-



The Upper Quadrangle has been occupied by the Corps since its inception. Much change needs to take place here to support the future of our Corps of Cadets. Photo by Bert Kinzey '68.



*How far we've come! This photo of my unit was taken at the beginning of my junior year, the last year that S Squadron existed. Yes, that's me, second from the right on the front row. That year, the Corps was only 70 percent of the size of today's regiment and would shrink to less than half that within six years. The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets is on the rise, and we have to keep the momentum going with world-class facilities and staff. That's what our cadets deserve. (Thanks to my classmate Richard Shell '71 for sharing this photo with me.)*

tion, I doubt the university is interested in new buildings or refurbishing them as residence halls. In effect, we're left with the footprint currently occupied by Rasche and Brodie. To provide at least 1,000 beds, we need two larger buildings that will include a full fifth floor. There is no other way to provide the number of rooms we need and still stay on the Upper Quadrangle—and keeping the Upper Quad as the home of the Corps is important.

In my opinion, we can't just renovate Rasche and Brodie halls. They hold only 600 beds now. The "old" rooms may be spacious, but there are insufficient bathroom facilities in those sections. The "new" rooms outnumber those, but are already too small for today's cadets. When I was a cadet, the room storage was appropriate. Today, however, the Corps and especially the ROTC detachments issue more equipment than they did back in my day. As a result, today's rooms are inadequate. There is no way to renovate the current buildings to provide the space and number of beds we need.

So what are the choices? We build the buildings we need on the Upper Quad—the home of the Corps—or we possibly move to some other part of campus and away from our roots entirely. Neither of these choices is optimal, but only one enhances the future of the Virginia Tech

Corps of Cadets. Our cadets need and deserve new dorms on the land so valuable to the Corps' history.

There is a relatively small, vocal group of alumni who do not want to see a single brick removed from Brodie or Rasche, and they are equally concerned about Lane Hall. The fact is, Lane Hall is expected to remain as is because it has been the brick-and-mortar symbol of the Corps of Cadets almost since its inception. We've not been in Lane Hall for at least three decades now, but it's too precious a symbol to be without and so shall remain.

The real issue, then, is the dorms. Dorms are not paid for by the state budget or donated funds, but are tied to bonds paid off by room and board fees. Those fees are set by the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors, and we have to work within those financial parameters. Virginia Tech has not broken ground on a new dormitory in five years, and new residence halls for the Corps are at the top of the university's to-do list. If, however, a movement to "preserve" history by blocking the overdue replacement of Rasche and Brodie tells the university that any such endeavor will face roadblock after roadblock, I suspect the university will send us to the back of the line. If that were the case, inadequate buildings constructed mostly around

1957 will win out over the needs of our future generations of leaders.

I view the effort to deny us the facilities we need in order to preserve buildings that have outlived their usefulness tantamount to prizing our program's past over our future. We're on hallowed ground on the Upper Quad, and I want to see us stay here and grow. I hope we don't end up turning people away because we're looking backwards. Our Corps of Cadets deserves better.

That said, I bid you a fond farewell as your alumni director. I sincerely appreciate the support you all have given me and the many friendships I've formed or deepened, and I ask that you give the same wonderful support to the new alumni director. As you've read in Gen. Fullhart's column, Col. Patience Larkin '87 is inbound to take over VTCC alumni issues. Patience introduced herself to me at a football game not long after I had come into the job, and she told me, "I'd like to have your job someday." Patience has been a member of our VTCCA Board of Directors for the past year, and she knows what we're about. I know she'll love the job as much as I have.

I look forward to marching into Lane Stadium with you at our annual Corps Homecomings for years to come.

*Ut Prosim.*

## Athletics Appreciation

Over the past decade, the partnership between the Department of Athletics and the Corps of Cadets has grown and solidified. Now, many of the sports, including football, basketball, baseball, and softball, feature a Military Appreciation Day on their schedule. The Virginia Tech baseball team led the way in this effort, and head coach Pete Hughes consistently shows an appreciation for the tradition that the Corps represents at our university. Baseball's Military Appreciation Day was held on April 3.



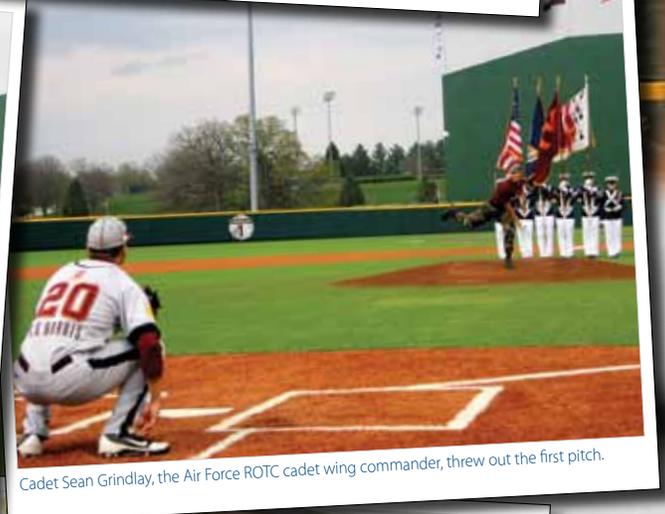
For the second consecutive year, the baseball team wore special VPI commemorative jerseys for its Military Appreciation Day. This year, a new element was added to the jerseys—the names of our alumni on the War Memorial—and the jerseys would be auctioned off.



Players wore uniforms bearing the names of Tim Price and Nick Brantley, both commanders in the 3rd Battalion in the Class of 2001. The team generously presented the jerseys to each family of the five Corps grads lost since Sept. 11.



Prior to the game, Air Force ROTC Commander Col. John Montgomery enlisted 12 cadets who had recently earned scholarships into the U.S. Air Force.



Cadet Sean Grindley, the Air Force ROTC cadet wing commander, threw out the first pitch.



Two weeks later, Coach Hughes made a surprise visit to the Corps' Spring Gunfighter Panel and presented the Tim Price jersey to Tim's father, John Price.



By mid-May, the jerseys had been auctioned off, and Coach Hughes traveled with Col. Rock Roszak to Bedford, Va., to present a check of more than \$5,000 to the National D-Day Memorial in honor of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.

## In memory

Wesley L. Baum Sr. '48  
1929 – 2012



Wesley L. Baum died Feb. 16.

A 1948 honors graduate from Virginia Tech with a degree in electrical engineering, Baum was a member

of the Corps of Cadets and served as captain of I Company during his senior year. He had a successful career at the Westinghouse Corp. and was a steadfast supporter of the Corps.

Baum is survived by his wife, Bette Jo; two children, and six grandchildren.

William H. Dunham III '43  
1922 – 2011



William H. Dunham III died Sept. 22, 2011.

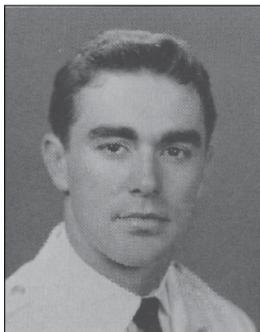
Entering Virginia Tech with the Class of 1943, Dunham interrupted his education

to serve in the U.S. Army after the attack on Pearl Harbor; he later graduated from The Ohio State University.

A retired Army colonel who served in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, Dunham taught at the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. He was a former military attaché to Turkey and military adviser to the Shah of Iran.

Dunham is survived by his two children and two grandchildren.

Charles M. Forbes '49  
1928 – 2012



Charles M. Forbes died March 7.

A 1949 graduate of Virginia Tech with a degree in industrial engineering, Forbes served

as a safety director officer in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War. First joining the DuPont Company as an engineer and personnel representative, he departed in 1960 for the Olin Corp., where he managed the Olin Charitable Trust. In 1979, he was recruited by Virginia Tech to establish the position of vice president for development and university relations.

During his time at Virginia Tech, Forbes raised the funds to establish the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. He also served as the executive vice president of the Virginia Tech Foundation and established the Ut Prosim and the William Preston societies.

Twice a recipient of the University Distinguished Achievement Award, Forbes left Virginia Tech in 1992 to become vice president for development and alumni relations at the University of Delaware. After retirement, he was a trustee at Christina Health Care Systems and a member of the board at the Tatnall School in Wilmington, Del.

Forbes is survived by his wife, Pat; two children, and five grandchildren.

Hampton J. Godfrey '43  
1919 – 2012



Hampton J. Godfrey died April 24.

A 1943 graduate of Virginia Tech with a degree in business administration, Godfrey was a veteran

of 31 years of service in the U.S. Army during World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. He retired as a colonel, having served as an officer in the Corps of Engineers and the Air Defense Artillery, and received numerous decorations, including the Legion of Merit on three occasions and the Army Commendation Medal four times. Godfrey represented the U.S. government in personal meetings with King Hussein of Jordan and President Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia. After retiring from the military, he was an assistant administrator at Hotel Dieu Hospital in El Paso, Texas, for eight years.

Godfrey is survived by a daughter, son-in-law, and grandchild.

Roy E. Loving Sr. '57  
1934 – 2012



Roy E. Loving Sr. died May 18.

A 1957 graduate of Virginia Tech who served as Second Battalion commander

during his senior year, Loving entered the U.S. Army as a commissioned officer.

After his military service, he began a teaching career at Fluvanna, Va., High School, where he remained for 43 years, serving as teacher, coach, assistant principal, principal, assistant superintendent, and interim superintendent. He earned an M.Ed. from the University of Virginia.

Loving is survived by his wife, Ruby; two children, and four grandchildren.

**Douglas S. "Stew" Oliver Sr. '50**  
1928 – 2011

Douglas S. Oliver died March 14, 2011.



A 1950 graduate of Virginia Tech with a degree in mining engineering, Oliver served as a first lieutenant in the U.S.

Army Corps of Engineers during the Korean War. After the war, he worked in New York City, then moved to Alexandria, Va., where he owned a soil engineering busi-

ness, Granger & Oliver. In 1993, he retired from the Tompkins Construction Company.

Oliver is survived by his wife, Jane; three children, and five grandchildren.

**Stephen A. Phillips '43**  
1921 – 2011

Stephen A. Phillips died Nov. 14, 2011.

Phillips, who graduated from Virginia Tech in 1943 with a degree in mechanical engineering, served in the hydro-propulsion branch of the U.S. Navy, including two years in the Pacific theater during World War II.

After returning to Virginia Tech as an assistant professor of mechanical engineering, he joined the University of Virginia in 1965 as a professor of mechanical engineering and later opened a consulting engineering office.

Phillips is survived by his wife, Helen; a daughter, and grandchildren.

**Gafford Y. Pleasants '42**  
1919 – 2011

Gafford Y. Pleasants died Dec. 23, 2011.

A 1942 graduate of Virginia Tech, Pleasants served in the U.S. Army artillery branch during World War II. He was a manager and watchmaker for Warwick Jewelry in Newport News, Va., for 33 years.

Pleasants is survived by his wife, Martha; two sons, and two grandsons.

**George L. Zuidema '62**  
1940 – 2012



George L. Zuidema died April 22.

Zuidema, who graduated from Virginia Tech in 1962 and received a post-graduate degree from Georgia Tech,

served in U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Later working as a civil engineer in Virginia and abroad for MMM Design Group, he retired as company president.

Zuidema is survived by his wife, Connie; three daughters, and four grandchildren.





# Corps Homecoming • September 21 - 23, 2012

## Virginia Tech vs. Bowling Green



Please complete and submit a separate registration form for each homecoming-class member except for spouses.

### REGISTRANT INFORMATION

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Cadet Unit \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle/Maiden Last

Name Tag Preference \_\_\_\_\_ Class Year \_\_\_\_\_  
First Last

Major at VT \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address:  Home or  Business \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Do you or any of your guests have special needs while you are visiting us (i.e., special diet, mobility accommodations, etc.)?  
 No  Yes Please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

**Spouse:** (if attending homecoming) \_\_\_\_\_  
First Last VT Class Year \_\_\_\_\_ Cadet Unit \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name for Name Tag \_\_\_\_\_  
First Last

**Guest(s):** Please list ages of any children 17 or under. You can add or remove guests after you have registered by calling the Virginia Tech Alumni Association at 540-231-6285.

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
First Last VT Class Year \_\_\_\_\_ Cadet Unit \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name for Name Tag \_\_\_\_\_  
First Last
2. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
First Last VT Class Year \_\_\_\_\_ Cadet Unit \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name for Name Tag \_\_\_\_\_  
First Last

### HOMECOMING REGISTRATION COSTS

I have read and understand the enclosed Homecoming Information.  
**Note:** # registrants = class member + spouse + guests. Registration must be accompanied by full payment.

- Friday, September 21**
- Day with Cadets - Skelton Conference Center # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25 per person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Cadet Leadership Dinner (Adults only, Coat and Tie) - Skelton Conference Center # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$40 per person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Saturday, September 22**
- Post-game dinner - Skelton Conference Center # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$35 per person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Post-game dinner - Skelton Conference Center # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15 per child 6 - 11 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Post-game dinner - Skelton Conference Center # \_\_\_\_\_ @ no cost per child 5 and under

A full-priced game ticket is required for EVERYONE attending the game, including children & infants.

**Game Tickets** - (maximum of 4) Virginia Tech vs. Bowling Green # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$50 per registrant = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**\* One ticket per registered guest, Friday or Saturday meal required (4 ticket maximum per registration form).**

- Yes, I plan on participating in the alumni march-on at Lane Stadium before the game
  - Yes, I want a hat for # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$10 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Yes, I want a polo shirt for # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$30 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- (Sizes required # \_\_\_ SM # \_\_\_ M # \_\_\_ L # \_\_\_ XL # \_\_\_ XXL) \_\_\_\_\_ **Total** = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please use a credit card that will be valid between the time you submit your registration and the date of your homecoming.

Please charge the total for homecoming and game tickets to my  American Express  Visa  Discover Card  MasterCard

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please find enclosed my check made payable to "Virginia Tech Alumni Association."

<b>Office Use Only</b>	Rcvd	D _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Entered	<input type="checkbox"/> Ck _____
		T _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> CC _____



# Corps Homecoming • September 21 - 23, 2012

## Virginia Tech vs. Bowling Green



### HOMECOMING INFORMATION

#### Cancellations:

- The last day to receive a refund for cancellation is thirty (30) days prior to the event date.
- If you cancel your event registration, your accompanying request for game tickets will be cancelled. Ticket refunds will only be processed if the cancelled ticket can be resold.
- The Alumni Association will process hotel cancellations.
- Individual hotel cancellation policies apply.

#### Email:

Please provide an email address that we may use to confirm your registration and to communicate with you, if necessary. Confirmation of event registrations will be sent via email if we have an email address for the registrant. Confirmations will be sent via US Mail if no email address is provided.

#### Game Tickets:

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

#### Confirmation:

- Confirmations detailing event registration, lodging location, and game tickets will be sent via email when an email address is provided.
- For 2012 Events: If the Alumni Association receives your event registration by July 1, 2012, confirmation will be sent by July 15, 2012. Registrations received after July 1, 2012 will be confirmed as soon as possible, prior to the event date.

## 2012 Corps Homecoming Optional Event

**Day with Cadets:** Learn about today's VTCC, from recruiting to life as a cadet. Includes lunch and campus tour.

**Come to Corps Homecoming 2012 and hear from the commandant of cadets!**



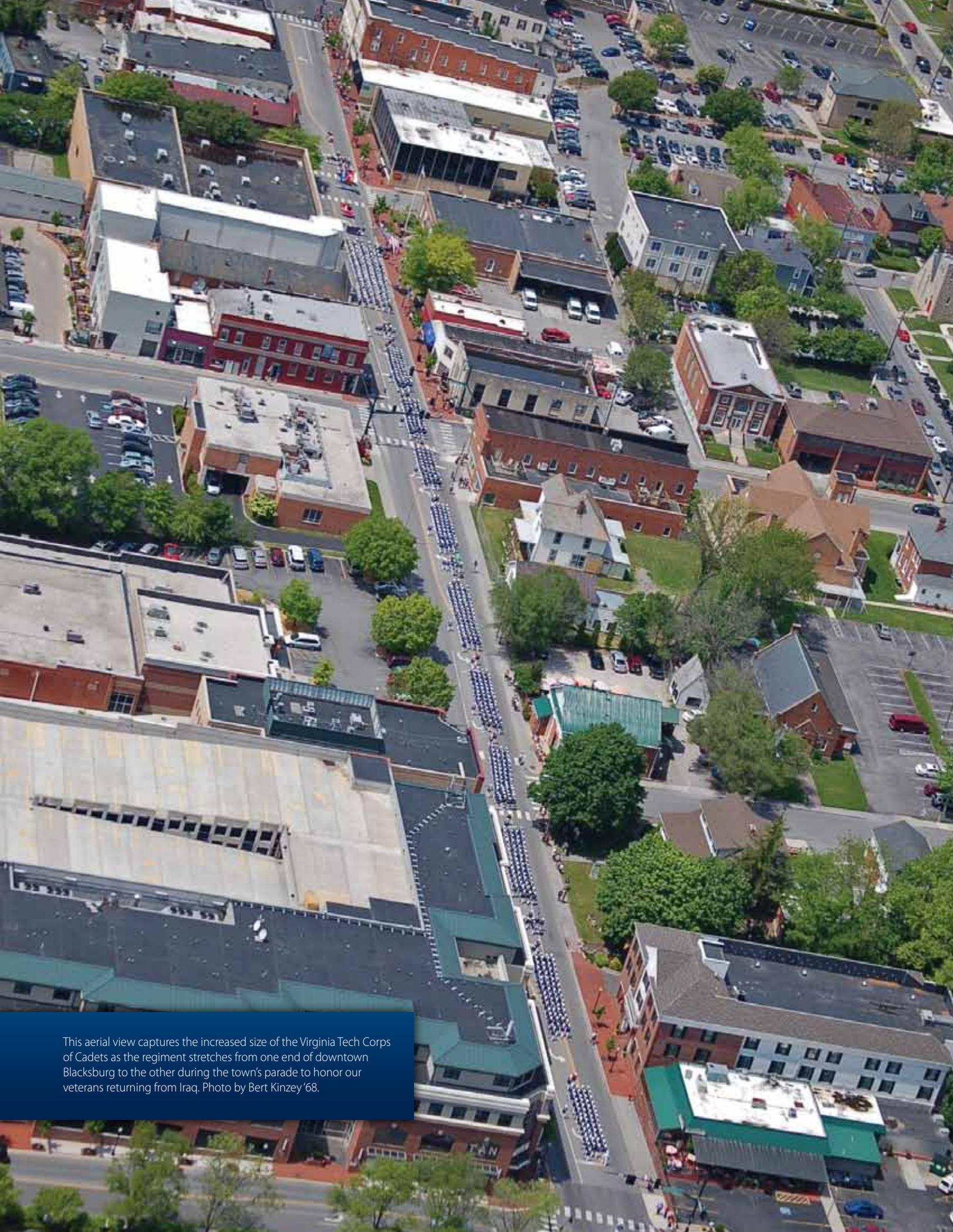
## Live for 32

Lt. j.g. Jacqueline Bethel '08, USCG, has embarked on a unique tribute to the memory of our 32 community members who lost their lives in the April 16 tragedy—by completing her own Ironman challenge, one 70.3 triathlon for each of them.

“I recently started participating in Ironman 70.3 events,” Bethel said, “and I have fallen in love with the sport. Before the season started, I decided I wanted to remember the 32 Hokies we lost on April 16, 2007, in my own way. I figured the best way I could “live for 32” would be to “tri for 32” and complete 32 Ironman 70.3 (Half Ironman) races, one for each Hokie.”

In New Orleans (left) and in Texas (right), Bethel displayed her Virginia Tech affiliation during Ironman competitions.





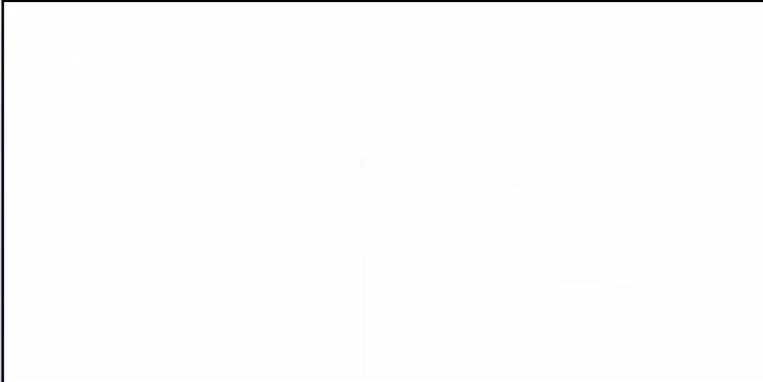
This aerial view captures the increased size of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets as the regiment stretches from one end of downtown Blacksburg to the other during the town's parade to honor our veterans returning from Iraq. Photo by Bert Kinzey '68.

**VTCC Alumni Inc.**

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Blacksburg, VA 24061



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