

Family Tree

Campus cemeteries
reveal our past

Fire Dance

The choreography of pyrotechnics at Lane Stadium

The Anchor

Alumnus Brian Sullivan
shines on CNBC

VIRGINIA TECH

fall 2015

magazine



You're
Hired!

The networking power
of the Hokie Nation

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Above: Urban forestry and horticulture students participating in a field lab already know what the nation now knows: Virginia Tech's natural resources and conservation program in the College of Natural Resources and Environment is ranked No. 1 in the nation, according to USA Today College. Read more on page 11. Photo by Logan Wallace.

On the cover: When a Hokie (portrayed by Nate Smith Jr. '02) has three applicants for a job and one's a Hokie (portrayed by junior triple-major Madeline Sault), the others don't stand a chance. Just ask junior theater arts majors Maggie Gough and Miles Geesling (in black). Photo by Jim Stroup. Hokie jewelry and tie courtesy of Volume Two Bookstore.



by TIMOTHY D. SANDS

Virginia Tech holds an enviable position today in American higher education. Our reputation is strong and still rising. Applications for admission hit all-time highs this year. Our innovative degree programs address key societal needs, and our graduates land good-paying jobs.

In various analyses of financial return on investment (ROI), we perform well. In the U.S. Department of Education's recently released "College Scorecard," Virginia Tech was ranked among the top 15 institutions with high graduation rates and high alumni salaries. Beyond ROI, the Gallup-Purdue Index gauged the well-being of Hokie graduates in five dimensions—financial, physical, community, social, and purpose—and the university's alumni truly shine. No doubt our commitment to a sense of community and a sense of purpose through *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve) deserves credit.

But storm clouds are rising. While we have much to look forward to as the world begins to recognize the holistic value of a Virginia Tech education and our dissemination of new knowledge for the betterment of humankind, there is a flipside. Along the way, we have lost sight of our land-grant mission to serve "the industrial classes," as described in our founding charter, the 1862 Morrill Act. We must ensure access for academically qualified students, regardless of their ability to pay—because today, more than ever, our economy needs graduates from all backgrounds who are prepared for the 21st century.

We have studied the family income profiles of Tech undergraduates. Comparing undergraduate financial aid packages to family income, we found that we are not keeping pace with the needs of lower- and middle-income students. This illustrates the so-called middle-class squeeze, as families must increasingly cover the shortfall from reduced state support for higher education.

Whereas almost half of our graduates have no debt, 53 percent have some debt, and the debt averages almost \$28,000. Although this dollar figure is slightly less than the national average, it is considerably more than many of our peers. Meanwhile, in current dollars, the state contribution toward the undergraduate education of Virginia students is half what it was per student in 2000. Yes, tuition for in-state students has risen to partially offset

LOGAN WALLACE

the loss of funds, but there is also a cultural component to this gradual transition toward an "elite" institution. Income is not the only metric for evaluating access to underserved populations, but it offers a glaring reflection of this shift in our mission.

Herein lies an important challenge for Virginia Tech if we are to remain true to the spirit and mission of land-grant universities. Near-term actions include a serious review of our academic requirements for graduation, such as whether graduation from certain programs truly merits more than 120 credit hours. Over the long-term, we must increase private scholarship support by a substantial amount. Although daunting, this challenge is one that similarly situated schools have tackled, and I am convinced that the Virginia Tech community is up to the challenge.

I hope you will join me and my colleagues at Virginia Tech as we aim to reach the next level of excellence by creating accessible pathways to education. Our very essence as a land-grant school demands it. □

Timothy D. Sands, Virginia Tech's 16th president, took office on June 1, 2014.

A Land-Grant Commitment to Access

EDITOR

Jesse Tuel

ASSISTANT EDITOR
Mason AdamsART DIRECTOR
Robin DowdyGRAPHIC DESIGNERS
Sarah Cisneros '13, Tiffany PrudenCONTRIBUTORS
Andrea Brunais, Carrie Cox '99,
Juliet Crichton, Shirley Fleet,
Dave Hunt, Amy Loeffler, Annie
McCallum, Tom Tillar '69COPY EDITORS
Juliet Crichton, Richard Love-
grovePHOTOGRAPHERS
Michael Kiernan, Tricia Lombardi,
Jim Stroup, Logan WallaceWEBMASTER, DIGITAL EDITOR
Juliet CrichtonBUSINESS MANAGER
Paula VaughtCREATIVE SERVICES MANAGER
Ed LemireASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT
FOR MARKETING AND CREATIVE
SERVICES
Sarah ElliottSENIOR ASSOCIATE VICE PRESI-
DENT FOR UNIVERSITY RELATIONS
Tracy VosburghCONTACTS
Story ideas and letters to the editor:
Email: vtmag@vt.edu. Mail: Virginia Tech Magazine (0109); Media Building, 205C, Virginia Tech; 101 Draper Rd. NW; Blacksburg, VA 24061.**Address changes:** Email: alumnidata@vt.edu. Phone: 540-231-6285 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.**Class Notes:** Email: fleets@vt.edu. Mail: Class Notes, Alumni Association; Holtzman Alumni Center (0102), Virginia Tech; 901 Prices Fork Rd.; Blacksburg, VA 24061.**Advertising:** Jeanne Coates '88; coates@primeconsultingva.com, 757-715-9676.

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letters to the editor



COURTESY PHOTO

Well-traveled Hokie cups

In summer 2013, Michele Ramsey and I visited Kenya with the Feed the Hunger mission organization, and we saw that schoolchildren had only their bare hands with which to drink water. In fall 2013, with the help of family, friends, and the Phi Kappa Alpha fraternity, we began collecting thousands of stadium cups after each Virginia Tech home football game. The cups were sent to schools in Kenya and around the world—continuing what my father, Paul Torgersen, the university's 14th president, said to his students: "Enjoy your blessings and be thankful. If across the world, individuals and their blessings were arranged from the most to the least, everyone in this class would be in the top 1 percent. You have an obligation to help the less fortunate." This summer, we traveled with Feed the Hunger to Haiti, visiting many orphanages and schools that the organization supports. Much to our surprise, the children in Haiti were using the same Hokie cups that we had collected two years earlier.

Janis Torgersen (management, housing, and family development '80), Oxford, North Carolina

Caring for the community

After 30 years in law enforcement and corrections, I have spent the past 11 years as a consultant to various U.S. Department of Justice offices, state and local agencies, and professional organizations, focusing exclusively on the issues of preventing, detecting, and responding to sexual misconduct and sexual abuse of

Have something to say? Send us a letter at vtmag@vt.edu.

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Around the Drillfield

LOGAN WALLACE
Jammin': Chloé Benner '15

Magic spells and the Coptic alphabet. Mythology and child-illustrated "crankies." Bluegrass and cello.

Alumna Chloé Benner's interests are far-flung.

A classically trained cellist who also plays the mountain dulcimer, the obscure seven-stringed viola da gamba (viola of the legs),

and the folk harp, Benner, having easily adapted to traditional Appalachian music, is a mainstay player at the Friday night jam sessions in Floyd, Virginia.

Benner, who graduated in May with a degree in classical studies, links ancient worlds, teaching, and the arts. She's a fan of musical ballads because of their storytelling capacity—not unlike myths.

—continued on page 4

All-around talent:Find a video on Benner at www.vtmag.vt.edu.

In fact, Benner traced one of her favorite ballads, "King Orpheo" (based on the myth of Orpheus), back to a 14th-century manuscript. As a student, she scoured Coptic texts on invisibility spells, charms, and enchantments as a way to understand the daily lives of ancient peoples. In the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, she explored manuscripts from the first century through late antiquity.

As an undergraduate, Benner launched an after-school program at Gilbert Linkous Elementary School in Blacksburg that combined Latin, her minor, with mythology and art. As students learned about the 12 labors of Hercules, they illustrated the stories on a long roll of paper, called a "crankie."

"I love working with kids, and classics help them to understand the foundation of our culture," Benner said. "Studying myths and Latin fosters interest and understanding, as well as introspection and depth, as children empathize with a people who are no longer here. It helps them become rooted in something beyond self."

This fall, Benner entered Hollins University's master's program in teaching.

Winston to lead Alumni Association

As we went to press, Matthew M. Winston Jr. (marketing management '90), assistant to the president at the University of Georgia, was named the senior associate vice president for alumni relations at Virginia Tech.

Long story short

In appreciation for the years of service and extraordinary contributions both on and off the field by head football coach Frank Beamer and his wife, Cheryl, the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors has renamed Spring Road—which runs alongside Lane Stadium's

west stands and press box—**Beamer Way**. The official athletic department street address will be 25 Beamer Way, in recognition of Beamer's jersey number when he played Virginia Tech football from 1966 to 1968.

The welcome center of the W.E. Skelton 4-H Educational Conference Center at Smith Mountain Lake in Wirtz, Virginia, has been named in honor of former university president **T. Marshall Hahn Jr.**, during whose tenure the 4-H center was founded.

New University Relations leader named

Tracy Vosburgh, formerly the associate vice president of university communications at Cornell University, started Sept. 15 as the senior associate vice president for university relations at Virginia Tech.

Vosburgh succeeded Larry Hincker, who announced his retirement in June after 27 years at Tech.

"I am delighted to welcome Tracy to the Virginia Tech community," said President Timothy D. Sands. "As we continue planning for Virginia Tech's future, the need to articulate our vision and goals will be essential. Tracy's ability to understand, manage, and align institutional messages and keep our many important stakeholders informed—our students and families, our



We all branched out in college, but potentially having a physical separation after graduation will be different. I've been less than a five-minute walk away from them my whole life."

—Greg Lomaka, who with his siblings Kate, Chris, and Steve will become, in May 2016, Virginia Tech's first set of quadruplet alumni

faculty and staff, our alumni and friends, as well as the citizens of the commonwealth, the nation, and abroad—will result in greater awareness of Virginia Tech's emerging leadership in higher education."

Romesh C. Batra, who holds the Clifton C. Garvin Professorship at Virginia Tech, is the recipient of a 2015 American Society of Mechanical Engineers' Honorary Membership award, given annually to no more than five people worldwide.



Seismic notes

by JESSE TUEL

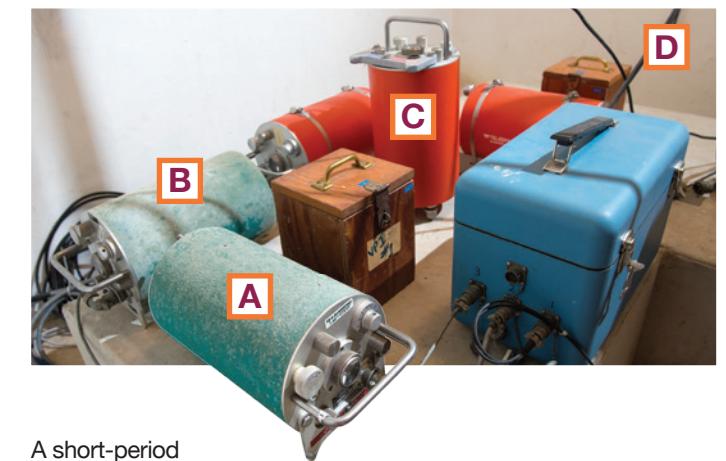
photos by LOGAN WALLACE

In a two-family, Cold War-era bomb shelter near the intersection of U.S. Route 460 and the Huckleberry Trail, atop piers resting on bedrock 5 feet below, is an array of seismic systems that has yielded a continuous recording of the Earth's tectonic gyrations since September 1963.

When the U.S. and Russia agreed to discontinue atmospheric nuclear testing, the nukes went underground—and elevated the status of seismography. The late Professor Emeritus Charles Sears (mining geology '32, M.S. '35), founder of the Virginia Tech Seismological Observatory, secured one of 220 sites for the new World-Wide Standardized Seismograph Network, and that site has since generated the most continuous data—perhaps rivaled by only one other site in Albuquerque, New Mexico, said Martin Chapman, the College of Science research associate professor of geophysics who maintains the observatory today.

Quaking:

Don't miss Chapman's narration of an audio slideshow of the observatory—and links to seismic data that are updated daily—at www.vtmag.vt.edu.



A short-period instrument cluster (above) gauges seismic activity on the higher end of the spectrum, such as vehicle traffic increasing around 7 a.m.

A North-south vibrations, **B** east-west vibrations, and **C** vertical movement yield a triaxial picture of motion. Signals are merged into one wire, **D** and the data are sent to a computer that digitizes and time-stamps the incoming voltage signals, automatically transmitting data to the U.S. Geological Survey and to Chapman's office.

In an adjacent room, a modern broadband instrument captures the lower end of the seismic spectrum. When a 9.0 quake, triggered the 2004 Southeast Asian tsunami, the device catalogued Blacksburg moving 0.6 inches to the west in a period of about 4 minutes and then returning to equilibrium. The Earth continued shaking for four days. "The Earth just rings like a gong when you get an earthquake that big," Chapman said.

Drones transport medications during research flights

Led by Virginia Tech, the Mid-Atlantic Aviation Partnership oversaw the July 17 research flights of unmanned aircraft systems, or drones, to deliver medical supplies to a health clinic in Wise, Virginia—the first Federal Aviation Administration-approved drone delivery on U.S. soil.

Researchers were evaluating the aircraft for the delivery of pharmaceuticals and other medical supplies in rural areas, where transportation challenges often disrupt health care. Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe, Virginia Tech President Timothy D. Sands, local officials, and health care providers were on hand to observe the testing.

For a video of the flights, go to

www.vtmag.vt.edu.



Long story short

According to the Center for World University Rankings, Virginia Tech has risen 15 places to **No. 256 in the world** among more than 25,000 degree-granting institutions. The university also rose 13 places to 98th among U.S. institutions.



JIM STROUP

Marching Virginians move into a new home

Over the past 41 years, Virginia Tech's highly acclaimed marching band has performed for hundreds of nationally televised football games and in parades across the U.S. When the Marching Virginians—330 members strong—returned to campus this fall, they finally had a place to call home.

The Marching Virginians Center, located on Southgate Drive within sight of Lane Stadium, features a 7,000-square-foot pavilion, restrooms, ample storage space for instruments, and a full-size synthetic turf field with lights and public address systems. (For a video of the facility, visit www.vtmag.vt.edu).

For years, the locations for practice sessions and instrument storage have been spread out and ever-changing. "The band has lived a nomadic life," said Dave McKee, the band's director for 30 years and senior instructor in the School of Performing Arts.

"This entering rookie class will have something that no other Marching Virginian has had before: four seasons of the collegiate marching band experience with a centralized athletic band headquarters," said Evan Fitts, a junior political science major who plays the clarinet and serves as the band's public relations officer. "Because of the Marching Virginians Center, the MVs now have a building to call our own. At last, there is a home for the Spirit," Fitts said, referencing the band's other moniker, "The Spirit of Tech."

More than 280 people contributed to the effort to build the facility, including Michael Sciarrino (accounting, finance '84, M.Acct. '86), a former tuba player with the band and a driving force in the effort to have the building named for McKee and James Sochinski, the band's former director and current arranger, after their retirements from the university.

Virginia Tech's outstanding academics, student life, and alumni pride garnered the university's inclusion in The Princeton Review's "Best 380 Colleges" 2016 edition. The guide named the top 20 schools in 62 categories, with Tech appearing in seven

lists: Happiest Students (No. 2), Best Campus Food (No. 3), Best Quality of Life (No. 4), Their Students Love These Colleges (No. 4), Town-Gown Relations Are Great (No. 4), Lots of Race/Class Interaction (No. 8), and Best Run Colleges (No. 18).

Eighty-one percent of the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine's Class of 2019 possesses substantial research experience. Moreover, **nearly a fourth of the 42 students**—chosen from a record 3,572 applications—have already earned an advanced degree.

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New visibility: Antiques have put the town of Buchanan, Virginia, on the global map, with the help of Mary Zirkle '03 and Harry Gleason '89, along with Virginia Tech faculty members and students.

Long story short

Virginia Bioinformatics Institute researchers have uncovered a link between the genomes of cells originating in the neural crest and the development of tumors, a discovery published in the *Oncotarget* journal, that could lead to new ways to diagnose and treat cancer.

In a paper published in *Scientific Reports* in mid-July, Warren Ruder, an assistant professor of biological systems engineering in both the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the College of Engineering, used a mathematical model to demonstrate

that bacteria can control the behavior of an inanimate device like a robot. On a broad scale, understanding the biochemical sensing between organisms could have far-reaching implications in ecology, biology, and robotics.

A new **Experts Directory** containing detailed descriptions of nearly 300 authoritative sources from the Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and Virginia Cooperative Extension is now available online.

Made in Virginia

by ANDREA BRUNAIS

The town of Buchanan, Virginia, recently earned international attention in the tourism industry. Fodor's, the authority on world travel, named it one of the 10 best places in the U.S. to buy antiques.

How did Buchanan's smattering of antique stores—not dissimilar from those in other small Virginia towns—vault the town to such high visibility? It may be no coincidence that two generations of Virginia Tech students have helped the town achieve star status.

Last year, Mary Zirkle, who earned a master of urban and regional planning at Virginia Tech in 2003, became Buchanan's first town manager in its 200-plus-year existence. And Community Revitalization Manager Harry Gleason (horticulture '89) has devoted his entire career—more than 20 years—to the town. In fact, he began working for the town while still a student in Blacksburg.

Ask Gleason for memories, and he mentions the James River. When the picturesque river that runs along the edge of town spilled over its banks in 1985, the floodwater devastated parts of downtown and also ravaged residents' morale. After the flood, the town turned to Virginia Tech's Community Design Assistance Center for help.

During his graduate studies in landscape architecture in the mid-1990s, Gleason worked on the center's project to spiff up downtown businesses and, in 1995, stepped into a newly created

town role to address revitalization. Gleason's dogged efforts to promote downtown Buchanan, along with help from a cadre of town volunteers, eventually built the town's reputation as an antiques mecca. And for more than 10 years in Buchanan, Gleason has hosted landscape architecture students to discuss how they can enter the field.

Recently, an even younger set of Virginia Tech students stormed the town. As part of Diane Zahm's urban affairs and planning studio class in the School of Public and International Affairs, graduate students from the College of Architecture and Urban Studies conducted field work in spring 2015 to help Zirkle make vital updates to the town's comprehensive plan.

Among other goals, students were looking to create "some type of new economic development that can change the whole scheme of what's happening there and can draw in more people," said Tara Reel, a graduate student in urban planning and public administration who participated in the class project. □

Andrea Brunais is the communications director for Outreach and International Affairs.

▶ Revitalized:

For a video on the team's work, and a "Save Our Towns" segment on Buchanan, visit www.vtmag.vt.edu.

which then delivers electricity directly to the car's battery or electrical devices, reducing the demand on the alternator. When tested on campus roads, the shock absorber, built with off-the-shelf components, harvested about 60 percent of the available

energy, but should reach 85 percent efficiency with precision components and manufacturing. Zuo also is working on the two others areas for energy recovery in cars: waste heat and regenerative braking for conventional vehicles.

F Those who can, teach

Only those who've never quarterbacked a classroom would consider teaching to be a walkover. To the good fortune of generations of learners, some folks simply have the touch.

Among the gifted is 2015 William E. Wine Award winner Raman Kumar, the R.V. and A.F. Oliver Professor of Investment Management in Virginia Tech's Pamplin College of Business. According to Kumar, who teaches courses in investments, derivative securities, and international finance, he chanced upon his calling while studying with hall mates in the M.B.A. program at the Indian Institute of Management Calcutta in India.

Kumar's skill at explaining finance and accounting concepts was so apparent that the group's study sessions evolved into what the students called "crash courses," during which Kumar would present a review of the material before each exam. After six terms, not only had Kumar started to enjoy the crash courses, the group had grown well beyond a half-dozen or so hall mates.

Tech's first nuclear engineering doctoral graduates

After being revived by the College of Engineering in 2007, Virginia Tech's Nuclear Engineering Program received approval in 2013 from the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia to award master's and doctoral degrees. Now the program has awarded its first doctoral degrees: to Katherine Royston, from Wellington, Florida, and William Walters, from Vancouver, Canada.

Before coming to Tech, both Royston and Walters had already begun a Ph.D.



COURTESY PHOTO

Raman Kumar (left) at the Indian Institute of Management Calcutta, India, with one of his classmates, Ajay Kohli, who is now a marketing professor at Georgia Tech.

"Years after joining Virginia Tech," Kumar said, "I heard someone say, 'You don't really understand the material until you've taught it.' Looking back, I realized that presenting the review in the crash courses had elevated my understanding of the material."

In Kumar's office, one shelf of a wall-length bookcase is lined with plaques etched with "M.B.A. Outstanding Faculty Award," whose recipient is chosen each year by students. During the past decade alone, Kumar has been recognized five times.

"My first year teaching in the M.B.A. program at Virginia Tech, the students selected me as their outstanding teacher. ... In some ways, these awards are closer to my heart. It's students awarding them—no faculty members, no committees."



JIM STROUP

Natural resources and conservation program ranked No. 1

In a late-July assessment of data collected by College Factual, USA Today College ranked Virginia Tech's natural resources and conservation program as the nation's best.

Media organizations traditionally have not ranked natural resources programs because most rankings focus on disciplines and curricula that enroll larger numbers of students. While many U.S. colleges offer environmental science and natural resources course work, only 46 institutions offer a comprehensive slate.

"We are proud of our efforts that contributed to this ranking," said College of Natural Resources and Environment Dean Paul Winistorfer, under whose leadership the college has emphasized the science of sustainability. "We constantly position ourselves to make a difference in the world. This ranking is continuing confirmation of the quality and impact of our program."

Tech's program, Winistorfer said, is "at the nexus of climate, energy, air, and water issues that impact production of food and material needs for human society. We teach and research how to lower the human carbon footprint by producing, utilizing, and conserving renewable resources while sustaining our planet. Healthy ecosystems produce healthy economies."

Especially innovative is the college's new bachelor of science degree—called "water: resources, policy, and management"—that cuts across four other Virginia Tech colleges and 13 departments. Addressing complex interdisciplinary issues, the degree provides students with a background not only in water science, but also in law, economics, management, and the social sciences.

USA Today noted that Tech's College of Natural Resources and Environment "houses multiple departments that expose students to specializations in fish and wildlife conservation, forest resources and environmental conservation, sustainable biomaterials, and geography. Due to its exceptional education, affordable price, and high earnings boost, a degree from Virginia Tech is a great choice for any student interested in this field."

Rounding out the top five are programs at the University of Florida, Oregon State University, the University of New Hampshire, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

When you come into a student space and there's not a defined role for you, it becomes awkward and uncomfortable.

We were excited to break down those walls."

— Matt Gabriele, an associate professor in the Department of Religion and Culture and faculty principal in the Residential College at West Ambler Johnston, on moving into a residence hall

Virginia Tech Daily

Friday, September 18, 2015

VIRGINIA TECH DAILY

News and information for Virginia Tech students

Gabe Minnick exemplifies Ut Prosim through commitment to Girl Scouts

The most Virginia Tech employees honored in the Revolutionary Employee series oversee a team of professionals who develop, write, and produce a variety of videos and audio programming that supports and advances the university's goals.

Take Note!

Mark your calendar: Welcome reception for Prentiss Thomas' White set for Sept. 25.

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Skipping class

Tim Baird, an assistant professor of geography in the College of Natural Resources and Environment, teaches courses on sustainability and environmental conservation.



Q: You're letting students skip class, pick their own projects, and assign their own grades?

A: Yes, that's right. And it's working beautifully.

It seems crazy, doesn't it? Skip class? Do anything? Grade yourself? Let me explain. First, think about the times when your kid did really amazing, beautiful things. In these moments, was she simply following directions, doing what she was told? Or was she taking the initiative and leading herself? Now think of your own life. When did you really shine? And were you in the driver's seat, or was someone else?

In higher education, we have many "follow the rules" moments when professors steer the ship. We decide the courses for the curriculum, the content for the courses, the methods of instruction, and the structure of the exams—and ultimately we assign the grades. And in this environment, where success is frequently defined in terms of grades, following the rules is a winning strategy. But when grades become a student's strongest motivator, the motive to learn becomes secondary. We have research on this, and it's concerning.

So how can I flip the table? What can I do in my classes to refocus on the learning, to undermine the follower mentality, and to encourage students to lead themselves? Around the time I started asking these questions, I found Daniel Pink's book, "Drive." In it, he describes how economists and psychologists

have found that incentives (such as grades) can lead to reduced performance, especially for complicated tasks. I was convinced, so, I created Pink Time.

Now, three times a semester in my Seeking Sustainability II course, we "skip class." Students take the time they would normally spend prepping for and attending class to do anything they want—literally. The following class period, we get together in small groups to discuss their activities and tie the activities into the course material. Also, with the help of David Kniola, a visiting assistant professor in educational research and evaluation, I have students write a bit about their experience: how complex their activity was, how much time they spent on it, whether it challenged them, and whether their curiosity grew. Then they assign their own grade—and they don't all give themselves A's.

With Pink Time, I don't lead students; they lead themselves. Through activities like conducting experiments, building prototypes, drafting designs, interviewing others, and volunteering, my students have brought richly diverse ideas, experiences, and feelings into our classes. They've taken charge of their own learning and drawn connections between their lives, our course, their other courses, and the wider world. And they've had fun. Really, they've done some amazing, beautiful stuff. You'd be proud. □

Long story short

In its "Best Colleges" ranking of 736 schools, Money magazine placed Virginia Tech in the **top 50 among all institutions** and **top 20 among public institutions**. The ranking was determined using 21 factors in three categories: quality of education,

affordability, and outcomes. Forbes' recent ranking of the top 25 best public colleges also highlighted Virginia Tech, which earned the **No. 23 spot**. Forbes partnered with the Center for College Affordability and Productivity to create the rankings.

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences researchers who developed the **Healthy Beverage Index** found that a higher index score correlates to better cholesterol levels, lowered risk of hypertension, and, in men, lowered blood pressure.

Led by Associate Professor Daniela Cimini, an international team of scientists determined that the number of chromosomes in a cell may be a key to **understanding how cancer forms and progresses**—a finding that could help improve treatment.



COURTESY PHOTO

Honor: In September 2014, World War II veteran and former student body president Ben Ames (business administration '48), at right, visited with (from right) his son, Ben Ames Jr.; Corps of Cadets Commandant Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart; President Timothy D. Sands; and Professor Laura P. Sands. Ames was inducted into Virginia Tech's Order of the Gavel and witnessed the corps' pass in review on the Drillfield.

Understanding our roots

by CARRIE COX '99

In his first year at Virginia Tech, President Timothy D. Sands took considerable time to get to know the many diverse communities that make the university special. The Corps of Cadets is one such unique community. From its very first days in 1872, the corps has represented the university's first living, learning, and leading community. Reflecting on his "freshman year," Sands said, "I feel like I've been a Hokie for 143 years every time I see the corps' pass in review."

Numbering more than 1,000 cadets today, the Corps of Cadets remains at the heart of the university. In so many ways, the young men and women of the corps embody and symbolize the university's motto of *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve). The commitment starts with the corps' visible service to the campus and local community, with cadets contributing more 12,000 service hours each year, and continues in the lives of service that cadets choose to lead upon graduation. More than 75 percent enter the U.S. armed forces, while nearly 25 percent in the Citizen-Leader Track prepare to lead in the public and private sectors.

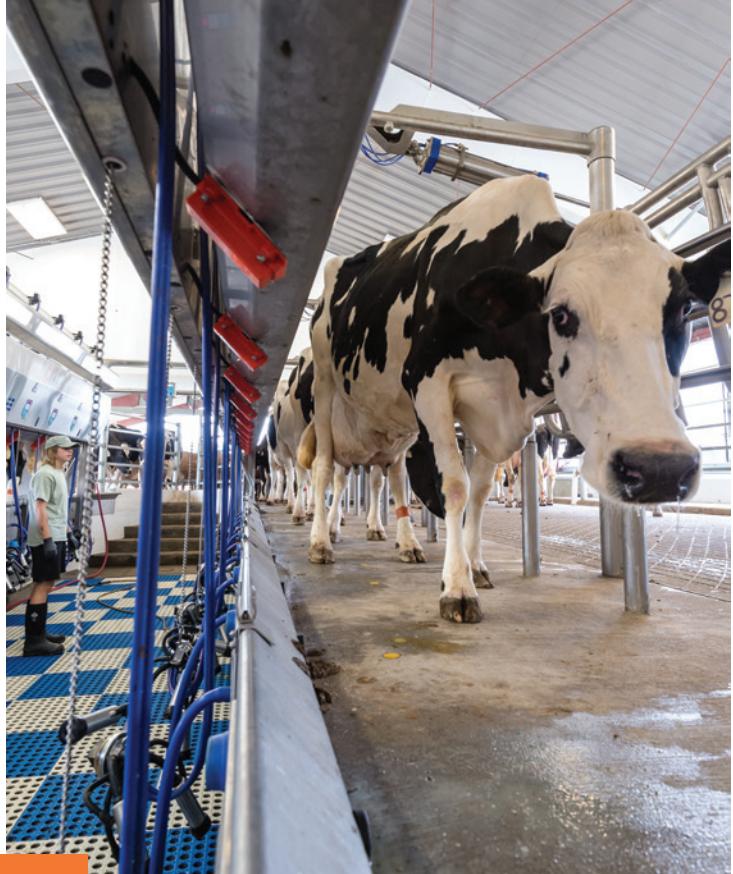
As Sands said during the spring 2015 change of command parade, "It's been inspiring for me to see the corps engaged in all aspects of our community—a constant reminder of the ethos of service to others."

At the time of his installation, Sands noted how the corps represents our university's history and is relevant today. "The community of Virginia Tech is defined by its commitment to service. While this was evident from the university's earliest days, when the Corps of Cadets comprised the student body, the definition of service has broadened from service in the defense of our nation to service to humanity. The Drillfield at the center of campus, with the eight Pylons framing the visual entrance, provides a daily reminder to those of us on the Blacksburg campus of our service heritage. The daily presence of the Corps of Cadets on the Drillfield and throughout our community reminds us all of our commitment."

During the parade in May, Sands also noted with pride the ongoing work on the two new cadet residence halls that will ultimately house more 1,000 cadets. "I've enjoyed watching the new building project begin to take shape on the Upper Quad. Workers are now putting Hokie Stone on the new Pearson Hall, and you can get a good sense of how it will look, rising above Alumni Mall. These buildings, including the new Corps Leadership and Military Science Building, represent the university's commitment to the corps and its future."

With the support of the university and the Blacksburg community, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets continues to prepare leaders—global, ethical leaders that our world needs now more than ever—for lifelong service. □

Maj. Carrie Cox (M.S. civil engineering '99) is the Corps of Cadets' executive officer.



Moooved:

Find a photo gallery of the Kentland facilities at www.vtmag.vt.edu.



Under the Milky Way

New dairy science complex opens

by AMY LOEFFLER
photos by TRICIA LOMBARDI

The typical Virginia Tech student doesn't see the earliest hours of the morning, when only pencil points of starlight disturb the inky darkness of a sky that has yet to awaken from slumber.

It's the time of day that dairy science doctoral student Adam Geiger enjoys most.

Geiger, who hails from Brillion, Wisconsin, revels in the calm of the dairy barn's milking parlor, where the rhythmic pulsing of the equipment breaks the morning silence.

Not everyone embraces the dawn with such relish, but dairy science students are a different breed.

In his research, Geiger focuses on how nutrition in the early stages of life can make cows healthier by feeding them not only more milk but also a more nutritious formula. "Healthier animals are more productive and efficient," he said.

The newly constructed, \$14 million Dairy Science Complex – Kentland Farm will be an ideal location for studying newborn cows. One of the many technologies the dairy complex offers researchers is an automated calf feeder that tracks how much and how often a calf is eating—and even how fast a calf is suckling a bottle.

"For me, working at the new dairy building is very appealing. It's state-of-the-art and allows us to track our animals' health in a noninvasive way," Geiger said. "The cows work hard every day for us, so we work hard for them."

The facility will enhance the long-term success of Virginia Tech's award-winning dairy science program and contribute to the land-grant mission of the university. The second phase of construction will include an applied reproductive physiology facility adjacent to the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine, an intensive metabolism research facility at Kentland Farm, and a bovine, teaching, and research facility on Plantation Road.

The move from the former complex on Southgate Drive was prompted by the expansion of the Virginia Tech Montgomery Executive Airport and the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center, as well as a new U.S. Route 460 interchange.

In the new complex, students are examining modern issues in dairy science alongside researchers who work on solving challenges and

then sharing those solutions with Virginia Cooperative Extension.

"The new facilities provide great opportunities for students desiring a hands-on, experiential education, and they will also allow faculty to conduct innovative research that is important for the dairy industry," said Alan Grant, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences dean.

Joy Nystrom, a senior, from Culpeper, Virginia, was excited to track the progress of her research, including one project with Katharine Knowlton, the Colonel Horace E. Alphin Professor of Dairy Science, testing levels of antibiotic resistance in cows.

"I wake up early for cows because it's easy," said Nystrom, who finished an internship this summer for the Southeast Dairy Association in Atlanta. "You really get to connect with the cows in a way that you don't with other animals."

Amy Loeffler is the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' science writer.

Long story short

Sunghwan Jung, an assistant professor of biomedical engineering and mechanics in the College of Engineering, discovered new information about cavitation—the process of bubble formation in a fluid—that could, he envisions, be a method for cleaning

agricultural produce without chemical agents. Bubbles can be created by lowering the pressure, as a boat propeller does, or increasing the temperature, as in boiling water. A popped bubble behaves like a black hole, drawing in nearby particles.

The Virginia Tech Center for Design Research's Design Robotics Studio unveiled a **robotically fabricated structure** at the Design Biennial Boston. The experimental pavilion will be prominently installed on Boston's Rose Kennedy Greenway.

To the **Board of Visitors**, the governor reappointed Deborah Martin Petrine '78 and appointed Charles "C.T." Hill and Mehmood Kazmi. Longtime Tech administrator Minnis Ridenour was appointed to the **State Council of Higher Education for Virginia**.

Virginia Tech is the nation's first university to receive accreditation from the Emergency Management Accreditation Program, an independent non-profit organization that established **64 rigorous national standards** for emergency planning.

The Department of Psychology's Clinical Science doctoral program earned accreditation from the Psychological Clinical Science Accreditation System, a distinction **received by only 27 institutions** since 2009.

The technological capabilities of the Moss Arts Center's Cube were on display as an international group of **sonic technology researchers presented original compositions**—multichannel soundscapes—to explore new boundaries in spatial audio to

close out the university's inaugural Spatial Audio Workshop. A theater and high-tech lab, the Cube features an array of suspended and floor-standing speakers that comprise one of the most advanced multi-channel systems in the world.

Throwing down

by JULIET CRICHTON
photos by DAVE KNACHEL



Virginia Tech junior Irena Sediva has one heck of an arm.

After spending her freshman year in training, the international studies major was eligible to throw the javelin for the Hokies—and throw she did.

In the first meet of her collegiate career, she set a school record.

In her second meet, she broke the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) record, which had stood for 17 years.

And at season's end, she was undefeated.

At the ACC championships in Tallahassee, Florida, Sediva's winning throw not only set Tech, conference, ACC championship meet, and facility records, but also ranks as the NCAA season's best and the 12th-best—among only nine athletes—in NCAA history.

Entering the NCAA track and field outdoor championships in Eugene, Oregon, as the top seed, Sediva saved her best for last. Her final throw surpassed her previous school and ACC record, and Sediva claimed Tech's 15th individual national championship, all in track and field. The third female among seven Hokies to win a national title, she was later named the 2015 ACC Women's Field Performer of the Year.

In mid-July, Sediva finished third at the World University Games in Gwangju, South Korea, throwing a personal best.

And her next target? The 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

Going the distance:

To see Sediva in action, go to www.vtmag.vt.edu.



Paving the way: From launching a nonprofit to treat clubfoot (opposite page) in developing countries to supporting scholarships that allowed Charlotte Oddi '14 (right) to study overseas, Bridget Ryan Berman '82 (left) is committed to helping young people.



expanded to a 13th country and has treated more than 10,000 children. At the same time, she has also been a force within the Virginia Tech community, generously supporting her alma mater.

"I have passion around opportunities where there's been personal effect on my life," Ryan Berman said of her involvement and philanthropy. "Virginia Tech clearly was that for me. It's living the core values of what I believe Virginia Tech is, and I felt the same way about miraclefeet."

Ryan Berman is a long-standing member of the Pamplin College of Business Advisory Council, where she is the current chair of the committee to establish Pamplin's Recent Alumni Board. She has also been on the Virginia Tech Foundation Board of Directors, and has spoken at Pamplin's commencement and in Pamplin's Executive Speaker Series. A generous donor, she has been recognized in the Ut Prosim Society, has donated to the Richard E. Sorenson Dean's Chair Endowment, and has established a scholarship—named for her mother, Elaine Caravati Ryan—that benefits students in Pamplin.

Charlotte Oddi (marketing management '14) said the scholarship helped her realize her ambition and changed her perspective forever. The scholarship, which assisted with her tuition, helped free up funds for Oddi to study abroad, which she desperately wanted to do. "I am convinced that had I not received the scholarship ... I would have never been able to go. I am eternally grateful to Mrs. Berman," she said.

Overseas, Oddi immersed herself in new cultures and communities. She returned home inspired and was determined to continue her travels, which now include 13 months spent in Thailand teaching English. "Through these experiences I have become more adaptable, more independent, more open-minded, more understanding, more comfortable with the unknown, and better at problem-solving. I've experienced working among people with different beliefs, languages, cultures, and ways of doing things."

International impact

Through her philanthropy, Ryan Berman has helped not only Hokies like Oddi, but children and their families all over the world through miraclefeet.

"These children are very likely to have terrible, terrible lives," said miraclefeet Executive Director Chesca Colloredo-Mansfeld. "For a relatively easy and inexpensive intervention, you can put that child's life back onto a normal trajectory."

To treat clubfoot, the nonprofit uses the Ponseti Method, entailing a series of plaster casts worn for four to six weeks. The treatment costs approximately \$250 per child.

Without treatment, children face stigma and discrimination because families are ashamed of the defect; and because walking is so difficult, children may be unable to access education and healthcare, Colloredo-Mansfeld said. And children with clubfoot are subject to higher risk of neglect, poverty, and physical and sexual abuse. "It's hard to prevent poverty, and it's hard to prevent suffering in the world. But these children's disability can be easily fixed," she said.

It's a mission that Ryan Berman has been actively involved in since miraclefeet began in 2006. Colloredo-Mansfeld said the Bermans, both of whom sit on the group's board of directors, are highly engaged, often providing expertise and visiting clinics.

"They feel very strong connections to parents of the kids," Colloredo-Mansfeld said. "They tell families about their experiences and show them photos of Reese."

"This is a way to truly change a child's life," Ryan Berman said. Whether ensuring critical care to children with clubfoot or providing opportunities for Pamplin students to excel, Ryan Berman's personal philanthropy is changing lives. □

Annie McCallum is the Web editor for University Development.

Inspired abroad

by ANNIE MCCALLUM

When Bridget Ryan Berman's son was born with bilateral clubfoot, in some ways she felt vulnerable.

"I didn't know what to do," she said of Reese, now a healthy 15-year-old. "I didn't know what [the impairment] meant in terms of his life."

Ryan Berman (general business '82) and her husband, Roger, quickly found themselves learning about the relatively common congenital birth defect, which affects one of every 750 children born.

Once they had settled on a method of care for Reese and knew he would be fine, the couple asked themselves how they could help other children. According to the Global Clubfoot Initiative, 80 percent of children born each year with clubfoot live in low- and

middle-income countries with limited access to treatment. As a result, more than a million children live untreated and unable to walk properly, making clubfoot the leading cause of physical disability in the world.

"We felt it was just really important to help as many children as we could," Ryan Berman said.

In 2006, the Bermans created the nonprofit "miraclefeet," which generates awareness about the birth defect that causes one or both feet to turn inward. The nonprofit works with local partners in developing countries to treat clubfoot.

Ryan Berman, the CEO of Victoria's Secret Direct, has given her time and lent her business acumen to the nonprofit, which recently

The fire dance

The logistics of football game fireworks

by JESSE TUEL

photos by TRICIA LOMBARDI

At a night game in Lane Stadium, football isn't the only game in town.

Apart from the Sept. 7 Ohio State vs. Virginia Tech contest, a range of entertainment—most notably, fireworks—was cued up for you and 66,000 of your closest friends (minus that noisy corner of Buckeye fans, of course).

Up on the press box's seventh floor, the athletic department's Grant Duncan (marketing management '10) choreographed the timing of the fireworks, cheerleaders, band performances, on-field promotions, and more. "We can't control what happens between the lines, between the whistles, but we try to control everything else," Duncan said. "And our job is to make that as entertaining as possible."



- July 19 **Walk-through**
A team from fireworks company Pyrotecnico visits.
- Aug. 9 **Measurements**
The crew returns to gauge light-tower dimensions, cable distances, and more before using aerial images to sketch out the eventual displays.
- Aug. 19 **Test-firing**
The fire marshal and the crew assess safety.
- Sept. 4 **Set-up**
From 2-11:30 p.m., the Pyrotecnico **crew of eight** installs everything but the live fireworks at **27 positions**: 22 on the lights above the press box (11 positions equidistant apart on each tower), four on the platforms behind the south stands, and one on the practice field.
- Sept. 7 **Game day**
 - 9:00 a.m. **We're live**
Hundreds of live fireworks are spread out across the firing locations. Around 6 p.m., the crew is fully ready.
 - 7:55 p.m. **"And the rocket's red glare"**
During the national anthem, a barrage from the south-side platforms is let loose. At the anthem's end, Duncan cues Pyrotecnico's Mike Shook, sitting at the top of the south stands, who sets off the light-tower fireworks. As the 48-millimeter shells ignite in succession, Shook radios pyrotechnician Stephen Patterson (computer science '91), positioned on the practice field behind the scoreboard, who flips switches 1 through 6 (out of 36 at his disposal), launching 1.2-inch-diameter shells about 125 feet into the air.

- 8:00 p.m. **"Enter Sandman"**
As the light-tower fireworks go off, Patterson flicks nine more switches.
- 8:56 p.m. **Juke**
Dodging a defender, fullback Sam Rogers trots into the end zone, welcomed by fireworks. Well behind Patterson on the practice field, the other firecracker on site—the beloved cannon Skipper—thunders its approval.
- 9:11 p.m. **3-for-3**
Three volleys mark a 46-yard field goal.
- 9:31 p.m. **Almost there**
Two volleys celebrate a first-and-goal.
- 9:34 p.m. **Take that**
With a 1-yard touchdown pass, the Hokies go up 17-14.
- 9:52 p.m. **Crescendo**
Fireworks complement the Marching Virginians' halftime show.
- 11:23 p.m. **Fizzle**
No celebration is sent skyward for a late touchdown that concludes the scoring, 42-24, in the Buckeyes' favor.
- Post-game: Packing up**
Extra incendiaries—for a high-scoring game and a victory—were at the ready. But take heart, Hokie Nation; there'll be more fireworks for the next game.

Kaboom:

For a collection of fireworks videos, visit www.vtmag.vt.edu.

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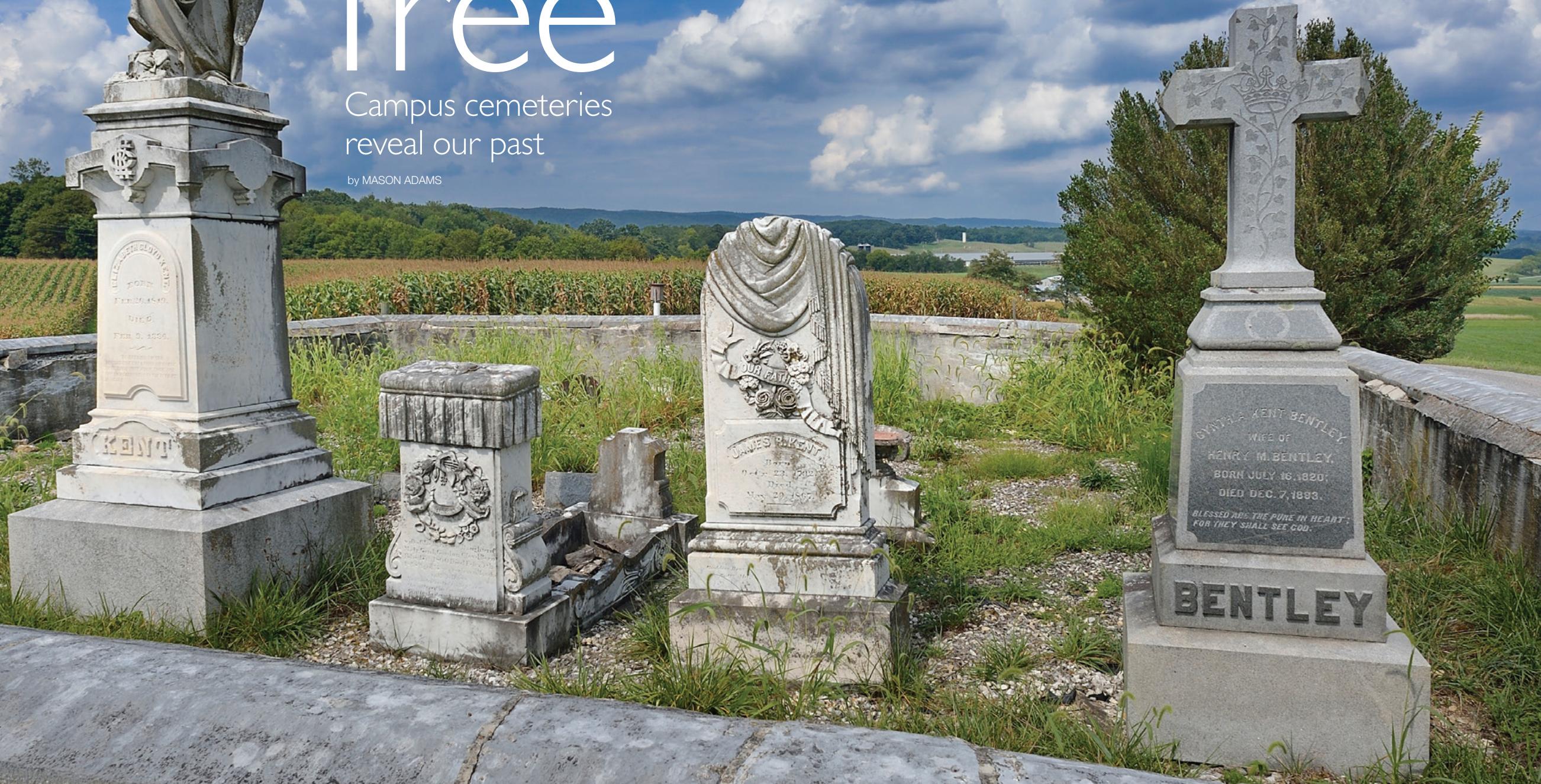




Family Tree

Campus cemeteries reveal our past

by MASON ADAMS



At rest: The family cemetery at Kentland Farm tells the tales of those who walked the region before us, such as James Kent (third stone from left), one of the region's most influential 19th-century residents.

On a list of the most well-known Virginia Tech landmarks, there's one thing you probably won't find: cemeteries.

Well before Blacksburg birthed an internationally renowned research university, the deceased were being laid to rest in the Preston Cemetery at Historic Smithfield Plantation.

Well before nearby Kentland Farm became home to an agricultural experiment station, dairy science complex, and more, the land held two cemeteries, one for the Kent family and one for slaves.

The lives of the dead tell us not just about Virginia Tech's origins but also about the roots of Southwest Virginia history as we know it.

At the Preston site, on a hill northeast of the Southgate Drive and U.S. Route 460 intersection, gravestones honor a Virginia governor, a secretary of the U.S. Navy, numerous Confederate military officers, six generations of the Preston family, at least two slaves, and more. Even into the 21st century the Prestons continue to use the cemetery, with individuals interred there as recently as 2008.

"If it wasn't for the Preston family, there probably wouldn't be a Virginia Tech here," said Laura Wedin (M.F.A. theatre arts '84), the Alumni Association's alumni/student programs director, who has conducted extensive research on the cemetery. The Olin and Preston Institute (later renamed the Preston and Olin Institute), a Methodist academy that opened in 1851, "was the precursor to Virginia Tech," Wedin said.

Anna Whitehead Kenney, the first curator at Smithfield, researched the land and families who lived there. Wedin and other historians and archaeologists have continued that work, though some of the Preston Cemetery's mysteries endure.



Serenity: The Preston Cemetery at Historic Smithfield Plantation

Selected stories from Preston Cemetery:

[William Preston \(1730-1783\)](#)

Col. William Preston, a Revolutionary War leader and patriot, became the patriarch of the Preston family. His wife, Susanna, outlived him by 40 years, but asked to be placed in the same grave, creating a Preston family tradition. Their resting place is marked by a marble slab that was made in Philadelphia and shipped to Smithfield nine years after Susanna's death and nearly a half-century after the colonel's.

[James Patton Preston \(1774-1843\)](#)

The fourth son of William and Susanna Preston, James inherited Smithfield at age 9 when his father died. James fought in

the War of 1812 and a few years later was elected governor of Virginia, serving from 1816 to 1819. His wife, Ann, died 18 years after he did, and was buried in the same grave as her husband.

[1 Robert Taylor Preston \(1809-1880\)](#)

Robert Taylor Preston—a son of James Patton Preston and brother to William Ballard Preston [2](#), the namesake of the Olin and Preston Institute—served as a colonel during the Civil War. Apparently, he was completely inept as a military commander, Wedin said, but his troops loved him. Afterward, he retired to the Solitude home—today, the oldest structure on campus, believed to date back more than 200 years. In 1872, Preston

sold the house and surrounding acreage to the newly created Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College (today's Virginia Tech). John Sargent Wise's 1899 book "End of An Era" described Preston as short and thick-set with an "immense snow-white beard" that he often tucked into his waist-coat.

[3 Sarah Ann Caperton \(1826-1908\)](#)

Sarah Ann Caperton outlived her husband, James Francis Preston [4](#) (a son of James Patton Preston), by 46 years. She was photographed holding the body of her 2-year-old son, Jimmie [5](#), who had died of scarlet fever and is also buried in the cemetery. For parents of the era, such photography was an important way to remember deceased children.



[6 Sarah Caperton Preston \(1885-1965\) and Katherine Stuart Preston \(1894-1967\)](#)

These two sisters, unmarried and buried together, stand out for their accomplishments during an era in which women were afforded few professional opportunities. They came of age during the roaring '20s. Sarah (at right in the image) opened a dance school in Norfolk, Virginia, while Katherine (at left) worked as a nurse and horsewoman at Camp Carysbrook, which was located in Wytheville, Virginia, before being relocated to Riner, Virginia. Katherine, regarded as the kinder of the two, asked to have her coffin placed beneath her sister's since the elder sister was stronger and more gracious, Wedin said.

[Julia Binners \(buried Christmas Day 1859\)](#)

Binners had no family connection with the Prestons. She was born in the West Indies to a wealthy planter family that lost its fortune after the abolition of slavery there. After her parents died, she taught at a girls' school in Chatham, Virginia, until she grew old and ill and came to Smithfield in 1859, perhaps to prepare for her death.

[Virginia "Aunt Ginny" Fraction Capers](#)

Capers was a former slave who became a child-minder for Hugh and Cary Preston in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Capers became the keeper of the Preston family's oral histories, and her burial within the cemetery appears to signify her importance to the family, Wedin said. Even so, her status as a former slave makes it difficult to find other documentation about her life.

[Benjamin](#)

Benjamin is one of the Smithfield cemetery's more intriguing mysteries. A limestone marker hewn into the shape of a shield is inscribed with the name and a short epitaph that suggests Benjamin died as an infant. The difference between the handmade marker and the predominantly formal ones elsewhere suggests that Benjamin was the child of a slave, servant, or overseer.



8
After an excavation in 2004, state archaeologist Thomas Klatka showed the grave shafts to Tech students and Wake Forest residents.

Kentland Farm cemeteries

About 8 miles west of Virginia Tech's Blacksburg campus is Kentland Farm, the new home of Tech's dairy science complex, among other university programs. In the mid-18th century, the historic plantation sat at the end of the Shenandoah Indian Road, marking the edge of European settlement. Even earlier, the area housed a Native American village between 900 and 1500 A.D., and artifacts found on the land may point to settlements there in 8000 B.C.

In the early 1800s, James Kent **7** acquired the farm by dowry; and by 1860, he owned more than 6,000 acres and 120 slaves, making him Montgomery County's richest man. Two cemeteries at Kentland that date from the era—the Kent family cemetery and a slave cemetery—sit equidistant from the plantation house, forming a triangle when viewed from above. The Kent family

cemetery, much like the Preston cemetery, is fairly well documented as the burying ground for one of the most prominent families of 18th-century Montgomery County.

The slave cemetery, though much less documented, plays a crucial role in the history of the New River Valley's black population. Kent died in 1867, two years after the Civil War brought emancipation to the slaves. Many black residents had previously left with Union armies that

passed through the area after the Battle of Cloyd's Mountain in May 1864, but others remained. Eventually, former slaves settled in the Wake Forest community, along what is now McCoy Road, acquiring land there partly by purchase from the McCoy family and partly by bequest from Elizabeth Kent, James Kent's daughter, who had inherited Kentland after her father's death.

Bannister's memories and Price's work led to archaeological digs **8** in 2004 and 2005 conducted by Sam Cook, an associate professor of sociology; students in Cook's Appalachian communities class; Thomas Klatka, an archaeologist with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources; and others. By using targeted digging to excavate trenches and tracking changes in the color, density, and organic

**7**

SAM COOK

content of the soil, they were able to map evidence of 23 graves, containing 18 adults, three children, and two infants.

"Most of my students had never had any exposure to archeology," Cook said. "What ultimately grabbed the students the most was the experience of actually seeing the descendants of the people there. That made what they were doing real."

Past and present

Esther "Queen" Jones **9**, the Wake Forest community's 96-year-old matriarch, was born at the foot of Brush Mountain, about a mile and a half past the community. She married Howard Jones, who owned a coal mining company, and they moved into the house where Esther still lives today.

Esther Jones can recall her mother and grandmother, but she doesn't remember much more than that, nor did she press her ancestors for details. "People had too much on their minds to dig too far back," Jones said.

Many of the former slaves were skilled craftsmen who had performed high-quality, artisanal work. During the days of slavery, they were often loaned out both to other plantations for their specialized skills and to public works projects in Montgomery County. At Kentland Farm, they made their own bricks, designed a smokehouse, and built the plantation house with a removable roof so the slate easily could be repaired and maintained when needed.

"One of the things I always tell students and young people is to look at the brick in this house," said Cook while standing in the plantation house. "Every single one of those bricks was cast by hand by a slave. If you look very closely, you will see the fingerprint of someone who had no freedom in this country."

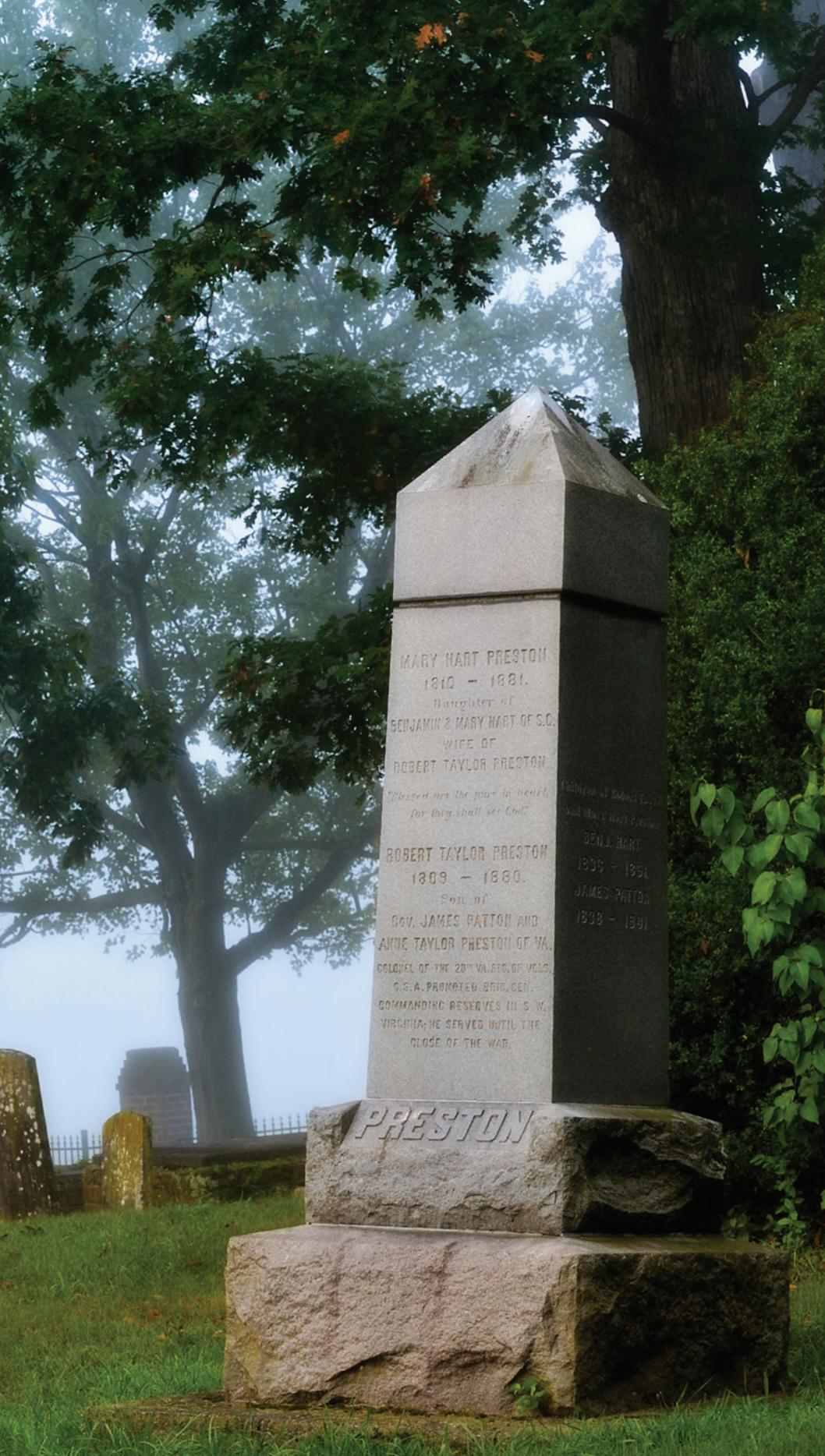
9

JOHN MCCORMICK



**I have known these women
Have loved and admired them
Have been afraid of and for them."**

—From "These Women" by University Distinguished Professor **Nikki Giovanni**, about the women of the Wake Forest community. To see photos of the women and to hear Giovanni read the poem, visit www.vtmag.vt.edu.



The Preston Cemetery at Historic Smithfield Plantation

Once emancipated, the former slaves used those same skills to build the Wake Forest community and make it self-sufficient. Its residents took on the jobs that any small town needs: midwife, veterinarian, undertaker, blacksmith, stonemason, barber. A couple of people had cars and regularly transported their neighbors into Blacksburg for errands.

Charles Johnson, the founder of Blacksburg's New Image Barber Stylists and a participant in the integration of Blacksburg in the early '60s, traces his family back to his great-great-grandmother who was likely a slave at Kentland Plantation.

Johnson, who grew up on McCoy Road, remembers a steady stream of transients passing through during the mid-20th century, especially during the Great Depression. Many of them stayed at a hobo camp between Wake Forest and the train tracks, though others found temporary homes through the kindness of residents. A few even stayed, such as Albert Crill, a carpenter who built the original two-room house, since expanded, where Jones still lives.

The community claims a few early examples of integration, even during the Jim Crow era. The coal company owned by Esther's husband, Howard Jones—first the Fear Jones Eaves Coal Co. and later the Jones Coal Co.—employed about 20 black and white workers, some of whom commuted to work via canoe. The community churches served mixed congregations as well.

Wake Forest remains a small community today, but its descendants have spread across the U.S., living in Arkansas, California, Iowa, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Texas, and Washington, D.C.

The archaeological identification of the Kentland slave cemetery sparked renewed interest in exploring ancestral roots. Jones' daughter, Jean Eaves, began an extensive

exploration of her family's genealogy and that of other Wake Forest families: the Eaves, the Bannisters, the Shermans, the Joneses, the Jacksons, the Pages, and others. The fruits of that research now reside in a community museum in the Wake Forest Holiness Church.

Both the museum and the cemetery have become destinations during periodic family reunions, when descendants of those first families, some of whom have never visited Wake Forest, explore their family histories and the legacy of slavery at Kentland Farm.

"I was intrigued by [the cemetery]," said Howard Eaves, Jones' son-in-law. "We had moved from here in 1959, when I was still in high school. It opened up the history for me. I started seeing things fall into place."

Jones' granddaughter, Tracie Edmond (accounting '86), sees the cemetery as an important and intriguing part of her family history. "I'm amazed at our history, to see how our family came together and how far back we actually went," Edmond said.

The genealogical exploration has tightened the bonds between Edmond and her family, especially her grandmother. She credits Jones, who shared a friendship with university President Emeritus T. Marshall Hahn Jr., for getting her into Virginia Tech. Edmond recently recognized another link, drawing a line from her grandmother's job bookkeeping for the Jones Coal Company with her own career as an accountant.

For Cook, the ties between the people buried in the slave cemetery and the living Wake Forest community are crucial to understanding the world in which we live. In April 2005 **10**, the community dedicated a monument that sits below the cemetery and bears an inscription written by Jones.

"As Arnold delivered his final passage, this hole in the clouds opened up and a ray of sun hit the monument," Cook said. "Everybody just gasped."

"The sky just opened up" for the sun, Jones said. "I'd never seen in all my life something happen that quick." □

A look back:

For in-depth insight on the university's humble beginnings, visit "History and Historical Data of Virginia Tech," an online compendium of all things Virginia Tech, at www.unirel.vt.edu/history/index.html.

10

Members of the Wake Forest community gather during a 2005 monument dedication at Kentland.

The columbarium

In addition to the Kentland and Preston cemeteries, Virginia Tech is home to a third interment site: a columbarium that rests on a grassy knoll in view of the Duck Pond.

The Hokie Stone structure houses niches for individual or couple interments. Each niche is covered with a maroon granite face, on which names are engraved and filled with gold lettering.

HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHS WERE PROVIDED BY: 1) HISTORIC SMITHFIELD PLANTATION; 2) LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS DIVISION, [LC-USZ62-110164]; 3) "THE KILLING OF ADAM CAPERTON," A 1918 BOOK BY WILLIAM GORDON; 4) FAMILY FILES OF PAIGE PRESTON, COURTESY OF PEGGY PRESTON FANNY; 5) PRESTON DESCENDANT BRAXTON GUTIERREZ; 6) NORFOLK SOUTHERN CORP.; 7) HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION, SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES, VIRGINIA TECH; AND 10) THE AFOREMENTIONED TECH COLLECTION, VIA TRACY ROBERTS FRIST.



You're Hired!

The networking power of the Hokie Nation

by MASON ADAMS

illustrations by BRAD SOUCY

Unexpectedly bumping into another Hokie is one of the many joys that comes with a connection to Virginia Tech.

The encounter may start with something subtle, such as a slight Southern accent, or something obvious, such as orange and maroon from head to toe. Talk then shifts to campus building projects, a favorite professor, or a certain football team. Soon, former strangers have become fast friends, building a personal bond based on mutual trust and shared experiences.

Beyond the chance encounters, thousands of Virginia Tech alumni, students, faculty, and staff partner in a variety of Hokie networks that provide jobs to new graduates, a steady stream of talent to businesses, and an ongoing dedication to living the university motto of *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve). Stretching across the university's colleges, campuses, and alumni chapters, these networks give students an opportunity to develop new skills and learn by doing while offering alumni access to talented graduates and a way to help their alma mater.



Coming home

Every year, the largest companies of the accounting world partner with the Pamplin College of Business to recruit Virginia Tech graduates. And without fail, it is the recent graduates who have been hired by what's now known as the "Big Four"—PricewaterhouseCoopers, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, Ernst & Young, and KPMG—who return to campus to recruit the next crop of talent.

It's been that way for decades. Back in the '80s, the then—"Big Eight" of accounting firms did the same thing. That's how Todd Headley (accounting '85) was hired by the Arthur Andersen firm. Over four years as an employee there, Headley gained professional training and experience working

with 70 companies and learning all aspects of accounting, customer service, marketing, and more.

That immersive education left Headley perfectly poised for a leap into the rapidly growing tech start-up world of the early '90s.

"Over my career, I had worked in sales operations, financial operations, logistics, information technology, human relations, investor relations—a whole bunch of different things," Headley said. "What a start-up does is give you an opportunity to work outside the box. If you show an aptitude for it, guess what: You get more work. For me, it was a thrill."

From 1992 to 2003, Headley held key positions with four start-up companies that ultimately all sold to larger firms. He then joined Sourcefire, a network security firm with 30 employees and \$2 million in annual revenue. During Headley's tenure as its chief financial officer, the firm grew to 700 employees and nearly \$300 million in annual revenue before it was sold to Cisco for \$2.7 billion.

Over the years, Headley had remained connected to Virginia Tech, first as an alumni recruiter for Arthur Andersen and later as a football fan. When he retired from full-time work in 2014, Headley, motivated by nostalgia and a desire to give

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When I go into a conversation, even if it's someone I don't know, and I say that I'm a Hokie, it not only breaks down barriers, but there's a level of trust that's pre-established, a cultural fabric related to values."

—Mehul Sanghani '98

back, re-engaged with the university. He was quickly energized by what he saw at the Pamplin College of Business.

John Kinzer (accounting '90), chief financial officer of HubSpot, a company that makes software for Web marketing and sales, had a similar experience. Despite attending occasional networking events in Washington, D.C., and Boston, Kinzer felt disconnected from Tech. That changed when Robert Sumichrast was appointed Pamplin dean in 2013. Kinzer bought into Sumichrast's vision for the business college, and all the more so after he shared a supper with the dean and Derick Maggard (M.S. industrial and systems engineering '13), executive

director of Pamplin's Apex Systems Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

In spring 2015, Maggard and eight students visited HubSpot, where Kinzer arranged an office tour and discussions with people from different sectors in the company.

"I know I got a lot out of [the visit], and it gave me some energy," said Kinzer, who now advises the Apex center and mentors students. "It got me thinking about an intern program and bringing Tech grads up to HubSpot. There are a lot of commonalities and connections."

During the past academic year, the Pamplin college organized nearly 300 presentations by alumni and business leaders for classes and student groups. Student projects focus on real issues in companies and organizations. And 85 percent of students completed an internship last year, Sumichrast said.

"At Pamplin, our goal is to ensure that students get the best business education anywhere," Sumichrast said. "We take a broad view of what constitutes education. Formal education organized by courses and programs is an important part—but only a part. Pamplin education includes experiences beyond the classroom."



JIM STROUP



JIM STROUP

The Virginia Tech Investors Network didn't take long to make a splash.

In its first **6 months** alone, from February to August, the network counted **94 alumni members**, heard from **57 companies** that wished to pitch ideas, fielded pitches from **10 companies**, and invested **\$2.38 million** in **5 companies**.



JIM STROUP

Pitching in: LifeFuels CEO **Jonathon Perrelli** '95 (above left) partnered with other alumni to form the core of the Virginia Tech Investors Network; he's pitched the network and also invested in it.

Northrop Grumman's **Sandy Forney** '86 (left) serves on the Virginia Tech Science and Engineering Regional Growth Enterprise (VT-SERGE) board, networking with other high-ranking alumni, engaging with students, and sharing job opportunities with new graduates.

When ThreatQuotient founder **Wayne Chiang** '06, '09 (above) sought \$1.5 million in funding, the Virginia Tech Investors Network pitched in more than two-thirds.

Votes of confidence

Headley, Kinzer, and other alumni who have experienced start-up success—such as LifeFuels CEO Jonathon Perrelli (finance '95)—formed the core of what became the Virginia Tech Investors Network (VTIN), a group of nearly 100 accredited investors who, six times a year, hear pitches from Hokie-led companies. Since its inception in February, the network has invested \$2.38 million in five Hokie-led companies—FitNet, ThreatQuotient, Card Isle, Riff, and LifeFuels. Even if the network decides not to invest in a particular idea, its members often become mentors, offering advice that can be just as valuable as dollars.

One of VTIN's early investments was in Wayne Chiang (computer science '06, M.S. information technology '09), founder of ThreatQuotient, a software engineering and cybersecurity firm that counts Fortune 500 companies among its clients. When Chiang sought \$1.5 million in Series A financing, a term used for new companies in their first round of fundraising, VTIN offered \$800,000. By early August, another investor associated with VTIN chipped in, raising the network's total investment to more than \$1 million.

"There are so many individuals and talents involved here," Chiang said. "That's really the draw of angel investors. You're not just taking capital from a faceless entity. They have a vested interest in seeing you do well. They invest a lot of time and their insights into the company."

VTIN benefits all parties. Students learn from successful alumni, alumni with new start-up companies garner support and advice, and alumni investors get in on the ground floor of businesses launched by graduates of Virginia Tech—making the network a hub for talent, invention, and innovation.

Hokies on the Hill

Internships and mentoring serve to mold and shape the talents of students. However, as an undergraduate, Chris Yianilos (political science, history '94) had difficulty securing an internship on Capitol Hill. His freshman year, he fired off applications to every Virginia congressman and senator to no avail. The next year, Yianilos found an opening with a congressman from northern California, which later led to an internship with U.S. Sen. John Warner, of Virginia. After more than a decade in Warner's office as deputy chief of staff, legislative director, and legislative counsel, in addition to stints with U.S. Rep. Robert Wittman (biological sciences '81), of Virginia, and U.S. District Judge David Faber, Yianilos caught the attention of then-Virginia Tech President Charles W. Steger, who tasked him with creating Hokies on the Hill.

This program assigns students to internships in offices across Capitol Hill, whether with a congressman, a policy association, a committee, or a lobbying firm. Each Friday, the students gather for a classroom discussion that often features guest speakers.

5 ways to find Hokies online**1. Hokies4Hire:** www.myinterfase.com/vt/Account/LogOn

Designed with students in mind, users can search job listings, share a résumé with employers seeking Hokies, find employer contacts, and more. Can't login? Email career.services@vt.edu. And, if you're a Hokie employer, share your job listings with Hokies.

2. LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com

Click on "Connections" in the toolbar and "Find Alumni." Join the official VT LinkedIn Alumni Group to view job listings that alumni share, and start a discussion in the group if you are seeking a job or have an opening to fill.

3. CareerShift: www.career.vt.edu/CareerShift/Index.html

Target specific job titles, employers, or locations. Find a Hokie at a particular employer by searching "Contacts."

4.**Alumni chapters:** www.alumni.vt.edu/chapters

Locate a chapter near you. In addition to game-watching parties, socials, and philanthropic projects, some chapters hold their own career fairs for local employers, alumni, and students.

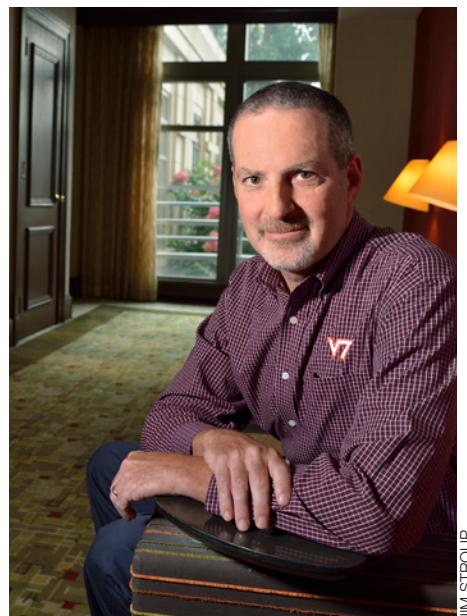
5.**Hokie Nation Network:** www.alumni.vt.edu/hnn

Designed for alumni, the site allows users to access job listings that alumni share, find a contact in the alumni directory, and tap into more career and networking resources.

Alumni seeking career assistance may contact the Alumni Association's Nancy Brittle, director of the alumni career resources program, at nbrittle@vt.edu or 540-231-8901.



JIM STRROUP



JIM STRROUP



LOGAN WALLACE

Giving back: **Mehul Sanghani** '98 (above, left) employs nearly 40 Hokies at his company, Octo Consulting Group, including **Robert "Bob" McCord** '84, '86 (above, with Sanghani), the president and chief operating officer.

Todd Headley '85 (directly above) was recruited by accounting firms as a student at Tech and later dove into the world of technology start-ups. Now, he's mentoring and investing in the next generation of Hokie entrepreneurs.

Meghan Oakes '15 (left) capitalized on her experience in the Hokies on the Hill internship program to land a job on a U.S. representative's staff.

Bring It Home

Around the commonwealth, the nation, and the world, Hokies are launching new ventures and leading well-established companies. And in some cases, they're electing to start those businesses in—or relocate them to—the New River Valley.

Why? The region is richly endowed with the services, facilities, and amenities that contribute to business success.

Read more at www.BringItHomeNRV.org.

Also, check out Virginia Tech Magazine's six-story series on tech-sector growth at www.vtmag.vt.edu, highlighting the area's rich entrepreneurial resources.

LOGAN WALLACE



In the know: The advisory board for the Apex Systems Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, which met on campus in September, counts among its members many who are involved in the Virginia Tech Investors Network. For more on the new center's university-wide scope of responsibilities, visit www.apexie.vt.edu.

A level of trust

Virginia Tech's ascent into the ranks of the world's top universities can be attributed to many factors, but the prominence of the College of Engineering stands as a key driver. Companies around the world recognize a Tech engineering degree as a signifier of talent and quality, and many begin networking with students as early as possible.

A key facilitator in that networking is the Student Engineers' Council (SEC), which hosts an annual expo that serves as a career fair to link job-seeking students with companies in search of talent.

SEC President Zachary Mayes, a senior majoring in industrial and systems engineering, has worked with companies and sponsors to set up the expo in years past. That exposure helped him land an internship in Seattle with Boeing, and he spent

the summer traveling to the manufacturing facilities of Boeing's suppliers to ensure their processes and quality control met the company's specifications.

During that time, Mayes made connections with full-time Hokies at Boeing—an informal network that may well prove as crucial as the more formalized version that got him to Seattle in the first place. As he finishes his degree at Virginia Tech, Mayes will ponder his options, which may include the possibility of returning to Boeing.

Boeing is hardly Mayes' only option, however, as evidenced by the broad range of alumni who participate in the Virginia Tech Science and Engineering Regional Growth Enterprise (VT-SERGE), a group of senior executives from major companies in the National Capital Region who advise the university on strategic issues.

both the VT-SERGE board and the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors. A Blacksburg native, Sanghani entered the software field in Silicon Valley before going into the government tech sector. In 2006, after working at a string of companies and meeting Hokies every step along the way, Sanghani started Octo Consulting Group, which serves primarily federal government customers. He employs nearly 300, including nearly 40 Hokies, and said he's on track to bring in more than \$60 million in revenue in 2015. In mid-August, Octo hired Robert "Bob" McCord (mining engineering '84, M.B.A. '86) as president and chief operating officer.

"We had the opportunity to meet the students who were leading start-up entrepreneurial programs," Forney said. "They'd have an interdisciplinary mix—a CEO from the Pamplin College of Business, a lead computer scientist, a lead engineer—and they'd get together and create a company. At VT-SERGE, we'd hear about these companies and meet these students, and I could connect them to our recruiters."

Mehul Sanghani (industrial and systems engineering, psychology '98) serves on

Sanghani's VT-SERGE participation has proven to be a powerful way to network with high-level executives who share a love for Tech.

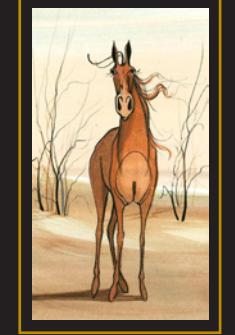
"That has been so helpful," Sanghani said of VT-SERGE. "When I go into a conversation, even if it's someone I don't know, and I say that I'm a Hokie, it not only breaks down barriers, but there's a level of trust that's pre-established, a cultural fabric related to values. *Ut Prosim* is obviously our motto, but it also speaks a lot to the trust and business relationships I've been able to build with other Hokies here in the community. In the federal business community, where it's a highly competitive market, where the top 40 companies do most of the business and then everyone else is at each other's throats trying to get the rest of business, it's crucial to have the Hokie network. You're able to really build that trust and stand on each other's shoulders in an overall cutthroat, hostile environment." □

P Buckley Moss Galleries

Offering the most extensive collection of original watercolors, giclees, etchings and offset lithographs by P. Buckley Moss, America's most celebrated living artist and Virginia Tech's own Outreach Fellow for the Arts.



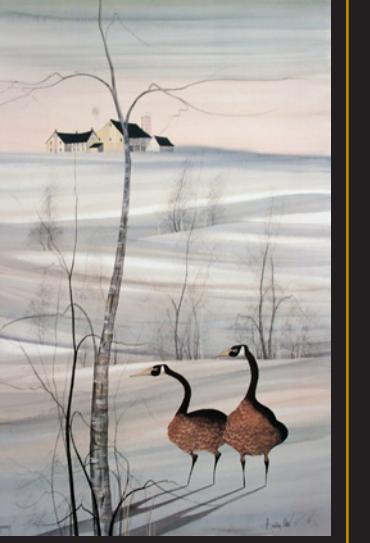
Hokieland \$125



Curious Colt \$50



Flowers of Summer \$55



Winter Harmony \$750

329 West Main Street
Waynesboro, VA 22980
(540) 949-6473

223 Gilbert Street
Blacksburg, VA 24060
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(800) 430-1320 or (804) 725-7378
www.pbuckleymoss.com

The future is **HERE**



For Dana Beegle, education is a family affair.

A mother of five, Dana (forestry '94) sets an example by actively pursuing her dreams.

Whether she is volunteering in her community, holding a workshop for high school students on her farm, or managing one of her family's three businesses, Dana balances her passion for learning with her

responsibilities as a parent and a professional. That passion, and her interest in sustainable agriculture, led her to pursue graduate studies in agroforestry through the College of Natural Resources and Environment.

For Dana, part-time enrollment in graduate school was the only option, until she was awarded the [George E. and Hester B. Aker Fellowship](#). Thanks to her fellowship, Dana

expects to earn her degree in three years, not five, leaving her time to realize even more of her dreams.

To learn more about how philanthropy makes an impact at Virginia Tech, or to make your own gift, visit [givingto.vt.edu](#).

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SAKE HOUSE
SAL'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT
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WIRELESS ZONE - VERIZON
ZOE'S KITCHEN

Trust and Hokie Spirit

Trust is the prism through which alumni bond with their university. I have attempted to provide leadership to alumni programs during the past 40 years to earn the confidence of our alumni. As our Alumni Association evolved, it became the link through which alumni have chosen to engage with the university, ever since the association's formation in 1875. Our brand promise, "Virginia Tech for life," encourages alumni to stay involved and provide support over a lifetime.

When I entered as a freshman exactly 50 years ago, I never would have expected to spend my entire working life serving my alma mater. Now I realize there is no path I would have enjoyed more. My life actually began here when my father attended Virginia Tech as a married WWII veteran. With my Hokie DNA, I have been fortunate to make the university my career and Blacksburg my home. In my time here, my priorities have been focused on building community in the Hokie Nation. I have listened carefully to the needs of alumni, attempting to engage them individually and thoughtfully.

I knew dangerously little about alumni association operations when I was first hired. Managing nearly 50 alumni chapters, along with reunions, records, and merchandising, occupied my early years. We served about 40,000 alumni. Annual giving, for which I later was given oversight, was included among our programs, and I assisted with the university's first major-gifts campaign.

Enrollment began expanding in the mid-1960s, growing our alumni rolls significantly. Tech's 100,000th degree was awarded in 1986. Thousands of alumni supported annual and capital needs. Hundreds served each year as volunteers for alumni chapters, the Hokie Club, the colleges, the Corps of Cadets, and other initiatives. I observed firsthand the powerful commitment of the Hokie Spirit that seemed deeply embedded in every volunteer and donor. This spirit is part of our culture.

Virginia Tech instills a brand of loyalty that is unmatched anywhere. I have witnessed it, encouraged it, and managed it to the best of my ability. I frequently observe how the contagious passion of our alumni—now 244,000 and counting—spreads to children, relatives, neighbors, and friends. The positive spirit that embodies the Hokie Nation through our brightest and darkest days is unique and enviable.

Throughout my career, my priority has been to expand outreach programs—adding more programming for academic college alumni, more multicultural programs, and more themed enrichment programs. I have attempted to shape these opportunities around engagement and inclusion, not using annual dues or annual giving as a requirement to participate. Often challenged by modest budgets, I am grateful to our staff and volunteer leaders for their creativity in leveraging resources to successfully engage more alumni each year. I always enjoy hearing accounts and testimonials from alumni describing the value and lasting impact of their Virginia Tech experience.

I have traveled thousands of miles; enjoyed hot dogs, crab feasts, and chicken dinners; delivered PowerPoint presentations and remarks; shown videos; written columns; answered thousands of letters and emails; trained volunteers; mentored staff and students; and expressed gratitude to alumni for their service and generosity. It has been a privilege to help enrich and extend the Virginia Tech experience for our alumni. Tech consistently ranks highest in surveys measuring alumni pride and engagement—clear evidence that defines our unique culture and brand of loyalty that has spanned our association's 140 years.

Thanks for the memories, and thanks for being a trusting Hokie Nation. We are united as Virginia Tech and proud to be alumni of one of the finest universities in the world.

Tom Tillar '69

Vice President for Alumni Relations

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Annual report	50

contributors

Tom Tillar '69	Vice President for Alumni Relations
Dave Hunt	Communications Director
Shirley Fleet	Class Notes Editor



JIM STRUP

Reflections on 40 years of service to alumni

by TOM TILLAR

In my many years of talking with alumni, some topics have seemed to surface more often than others. As I prepare to step down as vice president for alumni relations, I wanted to reflect on some of those topics.

On growth in enrollment and quality:

My class was the beginning of the baby boomer generation that exploded college enrollments. High-rise residence halls, academic facilities, student parking, dining, and other services grew to accommodate more students. Blacksburg's infrastructure grew with off-campus housing, restaurants, theaters, and entertainment for students. Blacksburg has been ranked alternately as Virginia's largest or second-largest town, in a county that has swelled to about 97,000 residents. As the university attracted diversity among its students, the benefits of increased inclusion have been powerful. Our alumni programs have been shaped and expanded to serve constituencies sharing common interests. Accompanying enrollment growth, Tech has expanded academic, research, and outreach programs. Our rankings compared to peer institutions have soared. The university has moved to No. 38 in research funding, according to the National Science Foundation, in a competitive academic climate. In recent years, record numbers of students have applied and chosen to attend Tech, resulting in increasingly competitive credentials in the student body.

On university leadership:

I have been privileged to serve six of the university's 16 presidents. These leaders have pursued strategic avenues of excellence. The presidency of T. Marshall Hahn Jr. was transformative, raising the bar for his successors. Virginia Tech is an extensive enterprise serving students, communities, and nations, with research and outreach placing the university on a global stage. The university's mission, its emphasis on STEM-H (science, technology, engineering, math, and health) programs, and its multidisciplinary programs have all been strengthened. Presidents Hahn, William E. Lavery, James D. McComas, Paul E. Torgersen, Charles W. Steger, and now Timothy D. Sands have attracted faculty, staff, and administrative talent to lead and innovate, be resourceful, and emphasize programs that put knowledge to work. I have enthusiastically encouraged alumni to support each of these presidents and their initiatives.



COURTESY PHOTO

On the Holtzman Alumni Center and The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center:

The Alumni Association has had three temporary homes on campus since the mid-1920s—War Memorial Gym, Burruss Hall, and Donaldson Brown Center. In 1996, critical discussions began regarding building our first alumni center, and the design and campaign were guided by the theme of "A Home of Our Own." It was a particular thrill to help plan the complex to ensure the inclusion of all the features of a modern-day center. A reception hall, museum, library, board room, staff offices, and outdoor program space adjoin a 147-room hotel and spacious conference center. Alumni Relations collaborates with Outreach and International Affairs to manage the complex. With striking collegiate Gothic architecture and a comfortably decorated interior, the building is often recognized by alumni and other guests as a campus icon. We just celebrated its 10th year serving alumni.

On the Class of 1969:

I am amused by references to several well-known classmates—including Steger, Frank Beamer, Ray Smoot, and Joe Meredith—who have served simultaneously with me in leadership roles at the university. As students, none of us would have predicted that our careers would intersect at our alma mater. However, I feel that we each have contributed a special brand of loyalty through core values instilled in us as undergraduates. We have maintained a mutual respect and trust since then. No institution, to my knowledge, has ever had five alumni serving together in significant levels of leadership at their alma mater, and we are quite proud of that distinction.

On our alumni staff and volunteers:

It has been a true blessing to work with so many talented staff members and volunteers. Some staff are in roles in which they seem to be tethered to a computer maintaining alumni records, entering registrations, managing budgets, and sending communications. Others have planned and hosted events, traveled to alumni chapters and college programs, received visitors, and given tours. Always displaying energy and enthusiasm, volunteers have served chapters, reunions, and other programs. Our association has been fortunate to attract the kind of talent that embraces a culture of warmth and hospitality. The enthusiasm of staff members and volunteers has helped strengthen bonds with Tech, and we simply could not have managed without their dedication to promote the theme of "Virginia Tech for life."

On intercollegiate athletics:

Virginia Tech intercollegiate athletics provide an opportunity to develop young athletes into leaders, while attracting a large fan base. Our athletic teams also attract the attention of many prospective applicants. Thankfully, in the past 22 years, postseason football bowl invitations have become an annual tradition. That distinction, thanks to Coach Beamer, has enhanced all of our intercollegiate programs. Scholarship athletes have excelled academically, with a graduation rate higher than the general student body and among the highest in the nation for athletes. Our alumni and fans have a reputation of impressive attendance at bowls, tournaments, and home games. More televised games, inclusion in the Atlantic Coast Conference, the civility of our fans, and financial support for athletic facilities all underscore our pride in our athletes and athletic teams.

On the April 16 tragedy:

The entire world followed and mourned the tragedy eight years ago. Sadly, too many similar tragedies at other locations have followed. What emerged from that darkest day was a recognition of the power of community to console and help the healing process. Thousands of alumni visited, called, and emailed, demonstrating support and compassion. Nearly 90,000 items of memorabilia arrived as expressions of caring, as well as more than \$10 million in unsolicited memorial gifts. The Hokie Nation suddenly grew exponentially to include all those who embraced us around the globe. I was honored to chair a committee tasked with building a permanent memorial. With 32 stones as its focal point, the memorial was completed quickly and dedicated as the fall 2007 semester opened. The memorial serves today as a symbol both of healing and of honoring the victims. April 16 provided a powerful glimpse into the unique qualities of the extended family of supportive Virginia Tech alumni and friends.



COURTESY PHOTO



LOGAN WALLACE



COURTESY PHOTO



JIM STRROUP

alumni association



JOHN MCCORMICK

On a bright future for Virginia Tech:

The institution I experienced as a freshman was one that allowed its students to explore academic programs, form friendships, be mentored, hone leadership skills, and enjoy one of the most beautiful campuses in the country. Perhaps it is because I valued all of this so much that I chose to spend my career as a university administrator. My great joy has been to promote and advance Virginia Tech the past 40 years, encouraging alumni involvement, advice, advocacy, volunteerism, and philanthropy.

Virginia Tech is poised for greater national and international prominence. Employers frequently recognize and compliment the strong work ethic of Tech graduates. There is a healthy spirit of collaboration among colleges and research units that leads to interdisciplinary research and academic programs. A number of institutes have emerged to focus on cutting-edge research. President Sands' leadership is guiding the expansion of internship and mentoring opportunities. A new university advancement program, led by my long-time colleague and friend Charles Phlegar, will strengthen private resources through the expanded engagement of alumni and friends. An increased emphasis on entrepreneurship will further brand the university as a hub of creativity, research, and business innovation. Eventually, there will be increased opportunities for student and faculty interaction through residential colleges that uniquely integrate living, dining, and learning. I look forward to my role in the Pamplin College of Business, working with Dean Robert Sumichrist to develop a new residential college, the Business Learning Community.

Our alumni possess a sense of ownership and pride that strengthens their bonds and networks. All that has transpired over the past 50 years encourages me that Virginia Tech will achieve greater heights in its service to society in the next 50 years and beyond. I look forward to being part of that evolution, and I know that I'll be joined by fellow alumni in celebrating each new discovery, victory, and contribution.

LOGAN WALLACE



COURTESY PHOTO

Tom Tillar '69 with members of the Class of 1969 (above, top), with University Distinguished Professor Nikki Giovanni, and on a service trip in the Dominican Republic.

2016 travel tours

Learn about more exciting tours at www.alumni.vt.edu/travel.



Tahiti

 www.alumni.vt.edu/travel

Dates and prices are subject to change. Pricing is based per person on double occupancy without air, except as noted. Airfare is based from select North American gateway cities. The Alumni Association encourages all alumni to consider purchasing travel insurance.

alumni association

January

Jewels of Central America | Jan. 22-31
Island Paradise Eastern Caribbean | Jan. 23-Feb. 2

February

Tasman Treasures | Feb. 21-March 9

March

Atolls and Islands | March 25-April 4
Ecuador – Quito and Cuenca | March 30-Feb. 2

April

Croatia's Adriatic Coast | April 18-29
Waterways of Holland, Belgium | April 23-May 1
Stepping Stones of Western Europe | April 23-May 1

May

Portraits of the Past | May 9-20
Italy – Sorrento | May 11-19
Essence of the Atlantic | May 14-28
Spain – Barcelona and San Sebastian | May 15-24
Mediterranean Spring Serenade | May 20-June 2
In the Wake of the Vikings | May 24-June 1
London Immersion | May 29-June 9
Celtic Lands | May 31-June 9

June

Southern Culture and Civil War (TSP) | June 4-13
Regal Routes of Northern Europe | June 13-24
Mediterranean Crossroads | June 25-July 3

July

Baltic and Scandinavian Treasures | July 12-23
Town and Country Life – England | July 22-30
Alaska Passages | July 25-Aug. 4

August

The Magnificent Great Lakes | Aug. 22-31
The Art of Living: Provence | Aug. 26-Sept. 17

September

Great Pacific Northwest (TSP) | Sept. 17-25

October

Grecian Delight | Oct. 1-9
Symphony on the Blue Danube | Oct. 2-11
Captivating Mediterranean | Oct. 8-16
European Empires and Artistry | Oct. 14-22
Country & Blues | Oct. 23-31

November

Cuban Discovery | November/early December
Adriatic Gems | Nov. 1-9

December

Holiday Markets | Dec. 6-17

2014-15 annual activities report

17 
faculty members received Alumni Association awards and stipends for excellence

50 alumni chapters conducted 128 community service projects



153 
alumni chapter scholarships awarded to freshmen

170 
alumni and students visited with Virginia legislators at the annual Hokie Day

276 class reunions, college homecomings, constituency events, and Drillfield Series events



7,300 students attended events—graduation fairs, speaker series, information sessions, the Grad Bash, and social events—at the Holtzman Alumni Center

18 
special events hosted for “100 Days ’til Graduation”

514 
alumni attended networking events in various cities



203 alumni travelers participated in global and domestic tours



100 Student Alumni Associates helped with association events

893 chapter and club events held to engage alumni

6,979 alumni attended class reunions, college homecomings, and corps, multicultural, and Drillfield events on campus

30,886 alumni and friends participated in Alumni Association programs

Join us in 2016

Drillfield Series

- March 18-20: Civil War Weekend
- April 8-10: Behind the Scenes at Virginia Tech
- June 10-12: One World. One Health. One Medicine: Collaborative Care and Research at Virginia Tech
- July 8-9: Alumni and Legacy Weekend: A Day in the Life of College Admissions

Special Events

- May 18-20: Old Guard Reunion
- June 13: 4th Annual Hokie Classic Golf Tournament
- June 25: 3rd Annual Summer Beer Festival at Virginia Tech

Class

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 Hindsight **61**
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alumnus profile



The Anchor

DAVE GROGAN/CNN

Business journalist Brian Sullivan '93 has developed a knack for spotting trends, such as the housing bubble.

by MASON ADAMS

In fall 2012, the televisions at the Virginia Tech Foundation just happened to be turned to MSNBC's "Morning Joe" when Brian Sullivan, wearing a Tech hat, appeared on screen and predicted a Hokie win in the next day's football game.

Sullivan (political science '93) appears on the cable news show from time to time, and also hosts CNBC's "Power Lunch," which airs on weekday afternoons. His appearance that morning sparked a quick email from Virginia Tech Foundation CEO John Dooley.

Sullivan responded within five minutes and soon agreed to return to Blacksburg to speak to the foundation and to a pair of student investment groups. Since reconnecting, he also has joined the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Sullivan is revered as a voice in the business world. In a 2007 Bloomberg Business special titled "Subprime Shockwaves," he outlined the looming housing bubble just before a global recession. That special

was nominated for a Loeb Award, as was Sullivan's 2013 CNBC documentary "America's Gun: The Rise of the AR-15."

His success wasn't always so assured, however. Like many freshmen, Sullivan came to Virginia Tech lacking a clear direction. But the personable young man did possess a sharp mind and a relentless work ethic.

The spring of his sophomore year, Sullivan and a Zeta Psi fraternity brother, Jeff vonSeldeneck (hospitality and travel management '94), started a two-man lawnmowing company.

"We had a pretty aggressive flier campaign where we stuck fliers in teachers' mailboxes on campus, and we started getting tons of phone calls really quickly," vonSeldeneck said. "Brian was an excellent sales guy. As we got phone calls, we'd set up appointments and go out and talk to [customers]. Brian was always good at asking questions and getting people to talk. It was a simple lawn business. You see what he's become: He interviews top executives. The early days were the same. He was always about learning and asking questions."

After graduation, Sullivan first talked his way into a job working for a Japanese bank and later into a temporary job at Bloomberg Business. His boss at Bloomberg gave him a stack of work and four days to complete it.

"I went back to him at the end of the first day and said, 'I'm finished,'" Sullivan said. "He said, 'You're stupid. Now I don't need you.' I told him that's how I work. He thought for a minute and said, 'Come back tomorrow, and I'll find you something to do.'"

The interaction led to a 12-year stint working for Bloomberg, which in turn launched Sullivan's news career. After "Subprime Shockwaves," his profile skyrocketed.

"Unfortunately, the past 15 years have given us plenty to talk about in financial media," Sullivan said. "I get to see the world from a 30,000-foot view. I tend to aggregate information, and I've been pretty good and correct on some of these macro-trends. Once a year, I make predictions, and I've been pretty spot-on."

In his down time, Sullivan races in the Spec Racer Ford class of the Sports Car Club of America, where he's won two divisional championships. His cars—both for races and for his New Jersey commutes, which occasionally stretch into New York City—sport Virginia Tech stickers.

—continued on page 54

Alumni, we want to hear what you've been doing. Mail career, wedding, birth, and death news to Class Notes, Virginia Tech Alumni Association, Holtzman Alumni Center (0102), 901 Prices Fork Rd., Blacksburg, VA 24061; email the news to fleets@vt.edu; or submit the news online at www.vtmag.vt.edu/submit-classnote.php, where photos may also be uploaded for consideration.

Alumni mailing addresses may be viewed online at www.alumni.vt.edu/ directory by logging in with your Virginia Tech PID and password. For assistance, call 540-231-6285.

- career accomplishments
- weddings
- births and adoptions
- deceased

John G. Brooks (CHE '49, CHE '49), Midlothian, Va., 6/15/15.

Chapman L. Harrison (AGEC '48), New Kent, Va., 5/10/15.

Harry W. Holland (CHE '48), Greenville, S.C., 5/23/15.

'48 C.F. "Clarence" Clevenger (BAD '50), Narrows, Va., 5/9/15.

Harvey G. Gillespie Jr. (ME), Pearisburg, Va., 4/15/15.

Robert A. Painter (CE), Richmond, Va., 4/8/15.

Frank S. Whyman (CHE '49), Fair Haven, N.J., 4/19/15.

Mary Ellen Smith Williams (GSC), Williamsburg, Va., 7/1/14.

'49 John Bushkar (BAD), Saint Petersburg, Fla., 4/22/15.

George W. Gray Sr. (CERE), Richmond, Va., 6/21/15.

William R. Hubble (BAD), Meadowview, Va., 6/15/15.

Robert F. Kello (AGR '48), Mt. Pleasant, S.C., 4/10/15.

Thomas R. Macon (EE), Wallkill, N.Y., 4/4/15.

'50 George M. Davis Jr. (AGED), Franklin, Va., 5/25/15.

John "Jack" L. Furgurson (CE), Seymour, Tenn., 5/22/15.

J. Elam Holland (BAD), Charlottesville, Va., 4/7/15.

Milnor P. Jones (IE), Bryn Mawr, Pa., 6/7/15.

Allan B. Miller (CE), Sarasota, Fla., 4/30/15.

E. Brooks Parker Jr. (METE), Houston, Texas, 12/30/14.

Raymond "Rocky" C. Rhodes (STAT '51, CHE '51), Roanoke, Va., 5/22/15.

John M. Robertson Jr. (EE), Virginia Beach, Va., 5/3/15.

Erwin P. Roeser (ME), Virginia Beach, Va., 3/29/15.

Willson "Bootie" Roper Jr. (BAD), Colonial Heights, Va., 6/14/15.

Thomas W. Sullivan (ARCH), Gaithersburg, Md., 4/13/15.

Vincent J. Vitagliano (EM), Boca Raton, Fla., 4/30/15.



Brian Sullivan '93 hosts CNBC's "Power Lunch."

"The cool thing about Tech is it's a big school, but it feels like a town, like a community," Sullivan said.

That feeling extends outside the U.S., too. In 2009, Sullivan visited Dubai, the ultramodern United Arab Emirates city, to report on

'51 **John C. Baker** (RS), Surry, Va., 5/13/15.
Ryland F. Beale Jr. (ANSC), Courtland, Va., 6/12/15.
William N. Colonna (BAD '52), Accomac, Va., 5/3/15.
Samuel C. Harris Jr. (EE), Waynesboro, Va., 6/13/15.
G.H. "Garland" Ladd (ME), Winston-Salem, N.C., 5/25/15.

Book Notes: Drawing from the feedback we've received in readership surveys, we have discontinued the page dedicated to alumni and faculty books. Instead, alumni books will appear as career accomplishments in Class Notes, and faculty books will appear in Around the Drillfield. Alumni are welcome to send information on published books to fleets@vt.edu.

'52 **James "Eddie" Eller** (EE), Virginia Beach, Va., 4/19/15.
Peter W. Finkel (DASC, DASC '53), Perham, Maine, 3/30/15.

'53 **Jack W. Blalock** (ME), Pfafftown, N.C., 4/19/15.
Delbert A. Davis (GSC), Kernersville, N.C., 10/2/14.
P.C. "Phil" Emmons (IE '56), Huntington, W.Va., 5/11/15.
William M. Powell (AGR), Athens, Ga., 4/5/15.

'54 **Herbert R. Garland Jr.** (IE '57), Blowing Rock, N.C., 4/27/15.
Michael K. Ryan (IE), Reno, Nev., 9/15/14.

Edward D. Lett (FW), Newport News, Va., 3/22/15.
James R. Price (FW), Newport, Va., 5/21/15.

William B. Samford (BAD), Lawrenceville, Va., 4/18/15.
W.M. "Whit" Whitson (CE), Virginia Beach, Va., 6/1/15.

'55 **John D. Hawks III** (EE), Lynchburg, Va., 5/25/15.

Chin H. Lu (CHE, CHE '62), Fremont, Calif., 4/20/15.
John "Denny" W. Merchant (ME), Lynchburg, Va., 6/14/15.

Charlie T. Moon (IE '56), Broad Run, Va., 1/31/15.

Robert M. Patrick (BAD '56), Sunset Beach, N.C., 12/9/14.

Millard H. Robbins Jr. (GSC '56, ESEN '65), Roanoke, Va., 7/4/15.

David W. Thomas (BAD), Baton Rouge, La., 5/11/15.

Charles S. Tulloss (GAG '62), Falmouth, Va., 3/27/15.

P. Edmond Virgili (CE), Norfolk, Va., 5/5/15.

'56 **Romie W. Hancock Jr.** (GAG), Charlottesville, Va., 4/13/15.

Sam B. Howard (ME), Atlanta, Ga., 5/26/15.

Ray H. Rule (EE), Glen Allen, Va., 5/24/15.

the financial crisis. He landed on a Sunday, checked into his hotel room, and started researching sources.

One of Sullivan's first phone calls was to UBS, a financial services firm, and he noticed that the man on the other end of the line had a bit of a Southern accent. The two arranged to meet in the Dubai International Financial Centre later that evening. When Sullivan stepped off the elevator and into the man's office, he quickly spotted a photo of the Virginia Tech football team on the wall. As it turns out, Saud Masud (electrical engineering '99, M.B.A. '01) was a fellow Hokie. The two shared their experiences before getting down to business.

Sullivan said he wants to help Virginia Tech grow, in terms of influence and size, but in a way that preserves the sense of community that connects Hokies out in the world—even on a Sunday night in Dubai. □

'57 **Clyde E. Burton** (BAD '61), Hanover, Md., 5/11/15.
Lloyd "Pete" F. Holloran (BAD), Lynchburg, Va., 4/7/15.

Paul T. Jones Jr. (METE '57), LaGrange Park, Ill., 5/1/15.

Melvin E. Sands (EE '59), Atkinson, N.H., 4/28/15.

'58 **Richard W. Faison** (EM, CHE), Suffolk, Va., 12/15/14.

Charles J. Goodman (ME '59), Greensboro, N.C., 4/7/15.

J. Wallace Johnson (CE '59), Callao, Va., 5/10/15.

Greene A. Jones (CE), Ocean City, N.J., 6/3/15.

Sam G. McCall Jr. (BAD), Greensboro, N.C., 6/27/15.

George S. Parrott (AGED '59), Henrico, Va., 5/16/15.

Milton M. Phillips (BAD), Chesapeake, Va., 5/5/15.

Dwight R. Powell (CE), Reading, Pa., 5/10/15.



COURTESY PHOTO

Decades later, Feldenheimer's son, Roger, discovered the original acetate discs used to record the orchestra's performance that had been broadcast live by an AM radio station. An intensive, two-year process has produced a superior digital experience.

- 1) The radio station had a live feed to microphones on stage. The feed, via telephone line, was broadcast over the air and concurrently recorded at the radio station.
- 2) The recording was made directly to 13-inch acetate discs.
- 3) The discs were professionally cleaned to remove the white, dusty scum—emitted by the acetate—that affects sound quality.
- 4) An archivist affiliated with the Library of Congress located playback equipment with the correct stylus size for the discs' grooves.
- 5) Upon transferring the data to the Audio Interchange File Format, universally recognized as AIFF, an audio engineer equalized the data to remove extreme volume distortions and analog noise.

The orchestra's hour-long broadcast performance is online as a compressed MP3 at www.vtmag.vt.edu.

**Surviving orchestra members include vocalist Charlie Dobson (Class of 1949, did not graduate), who currently lives in Brooklyn, New York, and saxophonist Ted Kirby (mechanical engineering '49), who lives in Richmond, Virginia.*

New '40s sound

When drummer Mel Feldenheimer (general business '44) returned to Virginia Tech after his decorated service in World War II, he reassembled the highly popular Southern Colonels dance band, ultimately touring the South in 1946-47 as Mel Felton and the Southern Colonels.*

John B. Riddle (BAD '57), South Boston, Va., 5/24/15.

Marshall G. Sawyer Jr. (CE), Harrisburg, Ky., 5/13/15.

'59 **F. Eugene "Geno" Jones Jr.** (GBUS '61), Richmond, Va., 5/1/15.

Mary McGahey Pase (STAT '58), Jupiter, Fla., 4/28/15.

Gene C. Weedon (CHEM '60), Richmond, Va., 4/11/15.

'60 **William L. Atkinson** (EE), Indian Head, Md., 4/21/15.

Otho E. Craft Jr. (CE), Wise, Va., 4/13/15.

William M. Eckroade (GEOL '62, GEOL '62), Cascais, Portugal, 6/8/15.

Joseph H. Harrell (EE '61), The Villages, Fla., 9/13/14.

H.R. Heddy (BIOL), Williamsburg, Va., 6/13/15.

Robert D. Mitchell (ME, ME '67), Elon, N.C., 4/16/15.

Carey L. Quarles (POUL), Fort Collins, Colo., 1/25/15.

Edward D. Smith (BAD), Indian Land, S.C., 5/31/15.

John J. Rinehart (EE, EE '67)

and Joette B. Greene, Roanoke, Va., 4/19/15.

'61 **Irvin B. Boaz** (ARE, CE '62), Spring, Texas, 5/23/15.

Warren J. Pegram (CHE), Al-

mance, N.C., 6/26/15.

Roy D. Powers Jr. (GSC '67), Duffield, Va., 3/29/15.

Donald L. Rucker (EE), Poway, Calif., 5/5/15.

'62 **K. Terry Alfriend** (EM, EM '67), Pebble Beach, Calif., was named an honorary Fellow by the Academy of Engineering Excellence.

Frank Silva (ME), Suffolk, Va., 5/10/15.

Kitty P. Smith (ANSC, ANSC '71), Delaplane, Va., 4/23/15.

Lewis R. Thompson (AGED), Floyd, Va., 5/8/15.

'65 **Thomas D. Rust** (CE), Herndon, Va., received the Virginia Tech College of Engineering's Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Harold "Hal" W. Schneikert Jr. (IE), Wilmington, Del., received Virginia Tech's Alumni Distinguished Service Award.

Charles E. Cook Jr. (BAD), Mount Airy, N.C., 5/26/15.

Arthur A. Hough (EE '66), Mechanicsville, Va., 4/14/15.

Jack H. James Jr. (CE), Huntsville, Ala., 5/17/15.

Peter D. Pettit (CE '67), Pittsville, Va., 9/21/14.

'66 **William K. Wells Jr.** (ME), Bluffton, S.C., was inducted into Virginia Tech's Academy of Engineering Excellence.

Virginia Manning Dillard (ENGL '67), Charlotte, N.C., 4/20/15.

'67 **Joseph R. Boggess** (CS, MATH), Radford, Va., 5/17/15.

Roger C. Gatewood (PSCI), Austin, Texas, 6/16/15.

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by Cutter & Buck



Men's V-neck Sweater Vest
by Cutter & Buck



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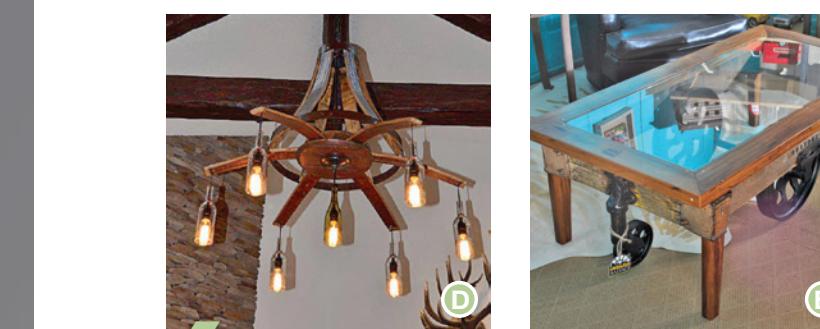
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COURTESY PHOTOS

6 ways to beautify your home with salvaged materials

Robert Kulp (building construction '85) co-owns Black Dog Salvage, an architectural salvage business and retail warehouse based in Roanoke. With a keen eye for the value of reclaimed building parts, Kulp co-hosts Salvage Dawgs, a

- (A) Porch railing → swinging daybed
- (B) Wrought iron and wood → console table
- (C) Vintage bubbler → bathroom sink
- (D) Wine staves → light fixture
- (E) Industrial factory cart → coffee table
- (F) Ceiling tin → headboard

documentary-style series that airs nationally on the DIY and Great American Country networks. For additional salvaging tips and photos from Kulp, visit www.vtmag.vt.edu.

Wm. "Klink" F. Klinksiek (ME '66, ME '67, ME '72), Winchester, Va., 10/18/14.

Neil "Skip" V. Raymond (SOC), Beavercreek, Ohio, 3/23/15.

'68 Vinod Chachra (IEOR, IEOR '72), Blacksburg, Va., was inducted into Virginia Tech's Academy of Engineering Excellence in 2015.

J. Jefferies "John" Miles (ECON, BAD), Alexandria, Va., was recognized among the top attorneys in Washington, D.C., by Super Lawyers, and was named in the 2015 edition of "Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business."

Robert A. DiNubila (ACCT '69), Clayton, N.C., 12/28/14.

Bruce R. McGinnis (BAD, BAD '70), Lewisburg, W.Va., 4/4/15.

Danny R. Huffman (BAD, ENGL '74, EDCI '77), Blacksburg, Va., 4/26/15.

Robert A. Morgan (CE), Las Vegas, Nev., 5/23/15.

James A. Pigninelli (MGT '71), Sandston, Va., 6/7/15.

'71 Nancy Lankford Hargroves (HNF, HNF '73), Manakin-Sabot, Va., is first vice president of National Garden Clubs Inc.

William B. Yancey (GSC '72), Saint Augustine, Fla., authored a book, "Quantum Timeline."

'73 Stephen W. Carey (ASE '74), Ironwood, Mich., 6/16/15.

George M. Clarkson (ANSC), Arlington, Va., 4/2/15.

Phillip L. Correll (HIST), Salem, Va., 6/22/15.

William T. Desmond (PSYC), Richmond, Va., 3/27/15.

Maureen Wilson Murphy (URBA, EDAD '75), Oakton, Va., 7/15/14.

Mark R. Schroeder (HIST), Plano, Texas, 3/11/15.

Richard G. Van Camp (ACCT), Clifton, Va., 4/28/15.

'74 Donald L. Branson (FW), Castlewood, Va., 6/23/15.

John E. Lee III (SOC '75), Roanoke, Va., 4/19/15.

Harris D. McGirt (EDAD '76), Wellington, Fla., 6/5/15.

Andrew S. Ratcliffe Jr. (TA), Newport, Va., 6/21/15.

John H. Tweedy (ECAS), Williamsburg, Va., 6/7/15.

'75 David R. Allen (CE), Bristol, Va., 5/5/15.



Kathleen Bailey '12 and Kendall Bailey '10, Roanoke, Va., 11/22/14.

RON DRESSEL PHOTOGRAPHY

"We were fooled into thinking our beloved HokieBird would appear, only to be pranked with a stuffed one."

—Kendall Bailey

—Valerie Rogers



Kevin Rogers '05 and Valerie Rogers '04, Lynchburg, Va., a daughter, Eleanor Meriwether, 5/9/14.

VALERIE G. ROGERS



Monique Blake '05 and George Black '08, Bowie, Md., a daughter, Autumn Rose, 11/4/14.

ANNE ELAINE IMAGES - OWNED BY MONIQUE BLAKE

"Although Elly (a fourth-generation Hokie fan) slept soundly through the first half, she enjoyed watching her cousin, offensive lineman Caleb Farris (apparel, housing, and resource management '14), play during the second half."

—Valerie Rogers



CHELSEA ANDERSON PHOTOGRAPHY

"Tucker, our Bernese Mountain Dog, wore a bow tie and leash that matched the bridal party—and he already wears a natural tuxedo. Paired with our two nephews, the trio made the cutest ring bearers."

—Amanda Davis



SEFA PETRAS

"We incorporated the Celtic knot-tying/hand-fasting ceremony into our vows, which was our favorite part of 'tying the knot.'"

—Madeleine Scaggs

Collin Chew '12 and Madeleine Scaggs '12, Sterling, Va., 12/27/14.

Mary G. Burton Johnson (BED), Fredericksburg, Va., 4/7/15.

Ned C. Heller (CE), Towson, Md., 2/28/15.

Sharon Eudy Neufeld (ACCT), McLean, Va., 6/5/15.

'76 ♀ Robert J. Warren (FIW, FIW '79), Athens, Ga., received the Gerald H. Cross Alumni Leadership Award from Virginia Tech's Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation and the College of Natural Resources and Environment's Leadership Institute.

Catherine Domme Donahue (CS), Midlothian, Va., 8/28/14.

'77 ♀ Larry D. Casey (BC), Fort Lauderdale, Fla., is executive vice president and chief strategy and markets officer for Skanska USA Building Inc. Carl H. Johnson (MGT), Roanoke, Va., retired as director of revenue cycle management at Carilion Clinic.

'78 ♀ Donna A. Adams (MHFD), Java, Va., 4/3/15.

Eloise G. Coffey (EDCI), Hernando, Fla., 7/10/15.

John "Slim" K. Pickens III (GEOL), Petersburg, Alaska, 4/11/15.

James E. Shugh Jr. (CHE), Oswego, Ill., 6/14/15.

'78 ♀ David E. Bowles (ESM, ESM '80, EM '90), Suffolk, Va., is director of NASA's Langley Research Center.

Walter "Lee" Daniels (FW, AGRN '81, AGRN '85), Blacksburg, Va., was reappointed as the Thomas B. Hutcheson Jr. Professor at Virginia Tech.

Paul L. Huffman Jr. (MATE), Roanoke, Va., was inducted into Virginia Tech's Academy of Engineering Excellence.

Deborah L. Martin Petrine (MGT), Hardy, Va., was reappointed by Gov. Terry McAuliffe to serve on the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors.

Charles D. Phlegar (MGT '79, EDPE '87), Blacksburg, Va., was named Virginia Tech's first vice president for advancement, overseeing the merger of alumni relations, development, and university relations operations.

'82 ♀ Michael L. Preas (ECON), Conway, S.C., 4/1/15.

Darryl W. Royster (EE, EE '84), Elkridge, Md., 4/14/15.

'83 ♀ Suzanne Beamer Bohnert (COMM), Arlington, Va., authored a book, "Game-Day Youth: Learning Football's Lingo."

W. Dale Greene (FOR), Athens, Ga., is dean of the University of Georgia's Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources.

David L. Calhoun (ACCT), New Canaan, Conn., received Virginia Tech's Alumni Distinguished Service Award.

Bennett K. Hatfield (MINE), Charleston, W.Va., was inducted into Virginia Tech's Academy of Engineering Excellence.

Ruth Harry Lytton (MHFD, HIDM '86), Radford, Va., received Virginia Tech's Alumni Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Academic Advising.

Martha Allgood Walker (EDVT), Ringgold, Va., received Virginia Tech's Alumni Award for Excellence in Extension.

'81 ♀ Kathleen K. Glass (EE), Boulder, Colo., 3/29/15.

Lucien "Lou" C. Johnson Jr. (EDCC), Aiken, S.C., 6/22/15.

Michael L. Oatts (EE, EE '81), Birmingham, Ala., 5/21/15.

'81 ♀ Douglas J. Barylski (CHE), Alexandria, Va., received the Superior Civilian Service Award for his contributions to safety during his military career as a fire-protection engineer.

Robert P. Siegel (ME, ME '82), Rochester, N.Y., won the 2015 Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week blogging competition.

Marcia Jones Thom (LASC), Lynchburg, Va., earned a master's degree and was awarded the Connie Burwell White Excellence in Teaching Award by the Student Government Association of Sweet Briar College.

'82 ♀ James H. Bennett (CE), Williamsburg, Va., is associate vice president and manager of the Dewberry firm in Gainesville, Va.

Alok Das (AOE), Lebanon, Ohio, was inducted into Virginia Tech's Academy of Engineering Excellence.

Mark L. Mortier (ARCH), Santa Fe, N.M., is founder and principal of an architecture firm.

Lori Luxenberg Wagner (CHE, CHE '87), Henrico, Va., was inducted into Virginia Tech's Academy of Engineering Excellence.

'80 Kelly M. Sisson (COMM) and John W. Henson IV, Winchester, Va., 10/11/14.

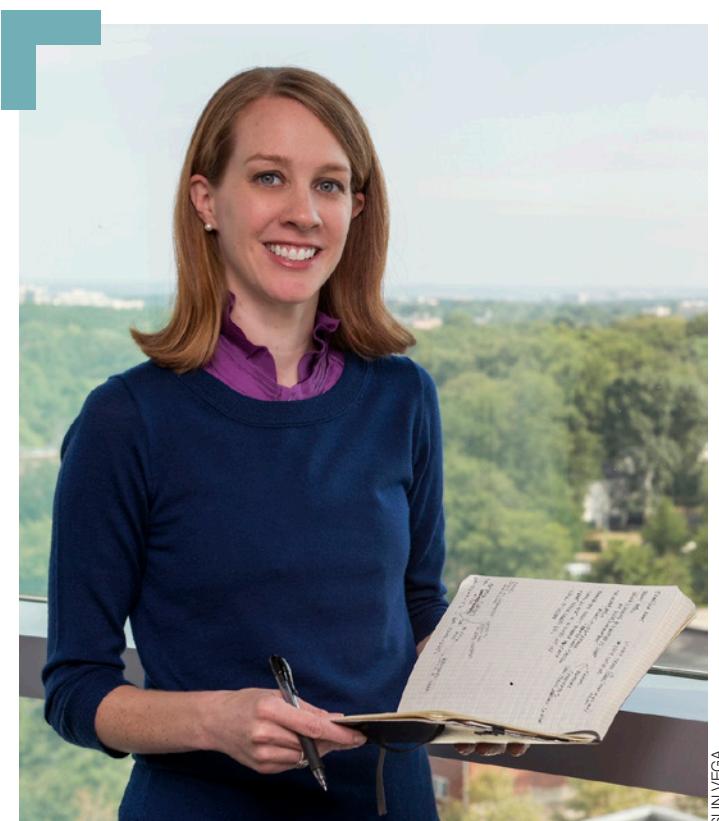
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W. Dale Greene (FOR), Athens, Ga., is dean of the University of Georgia's Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources.

Mary Kathryn Burkley Owens (ENGL), Chesterfield, Va., was recognized in the 2015 edition of Virginia Super Lawyers.



SUN VEGA

Sole control

In May 2014, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) was abuzz for an exhibition in front of an influential audience at the Pentagon. Demo Day, the largest event ever held in the space, would showcase more than 100 advances in cybersecurity, networked warfighter systems, language translation, and more.

Behind the scenes, Kiely Wilkerson (business information tech '02), president and chief operating officer of Strategic Engineering Solutions, ran the show—and for her work, she won the DARPA Contractor of the Year Award for 2014.

Demo Day represented a huge undertaking, but it wasn't the first time Wilkerson has taken on a daunting task. She previously worked with a large government contractor but left to co-found a small boutique operation. More recently, her partner took a leave of absence, leaving Wilkerson in charge.

"[Taking sole control] was trial by fire, quickly digging in and learning my way. It seemed so complicated, but once I dug in and started to chip away, it made sense. You have to be fearless and dive in."

'84 **Charles E. Bakis** (ESM, EM '88), State College, Pa., was inducted into Virginia Tech's Academy of Engineering Excellence.

V. Randall Tinsley (FIW), Summerfield, N.C., was recognized in the 2015 edition of "Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business."

Allen D. Lacy (ARCH), Richmond, Va., 4/29/15.

Linda Utley Mulligan (PSYC), Toano, Va., 5/5/15.

'85 **Kenneth W. Bible** (ME), Charleston, S.C., was appointed as deputy director of the command, control, communication, and computers department, and as the deputy chief information officer, at the U.S. Marine Corps headquarters.

Thomas A. Dingus (IEOR, IEOR '87), Blacksburg, Va., was elected to the Association of Unmanned Vehicle Systems International's Board of Directors for the 2015-18 term.

Jennifer J. French (AOE), Harrisonburg, Va., president of SUNRNR of Virginia, was invited to the White

House to discuss President Barack Obama's export and international trade agenda.

Ann Fortenberry Jennings (GEOL), Mattaponi, Va., was selected by Virginia Lawyers Media as one of the Influential Women of Virginia for 2015.

V. Randall Tinsley (FIW), Summerfield, N.C., was recognized in the 2015 edition of "Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business."

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Stuart M. Sirota (GEOG), Baltimore, Md., is assistant secretary for the Maryland Department of Planning.

G. Geoffrey Vining (STAT, STAT '88), Blacksburg, Va., received the Box Medal from the European Network of Industrial and Business Statistics.

Gregory L. White (FIN '91), Winston-Salem, N.C., 5/30/15.

'87 **Michael P. Gill Jr.** (CE, EDCI '94), Denver, Colo., was named professor emerita by the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors.

Paul A. Wardinski (MKED), Burke, Va., is executive director of DECA Inc.

'86 **Cecilia A. Hedges** (MGT), Fairfax, Va., was appointed market president of the Central and Southern Virginia markets for M&T Bank.

Susan VandeWoude Schweickart (VM), Loveland, Colo., received the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine's Lifetime Achievement Alumni Award.

Robert A. Short (BIOL '87), Richmond, Va., was selected as head of school for the Trinity Episcopal School.

'88 **Kenneth B. Abel** (ACCT), Pikesville, Md., was named in the 2015 edition of "Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business."

Michael D. Erskine (VM), Woodbine, Md., was named director of Virginia Tech's Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center.

Elizabeth T. Gilboy (LAR), Blacksburg, Va., received Virginia Tech's Alumni Award for Outreach Excellence.

Maria E. Rocha Sagar (ME), Boerne, Texas, placed second in the masters figure division at the National Physique Committee's Phil Heath Classic in Houston.

Stuart M. Lee (PHED, EDPE '92), League City, Texas, earned a Ph.D. in kinesiology from the University of Houston.

Lori D. St. Clair (PSYC), Colorado Springs, Colo., 4/29/15.

Gary L. Weddle (CHE), Henrico, Va., 6/2/15.

'89 **Naomi "Gale" Ricketts** (Kidd (EDCI), Danville, Va., 6/12/15.

James J. Regev (IEOR), Cudjoe Key, Fla., 5/1/15.

Bobbie J. Sprouse (EDVT), Staunton, Va., 5/8/15.

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I trooped into class at 10 a.m., still clad in coveralls and brogans crusted with dried sheep and cow manure, and started to explain my tardiness. In his dry, unsmiling way, Professor Adams interrupted, 'Mr. Word, you know my rule.' I exploded: 'Twelve below zero and the pipes froze in the well house. I had to thaw them! Surely you understand that!'

—Tom Word (business administration '59), describing a "day from hell" when he was late for a corporate finance exam as an undergraduate.

The full story at [www.vtmag.vt.edu](http://vtmag.vt.edu) reveals that earning a degree can involve unexpected challenges.



'90 **Gertrude H. Becker** (HIST), Blacksburg, Va., received the university's William E. Wine Award from the Virginia Tech Alumni Association.

Sudip Bhattacharjee (BAD), Bethesda, Md., was reappointed as the Konrad W. Kubin Junior Faculty Fellow at Virginia Tech.

Alan L. Eisenberg (COMM), Burke, Va., authored a memoir, "A Ladder in the Dark: My Journey from Bullying to Self-Acceptance."

John R. Hillman (CE), Wilmette, Ill., received the Virginia Tech Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Matthew M. Malanga (MSCI), Charlotte, N.C., is chief marketing officer for B2R Finance in North Carolina.

Michael P. Maxwell (FIN), Hartland, Wis., was elected to a six-year term as a circuit court judge for the Waukesha County Circuit Court, Branch 8.

Renae Collier Pearson (FCD), Lavonia, Ga., had a Corps of Cadets residence hall named after her and her husband, J. Pearson '87, for their generous commitment to the corps and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Brian T. Schools (FIN), Virginia Beach, Va., was named to the 2015-16 Board of Directors for Chartway Federal Credit Union's We Promise Foundation.

Keith A. Scott (LAR, ARCH '95), Charlottesville, Va., designed Southern Living magazine's 2015 Idea House and was featured in the August issue.

Melissa Trosciar Bales (BIOL, VM '96) and **Arthur L. Bales** (ENGL '92, ENGL '96), Walton, Ky., a daughter, 4/25/15.

Robert C. Baber (AT), Crozet, Va., 8/1/14.

'91 **Brian Lieberman** (ISE), Farmington Hills, Mich., a daughter, 10/27/14.

'92 **Nichole Hollar Kennedy** (PSYC), Evans, Ga., is vice president for student services at Augusta Technical College.

Lisa A. Lombardi (ID), Fredericksburg, Va., earned a master of architecture from the Catholic University of America and received the American Institute of Architects' Henry Adams Medal and Certificate for academic excellence.

Steve Mollenkopf (EE), San Diego, Calif., was inducted into Virginia Tech's Academy of Engineering Excellence.

John G. Wells (EDVT '90, EDVT), Blacksburg, Va., was named Educator of the Year by the Council on Technology and Engineering Teacher Education.

Gregory A. Romerosa (BAD), Arlington, Va., 7/25/14.

'93 **Matthew Gifford** (ARCH), West Sayville, N.Y., is director of Shepley Bulfinch, a national design firm.

'94 **Zephaniah L. Cunningham** (AT), Bedford, Va., is an emergency management specialist with the U.S. Forest Service's fire and aviation management functions and the National Incident Management Organization.

Stuart P. Echols (LAR, EDP '02), Port Matilda, Pa., authored a book, "Artful Rainwater Design: Creative Ways to Manage Stormwater."

Richard M. Wardrop III (BIOL), Chapel Hill, N.C., was elected to a three-year term on the American College of Physicians' Council of Early Career Physicians and the American Academy of Pediatrics' Executive Committee.

Jennifer J. Kyle (IS), Woodbridge, Va., 3/9/15.

'95 **Michael D. Hayes** (ESM, EM '97, EM '03), Atlanta, Ga., co-authored a book, "Fractography in Failure Analysis of Polymers."

Anthony L. John II (FW), Brookeville, Md., received a master's degree in public health from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

William C. Worrell (FW, FOR '10), Lebanon, Va., received the 2014 Volunteer Service Award from the Appalachian Society of American Foresters.

Kelly Remzi Guillory (ACCT), Cypress, Texas, twin daughters, 6/13/14.

Steven C. Ashmore (ARCH), Sewickley, Pa., 4/20/15.

Martin A. Stonesifer (MKTG), Blacksburg, Va., 4/29/15.

'96 **Joshua R. Lorenz** (PSCI), Murrysville, Pa., was named to the 2015 list of top attorneys in the "Pennsylvania Super Lawyers" publication.

Keith Y. Wood (GEOL), Elko, Nev., authored a self-published book, "The Kingdom Way: How the Kingdom of God Transforms our Lives, Churches, and Cities."

Michelle S. Costello (FCD), Vienna, Va., 5/2/15.

'97 **Robert M. Ballenger** (COMM), Arlington, Va., is an oral communications lecturer for the University of Maryland at College Park.

"When my 'one minute to speak' came, it was already clear that small renewable-energy generators were a perfect product for international export and that trade agreements are certainly helpful. I only wish I had mentioned how we often have to tiptoe around partisan politics on the domestic front: The product appeals to those on both sides, but for very different reasons. Internationally, though, politics are less of an issue for our customers—they need electricity, plain and simple."

Jenny Jager French (aerospace and ocean engineering '85), president of SUNRNR of Virginia Inc., a manufacturer of alternative-energy generators, participated in the Small Business Exporter's Roundtable in March at the White House, where she discussed proposed trade partnerships with President Barack Obama and administration officials.

Marlene M. Preston (EDCI), Roanoke, Va., received Virginia Tech's 2015 XCaliber Award for contributions to technology-enriched active learning.

Brian T. Boylan (ISE, SYSE '02, IT '04) and **Priya Gowda-Boylan** (PSYC '03), Leesburg, Va., a daughter, 7/26/14.

'98 **Scott M. Barrett** (FW, FOR '01, FOR '13), Fincastle, Va., received the 2014 Young Forester Leadership Award from the Appalachian Society of American Foresters.

James "Greg" Jenkins (GBUA), Blacksburg, Va., was named the William S. Gay Senior Faculty Fellow at Virginia Tech.

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'00 **Charles C. Bonds** (FIW), Waelder, Texas, is division director for inland fisheries for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Brian V. Carey (FSCI), Fairfield, Conn., is the conservation director for the town of Fairfield, Conn.

Amanda A. Turner Covey (IDST), Blacksburg, Va., was named an award winner in the College Association for Staff in Engineering for 2015.

Marshall R. Eichfeld (CE), Midlothian, Va., was named Virginia aviation lead for Michael Baker International's Richmond office.

Amy K. Weaver Kendall (BIOL), Charlotte, N.C., was appointed chief administrative officer for Cardinal Innovations Healthcare Solutions.

Allen J. Whitesell (FIN), Arlington, Va., was named partner at BDO USA LLP.

David B. Coaker (CE), Richmond, Va., a son, 4/20/15.

'01 **Thomas E. Cecere** (BCHM, VM '05, BMVS '12), Newport, Va., received the 2015 Outstanding Recent Alumni Award from the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine.

Jeremy S. Fields (CE), Kingsport, Tenn., earned an M.B.A. from King University.

Melanie Griffin-Hamlin (FCD), Petersburg, Va., a 2015 Texas Region 13 Teacher of the Year semifinalist, received the 2014 Manor Elementary School Teacher of the Year award, the 2014 District Teacher of the Year award, and the 2015 Best Teacher in Austin award.

Gloria E. Dickerson (EDAD '97, ELPS), Washington, D.C., 3/8/15.
Benjamin S. Pinkerton (PSYC), Madison, Wis., 4/22/15.

'02 **Sharnnia Artis** (ISE, ISE '05, ISE '07), Irvine, Calif., received the College of Engineering's 2015 Outstanding Young Alumni Achievement Award.

Kevin P. Heaslip II (CE, CE '03), Oakton, Va., was named research leader for resilience for the Virginia Tech National Capital Region's research development team.

Kenneth E. Nicely (ELPS, ELPS '12), Roanoke, Va., was elected to serve as a regional trustee on the Association for Middle Level Education's Board of Trustees.

Jessica S. Ruddick (ENGL, INCR '04, ENGL '04), Chesapeake, Va., authored a romance novel, "Letting Go," inspired by her time as a Tech student.

Jay J. Mizack (CHE) and **Jennifer E. Wilberger Mizack** (MKTG), Venetia, Pa., a son, 2/11/15.

Bettina C. Agnor Soost (ISE), Chesapeake, Va., a son, 4/23/15.

'03 **Lisa L. Brake Dyer** (COMM, TA, EDCI '04), Richmond, Va., directed the J.R. Tucker High School Shoestring Players' performance of "My Mania" at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Grade: A-

"As a professional tennis teacher, I don't mean to imply that I'm near perfection. Improving in this profession is a journey, not a destination. To the disturbingly high number of young professionals who profess to know it all, I offer the advice of great basketball coach John Wooden: 'All the important things you'll ever learn in life come after you know it all.'"

—Jack Thompson (health and physical education '75), Salisbury, N.C., after playing and coaching for 44 years, was named the Professional Tennis Registry's (PTR) 2015 International Pro of the Year, which he called the profession's Academy Award. Winner of more than 65 tournaments, including the 2013 PTR International 60s singles title, he is a PTR International Master Professional, a level of certification that only 43 of 15,000 certified pros have attained.

Amber Parker Rankin (PSYC) and **Kevin P. Rankin** (ME '07), Reston, Va., 5/9/15.

Crystal Morgan Fraser (COMM) and **Brian D. Fraser** (ARCH '08), Oakton, Va., a son, 2/23/15.

Casey M. Liss (CPE), Glen Allen, Va., a son, 10/29/14.

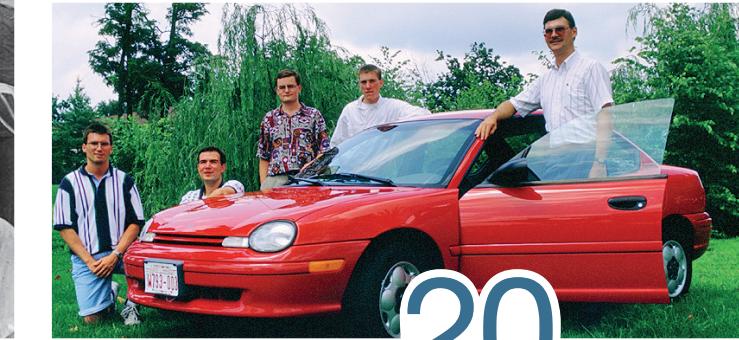
David M. Marston (MINE), Frisco, Texas, a son, 7/3/14.



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years ago, the first regimental band was formed. Cadet Wilson was appointed as the first commander, and James Patton Harvey was appointed as the first director.

84 years ago, the Southern Colonels group was formed. In 1937 and 1940, the group traveled to Germany and France on the USS New York to perform in nightclubs.



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years ago, the College of Engineering first participated in the national Hybrid Electric Vehicle Challenge. Students and faculty members converted a Dodge Neon into a hybrid vehicle and placed fifth in the challenge.

BY KIM BASSLER, UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR. IMAGES COURTESY OF LIBRARIES' SPECIAL COLLECTIONS; MORE CAN BE FOUND AT IMAGEBASE.LIB.VT.EDU.

Andrew P. McCoy (BCSM), Blacksburg, Va., was reappointed the Preston and Catharine White Fellow at Virginia Tech.

'08 **Steven R. Anton** (ME, ME '11), Cookeville, Tenn., an assistant professor at Tennessee Tech University, was selected for the U.S. Air Force Summer Faculty Fellowship Program.

Philip Chong (PSCI, AAEC), Fairfax, Va., was named the Tahirih Justice Center's 2015 Maryland Pro Bono Attorney of the Year.

Monique D. Blake (COMM) and **George G. Blake III** (IDST '08), Bowie, Md., a daughter, 11/4/14.

Jennifer A. DiCristina Cacciola (BIOL) and **Stephen J. Cacciola** (MKTG), Santa Barbara, Calif., 4/18/15.

Sanford A. Hinkle (SOC, PSYC) and Teresa M. Beck Kernersville, N.C., 5/24/14.

Heather DeMay Reaske (MKTG) and **Trevor G. Reaske** (MKTG), Reston, Va., 5/2/15.

Eric P. Westphal (FIN) and **Lauren Posey Westphal** (PSCI), Washington, D.C., 5/9/15.

'11 **Julia L. Carrington** (APSC), South Boston, Va., earned a doctor of pharmacy degree, with highest honors and distinction, from the University of North Carolina's Eshelman School of Pharmacy.

Anne C. Carrington (APSC), Roanoke, Va., earned a doctor of pharmacy degree, with highest honors and distinction, from the University of North Carolina's Eshelman School of Pharmacy.

Matthew Y. Chan (ESEN), Blacksburg, Va., is president of the Virginia Tech Graduate Student Assembly.

Anna Judge Goldman (ITDS) and **Benjamin J. Goldman** (ME, ME '13), King George, Va., a son, 4/16/15.

Hokies on the Hill internship, is now a WorldTeach volunteer in Hunan, China, teaching oral English to about 1,000 students.

William D. Miller (EDCI), Blacksburg, Va., received Virginia Tech's 2015 Sporn Award for Teaching Introductory Subjects.

Katrina B. Piercy (HNFE), Gaithersburg, Md., received the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' Outstanding Recent Alumni Award.

Kendall L. Bailey (PSCI, PHIL, PSCI '12) and **Kathleen S. Jones** (IS '12), Roanoke, Va., 11/22/14.

Kelly Otey Brown (HNFE) and **Timothy Brown** (HNFE), Roanoke, Va., 5/2/15.

Mary-Catherine Hutchens Steigerwald (IDST) and **Craig Steigerwald**, Lynchburg, Va., 5/2/15.

Sonia M. Wahbe (MKTG), Broomfield, Colo., 5/4/15.

Revisit life at Tech—from 1990 onward—in the pages of Virginia Tech Magazine.

Browse the archives at www.vtmag.vt.edu/archives.

Adam Laing Ward (COMM), a cameraman for WDBJ (Channel 7) in Roanoke, was murdered along with reporter Alison Parker during a live broadcast on Aug. 26. Ward was remembered by Robert Denton, professor and chair of the Department of Communication, as a hard worker who "did whatever was needed with a smile and with grace."

'12 **Joshua W. Deutschmann** (MATH, ECAS), Columbia, Md., who completed a Hokies on the Hill internship, is now a project associate for Innovations for Poverty Action in Dakar, Senegal.

Alexander J. Jarmusz (ISE), Warrenville, Ill., published his first children's book, "Chester Becomes President," and is the advanced manufacturing engineer for Belford.

Rachel M. Kirk (FR, PSCI), New Orleans, was awarded the U.S. Fulbright Student Program grant.

Colin M. MacDermott (PSCI), Virginia Beach, Va., who completed a Hokies on the Hill internship, is now a staff member for the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations, serving as a resource for the full Committee on Appropriations.

'10 **Collin J. Chew** (CS) and **Madeleine S. Scaggs Chew** (BIOL, BIOC), 12/27/14.

James M. Cilimberg (PSYC) and Kacey M. Cilimberg, Franklin, Tenn., 6/27/15.

'13 **Emma C. Potter** (HD), Blacksburg, Va., is director of communications for the Virginia Tech Graduate Student Assembly.

'14 **Vincent J. DeGeorge** (TA), Cincinnati, Ohio, was named assistant professor and Joseph Weinberger Chair of Acting for the Lyric Stage at College-Conservatory of Music.

Frances S. Dowd (AEM, EPP), Blacksburg, Va., was named an economic development specialist in Virginia Tech's Office of Economic Development.

Emma L. Flemmig (GSCR), Blacksburg, Va., was awarded the U.S. Fulbright Student Program grant.

Kylie A. Ford (EDCI), Frederick, Md., was chosen by the Knowles Science Teaching Foundation as a member of its 2015 cohort of Teaching Fellows.

Janani Ravi (IS, ENGL), Blacksburg, Va., was awarded the U.S. Fulbright Student Program grant.

Anjelica M. Smith (COMM), Blacksburg, Va., was selected for the Virginia Governor's Fellows Program, which allows individuals the opportunity to experience the administration of state government.

obituaries faculty/staff

Elankumaran Subbiah, an associate professor of virology at the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine, died Sept. 2 in Chennai, India. A nationally renowned virologist and a faculty member in the Center for Molecular Medicine and Infectious Disease, Subbiah studied human and animal viruses and the control of diseases produced by the viruses. In 2012, he earned the Pfizer Award for Veterinary Research Excellence, the college's highest research honor.

Jim Weaver, whose vision and leadership as the director of athletics from 1997 to 2013 catapulted Virginia Tech into the Big East Conference and later the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC),

died July 1. Weaver's ability to place the department on solid financial footing, his emphasis on facilities, and his strong oversight of NCAA compliance set the groundwork for the school's invitation into the ACC for all sports starting in 2004. Tech won 16 ACC team championships during his tenure.



Five years of funk: We decided against a scratch-and-sniff page (you're welcome) for the rare corpse flower, aka *Amorphophallus titanum*, aka Stinky Phil, that wafted a scent of rotting flesh as more than 1,000 people visited the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' greenhouses in late August. The flower blooms once every five years. To see a time-lapse video spanning three days and to read more about the flower, visit www.vtmag.vt.edu.

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Meghan Oakes '15 leveraged student internships on Capitol Hill to land a job in a U.S. representative's office.

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