

Vol. 27 No. 3 Summer 2017

CorpsReview

The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Magazine







Cadets begin the water crossing station at the Duck Pond during the spring Platoon Tactical Challenge.

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Alumni

The **Corps Review** is published three times a year by the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Inc. (VTCCA).

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Front cover: Highty-Tighty Drum Major Kavi Muraleetharan '17 leads the regimental band onto the Drillfield during the spring change of command ceremony on April 29.

Back cover: A cadet completes the rope climb of the Corps of Cadets' obstacle course during the annual JMAC athletic competition on April 11.

Correction: The class years for Steve Pavlik and Bob Archer were listed incorrectly in the Philanthropy column of the Spring 2017 edition. Both are members of the class of 1969.



Our alumni class champions and their guests enjoyed a fantastic buffet dinner at the Farmhouse Restaurant during the Class Champion Conclave. Discussing the day's events are, from left, Sharon Brown, class champion John Brown '65, class champion Buck Hodges '73, Kathy Hodges, and class champion Zach Oman '12.

Class Champion Conclave Recap

The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets (VTCC) held a gathering of its alumni class champions at Virginia Tech on April 28-29. Of the 58 champions, 27 attended and enjoyed several days of camaraderie and received current information on all things Corps.

The weekend started with a happy hour event for those in town April 27, followed by an early morning April 28 with the VTCC Alumni Board, where several university guest speakers and the commandant provided updates on the state of the Corps and the progress on Upper Quad construction. The champions then met for a special session in the afternoon, where they discussed best

practices and potential improvements to networking with Corps alumni.

This was followed by a tour of Pearson Hall and an enjoyable dinner together at the newly reopened Farmhouse Restaurant. Several in the group, along with alumni board members in town, stood in the reviewing party during the VTCC's change of command ceremony on the Drillfield the next day.

We thank all of you who joined us for that weekend!

If you are interested and graduated with the classes of '95 or '03, we are still looking for a champion for your class! Please get in touch with Col. Patience Larkin at patience@vt.edu.

Keep Us in the Loop

As you move or change duty stations throughout your career, make sure you continue to get the Corps Review and other updated university and Corps in-

formation. Update your contact information and share your email address with us at alumni.vt.edu/gateway/index.html or by email to alumnidata@vt.edu.

Announcements

Alumni Mentor Program on LinkedIn

Thanks to alumni and cadets alike for your support over the last few months to help us get this program off the ground.

Our mentor group on LinkedIn has grown from just an idea to a group of 162 alumni and cadets who share information.

Over the summer, the activity will likely slow because the cadets will be busy with summer trainings and internships. The program will pick back up in

the fall, and we encourage you all to continue conversations that may have already started. If you are a VTCC alumnus who has not joined yet, find the VTCC Alumni Mentor Group at [linkedin.com/groups/8576000](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8576000) and write up a small bio on yourself.

You may be able to help a cadet out there looking for career or internship guidance!

Thank you!

Upcoming Events

- **Ongoing:** Home game football tickets for the VTCC alumni row are on sale now. Contact phosner@vt.edu.
- **Sept. 21:** Gunfighter Panel, 3 p.m. in Burruss Hall
- **Sept. 22:** VTCC Alumni Board meeting in the Holtzman Alumni Center
- **Sept. 22-23:** Corps Reunion, registration starts at 3 p.m. at The Inn at Virginia Tech
- **Oct. 7:** Fall Caldwell March
- **Oct. 20-21:** Highty-Tighty Reunion

To the Class of 1967: Homecoming Weekend is Our 50th Reunion

By the '67 Reunion Planning Committee

The 50th anniversary of our graduation from VPI is here, and it will be our best reunion ever! There will be time to share with friends, rekindle past friendships, and learn about the internationally recognized research university that is our alma mater.

The dates for our reunion weekend could not be better: Oct. 19-22. Not only will the weekend celebrate our 50th anniversary, but it will be homecoming at Virginia Tech that will include a great football game against the University of North Carolina.

The VPI of over 5,000 students that we left has grown into Virginia Tech and a student population of over 31,000

enrolled in programs that are among the best in the world.

While much has changed, the qualities that define our alma mater have endured — a commitment of service embodied in *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve) and a strong sense of family that the world has come to know as the Hokie Nation.

The alumni association predicts that this will be the “highest attended” reunion for the Class of '67 ever. Please attend this very special celebration. A large turnout is the key ingredient to our 50th anniversary! Register today and encourage other classmates to register, too.

We look forward to seeing you in October!

In the Doghouse



Corps ambassador, Growley II (call sign “Tank”), celebrated his fourth birthday on April 24 with presents from Commandant of Cadets Maj. Gen. Randal D. Fullhart.

As the third roommate in a triple room, Growley lives with his cadet handlers in Pearson Hall during the academic year. When the residence halls are closed, Growley goes home with one of the handlers, and he is now on summer break with Cadet Eleanor Franc '18.

This arrangement allows cadets to maintain Growley's rigorous training and care schedule and allows him to explore new environments and preserve his canine confidence.

Social Media

Growley is on Instagram as [@vtgrowley](https://www.instagram.com/vtgrowley).



Stay up-to-date with the Corps of Cadets by following [@vtcorpsocadets](https://www.instagram.com/vtcorpsocadets).

Engineering Her Future

By Shay Barnhart, Corps of Cadets communications director

It sounds simple enough. Maddie Guillen '16 graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in electrical engineering in May and went to work in June as a systems engineer for Northrop Grumman.

Guillen's mom used to work at a Northrop Grumman office, too. When Guillen was in elementary school, her mom was a janitor who cleaned several office buildings in their hometown of Chantilly, Virginia.

"It's extremely humbling to be able to say that my mom, a refugee from El Salvador who used to clean a Northrop Grumman office, now has a daughter who will be working for Northrop Grumman as an engineer," Guillen said.

Her job is the end result of the Northrop Grumman Scholarship Program in Military Leadership, which offers six scholarships for engineering majors in the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. Guillen was among the first recipients of the award, which provides

about \$10,000 in tuition assistance annually and a paid internship.

"From any angle, Maddie's story is inspiring," said Lt. Col. Don Russell, deputy commandant for the Corps' Citizen-Leader Track, from which Guillen graduated in 2016. "Here we have a first-generation college student who excels in the Corps of Cadets, eventually being selected as the cadet commander of all 270 cadets in the Citizen-Leader Track. She lands amazing internships and so impresses her internship supervisor at Northrop Grumman she is essentially offered a position nearly a year before she graduates."

Guillen's story showcases the reason the partnership between the Corps, the College of Engineering, and Northrop

Grumman came to be in 2015.

"Northrop Grumman is committed to and pleased to support the partnership with Virginia Tech. The Corps produces quality candidates with ready-made leadership skills and experience. We are very proud of Maddie and delighted that she has decided to come to work at Northrop Grumman," said Doss Halsey '79, a Northrop Grumman program manager. He is among a group of advisors to the Citizen-Leader Track.

Started in 2015, the program supports the cadet scholarships and the Northrop Grumman Senior Faculty Fellowship in Advanced Intelligence Systems, all aimed at creating leaders who are poised to solve the national security challenges of the 21st century. The faculty fellowship is designed to support an outstanding faculty member in the College of Engineering who is affiliated with the Ted and Karyn Hume Center for National Security and Technology.



Above: Maddie Guillen as a cadet. At left: Following Corps' tradition, Guillen signed her name on Lane Hall after she graduated.

Guillen discovered engineering through a high school guidance counselor at Chantilly Academy, who suggested she give the Girls Exploring Engineering class a try.

"I was doing a bunch of computer classes and was really interested in that at the time," she said. "I had never known about engineering, and I fell in love with it."

Her brother suggested she fill an empty block in her class schedule with JROTC, the Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps. It focuses on character education, leadership, diversity, and other skills. "I think he thought it would just be a good experience for me," Guillen said.

She liked it and discovered she could pursue an engineering career through the military. That brought her to Virginia Tech. She eventually transitioned from Air Force ROTC to the Citizen-Leader Track and from studying computer engineering to electrical engineering.

Guillen interned with Delphi during her junior year, working on the programming for autonomous vehicles. Afterward, she realized she didn't want to spend all her time developing software.

"I really wanted to know how computers work," she said. "Electrical engineering allows me to do some programming but focuses on hardware

design, which is what I really want to do. Changing majors was a big step for me, but it worked out for the best."

Guillen competed for and won one of the six Northrop Grumman scholarships during her junior year. The financial support changed her college experience.

Being a first-generation college student came with challenges. For Guillen, it meant her parents had a hard time understanding the demands of college classes and all the bills that came with them.

"My parents didn't fully grasp the billing system and where the money was going," Guillen said. "I had to sit down and plan out my budget every year and pay all the bills. For other students, their parents take care of all that."

Having tuition money from the Northrop Grumman scholarship was a welcome change. "For me to even come to Virginia Tech is a big thing financially," she said. "Having that money really alleviated a lot of what I thought I would be paying and it alleviated a lot of stress for me."

The scholarship came with a paid internship in summer 2016 in McLean, Virginia, where Guillen spent her time shadowing two directors. She learned the ins and outs of project management, budgeting and employee relations — and solidified her long-term goal to

earn her MBA and become a project manager.

"Maddie already has a well-developed sense for what leadership is all about," said Kathy McLernon, the director of quality, safety, and mission assurance for Northrop Grumman Technology Services' System Modernization and Services Division and one of Guillen's supervisors. "At Northrop Grumman, we are evaluated on both what we do and how we do it. The leadership skills you learn in the Corps are directly applicable and extremely valuable here."

Guillen made an impression because she quickly developed relationships with the executive team and the other interns, McLernon said. Northrop Grumman offered her a job in September 2016, eight months before she graduated from Virginia Tech.

"Maddie demonstrated the skills we expect from a junior-level engineer and saw repeated success working on an intern team that explored solutions to software engineering challenges, leading us to transition her from intern to a full-time employee," McLernon said. "When she starts work here, she will have a pre-existing support network that ensures her warm welcome, as well as a group of people who are sincerely interested in helping her succeed."



New Cadet Hall Opens Its Doors



Lima Company offers a display of company memorabilia outside the fifth-floor study lounge of New Cadet Hall.



As in Pearson Hall, the floor tiles in New Cadet Hall are spaced the exact width of the desired stride length for cadets, helping them develop their marching skills.

Hundreds of cadets will move into New Cadet Hall, the second of two new residence halls for the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets, in August.

Construction on the university's newest residence hall and its surrounding sidewalks, flagpole plaza, and landscaping finished up this summer. The first cadets will begin returning to campus on Aug. 11 to make preparations for the arrival of the cadet Class of 2021, who start new cadet training on Aug. 19.

New Cadet Hall mirrors Pearson Hall, which opened in 2015. Both are

Participate

Visit Upper Quad soon to see the new residence halls in person.

built in the Collegiate Gothic style that characterizes most of Virginia Tech's main campus and accented with heraldry that celebrates the university's history, the Corps, and the ROTC units.

The 99,000-square-foot New Cadet Hall contains more than 230 rooms, plus study and lounge spaces on each level.

The rooms and hallways are designed

for cadets and their training needs, such as floor tiles in the hallways that are colored and spaced to help cadets practice marching and a mud room that allow cadets to properly clean equipment after outdoor training.

Both buildings' basement levels contain a kitchen and laundry room for cadets and offices for Corps' staff. Additionally, New Cadet Hall includes a gym, as well as workspace for the Corps' physical trainer.

Between the two residence halls is a new plaza featuring an 80-foot flagpole



The basement level of New Cadet Hall contains a gym for cadets and a full kitchen. [See more pictures online at vtcc.vt.edu/corpsreview](http://vtcc.vt.edu/corpsreview).



The lobby of New Cadet Hall.



The New Cadet Hall company meeting room.



One of the study lounges in New Cadet Hall.

and a maroon-brick sidewalk that forms the largest “VT” on campus to connect Lane, Pearson, and New Cadet halls.

The final piece of the Upper Quad overhaul is the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors-approved Corps Leadership and Military Science Building, which will be placed at the rear of Shank’s Plain.

This building will bring the commandant’s staff and the Virginia Tech ROTC programs together to provide modern office and classroom space, as well as much-needed modern facilities for the Tailor Shop and the Corps Museum.

Construction is set to begin once Virginia legislators act on the university’s

construction funding request. Its preliminary design is complete and the private portion of the funds has been raised.

This summer, the final two old residence halls, Monteith and Thomas, are being razed, adding more green space to Upper Quad.



Tradition and the “VT” sidewalk: The portion of the “T” that runs from the Alumni Mall side up to Lane Hall may only be used by those who have successfully graduated from the Corps and certain cadets who are required to perform duties during formation. The top of the “T” that runs the length of Lane Hall may only be used only by upperclass cadets. Freshman may not use it as a shortcut, but they may use it to attend formation and enter Lane Hall. No cadet may step on the two grommets that have been placed at the top of the “T.”



Col. Ed Shames spoke to cadets during a Leaders in Action lecture in March.

A Noteworthy Year

By Elaine Humphrey, director, Maj. Gen. W. Thomas Rice Center for Leader Development

As the 2016-17 academic year drew to a close, I decided to revisit the article I submitted at this time last year. The review reminded me of how much was accomplished this year! The following are a few of the highlights.

With a focus on the freshmen, we expanded the FAST (Freshman Academic Success Teams) program to run the entire fall semester. Most weeks, the freshmen met with their FAST facilitators during Sunday evening call to quarters rather than meeting with me for the ever-popular Monday night class. During the meeting, freshmen worked with an upperclass cadet on college success essentials such as time management and study skills. Freshmen could also ask their facilitators any questions they had concerning the transition from high school to college and the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. One of the primary goals was for every freshman to have a specific plan for the upcoming week that balanced academics and non-academics/Corps activities.

The year was also spent merging the review of the leadership minors with intensive examination of the Corps' curriculum. The staff used the opportunity to strengthen the leader development program. One outcome was the discontinuation of three minors tied to a cadet's commissioning or non-commissioning status and the establishment of one minor for all cadets. Now all cadets have the same requirements to earn the minor.

Additionally, the Corps Labs moved to more practice of leadership rather than lectures. The battalion times gave opportunities to pursue learning objectives across courses. To support the Corps' mission of "global, ethical leaders ... now, more than ever," a global leader development component was launched. Every semester, cadets had an assignment that ranged from completing a global competencies assessment to "breaking bread" with a student from a different culture.

Our Leaders in Action lecture series also was noteworthy. In October, Ethan

Moore and Neal Schroedetski discussed their documentary "The Unknowns." This film gives a powerful account of the history and extraordinary training to become a guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. Medal of Honor recipient 1st Lt. Brian Thacker spoke to the cadets in November to highlight the Corps' annual Medal of Honor remembrance. Col. Wes Fox, also a Medal of Honor recipient, joined us for that special event. In March, Col. Ed Shames, the only living officer from Easy Company/Band of Brothers from World War II, addressed the cadets. The final event was the Cutchins Distinguished Lecture that featured Douglas Brinkley, presidential historian, on April 6.

All in all, the Rice Center was actively engaged in the leader development of our cadets with substantive and enthusiastic contributions by staff, cadets, and other stakeholders. All signs point to a great year to come!



A New Era Begins

By Commandant of Cadets Maj. Gen. Randal D. Fullhart, U.S. Air Force (retired)

We've been keeping readers informed about our evolving programs and, certainly, the renaissance of the Upper Quad with our new buildings. This summer it is all coming together!

We just bid farewell to the graduating class of 2017. Combined with our fifth-year graduates, we had 264 cadets cross the stage at Burruss Hall. Of them, 149 cadets received their commissions, and 75 percent of our graduating Citizen-Leader Track cadets had career-starting jobs or acceptance into graduate programs before graduation!

Looking ahead, the entire Corps will once again be all together on the Upper Quad as we open New Cadet Hall, our second new residence hall. The "VT" sidewalk and plaza are reimagined with the new flagpole rising high above, the cannons in place, The Rock returned, and Addison Caldwell's statue showing the way up the hill from Alumni Mall to Lane Hall.

Speaking of Lane Hall, it is painted in light each night and is part of the vista as you walk or drive up Alumni Mall, framed between the lights coming from the bay windows of the residence halls. The flagpole atop Lane Hall is reinforced, and we will return flags there, as well.

The grommets are in place for the regimental buglers. The seat walls by each barrack, made of bricks from Barracks No. 2 and No. 3, each have seven lights representing the seven Medal of Honor recipients, and the names of the Pylons are etched in

stone above the doors that cadets pass through daily.

A special tribute to Cadet Matthew La Porte, who was killed in the April 16, 2007, tragedy, is a unique cobblestone installed at the base of the plaza flagpole. The plaza will be the site for other monuments, such as the Desert Shield/Desert Storm memorial. Previous memorials to individuals will be reinstalled as part of the landscape of the Upper Quad.

Beyond the physical, our recently re-accredited minor in leadership is complete and will include courses picked to enhance the experience of our cadets and to ensure that more of our Citizen-Leader Track cadets will be able to earn the minor.

Our second group of Global Scholar cadets traveled to Normandy and Paris after completing a semester-long study of leaders and leadership around the D-Day operation. Thanks to a grant, a member of our staff is scoping out locations for a

possible new trip focused on key events during World War I.

Our new ambassador, Growley II (call sign "Tank"), is spending the summer in the northern Virginia area and is attending some Corps events in that area before returning to campus in August to be part of New Cadet Week.

Speaking of New Cadet Week, our junior and senior cadre have been selected and, along with the sophomore blackshirts, will be coming back early to prepare for their training, as well as the return of the rest of the Corps!

Band camp will be conducted during that same time. The Highty-Tighties are coming off a strong year of performances, including the Battle at Bristol in Tennessee and the Cherry Blossom Festival Parade in Washington, D.C. They wrapped up the year with a tremendous concert in the Moss Arts Center, along with the Southern Colonels jazz band and the Pipe and Drum Team. They have



New lighting bathes Lane Hall each night.



The regiment conducted its final formation of the spring semester on the new “VT” sidewalk in front of Lane Hall. The last time this happened, the senior cadets were first-year students.

some exciting plans for next year, so stay tuned for future announcements!

Dates have already been announced for the Corps Reunion and Virginia Tech Homecoming, which includes the Highty-Tighty Reunion. And we are looking forward to taking the first-year cadets on our annual visit to the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Virginia.

On the future front, I’m more than pleased to announce that the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors has given the green light for our Corps Leadership and Military Science Building to go to the governor and legislature for their support. Our alumni and friends continue to do their part to provide the private financial support, and the preliminary design is complete. All that is left is for the representatives in Richmond to do their part!

We also are bringing some exciting enhancements to how we stay connected and communicate with our terrific alumni. To better align the Corps Review magazine with events, we are shifting to a two-edition per year schedule, aligned with the fall and spring semesters. Beyond the print versions that are well-received and adorning coffee tables in homes, we are taking advantage of the Web. We will also be offering online versions of the magazine at vtcc.vt.edu/corpsreview with expanded articles and

videos that just aren’t possible in the print editions. And we are excited to offer a new section (both print and online) that we know you will be excited about!

As you know, we have wonderful volunteers from each of our class years called class champions. These are your classmates who are working to help you stay connected with your buds and to help us keep you apprised of what your Corps is doing. You can now share your news — about jobs, new family members, and other exciting things you’re involved in — with the class champions and the rest of our alumni through our new Class Notes section. This is the first section in

my alma mater’s magazine that I turn to, and know that it will be the same for you, too! Submit your Class Notes and photos to us at vtcc.vt.edu/classnotes.

Well, hopefully you have a flavor for what an exciting year this is shaping up to be. We can’t wait to welcome the class of 2021 and to watch the upperclass cadets hone their leadership skills. We look forward to seeing many of you back on campus throughout the year and to see your faces as you tour the Upper Quad and feel the history surrounding you — a history that you all are a part of.

Thanks for reading. And thanks for your essential support to your Corps!



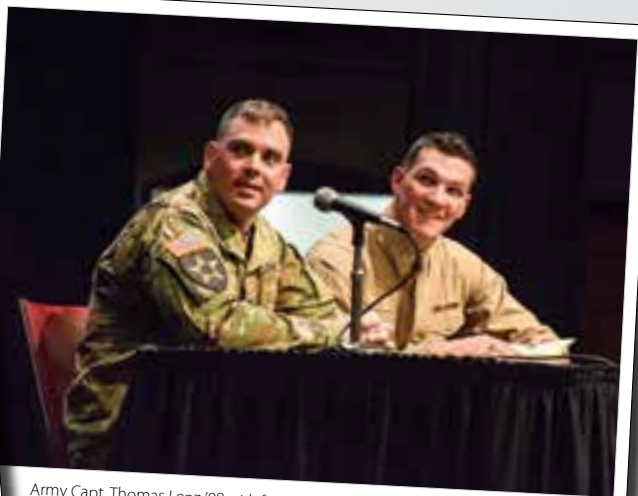
The Highty-Tighties, the Southern Colonels jazz band, and the Pipe and Drum Team ended the semester with a performance in the Moss Arts Center.

Spring and Summer Events

With the first hint of warm weather, the spring semester ramped up with guest speakers and special events. From the Military Ball in February to the change of command ceremony in May, cadets had many reasons to celebrate their accomplishments and the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets traditions.



Three alumni returned to campus on Feb. 15 for the Black Corps Alumni Panel. They were, from left, Casey M. Roberts '06, principal at Smithfield High School; Beverly Henderson Davis '80, retired from the U.S. Air Force and now a doctoral student at the University of San Francisco; and Air Force Maj. Ernest Cage '02, commander of the 11th Logistics Readiness Squadron at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland.



Army Capt. Thomas Lenz '08, at left, and Marine Lt. Austin Dickey '15 spoke to cadets during the spring Gunfighter Panel on Feb. 16.



Junior cadets formed a "17" on the dance floor at this year's Ring Dance on March 24.



Best-selling author, presidential historian for CNN, and Rice University Professor of History Douglas Brinkley gave the Cutchins Distinguished Lecture on April 6.



First-year cadets and their training cadre completed the second leg of the Caldwell March on April 15.



Cadets stood guard at the April 16 Memorial during the 2017 Day of Remembrance that marked the 10-year anniversary of the tragedy.



Cadet Mairead Novak '18 accepted command of the regiment from Maj. Gen. Randal D. Fullhart during the April 29 Change of Command Parade on the Drillfield. Novak will replace the spring regimental commander, Cassandra Davis '17, at far right.



The Highty-Tighties traveled to Washington, D.C., to march in the Cherry Blossom Festival Parade on April 7.



Easley Smith '45 participated in the classes of 2017 and 2018 Class Champion Dinner and Social on April 17 at Owens Dining Hall. Here he poses with, from left, Cadets Leah Roberts '16, Kylie Carroll '16, and Colleen McGovern '17.



On May 4, the Highty-Tighties' newest alumni from the class of 2017 gathered for a final time before graduation at the annual Highty-Tighty Banquet.



Members of the Old Guard look at a replica of the redesign of Upper Quad during a tour of Upper Quad during their reunion on May 18. The model is in the lobby of Pearson Hall.



Cadets participated in laying a Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets wreath at the Virginia War Memorial for Memorial Day on May 29. They are pictured with Adjutant General for the Commonwealth of Virginia Maj. Gen. Tim Williams '85, second from right.



Cadets Mackenzie Morris '18 and Ruth Green '19 are this summer's interns with Congressman Rob Wittman '81.

Interns on the Hill

By Deputy Commandant of Cadets Lt. Col. Don Russell, U.S. Air Force (retired)

Congressman Rob Wittman '81 has served in public office for over 20 years. He was re-elected for his fifth full term in the U.S. House of Representatives in November 2016.

Representing the 1st Congressional District of Virginia, he serves on the House Armed Services Committee and the Committee on Natural Resources. A few years ago, recognizing the leadership foundation he received while a cadet, Congressman Wittman offered summer internships to cadets in the Citizen-Leader Track. Several have since benefited from this outstanding experience.

Katelyn Margraf '16 of Great Falls, Virginia, was the first cadet to intern in Congressman Wittman's office. A political science major with a concentration in national security, Katelyn and I spoke during her freshman year about her aspirations to serve in the federal govern-

ment. The following year came Congressman Wittman's offer. Katelyn was one of the first cadets that came to my mind, based on her interests and strong performance in the Corps. She interned during summer 2014.

"I was able to observe firsthand a leader making important national security decisions. I was in constant communications with constituents and resolved various concerns they had. In addition, I learned how policymakers implement national security objectives within our government," Katelyn said.

"Being able to speak to Congressman Wittman about how he applied the values he learned during his time in the Corps of Cadets inspired me to pursue a life of public service. My internship and the four years I spent in the Corps were pivotal in my decision to pursue my career with the Federal Bureau of Investiga-

tion as an intelligence analyst."

In summer 2016, two more VPI Battalion cadets interned on the hill in Congressman Wittman's office. Katie Mazzola '17 of Keswick, Virginia, and Nicholas Masella '18 of Merrimack, New Hampshire, seized this opportunity. Both political science majors, they too attended committee hearings, worked with constituents, performed various tasks, and sponged all they could about federal legislative processes. Both agree the Capitol Hill internship was priceless experience that will springboard their careers in public service. In fact, Katie just accepted a full-time position in the congressman's office as a staff assistant.

She said her best memory was attending hearings. "One hearing I attended was the Subcommittee on Readiness, within the House Armed Services Committee. Congressman Wittman chaired

this hearing. It was shocking to hear about naval aviation's fleet challenges, especially when some of my friends are commissioning as naval aviators. I was also able to connect to the content from my Virginia Tech class on Congress."

Added Nicholas, "Another positive memory was the staff themselves. They were some of the most efficient, hard-working, and genuine people I met, and I enjoyed going in to work every day. On the walk to work, I got to see the Capitol every morning. I nodded my head in affirmation and pride that I was working in the center for the worldwide 'democratic experiment.' I gained a respect for congressmen and women for the job they are doing. I think people don't really understand how much work many of them put into their jobs."

This summer, two more cadets are on the hill. Cadet Mackenzie Morris '18 is a psychology major from Warrenton, Virginia. A community college transfer student enrolled in the Virginia Tech Honors College, she just completed her first year in the Corps. She will early-turn to cadet junior status this fall. Mackenzie's goal is federal public service, hopefully with the FBI as a behavioral analyst.



Congressman Rob Wittman '81 with Cadet Nicholas Masella '18, during his summer internship.

Cadet Ruth Green '19 of Fairfax, Virginia, is an economics major who aspires to a career in consulting or in the federal government. She reported to Congressman Wittman's office at the Capitol after her return from Normandy, France, as part of the 2017 Global Scholars Program.

A rising junior, she will be the VPI Battalion sergeant major this fall.

Meaningful summer experiences, particularly internships, are constantly reinforced to VPI cadets. In today's college graduate job market, professional experience is the great discriminator. The majority of VPI graduates who have gone to amazing careers leveraged great opportunities available during summer. To earn those opportunities, it helps to be competitive. The Corps experience certainly contributes to giving cadets that edge.

Another competitive edge is networking. Many organizations communicate directly through me or Jason Oberoi with their recruitment needs. Jason is assistant director for the Citizen-Leader Track. His focus is employer engagement initiatives, and that includes building the Corps alumni network.

The Citizen-Leader Track is very grateful for the enduring partnerships we have with organizations, including well-placed alumni like Congressman Wittman.

These cadet interns are very thankful for the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to serve Virginia's 1st Congressional District while gaining experience highly valued by future employers.



Former interns Katelyn Margraf '16, at center, and Katie Mazzola '17.



A Busy Corps Spring

By J. Pearson '87, chairman, Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Inc.

We concluded our spring board meeting on April 28. Our meeting was well attended and informative.

Commandant of Cadets Maj. Gen. Randal D. Fullhart gave us an update on the status of the Corps and the new Corps Leadership and Military Science Building. Our Corps is maintaining an average GPA of over a 3.0 and close to full strength. Our incoming class looks large and smart.

Our future building made the top four of buildings going forward for approval before the Virginia General Assembly. Of the four buildings, ours looks the simplest to approve because we have raised the private funding portion and the total amount requested is low compared with the rest of the requests.

Our new chief advancement officer, Sandi Bliss, gave us some vision on where the university and also where she want to go. I feel we are in good hands with Sandi. Please join me in helping her learn more about the Corps and meet our alumni. She is eager and willing to help us grow.

We listened to Virginia Tech Vice President for Strategic Affairs and Vice Provost for Inclusion and Diversity Mena Pratt-Clarke and Vice President for Research and Innovation Theresa Mayer. Mayer is a class of '88 grad and is leading the way in attracting companies to be a part of our research center. When Virginia Tech brings companies to campus, we get more opportunities for internships and jobs for our cadets. A true win-win!

Our spring regimental commander,

Cassandra Davis '17, spoke to our board about how grateful she is for our help in allowing her to grow up and to eventually lead our Corps. Our Corps Museum Curator Samantha Riffin VT'16 explained to us what treasure of artifacts were donated by the family of Maj. Gen. Cecil R. Moore, class of 1916. We learned that one of our alumni engineered the port to supply the allies after D-Day.

Our task force chairs met to discuss their goals for the following year. Career Advancement is led by Scott Pearl '84, Recruiting by David Williams '79, University Affairs by Dennis Cochrane '70, Governmental Affairs by Jim Hopper '69, Development by Deb Tillotson '78,

Museum by Dan Mills '64, and High-Tighties by Chuck Rowell '71. Please feel free to contact any one of them. The task force chairs then reported to the whole board after their meetings. We want the entire board to know what each task force is doing. We would also appreciate your input. Remember you are alumni or friends of the Corps, and we all want it continually to get better.

We also had our cadet socials in April. We have dinner with the rising seniors followed by a social with the soon-to-be graduates. We remind them that they will join us as alumni. We explain the need for them to get involved and stay in contact with us. Their class champions are introduced to be the conduit to



Rising seniors listen as alumni board member Jim Flynn '64, at right, tells a story about his years as a cadet during the Class Champion Junior Dinner. The dinner allows the rising seniors to hear about the Corps' history and the role of alumni.

stay in touch, network, and communicate with our alumni staff. We lead the university in this type of outreach to our future alumni. Now many other colleges within the university are beginning to start their own communications.

April 29 marked the Corps change of command ceremonies on the Drillfield. The weather was perfect, and the event was well attended. The reviewing party participants included Virginia Tech President Tim Sands, who spoke. He was accompanied by his wife, Laura Sands. I hope each one of you get a chance to come back to campus and watch a change of command. The pride that you feel is off the charts, and you realize our nation is in good hands.

The practice commissioning ceremony was held on May 11. Alumni Director Col. Patience Larkin '87 and I handed out keychains with an alumni information tag to each cadet graduating from the Corps. The Gokies are designed by



Board member David Williams '79, at far right, discusses goals with members of the Recruiting Task Force during the afternoon session of the spring alumni board meeting.

ex-football player and first-round draft pick Kevin Jones.

We wish our future officers great success. This experience really humbled me since it was 30 years earlier that I was commissioned. Wow does time fly when

you are having fun.

Please remember as alumni we must communicate, participate, and donate! Go Hokies!

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Members of Conrad Cavalry present the colors at their end-of-year event. **See more pictures at vtcc.vt.edu/corpsreview.**

Pilot Program Brings Training to the Conrad Cavalry Cadets

By Cadet Fallon Fulgenzi '18

During the spring semester, Conrad Cavalry partnered with Blacksburg's Advantage Ranch to create a 10-week pilot program. Through this program, we learned about horsemanship, developed skills in discipline and patience, and, most importantly, learned to love our time at the barn.

Conrad Cavalry is beginning to focus on drill as a way to promote team-building by riding as a group. This supports not only the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets' values, but everything our troop has learned and trained for in both the Corps and the ROTC units. Equestrian drill has many similarities to the modern military drill seen today in the elite silent drill teams. The modern military aspect of drill

Participate

Join the new Conrad Cavalry alumni organization by sending an email to fallon10@vt.edu.

in our movements will present itself as a very disciplined, military style of riding similar to that of the old cavalry units.

Conrad Cavalry was founded in 1972 by Kenneth Chapelle '73. The unit is named after Thomas Nelson Conrad, an expert horseman from the Civil War and the sixth president of Virginia Tech. During its founding years in the midst of the Vietnam War, Conrad Cavalry worked to bridge the gap between the Corps and

civilian populations at Virginia Tech by participating in parades and horse shows. People may not have approved of the military, but they still loved watching parade horses go by. Staying true to our founding ideals, Conrad Cavalry will work today as a liaison to the university to improve civilian-cadet relationships.

This past semester, we traveled to the Virginia Horse Center in Lexington, Virginia, and the Polo Club at Virginia Tech's Mercedes Cup to present the colors. This was a very exciting step for an organization that hasn't been seen in the public eye for four years.

Conrad Cavalry also had the privilege to put on an end-of-year presentation at

Advantage Ranch to show what cadets accomplished. It began with a presentation of the colors on horseback, a change of command, and four members performing a walking drill. In addition to this, our members facilitated four interactive stations to show attendees what we have learned through the pilot program. Stations included leading horses, grooming, show preparations (otherwise known as the horse salon), and pony rides.

We enjoyed sharing our knowledge and demonstrating the skills we developed throughout the course of this program. We look forward to many more events like this one. This semester was a great one, and we are eager to build from what we have so that we may become the equestrian unit that the Corps and the university can be proud of.

The pilot program has been wonderful for Conrad Cavalry, and we look forward to working with our new coach, Deb Dyer, this fall to expand on what we learned these past 10 weeks.



Pony rides were given during the end-of-year event. Cadet Fallon Fulgenzi '18 leads Alumni Director Col. Patience Larkin '87 on Sunny the horse while Commandant of Cadets Maj. Gen. Randal D. Fullhart observes.

While developing our organization, we want to remember and incorporate the traditions of the past. To do this we are creating a Conrad Cavalry alumni organization. We would like to invite all alumni to contact Cadet Fallon Fulgenzi, next year's commander, at fallon10@vt.edu if they are interested in being involved. This

group will be made aware of current happenings in the Conrad Cavalry via newsletter, receive invitations to future events, and have the opportunity to help develop an organization they were once a part of. We hope that you join us in our goal to become a unit excellent in horsemanship and integral to the Corps.

Next semester, we will be continuing to build Conrad Cavalry's relationship with Advantage Ranch. We hope to increase the number of riders and increase our skills so that we will be prepared for more complex drill maneuvers in our next performance.

We are thankful for the support we have received from the commandant, his staff, our alumni, and especially our friends at Advantage Ranch. Without their support we would never have gotten this far and we couldn't continue to develop this organization. The future of Conrad Cavalry looks ripe with new traditions, some old ones, and proud representation of the Corps of Cadets.

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These dog tags were worn by Maj. Gen. Cecil R. Moore, class of 1916, during World War I.

We Can Find Meaning in Simplicity

By Samantha Riggins VT'16, Corps museum curator

The simplest things can hold the most complex meanings. For instance, the dog tags Maj. Gen. Cecil R. Moore, class of 1916, wore during World War I initially aren't the most engaging object from the vast collection of memorabilia the Moore family recently donated to the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets museum. However, these metal discs held together with khaki-colored cord represent the beginning of Moore's storied career in the U.S. Army.

Moore came to VPI in 1915 from Harrisonburg, Virginia. An above-average student in high school, he enrolled as an advanced freshman. Known as the "Scribe" by his classmates, Moore earned his Bachelor of Science degree in 1916 and his master's degree in electrical engineering in 1917. He financed his master's degree by teaching physics to undergraduates.

While Moore's personal papers

showcase his devotion as a professor, the United States' involvement in World War I influenced his decision to serve his country. In summer 1917, he commissioned into the Coast Artillery Corps as a second lieutenant. In 1920, Moore deployed to Germany with the 16th Engineer Battalion, where he attained the rank of company commander. In 1942, Moore was promoted to chief of the Corps of Engineers in the European Theater under Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Moore's awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star, Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Croix de Guerre Medal.

After he retired from military service in 1946, he became head engineer for the city of Baltimore and then the first director at Friendship International Airport, today the Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport.

Simply put, Moore's service and achievements ensure his place on the short list of some of the greatest men and women to have served our country. Moore's family, recognizing his devotion and admiration for VPI, made the Corps museum the repository of his memorabilia, including personal and professional manuscripts, medals, uniforms, photographs, and souvenirs from his travels around the world. The Moore collection will serve to educate and inspire cadets and scholars with important, historical items, many which have never been seen outside of official military channels.

Now, back to those dog tags, one of the most intricate and compelling specimens from the Moore collection. Why? Because they are a concrete reminder of the decisive actions Moore took in 1917 to honor all corps alumni with his devotion to living a life of *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve). Well done, sir.



First-year cadets go through the check-in process on the first day of New Cadet Week 2017.

All Aboard

By Lt. Col. Dave Williams '79, U.S. Army (retired)

My friend the late Charlie Cornelison '67 used to talk about recruiting for the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets and the regimental band in railroad terms, which makes sense for a fellow who grew up in Roanoke, Virginia, at that time the epicenter of the Norfolk and Western Railway.

According to Charlie, a train with a new freshman class of cadets would pull into Blacksburg, they would disembark, and the train would pull away empty — and it was up to both the current Corps and dedicated cadet alumni to fill the train for the return trip to Blacksburg the following August. As you read this, the Huckleberry is on its way to Blacksburg with approximately 360 new cadets on board.

When it departs empty, our work will begin again.

Recruiting is a broad front, and alumni recruiters are involved in everything from the simple to the complex. Being a

Corps recruiter could be as simple as advocating for the Corps with friends and neighbors with high school-age children.

Some of us are involved with college fairs, both spring and fall. College fair volunteers agree to meet representatives of Virginia Tech's admissions office at various venues, both in and out of state, to talk with prospective applicants to the university specifically about the Corps.

This summer, alumni recruiters have written personal notes to those individuals who accepted an offer of admission to Virginia Tech as cadets. The beauty of this project is you do not have to be a subject-matter expert on every aspect of the current Corps. All you have to do is remember that the Corps was, and is, important to you and follow the guidelines of a vetted message.

Some of us are also involved in Corps parents clubs. Here we are both recruiters and retainers along with the parents of current cadets. Nothing settles the nerves

Participate

There are several simple ways you can help us recruit new cadets.

of the parents of soon-to-be cadets as the calm words of others who have experienced the Corps.

One of the more effective techniques is visiting the two or three high schools nearest your home. First, request recruiting material from Lt. Col. Rewa Mariger at rhintz@vt.edu. When the material arrives, call and introduce yourself to the guidance director and make an appointment to drop off the material. During that visit, volunteer to be a facilitator for information for any students who express an interest in the Corps. The notes would fit on the back of a ticket stub.

If this sounds interesting to you and you want to get involved, just fill out the online form at <https://goo.gl/fo2Usf>.

We will make you a conductor, too!

Corps Alumni Board's Newest Members

Incorporated in 1992, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Inc. supports the Corps of Cadets. Its board of directors meets twice a year to offer alumni insights to the commandant and to support a range of opportunities.

Don Robertson '67

Donald "Don" Clay Robertson was a member of K Company and the company commander his senior year. After graduation, Robertson briefly worked for Olin-Mathieson Chemical Corp. On active duty in the U.S. Army, he served at Fort Gordon, Georgia, and on two foreign assignments. He received the Bronze Star in 1970. After his military service, Robertson became a design engineer with General Electric Large Gas Turbines in Greenville, South Carolina, rising to senior design engineer. He joined Michelin North America, lived in France from 1977 to 1978, and held several engineering and technical management roles with the company. He retired from Michelin in January 2011 with 34 years of service. Robertson and his wife, Jo Ann, live outside Greer, South Carolina.

Christy (Burr) Nolta '85

Christy Nolta, a member of the Senior Executive Service, is the deputy director of Air Force staff at the U.S. Air Force headquarters at the Pentagon. She assists the assistant vice chief of staff and director of the Air Force staff with executing the office's responsibilities, including performing high-level projects according to policies, goals, and objectives of the secretary and chief of staff of the Air Force. In the Corps, Nolta was in Bravo Company and Air Force ROTC and a member of Angel Flight, Conrad Cavalry, Southern Colonels, Scabbard and Blade, Student Alumni Associates, and the regimental staff. Nolta is married

to Air Force Lt. Col. Mike Nolta (ret.) '84. They live in Herndon, Virginia.

David Cash VT'82

David Cash graduated Virginia Tech with a bachelor's degree in political science. He served as a resident advisor and head resident advisor at Miles Hall. In addition, he served on several politically affiliated student organizations. After graduation, Cash worked as a manager trainee at Central Fidelity Bank in Richmond, Virginia, until beginning the U.S. Navy's Officer Candidate School in October 1983. He commissioned as an ensign in the U.S. Navy Supply Corps. Cash earned his MBA from William & Mary. He retired from the Navy in 2003 and is the director of business analytics at Ironclad Technology Services in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Jason Oberoi '09

Jason Oberoi joined the Corps in August 2005 as a member of Band Company. He served as cadre sergeant, the VPI Battalion first sergeant, the band XO, the regimental S-3, and on the Exec Court. After commissioning as an armor officer in May 2010, Oberoi became a platoon leader, executive officer, and adjutant in the 1st Squadron of the 14th Cavalry Squadron in Fort Lewis, Washington. After separating from the Army, Oberoi worked in Baltimore as a logistics manager, then as an executive assistant for the Virginia Tech Pamplin College of Business. He now is the assistant director for the Corps' Citizen-Leader Track. He is married to Allie Oberoi '10 and lives in Christiansburg, Virginia.

Allie (Grief) Oberoi '10

Capt. Allie Oberoi is the Corps' executive officer. She also serves in the Virginia National Guard as the com-

pany commander for the 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. In the Corps, Oberoi was a member of the Highty-Tighties, serving as the 3rd Battalion XO and Band Company commander. Oberoi accepted a commission as a military police officer through Army ROTC. Stationed at Joint Base Lewis McChord, Washington, Oberoi deployed with the 54th Military Police Company, leading a platoon in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. After redeploying, she served as the logistics officer for the 504th Military Police Battalion. She transitioned to the civilian workforce in 2014, starting as a warehouse supervisor for Pepsi Beverage Company in Baltimore before joining the Corps' staff as the enrollment officer. She is married to Jason Oberoi '09 and lives in Christiansburg, Virginia.

Mike Weaver '88

Cmdr. Mike Weaver was a member of F-Troop in the Corps. He helped begin the Corps' chapter of the National Eagle Scout Association. After graduation, he joined the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Corps and eventually became a pilot, flying to verify and update data for NOAA's Visual Aeronautical Charts. He served as a software project engineer in the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) as party chief and project lead on the Cessna Citation, as project manager for the Space Weather Prediction Center, the deputy chief of the NGS Remote Sensing Division, as the NGS operations director, and in support of NOAA's Integrated Project Office. He joined the Corps staff in 2011 as deputy commandant of 1st Battalion. Currently, Weaver is the executive director of the Bradley Study Center, a non-profit organization that serves Christian faculty and students at Virginia Tech.

Class Notes

Welcome to a new Corps Review feature: our Class Notes section. Submit your deployments, job and rank changes, awards and honors, family announcements, photos, and other news and updates online at vtcc.vt.edu/classnotes. We are honored to begin highlighting our alumni's achievements and life events.

1970s

Lt. Col Jim Myers '78, U.S. Army (ret.), recently retired from a second career with the U.S. Department of Labor and relocated to The Grove in College Grove, Tennessee. He and his wife, Mary, extend their Hokie love to all past, current, and future members of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.

1990s

Catherine Ellis Wilson HT'93 has been promoted to Louisville drug, general merchandise, and fuel centers merchandiser for The Kroger Co. Wilson and her husband, Paul Wilson, will relocate from Portland, Oregon, to Louisville, Kentucky, this summer. She has been a manager within Kroger for 24 years.

2010s

Caleb Pittard '15 enlisted as a combat engineer and is stationed in Fort Hood, Texas, with the 91st Engineer Battalion, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.



Mark Vlahos '82, at left, and Virginia Tech Alumni Distinguished Professor Emeritus James "Bud" Robertson Jr. attended the San Antonio Alumni Chapter's 10-year celebration earlier this year. In this picture, Vlahos is wearing the same Highty-Tighty sweater he wore 30-some years ago in Robertson's class!



Second Lt. Eموke Toth '15, at left, and **2nd Lt. Tyler Knickerbocker '15** display the international Hokie sign after completing their initial solos in the T-38 at Vance Air Force Base in Enid, Oklahoma. Both are students in the 25th Field Training School and scheduled to graduate from undergraduate pilot training in August.



Col. Kevin Milton, the Army ROTC professor of military science, at right, administers the oath of office to Joseph Cowen '17, one of 69 Virginia Tech Army ROTC cadets who commissioned as second lieutenants this academic year.

Army ROTC News

Cadet Reflection: Military Science I

By Jacob Decker '20

Joining the Army ROTC program here at Virginia Tech is one of the best decisions I have made so far. I have just completed my first year as a cadet in this program, and I have already learned a lot. Over only two semesters, I have learned about different tactics and movements, from a fire team of four soldiers to an entire platoon of 40. I have learned things like ambushes to patrols, as well as land navigation with just a compass, a map, and some grid coordinates. Each semester, we have a three-day field training exercise in which we apply the skills learned in class and essentially tactically camp out in the middle of the woods. The training here has been phenomenal, and I know it will only get better. To top it off, this summer, I am traveling to Peru to participate in Army ROTC's Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency (CULP) program!

Cadet Reflection: Military Science II

By Liana Sinnott '19

Army ROTC has been one of the best experiences I have had at Virginia Tech. The cadre staff truly care about the leadership development and growth of the cadets going through this program. While it is not easy, it is a challenge that is truly rewarding in the end. There may be times where you fail or

times where you think you can't handle it, but this program was meant to test you and help you become a stronger leader. The New River Battalion has numerous opportunities for cadets. One that I enjoyed most was attending the annual Veterans Conference in Washington, D.C. I was able to hear speeches from empowering individuals such as the 28th commandant of the Marine Corps, P.X. Kelley, and numerous Medal of Honor recipients. This summer I am training with the Royal Thai Army in Thailand through CULP and then learning Chinese for the rest of the summer with Project Global Officer. I am incredibly thankful for the opportunities to develop myself throughout these programs.

By Michel Becker '19

ROTC has given me great opportunities. Last semester I was a member of the battalion's Army 10 Miler team and traveled to Washington, D.C., to run the race. Our team got fifth place for ROTC teams, and I was the second finisher for Virginia Tech. Training with the team throughout the semester brought the members close and created lasting friendships. Army ROTC has also offered me great summer opportunities. Last summer, I went to Basic Camp where I learned about army tactics, drill, and ceremony and got to interact with ROTC cadets from around the country. This summer I am traveling to Latvia



Army ROTC at Virginia Tech formally celebrated its 100th anniversary on Jan. 17 with a cake-cutting conducted by, from left, Col. Kevin Milton, Cadet Battalion Commander Josh Conyers '17, Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences Thomas Ewing, Cadet Battalion Sgt. Maj. Liam Garrity '17, and Master Sgt. Alfred Losey.

to study Russian through Project Global Officer, and after that I will go on to airborne school. My involvement in ROTC has helped provide purpose and direction to my college experience, as well as offering me many great experiences I could not find anywhere else.

Cadet Reflection: Military Science III

By Michael Shipley '18

I moved to Virginia Tech in the fall of 2016 following nearly four years with the 75th Ranger Regiment. While prior-service experience is helpful, there is an entirely different set of skills you need to learn when preparing to become an officer. During my time in the program, I have held the position of squad leader, platoon sergeant, and next semester I will be the program battalion commander. This isn't an opportunity that I take lightly, and I'm extremely excited to work with staff and company commanders. I've also enjoyed working with the Virginia Tech Cadet Ranger Company, a group of extremely motivated, young, future officers. Seeing how seriously they study Ranger history, tactics and live by the Ranger Creed is inspiring and makes me proud to be a Ranger. There is no doubt these soldiers will do great things in the Army because of the lessons they learned in Ranger Company.

By Brett Mester '18

Learning through leadership. This small phrase drove my Army ROTC experience this school year. As soon as the school year began, I was thrown into the position of platoon sergeant, standing in front of more than 20 cadets with varied levels of experience. I myself had only been in the program for less than a year, but just completed Basic Camp the previous summer. The challenge was becoming a positive leader while creating an environment for each cadet to grow in. I found this task to be both difficult and rewarding. My approach was to show respect down to the lowest levels and immerse myself in their development.

By Nikkole Lenardson '17

My Military Science III year of Army ROTC has been absolutely demanding, but greatly rewarding. I had the opportunity to experience direct leadership as a platoon sergeant (PSG) one semester and learn about a more hands-off approach to leadership as a first sergeant in the next. As PSG, getting to interact face-to-face with squad leaders down to squad members served as a valuable opportunity to positively influence younger cadets. I was expected to show up to every class, lab, or meeting as the subject-matter expert, ready to teach and lead. This expectation drove my development as a cadet and prepared me for hurdles I'm sure I'll face at Advanced Camp.

Cadet Battalion Commander Perspective

By Josh Conyers '17

A year ago, I never realized the amount of training I would obtain as the cadet battalion commander. While freshman to junior year focuses on leadership through execution, during senior year the focus turns toward higher level thinking: leadership philosophies, large-scale training events, and how to lead other leaders. At the start of the semester, I met with Col. Kevin Milton to receive his guidance. With about a dozen PowerPoint slides in hand, it was then up to me and my staff to plan and execute the training for the 400 cadets of the New River Battalion. As the battalion commander, my biggest personal challenge and most rewarding realization was how to create a commander's intent, articulate the key tasks necessary to meet that intent, and visualize a successful end result of that event. The concept of instructing subordinate leaders in what to do, not necessarily how to do it, was tough to wrap my mind around at first. But, as the year progressed, not only did it prove to be effective, I think it's a concept that really sets Army ROTC cadets apart from our peers on campus.



Midshipmen, unit officers, and local veterans attended the annual Senior Dining-In on April 21.

Naval ROTC News

Senior Dining-In

By Midshipman 2nd Class Madison Howell '18

The Navy midshipmen from the Naval ROTC battalion at Virginia Tech celebrated their annual Senior Dining-In on April 21 at the River Company Restaurant in Radford, Virginia.

Guests included officers within the unit and local veterans.

The unit was privileged to host Rear Adm. Kevin C. Hayes as the guest of honor.

Hayes commissioned in May 1987 after graduating from the University of San Diego with a bachelor's degree in business administration. In his civilian capacity, Hayes is an account manager for a global communications company.

The midshipmen attending dining-in gained a great deal of insight during his remarks.

The evening included the tradition of sampling the beef, offering toasts, and of course, drinking from the grog.

This event was an excellent opportunity for the seniors to come together one last time before they graduated and commissioned to become naval officers.

Farewell to Maj. Ahmad Martin

By Midshipman 3rd Class Briana Jordan '19

Maj. Ahmad Martin served as the Marine officer instructor



Maj. Ahmad Martin

from May 2014 to May 2017. During his tour of duty, Martin mentored and trained 162 Marine-option midshipmen, fully preparing them for future challenges in the Marine Corps. His efforts resulted in a 100 percent graduation rate for the midshipmen sent to Officer Candidate School, as well as garnering 19 percent of all Marine Corps national and sideload scholarships nationwide for students under his tenure.

Martin also served as the executive officer for nearly five months while the unit was in transition waiting for a new commanding officer to come on board.

Martin will continue to serve in uniform as a senior Marine instructor for the Marine Corps JROTC program at Haverhill High School in Haverhill, Massachusetts.

The Navy unit will also be saying farewell to Lt. Robert Knapp, Lt. Leonard DePrisco, and Gunnery Sgt. Michael Towns. They have made great contributions to the Navy unit during their tours of duty.

The unit welcomes Capt. Stephanie A. Lomeli, who will be replacing Martin as the new marine officer instructor.



Corps Reunion • Sept. 22-23, 2017 Virginia Tech vs. Old Dominion University



Come to Corps Reunion 2017 and Reunite with Old Buds and Classmates!

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

This year, registration opens at 3 p.m. Friday. The Friday night Cadet Leadership Reception and Dinner at The Inn at Virginia Tech is a coat-and-tie affair where you can meet and hear from today's cadet leadership.

Saturday will feature a reunion meal at The Inn at Virginia Tech (time TBD). This casual-dress event will include the opportunity to hear from Commandant of Cadets Maj. Gen. Randy Fullhart—who will present an update on facilities upgrades and continuing improvements to the leader development program—as well our guest speaker, Congressman Rob Wittman '81.

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

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

If you have any questions, please contact the VTCC Alumni office at 540-231-7431

Corps Reunion Registration Website

www.alumni.vt.edu/events/2017/09/corps_of_cadets.html



Cancellation:

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

Game Tickets (when applicable):

- Game tickets purchased as part of event registration are for registered event participants only. The cost of game tickets is \$45, and they are limited in quantity, available on a first-come, first-served basis, and a maximum of four game tickets per registration form. Game tickets will not be mailed. They will be available for pickup with a photo ID at event registration. Everyone who enters Lane Stadium must have a game ticket, including infants.

Lodging at The Inn at Virginia Tech (when applicable):

- Rooms are limited and are offered on a first-come, first-served basis with a two-night minimum stay. Room preferences are not guaranteed. Telephone reservations are not accepted at The Inn at Virginia Tech. Confirmation will be provided by the hotel. Please review this confirmation for accuracy of arrival and departure dates. Room cancellations must be made 30 days prior to event for full refund.

Confirmation:

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



Air Force cadets participated in Leadership, Evaluation, and Development training at Virginia Military Institute with other Virginia ROTC units. The first half of the day consisted of group leadership problems, the Leadership Reaction Course, obstacle course challenges, and even an introduction to weapon safety.



Air Force ROTC News

By Cadet Mary Claire Ragan '18

The end of the spring semester also marked the beginning of a new chapter for many cadets. Whether it is going through summer training, experiencing travel abroad, or transitioning from ROTC to the operational Air Force, there's a lot to prepare for during the spring.

Despite the anticipation for what the end of the school year brings, the cadets at Detachment 875 have continued to work tirelessly to find and create opportunities to better themselves as wingmen, leaders, and warriors. Through community involvement, personal projects, and training preparation, Detachment 875 sets the bar high as the best alive!

Creating community

The cadet wing used physical training (PT) and leadership lab to boost community involvement, adding a creative element to the typical training schedule. Detachment 875 has a distinct advantage of being placed in a campus that takes pride in the support given throughout the community. Cadet leadership in Air Force ROTC reaches out to sports teams, on-campus organizations, and even local businesses to exchange support and supplement training.

During PT this semester, guest workouts were created to get in touch with sports teams and local gyms to enhance physical fitness. One workout included an early morning trip to the pool with the Virginia Tech women's water polo team, teaching cadets new skills in the water and a new understanding of an intense sport. Another guest workout included trainers from

the Crossfit 460 gym teaching and implementing new techniques for workouts to be used both in and out of PT.

In leadership lab, cadets received a special visit from the ROTC commander for the Southwest Region, Col. Kenneth Backes. Not only did the colonel give insight to how the Air Force is changing and the trajectory of the ROTC program, he also imparted advice for soon-to-be second lieutenants.

Group photo

The talent of the wing isn't always seen through numbers and percentages, but by the personal efforts put forth by cadets. This semester, Cadet Jared Ohashi '18, was tasked with a seemingly simple task of coordinating a picture of the entire wing. However, being a part of the best alive, Ohashi used meticulous and strategic planning to not only create a timeless photo, but a blueprint to pass onto to other detachments. When asked about the method used for the success of this project, Ohashi simply replied, "Math ... and a lot of it."

Ohashi walked through the steps of how he was able to transform a patch onto the Drillfield and cadets into the Air Force symbol. Combining ratios and angles gathered from Google Earth images with a protractor, ruler, calculator, and then some paint to direct cadets where to go, it would seem like the math would allow things to fall into place — still, the planning doesn't stop there.

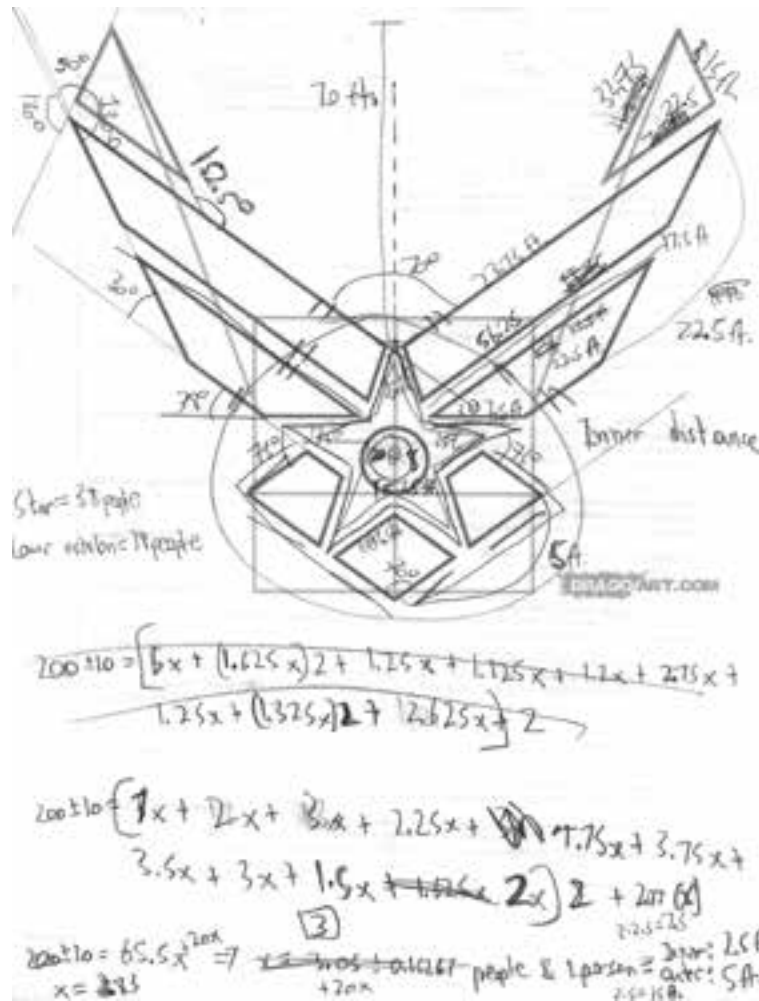
To capture the recreation of the Air Force symbol, Ohashi planned to make use of a drone. However, Ohashi recalls it being, "a nightmare to get permission" just to use the drone



for an aerial photo shoot. With the help of Cadet Jordan Wirth '18, he was able to get approval from the Virginia Tech Police Department, Housing and Residence Life, and even the Federal Aviation Administration for the drone's flight path! By the end of the tedious project, Ohashi not only delivered a flawlessly executed plan, but also a formula to pass on to other cadets. The work exemplified the wingmanship and excellence instilled in the Detachment 875 cadets. We do in fact lead the way by earning both the top PT and grade-point average ranking among senior military colleges so the numbers match the talent!

LEAD training

Whether you know it as field training or you're beginning to understand it as Leadership Evaluation, and Development (LEAD), the challenge set before many AS200s/250s this upcoming summer is no easy task. Thankfully, Detachment 875 works hard to ensure that cadets are prepared to succeed at arguably the most important milestone on the road to commissioning. Spearheaded and coordinated by Cadet Mike D'Avella '18, the cadets bound for LEAD traveled to the Virginia Military Institute for a joint training day with other Virginia ROTC's to prepare for the challenges at LEAD. Throughout the day, the cadets put their LEAD prep to the test. They marched from station to station throughout VMI's campus leading and helping each other throughout each problem. The first half of the day consisted of group leadership problems, the Leadership Reaction Course, obstacle course challenges, and even an introduction to weapon safety.



Cadet Jared Ohashi '18 used a lot of math to create this blueprint that describes how cadets should stand during a group photo to create the Air Force symbol.

After getting a taste for both dining facility procedures and VMI's mess hall, the cadets marched to the next set of obstacles. The rest of the day included dorm maintenance, interviews and LEAD knowledge, inspections, and drill evaluation. To top off the motivational day of training, cadets performed a wing formation run right before debriefing and heading home. When reflecting on this training opportunity, Cadet Ashley Marshall '20 noted that, "Going in, I thought I would be knowledgeable, but it was a definite eye-opener. It was run well and very beneficial." Here's to hoping the extra training day will pay off this summer!

On top of this one-day event, the

LEAD preparation staff led by Cadet Matthew Mumbach '18, held one to two early morning training sessions each week of the semester, truly demonstrating their desire to give back and help prepare their fellow cadets for this critical part of their training.

Another semester and another school year finishes up, and Detachment 875 prepares for the next chapter of challenges. With a banquet, countless service projects, a Warrior Day, and 43 commissions administered in May, the semester proved to be a memorable and eventful one. As wingmen, leaders, and warriors, Detachment 875 will continue to be the best alive!



Cadets compete in the annual Jaffe Eager Squad and Eager Individual drill competitions, named in honor of the late Jeff Jaffe '42. Jaffe was a member of his unit's Eager Squad when he was a cadet, and the experience meant so much to him that he wanted to make sure it was still a meaningful event today. Beginning in 2004, Jaffe donated the money to purchase the trophy and plaque, as well as annually giving the monetary award for the winning cadets.

News from the Development Office

Thank you for sharing

By *Sandi Bliss, chief advancement officer*

First and foremost, I want to tell you all how excited I am to join the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets (VTCC). I look forward to working with and learning from you all.

I am thrilled to be back at a land-grant university, notwithstanding a major weather change. As many of you may have read, I began my career in academic development at Oklahoma State University. I most recently worked as the development director for the provost at the University of Miami.

The decision to move from Miami to Blacksburg was not made lightly. I was given the opportunity to apply for the position with the Corps last fall, shortly after losing my father, a Marine. I am honored and humbled to be given the chance to work with you and to honor



Sandi Bliss

my father's legacy.

In my first few months, I have learned so much about the Corps and Virginia Tech. The memory that stands

out the most is

meeting an amazing alumnus, Mr. Ray Carmines. He has just turned 90 years old and still ice skates, skis, plays golf, dances, and travels across the globe. Happy 90th birthday, Ray!

In addition to meeting Ray, I greatly enjoyed working with a current cadet who spoke to some of you this past spring while volunteering in our student call center. As wonderful as it is for us when a busy cadet volunteers for this

effort, I had not considered the meaning this experience brought to the cadet's life until I was included in an email this cadet sent to the commandant, Maj. Gen. Randal D. Fullhart, thanking us all for the experience he had while hearing your stories. Thank you for sharing with him!

Inspired by alumni

By *Scott Lyman '84, associate director of development*

By now, many of you have met me in person or seen my picture in the Corps Review. I would like to take this time to tell you about my history with the Corps. I retired from the Army three years ago, after a nearly 30-year career in which I rose to the rank of colonel. I was a career Army officer and so were my father and grandfather — three generations totaling 86 years of service. Besides myself, I have 20 relatives who have either gone to or



Scott Lyman '84

graduated from Virginia Tech.

Upon seeing a job announcement for a Corps of Cadets development officer, I knew that Virginia

Tech was where I needed to be. I saw this position as an opportunity to give back to the Corps and to live in a place that is near and dear to my heart.

During my three years in this role, I have been fortunate to have had the opportunity to meet some of the bravest, brightest, and most-selfless alumni that an organization could ever wish to have.

As a development officer for the Corps, I truly understand the importance of my work and how it positively affects others.

I have had the opportunity to hear some of the most amazing stories of why our alumni give back to the Corps. One in particular stands out.

I first met Steve and Connie Mitchell in September 2015 near their home in Carolina Beach, North Carolina. They wanted to establish a bequest from their estate to add additional funds to the scholarship named in memory of their son. Capt. David Seth Mitchell '01 died on Oct. 26, 2009, while flying his AH-1 Super Cobra helicopter gunship in support of ground combat operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Prior to meeting the Mitchells, I wanted to ensure that I understood their bequest by researching their son's death. I did not want to bring up old memories that day. However, during our conversation, when I told them I also was a helicopter pilot, they were intrigued. They proceeded to tell me about their son.

The Mitchells have a special place in my heart. Their deep love for their son is both obvious and moving. Their generosity in establishing the VTCC Capt. D.

Seth Mitchell '01 Memorial Scholarship is inspiring.

Connecting generations

By Kerry Meier VT'11, VT'15, development associate

It is with pride that I have twice walked across the Virginia Tech graduation stage: in 2011 for my bachelor's degree from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and in 2015 to receive two master's degrees from Pamplin College of Business. However, I can say that both Virginia Tech and the Corps were a part of my life even before I enrolled.

My brother, Pat Meier '08, was a member of E-Frat and now serves in the U.S. Coast Guard. I vividly remember watching the Corps ceremonies as his company marched across the Drillfield, each cadet in a pressed blue blazer and stark white pants. Cadets moved together as one unit, one family, one Corps. Recalling this discipline and camaraderie inspired me to become a development associate with the Corps of Cadets. This position gives me the opportunity to work with alumni daily on a one-on-one basis, which is the best part of



Kerry Meier VT'11, VT'15

my job. I am so grateful to have days filled with amazing tales of far-off lands, memories of dorm days at Virginia Tech, and the reverence for the Corps' history

and its rich traditions. I even had the chance to fly on a World War II bomber.

What makes the work so rewarding is that I am a part of a group that creates connections between generations of Corps graduates. One of my favorite events to take part in planning is the donor breakfast at which the Emerging Leader Scholarship sponsors meet the cadets they are supporting and get to see how their support builds the future of the Corps. It's so wonderful to watch the cadets soak in the stories from their donors — everything from snowball fights on the Drillfield to lives after graduation. This event shows donors the impact their scholarships have. In its own cyclical way, the event imprints the importance of



Don Sage '56 and his wife, Mary Etta, pose with his saber before he donated it to the Corps for a current cadet to carry.



Members of the Old Guard took a tour of Pearson Hall during their May 18 gathering on campus.

investing in Virginia Tech and the Corps in the minds of cadets, to pay it forward as alumni have done before them. Being able to facilitate these connections and foster the development of the Corps, truly makes me feel like I am an integral part of the organization. I always look forward to another breakfast each fall!

Annual Giving

By Devon Smith, assistant director of Annual Giving

It is with great pleasure that I write my first official correspondence as the assistant director of Annual Giving for my alma mater, Virginia Tech. As an undergraduate, I possessed a respect for my classmates who chose to participate in the rigors of ROTC training — and forgo the option of wearing pajamas to class — but I had very little understanding of what their commitment to the Corps entailed. That admiration and appreciation increased significantly when my younger brother, Ethan, joined the Corps as New Cadet Smith E.M. TC-2-3. I witnessed the transformation he went through, from being my baby brother to becoming a disciplined

Donate

Learn how you can make a gift today by calling the Corps Advancement Office at 540-231-2892.

man in uniform, devoted to his fellow cadets in India Company and living *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve) in his everyday life.

Thank you all for your annual gifts to the Corps of Cadets. They make a tremendous impact and are deeply appreciated. Whether you give in response to our mailings, our calls, or our emails, your consistent generosity supports and inspires not only our cadets, but the university community at large.

Within Annual Giving, we value your feedback on how we can improve the giving experience. One recent, major improvement we have made is a new, online giving page at givingto.vt.edu/donate. It is much easier to navigate on mobile devices than the site we had before. As a passionate Hokie and the proud sister of a cadet, I'm excited to join the team dedicated to advancing our university and its Corps.

Planned Giving

By Judith Davis, Office of Planned Giving

Gift planning is a way to leave a legacy at Virginia Tech. Gifts are typically funded with cash, securities, or property and are a long-term partnership between donors and Virginia Tech that provide support to important areas such as the Corps of Cadets and provide valuable tax benefits.

There are many ways you can support the Corps with a gift that will help our brave young men and women realize their leadership potential.

“If it hadn't been for my experience in the Corps, I would not be the person I am today. It gave me the discipline, leadership training, and self-confidence that I had not developed” before coming to Virginia Tech, said John W. Bates III '63, recipient of the 2011 Ruffner Medal, the university's highest award for distinguished service.

Learn how you can make a gift today, a gift in your will or even a gift that will pay your lifetime income. Contact the Corps Advancement Office at 540-231-2892.

In Memory

Kermit "Mike" Riddick Kelley '38
1921 - 2017



Kermit "Mike" Kelley died on Jan. 22, 2017. Kelley was born in Suffolk, Virginia, and graduated from Suffolk High School. He gradu-

ated from Virginia Tech, where he was a member of the Corps of Cadets, the honorary research fraternity Alpha Kappa Psi, the German Club, and vice president of the Peanut Club. Upon graduation, Kelley received his commission as a second lieutenant and served in World War II in Northern Africa and Italy. He received a Purple Heart and Bronze Star and rose to the rank of major. He earned an accounting degree from William & Mary. Kelley served on the Suffolk City Council and was mayor during that tenure, in addition to participating in many other community organizations. Survivors include his wife, Frances, and five children.

Ralph P. Breeding Jr. '46
1923 - 2017



Ralph P. Breeding Jr., 93, of Lynchburg, Virginia, died on Jan. 19, 2017. He was born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and later moved

to Richmond, Virginia. Breeding graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School in Richmond and Virginia Tech. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II and the Korean Conflict. He worked for

many years before retiring from Babcock & Wilcox. Breeding was a longtime active member of Chestnut Hill Baptist Church, a member of Masonic Lodge No. 39, and a hospital volunteer. His wife of 67 years, Sue Davis Breeding; a son; and daughter survive.

Aldo Albert "Al" Modena '49
1928 - 2017



Aldo Albert Modena of Midlothian, Virginia, died on March 8, 2017. Modena graduated from Virginia Tech with a bachelor's degree in

business administration. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He also attended Washington and Lee University Law School and became a member of the Virginia State Bar. In 1954, he joined the trust division of the Flat Top Bank in Bluefield, West Virginia, retiring as bank president. In addition, Modena graduated from the Stonier Graduate School of Banking at Rutgers University. He served on numerous federal, state, and local banking associations and committees, as well as many civic and community activities, receiving several awards. Modena's survivors include two daughters and two sons.

William Edward Pence III '57
1937 - 2017

William Edward Pence III of Haymarket, Virginia, died on Jan. 9, 2017. He was born in Weyers Cave, Virginia, graduating from Weyers Cave High School and Virginia Tech. Pence was a member of the Corps of Cadets, receiving a commission into the U.S. Air Force. After completing pilot training,



Pence flew KC-135 tankers while stationed in Maine and Puerto Rico. He earned an MBA from Inter-American University. He enjoyed a

career as a commercial pilot with Eastern Airlines from 1966 to 1981 while serving in the U.S. Air Force Reserve, retiring as a lieutenant colonel in 1980. He was a member of the Manassas Church of the Brethren, the Manassas Host Lions Club, and Evergreen Country Club. His wife, Peggy Ann, and two sons survive.

Vincent F. Ewell '64
1943 - 2017



Vincent F. Ewell died on April 13, 2017, in Colorado. Ewell was born in Newport News, Virginia. He attended Virginia Tech and was a member

of the Corps of Cadets. Ewell was a clarinetist in the Highty-Tighties, graduating with a bachelor of science degree in 1964. He attended law school at William & Mary. Ewell practiced law in Virginia, in Texas, and before the U.S. Supreme Court. He worked for the Newport News Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Company as general counsel. Upon transferring to Houston, Texas, Ewell served as vice president and deputy general counsel, later becoming vice president and general counsel of Tenneco Energy. Ewell spent his last years in London and in Evergreen, Colorado. Survivors include his wife, Margaret, and her family.

William Henry von Mahland '64
1942 - 2017



William Henry von Mahland of Middletown, Connecticut, died on March 22, 2017. He graduated from Virginia Tech with a master's

degree in architecture. Mahland served on the Middletown Inland Wetland Commission and was instrumental in developing affordable housing. He was a veteran, having served in the U.S. Army during Vietnam and earning the rank of captain. He later served in the Army National Guard in Connecticut. Mahland's survivors include his wife, Nada Jane (Smith) von Mahland; a son; and a daughter.

Stuart A. Coiner '74
1951 - 2011



Stuart Arthur Coiner of Eustis, Florida, died on Sept. 6, 2011. He was born in Staunton, Virginia, and was a missionary with the Rafiki

Foundation in Uganda and Zambia, a Gideon, and a retired electrical engineer. Coiner worked with the New Hope Presbyterian Church of Eustis. Coiner's survivors include his wife, Marsha; a son; and two daughters.

William "Bill" Edward Fish '84
1963 - 2017



U.S. Air Force Capt. William "Bill" Edward Fish of Pataskala, Ohio, died on April 4, 2017. A member of Sitka High School's class of 1980,

Fish received a bachelor's degree in aeronautical engineering from Virginia Tech in 1984 and an MBA from Westchester University in 1993. He served in the U.S. Air Force as a development engineer specializing in astronautics. Fish primarily worked with the Air Force Materiel Command, Air Logistics Complex in the 76th Maintenance Wing out of Tinker Air Force Base. He received the National Defense Service Medal and a Joint Meritorious Unit Award for his service in support of Operation Desert Shield/Storm, in addition to many other decorations, medals, badges, citations, and campaign ribbons. Following his military career, Fish became a software developer with Nationwide Insurance in Columbus, Ohio. Fish was a triathlete and was an active member of the Episcopal Church. His survivors include his wife, MaryAnn A. Goodman-Fish; a son; a daughter; his parents; and a brother.

James David Godek '87
1965 - 2017



Jim "Goldie" Godek died Feb. 18, 2017 in Virginia Beach, Virginia, after waging a courageous fight with brain cancer. Godek graduated in 1987

from Virginia Tech where he was the E-Frat company commander his senior year. After commissioning into the U.S. Navy, Godek had a distinguished career as a naval aviator flying E-2C Hawkeyes and serving as a landing signal officer with the "Tiger Tails" of VAW 125. He retired as a commander in the Naval Reserve and began his second career with Southwest Airlines as a Boeing 737 captain. Godek ran marathons and Ironman triathlons, completing nearly 50 full and half marathons and eight full Ironman triathlons. Godek led the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets alumni regiment onto the field before the 2016 Corps Reunion football game. Godek will be sorely missed by all his buds. He is survived by his wife, Dana; their two golden retrievers; his parents; and his brother.

LEST WE FORGET

Alfred H. Thompson '38, Falls Church, Virginia, 8/17/16

Philip E. Frankfort '40, Franklin, Virginia, 4/14/17

James G. Walker '40, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, 4/22/16

Israel Longman '41, Livingston, New Jersey, 1/31/17

John H. Varner '42, Farmville, Virginia 12/27/16

Orran O. Hansbarger '44, Roanoke, Virginia, 3/8/17

Aldo M. Pulito '44, Orange, Connecticut, 1/28/17

Arthur H. Rosenfeld '44, Berkeley, California, 1/28/17

Glanville M. Delano '45, Richmond, Virginia, 12/21/16

Robert K. Floyd '45, Danville, Virginia, 4/4/17

Kenneth B. Lampert '45, Norfolk, Virginia, 1/31/17

Carl M. Leonard '45, Hot Springs National, Arkansas, 1/29/17

George W. Snead '45, Salem, Virginia, 4/10/17

William A. White '45, 11/18/16

Vernon G. Eberwine '46, Suffolk, Virginia, 1/8/17

Norman W. Pedigo Sr. '46, Bedford, Virginia, 2/15/17

Donald F. Reilly '46, Midlothian, Virginia, 1/6/17

Roger B. Firstbrook '48, North Plainfield, New Jersey, 1/16/17

Milton H. Shackelford '48, Wheaton, Illinois, 2/26/17

Floyd Bowles '49, Henrico, Virginia, 1/16/17

Roland E. Latta '49, Farmville, Virginia, 3/29/17

James A. Lyle Jr. '49, Lynchburg, Virginia, 12/20/16

Charles M. Montgomery '49, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, 1/11/17

Joe C. Shaner Jr. '49, Lexington, Virginia, 3/8/17

Chester A. Waldron '49, Charleston, South Carolina, 3/4/17

Robert B. Younger Jr. '49, Richmond, Virginia, 4/15/17

Forrest C. Bailey III '50, Deltaville, Virginia, 2/25/17

Hugh M. Jones '50, Chilhowie, Virginia, 1/20/17

William L. Proffitt '50, Henrico, Virginia, 1/28/17

Alexander D. Stone Jr. '50, Isle of Palms, South Carolina, 1/12/17

Allen R. Cross '51, Atlanta, Georgia, 1/31/17

Lloyd W. Entsminger '51, Beckley, West Virginia, 1/23/17

Charles R. Guthrie '51, Dublin, Virginia, 1/28/17

Kyle C. Smith '51, North Manchester, Indiana, 12/28/16

Shirley H. Carter '52, Charles City, Virginia, 2/12/17

Robert D. Lymburner '52, Franklin, Tennessee, 1/15/16

Nelson M. Magee '52, Rome, Georgia, 3/18/17

Frank R. Kwiatkowski '53, Radford, Virginia, 4/21/17

Vernon M. Sheppard '53, Roanoke, Virginia, 2/7/17

David P. Olinger '54, Tazewell, Virginia, 3/7/17

Stanley B. Sutton '56, Hopewell, Virginia, 2/21/17

Jerry W. Wood '56, Greensboro, North Carolina, 2/17/17

Clarence Ned Lester '57, Blacksburg, Virginia, 2/22/17

Don T. Morton '57, Scottsville, Virginia, 3/27/17

Nathan H. Williamson '57, Gloucester, Virginia, 2/10/17

John R. Hinkle '58, Salem, Virginia, 3/29/17

William G. Mays '58, Bedford, Virginia, 2/8/17

Clinton "Mike" Michael Robertson '58, Madison, Virginia, 2/3/17

Donald A. Gray '59, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, 1/18/17

Joseph H. Jones Sr. '59, McDowell, Virginia, 2/22/17

Samuel D. Judge '59, Keedysville, Maryland, 12/16/16

Jerre C. Lumsden '60, Glade Hill, Virginia, 1/8/17

Bruce N. Parker '60, Glen Allen, Virginia, 1/9/17

James B. Evans '61, Severna Park, Maryland, 1/28/17

Luther A. Zirkle '61, Richmond, Virginia, 2/16/17

Edmund E. Floyd '62, Snellville, Georgia, 1/10/17

Fred B. Givens '62, Newport, Virginia, 4/13/17

Johnny S. Joannou '62, Portsmouth, Virginia, 5/6/16

Larry T. Frazier '63, Purcellville, Virginia, 4/16/17

Robert F. Mills '63, Derby, Kansas, 1/19/17

William K. Bair '64, Lake Lure, North Carolina, 1/3/2017

Henry J. Balch Jr. '64, Hendersonville, North Carolina, 3/21/17

Stephen L. Cohan '64, Chester, New Jersey, 2/12/17

John S. Mullins '64, Decatur, Georgia, 1/17/17

Richard F. Alley Jr. '68, Clarksville, Virginia, 4/18/2017

Richard D. Chuiques Sr. '68, Roanoke, Virginia, 4/6/17

John W. Layman '69, Fishersville, Virginia, 12/16/16

Robert O. Briscoe '80, Abingdon, Virginia, 2/9/17



Senior cadets toss their covers in the air after the spring change of command ceremony.

Congratulations, Graduates

By Cadet Leeann Jones '19

In May, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets congratulated 264 graduates of the program as they crossed the stage in Burruss Auditorium.

Of that total, 149 received their commissions with others continuing on to complete their studies before commissioning in 2018.

Sixty cadets graduated from the Citizen-Leader Track program, and 75 percent of them already had career-starting jobs or acceptance into graduate schools.

The keynote speaker was Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Sharpy, the U.S. Air Force's vice commander for Air Mobility Command at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. The command is responsible for the unit's strategic transportation mission

from 12 major air installations in the U.S. and nearly 100 locations worldwide.

Sharpy's son was among the Corps' graduates. Dylan Sharpy '17 earned his degree in industrial systems engineering and commissioned into the U.S. Air Force.

The evening capped off several spring celebrations, including the change of command ceremony and pass in review on April 29 and the Military Awards Ceremony on April 20.

During the Military Awards Ceremony, the Corps, the university's ROTC units, and various military and veteran's organizations handed out more than 150 awards in recognition of cadets' outstanding efforts.

Golf Company received the Beverly

S. Parrish Award, also known as the Gold Cord. This highly competitive award goes to the top company in the Corps, and it is the most anticipated and prized award of the ceremony. Criteria includes academic performance, recruiting efforts, cadet retention, discipline, room and uniform inspections, and drill performance. Nathan Sipantzi '17 commanded Golf Company this spring.

Alpha Company received the Jaffe Eager Squad Trophy. This trophy goes to the winner of the Eager Squad drill competition, an annual tradition performed in honor of Jeff Jaffe '42. Cadets practiced the drill sequence for weeks leading up to the event so that they could perfect it.

Cadet Benjamin Taitano '18 led the



The graduating class of 2017.

winning squad. Each of the 11 squad members received a \$200 award from a trust established by Jaffe.

The best-drilled freshman and sophomore cadets receive the Eager Individual Award each year. Cadet Aydan Mortensen '20 was the Lt. Edward Raney Freshman Proficiency Award winner. Cadet Jacob Davis '19 was the John E. Hill Memorial Sophomore Proficiency Award winner.

Alpha Company earned the Glenn Wyatt Memorial Recruiting Award. This award goes to the company that performed the most recruiting at high schools over Thanksgiving and winter breaks. Peter Wilson '17 commanded Alpha Company this spring.

Alpha Company also earned the Kohler Cup, which recognizes the best drilling company. Inspectors graded each company's marching before every football game and during parades.

William Brannen '17 was awarded the Earle D. Gregory Award for outstanding leadership and for the ability to organize and allocate resources. The Corps gives this award in the name of Virginia Tech alumnus Earle D. Gregory, one of seven Medal of Honor recipients from Virginia Tech.

James Tucker '17 received the Lacy O. Brumback Award for his outstanding performance as commander of Band-B Company in the fall semester. In keeping with tradition, Tucker received an engraved pocket watch with his award.



Spring Regimental Commander Cassandra Davis '17, at left, and Maj. Gen. Randal D. Fullhart, at right, award Golf Company Commander Nathan Sipantzi '17 the Beverly S. Parrish Award, known as Gold Cord, during the spring Military Awards Ceremony.



Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Sharpy gives the keynote address during the Corps of Cadets and ROTC Graduation and Joint Commissioning Ceremony.

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