

VirginiaTech

magazine

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Orange and maroon and green
Alumni survey results | Hokie hockey



Bolstering college access

BY CHARLES W. STEGER '69

As a college graduate, you likely don't need to be convinced of the need for higher education in a modern economy. The majority of Virginians agree; in a recent poll, 75 percent of the commonwealth's citizens supported the need for a college degree—an associate or a bachelor's degree—to succeed in this high-tech world.

Yet there are troubles on the horizon. States generally have disinvested in higher education support during this decade, and they have accelerated such cuts because of the current state of the economy. Countries that once flooded our shores with their best and brightest are now investing in creating their own world-class universities. As China, India, and many other Asian countries expand higher education offerings and research capability in concert with loss of support here at home, America's worldwide dominance of research universities and knowledge creation is at risk. Also, our nation is becoming ever more diverse, and we are seeing growth in demographic sectors in which college going-rates do not parallel those of the majority population.

With state disinvestment, college costs are increasingly borne by students, some of whom cannot afford those costs. The nation will be economically hamstrung if significant portions of its young are handicapped by under-education. Creating opportunity through education and finding ways to fund first-generation college students has been a hallmark of American higher education for decades.

Because of these concerns, I am pleased to see that Virginia's business community is once again leading the way to tackle such issues with the launch of "Grow by Degrees," a bipartisan initiative under the aegis of the Virginia Business Higher Education Council. The campaign seeks to boost Virginia's economic recovery and long-term growth by making high-impact investments and supporting innovations in the state's higher education system that will help secure our economic future and create real jobs.

The goals of the campaign are straightforward; it seeks to

- award 70,000 more high-quality degrees over the next 10 years,
- target the new degrees to high-income, high-demand job sectors,
- create cost-efficient new ways to access college degrees,



- expand job-specific training at community colleges,
- increase public-private collaboration on university-based research,
- enhance economic development and workforce initiatives in each region, and
- make college affordable for low- and middle-income students and families.

There is clear evidence of the links between advanced education and a state or nation's economic competitiveness and between knowledge creation—the very product of research universities—and job or company creation. The best jobs go to the best workers. And those workers gravitate to colleges or communities built on innovation or advanced research.

Today's challenges in energy, health care, life sciences, and the environment can be met only with qualified human capital. This is America's competitiveness edge. This is why we must find the will, both in Virginia and nationwide, to restore the loss of state funding and to maintain the affordability of college tuition. We must use the power of private philanthropy to support access to college and to invest in equipment and facilities for institutions of advanced learning.

Whether you are here in Virginia or elsewhere, get involved and speak out on behalf of higher education. Visit www.GrowByDegrees.org to learn more.

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Virginia Tech Delta Zeta alumnae

Supporting a sister

On Saturday, June 13, I and other Virginia Tech Delta Zeta alumnae gathered with our kids at Kylie Xiu Clifford's Memorial Playground at Floris Elementary School in Herndon, Va., to raise money for and awareness of Sudden Infant Death (SID) Services of the Mid-Atlantic. We have started this tradition to reunite each year and to support SID Services of the Mid-Atlantic because my first daughter, Kylie, died of SID when she was 3 months and 19 days old. Pictured [above] are sisters who graduated from Virginia Tech from 1993 on.

Kathy Cung Clifford '96
Herndon, Va.

Editor's note: To learn more about this cause, visit www.sidsma.org.

A reminder to all Hokies

All Hokies enjoy wearing burnt orange and Chicago maroon, especially to sporting events. We even adorn

our vehicles with a variety of Virginia Tech and Hokies stickers and magnetic signs and even with vanity plates. I personally have a "Hokies" and "A HOKIE" Arizona license plates. I also wear a Virginia Tech or Hokies T-shirt at least 250 days a year.

I am writing to remind

Letter from the editor

It is with regret that I announce that this is my last issue as editor of *Virginia Tech Magazine*. I have proudly served as editor for the past eight years, during which time I have heard from many of you, and I have always enjoyed interacting with the readers of the magazine—you are a credit to your alma mater. Although I am not an alumna of Virginia Tech and I will be leaving Blacksburg, Virginia Tech will always be with me. Go, Hokies!

Sherry Bithell

you that by showing our Hokie Pride, we are, in a sense, representing the university. So the next time you show your colors in public, remember the first-class university that helped to educate you. Be more courteous, going out of your way to help others, and most of all, smile and be proud that you are a Hokie!

Don Dalton '60
Tucson, Ariz.

Budget kudos

Bravo on saving the magazine from budget cuts!

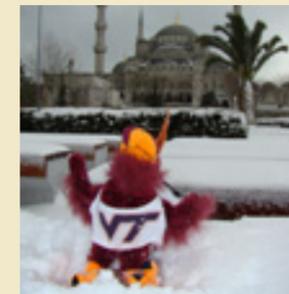
Col. Doug Anderson '76
Hanscom AFB, Mass.

Clearing up cheering history

In the Vol. 29, No. 1 (Fall 2006) issue of *Virginia Tech Magazine*, there was an article about the university's first female cheerleaders. I've attached a picture of the squad in 1952 [see photo below] that includes my wife, Meta Ann Chestnut Oxley (general home economics '54) (front

row, first on the left). It was my understanding that she was on the first squad with female cheerleaders. My wife passed away and I wanted to clarify this issue on her behalf. Go Hokies!

Glenn Myron Oxley '56
Moultrie, Ga.



Laurie Prudente Clark (marketing management '01) and her husband, Matthew Clark (mechanical engineering '03), currently live in Germany, where Matthew, an F-16 pilot in the U.S. Air Force, is stationed at Spangdahlem Air Base. Laurie says that they travel frequently, and when they do, they take their HokieBird with them. Here it is, enjoying a wintry view of the Blue Mosque in Istanbul, Turkey. That's one dedicated bird.



George Makrinos (left) and John Foley (right) approaching Nijmegen, Netherlands. Makrinos (M.S. architecture '04)—who last summer biked across 14 states in the U.S.—was joined by Foley (architecture '04) for a journey that began in Athens and traversed Albania, Italy, Austria, Germany, and the Netherlands to end in the United Kingdom. The two kept a daily blog of their experiences (www.bike-EU.blogspot.com).

Attention alumni: In mid-September, the university began changing the process for alumni to access their Virginia Tech e-mail accounts. Look for details at www.alumni.vt.edu/gateway/index.html.



HOW Hokie is your family?

We're looking for the Hokiest families of them all! If you and your siblings, parents, grandparents, aunts/uncles, and/or children attended Virginia Tech, we want to know. Send the names, degrees, and class years of all eligible family members by mail to Virginia Tech Magazine, 105 Media Building (0109), Blacksburg, VA 24061, or by e-mail to vtmag@vt.edu. Look for the results in a future issue.



John McGee

Space Grant Consortium awarded nearly \$900,000

The Virginia Space Grant Consortium has been awarded a \$894,228 grant by the National Science Foundation's Advanced Technological Education Program for the Geospatial Technician Education through Virginia's Community Colleges project. John McGee, the state's geospatial Extension specialist for Virginia Cooperative Extension and an assistant professor in the College of Natural Resources, will work with the project team to create and maintain a geospatial technology Web portal for the community college system. The portal will serve as a repository for pathway models, curricula, professional development materials, and other resources. The project team will also

develop geospatial technology career-awareness materials to be shared statewide.

Five faculty among first American Chemical Society Fellows

Five faculty members were among the first class of American Chemical Society (ACS) Fellows honored at the 238th ACS national meeting held in Washington, D.C., Aug. 16-20. The 162 individuals named in this inaugural class of fellows were honored for excellence in chemistry and service to society. The Tech faculty members so honored were Neal Castagnoli Jr., Timothy E. Long, James McGrath, and S. Richard Turner, professors in the College of Science chemistry department; and Kevin Edgar, professor of biomaterial and bioprocessing in the College of Natural Resources' wood science and forest products department.

Tech designated a best workplace for commuters

Virginia Tech has been designated one of the Best Workplaces for Commuters by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S.

Department of Transportation. Best Workplaces for Commuters, a voluntary partnership program designed to cut traffic congestion and traffic-related air pollution, recognizes employers that provide environmentally friendly commuter benefits to employees. Virginia Tech offers an array of benefits that help employees pursue environmentally friendly and cost-effective commuting strategies. These programs incorporate the Commuter Alternatives Program that includes Bike, Bus, and Walk and carpooling. In addition, vanpooling and public transportation options are available and encouraged.

Virginia Tech researchers partner with medical professionals

The Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine and Research Institute (VTC) is providing support for 11 research projects that partner researchers with clinicians to address medical challenges. The joint efforts include earlier cancer diagnosis; early autism diagnosis; preventing and treating infectious disease (including H1N1 flu and MRSA), obesity, and heart

disease; neuroscience research related to falling risks; making medicines more bio-available; and development of a patient simulator for education of medical professionals and other technology to improve emergency-room care. Seed grants of \$30,000 allow researchers to build upon their accomplishments and achieve important milestones in order to secure funding from federal agencies.



Alan Grant

New College of Agriculture and Life Sciences dean appointed

Virginia Tech has named Alan Grant, professor and head of the Department of Animal Sciences at Purdue University, the new dean for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Grant started his position on Oct. 1. He succeeded L.T. Kok, who had been interim dean after

the former dean, Sharron Quisenberry, left to become vice president of research and economic development at Iowa State University.



Scott Geller

Behavioral scientist receives international honor

Alumni Distinguished Professor E. Scott Geller has been recognized with the American Psychological Foundation Gold Medal Award for Lifetime Achievement in Psychology in the Public Interest. Geller is a professor in the Department of Psychology in the College of Science. He was recognized for his distinguished career and contributions to the field. Geller coined the term "behavior-based safety" and disseminated research-based principles and procedures with a variety of books, training manuals, DVDs, and audio programs. The award

citation noted, "These materials have enabled thousands of organizations worldwide to prevent workplace injuries and save lives."

Summer fellows' research ranges from red wolves to nutrition

Thirteen Virginia Tech students concluded their 10-week Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) on Aug. 6 when they presented the results of projects that addressed such topics as improving nutrition for persons living with HIV/AIDS in Kenya, gender differences in arterial destiffening with weight loss, and the home range of red wolves in North Carolina. The Fralin Life Science Institute at Virginia Tech offers the fellowships to rising Virginia Tech sophomores, juniors, and seniors with a grade point average of 3.0 or greater (on a 4.0 scale) who wish to pursue life sciences research full time during the summer, says SURF program coordinator Brenda Davy, associate professor in human nutrition, foods, and exercise in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.



University to compete in 2009 Solar Decathlon

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has announced that Virginia Tech will be one of 20 university teams selected to compete in its fourth Solar Decathlon, held on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., in the fall of 2009. The interdisciplinary Virginia Tech Solar Decathlon team was led by faculty and students in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies with participation from the College of Engineering and others. The teams, which have been selected from universities in the U.S., Canada, and Germany, will each receive \$100,000 from DOE to uniquely design, build, and operate a fully solar-powered home. Each home will utilize energy-efficient technology and demonstrate that homes powered entirely by the sun do not have to sacrifice modern comforts and aesthetics. To learn more about the project, go to www.lumenhaus.com.

Virginia Tech is one of only two American universities invited to participate in the international solar decathlon in Madrid, Spain, in June 2010.

Visit *Virginia Tech Magazine* online at www.vtmagazine.vt.edu/fall09/ontheweb.html to learn more about:

Workshop empowers women in Mali

Space@VT receives grant to study space weather

New wheat variety honors dedicated seedsman

New Hall West provides living and office space

Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine signs agreement with American University of Antigua

MathWorks, College of Engineering kick off three-year collaboration

Virginia Tech a top 10 school for graduate earning potential

A PayScale College Salary Report has ranked Virginia Tech in the nation's top 10 state-supported colleges and universities for the potential starting and mid-career salaries of its graduates.

Virginia Tech garnered the ninth spot in the report, which ranked graduates with

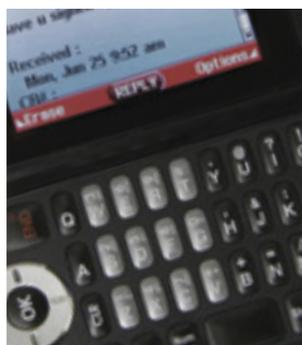
bachelor's degrees but without higher degrees on the basis of their average starting level salary (having a bachelor's degree and two years of work experience) and mid-career earnings (15 years of work experience). The University of California at Berkeley topped the list, and the University of Virginia claimed the 10th spot. PayScale Inc. provides global online compensation data to employers and individuals.



JOHN MCCORMICK

Doug Nelson receives third NSF faculty advisor award

Doug Nelson, a professor of mechanical engineering, was awarded the 2009 National Science Foundation (NSF) Outstanding Long-term Faculty Advisor Award for the EcoCAR Challenge competition and a \$10,000 cash prize. EcoCAR is a design competition sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy in which engineering students from across the country participate in the development of green vehicles. The NSF Outstanding Faculty Advisor Award honors Nelson for best promoting the goals, objectives, and activities of the competition.



Studies reveal dangers of texting while driving

Several studies conducted by the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute provide a clear picture of driver distraction and cell-phone use under real-world driving conditions. The studies revealed that drivers of light vehicles who are dialing a cell phone are 2.8 times more likely to crash or have a near-crash event as those who are not distracted. Drivers of heavy vehicles and trucks are 5.9 times more likely to have a crash or near-crash when dialing a cell phone and are 23.3 times more likely to do so when texting while driving. According to the study, talking or listening while driving posed less risk for light vehicles than dialing or texting and made no notable difference for trucks.

Tech programs rank high in survey

Virginia Tech remains 71st among the 100 best universities in the U.S. *News & World Report's* survey of undergraduate programs,

"America's Best Colleges 2010," released Aug. 21. It is the third year in a row that the university has held the spot. The university also retains its spot among the top 30 public universities in the nation, one of three institutions in Virginia to do so. The College of Engineering held its spot in the top 20 engineering schools at No. 14, while the Pamplin College of Business ranks No. 42 among the top 50 business schools.



Doctor of Medicine program granted preliminary accreditation

By 2014, there will be Hokie alumni with M.D.s. In June, the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine and Research Institute (VTC) educational program leading to the doctor of medicine degree received preliminary accreditation from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME). Preliminary accreditation means the school meets nationally accepted standards of educational quality. It is the final step necessary for the school to recruit students for the four-year program. In July, the school received approval from the State Council on Higher Educa-

tion for Virginia (SCHEV) to operate a postsecondary institution in the Commonwealth of Virginia. SCHEV certification gives VTC degree-granting authority and also makes the school eligible to apply for scholarship and grant funding, such as Tuition Assistance Grants.

LCME and SCHEV approvals are necessary for the school to open as planned in the fall of 2010. The school's first class of 42 aspiring physicians will graduate with an M.D. in spring 2014.

The VTC educational program is organized into four value domains: basic sciences, clinic sciences, research, and interprofessionalism. The curriculum maximizes self-directed learning. Small teams will work in a problem-based learning format, a model used by only 15 percent of medical schools. Only 5 percent of medical schools currently elevate research as a fundamental component of the curriculum, and no other medical school in the nation provides interprofessionalism as a foundation element.

The interprofessionalism program is designed to equip aspiring physicians with teamwork, communication, and conflict-resolution skills and to explore the roles of health professions so they can effectively function as part of a modern healthcare

team. Each student will also be part of a research team, partnering with researchers and clinicians to prevent and solve existing and emerging problems in contemporary medicine.

VTC is a partnership between Virginia Tech and Carilion Clinic. It will be housed in a 150,000-square-foot education and research facility, now under construction at the Carilion Clinic Campus in Roanoke, Va. To learn more about VTC, visit www.vtc.vt.edu.

Scholarships will support non-traditional bioscience students

The National Science Foundation has awarded Virginia Tech \$506,373 for a five-year program, Broadening Opportunities for Nontraditional Graduate Students in Biomolecular Science. The growth in biotechnology and its impact on agriculture has created a need for a highly trained workforce of graduate-level scientists. The Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics program at Virginia Tech will address the need by enhancing the stipends of students recruited by the entomology and biochemistry departments in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. In all, 44 scholarships of \$10,000 each will be provided.

Vehicle could help blind to live more independently

A student team in the College of Engineering is providing the blind with an opportunity many never thought possible: the chance to drive. A retrofitted four-wheel dirt buggy developed by the Blind Driver Challenge team from Tech's Robotics and Mechanisms Laboratory uses laser range-finders, an instant voice command interface, and a host of other innovative technologies to guide blind drivers in steering, braking, and accelerating. Although the project is in the early testing stage, the National Federation of the Blind considers the vehicle a major breakthrough for visually impaired citizens to live independently. The 2009-10 student team is planning major changes to the technology, including replacing the dirt buggy vehicle with a fully electric car like those used by traffic officers in downtown city centers. The all-electric vehicle would not only reduce the vibration that can cause problems to the laser sensor, but it also will provide clean electric power for the computing units.



FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

BY DENISE YOUNG

The hues of autumn might be spreading across campus, but a growing number of Virginia Tech community members have green on their minds.

According to Sustainability Program Manager Denny Cochrane, it all started in 2006, when students

How (and why) Virginia Tech is creating a sustainable campus

began to push for the reinstatement of the paper-recycling program, which had become voluntary in the early 2000s after a wave of budget cuts. It started as a grass-roots student movement for more recycling and more environmental awareness on campus and has become campus policy, with the board of visitors and the University Council approving the Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment (VTCAC) Resolution and accepting the accompanying Sustainability Plan. And campus leaders—from the Student Government Association (SGA) and the student group the Environmental Coalition to faculty, staff, and administrators—are putting that plan into action.

Because the VTCAC Resolution was reviewed and approved using the university governance system, it is now university policy, ensuring that, from conserving energy in classrooms to reducing waste in dining halls, Virginia Tech will be a leader in sustainable living.

TAKING ACTION

To Cochrane, sustainability means using the resources required to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to have sufficient resources to meet their own needs. For Angie De Soto, a senior environmental planning major who is also set to take the post of campus sustainability planner after she graduates in December, matters related to sustainability also have strong resonance.

“Climate change is the defining issue of our generation. It’s up to us to figure out how to live more sustainably for the future of our children,” says De Soto, who has been a major voice in Tech’s commitment to going green, providing leadership for students interested in sustainability. “It’s important for everyone to understand that the reason Virginia Tech made this move is because of the students: 100 percent,” says De Soto.

“The students are really the driving force behind all of this,” Cochrane agrees, noting that students, administrators, and faculty and staff members worked together to develop a resolution and take action to lessen the university’s carbon footprint.

At a December 2007 meeting with President Charles W. Steger, four leaders of the student group the Environmental Coalition, including De Soto, encouraged the president to sign the American Colleges and Universities Presidents’ Climate Commitment. On April 25, 2008, Steger charged the newly formed Energy and Sustainability Committee to develop a climate commitment and sustainability plan tailored specifically to the needs of Virginia Tech and for the University Council to review and act on it by the end of the 2009 spring semester. The University Council recommended approval of the VTCAC Resolution on

VIRGINIA TECH'S 2008 CAMPUS TREE TOUR



JOSHUA ROSENFELD

Virginia Tech was named a Tree Campus U.S.A. site by the National Arbor Day Foundation and Toyota, and was one of nine universities to host a Campus Tree Tour 2008. To celebrate this recognition, more than 200 faculty, staff, and student volunteers gathered on Oct. 21, 2008, to hold a tree-planting ceremony, during which they planted 100 native trees—donated by the sponsors—across campus.

April 22, 2009, which was Earth Day, and the board of visitors approved it on June 1, 2009.

“The VTCAC Resolution is our sustainability compass. These 14 specific initiatives are unique to Tech,” says Cochrane. “They were developed after we analyzed where we are, what we should be doing, and how we will get there.”

“If we’re specific to our campus and our community, we’ll be more likely to meet these goals,” adds De Soto.

SMALL CHANGE ADDS UP

Promoting sustainability comes down to little things that make a big impact, such as:

- Dining services going tray-less and reducing food waste because students take less food at a time;
- The Southgate Center composting the discarded portions of fruits and vegetables, creating a more complete circle between the food people eat and the soil from which that food grows;
- Adding motion-sensing lights to 146 classrooms to detect when no one is in the room;
- Upgrading the steam utility distribution system and Central Steam Plant to reduce heat and energy losses.

Yet those involved in the sustainability movement on campus know that improvements like these are adding up to save not only energy and other resources, but money as well.

“Sustainability is broader than just the environment,” says Cochrane. “It involves economics and social responsibility.” For example, at the conclusion of the 2008 fall semester, and in accordance with the Campus Energy and Water Policy 5505, the university set all thermostats to 68 degrees. This initiative alone saved the university more than \$200,000 between the end of the fall 2008 semester and January 2009.

Dining and Housing Services Director Rick Johnson has seen firsthand that small changes can go a long way. For example, when the Southgate Center began composting in January 2009, the center reduced landfill waste by 2.5 tons of food each week. Johnson says they hope to extend the program this year to all dining facilities on campus.

In addition, the Farms and Fields project in Owens Food Court provides students with local, organic, and natural food selections. “We hope that when the project is fully developed, all products served there are local, but right now, the industry is pretty young, so local

2009 GOVERNOR'S ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARD



Virginia Tech's fall 2008 Campus Tree Tour and tree-planting ceremony were honored with a 2009 Governor's Environmental Excellence "Bronze" Award. The award was presented to Virginia Tech for "its demonstrated commitment to the stewardship of Virginia's natural resources through its Tree Campus U.S.A. 2008 initiative." Pictured are, from left to right: Virginia's Secretary of Natural Resources L. Preston Bryant Jr., Virginia Tech's Sustainability Program Manager Denny Cochrane, Virginia Tech's Associate Vice President for Facilities Services Mike Coleman, Virginia's Director of Environmental Quality David Paylor, and Virginia's Director of Conservation and Recreation Joe Maroon.

SHARON BAXTER

vendors can't provide enough year-round to supply all of our needs locally," notes Johnson. All dining halls now also boast recycling areas for customers to dispose of plastic bottles and aluminum cans, and all dining facilities' kitchens now recycle all metal cans, reducing waste.

Both the D-2 and Schultz dining facilities have gone tray-less, a move spurred by help from such student organizations as the Residence Hall Federation (RHF), the SGA, the Environmental Coalition, and the Student Advisory Committee. "The waste in D-2 was really extraordinary because once you had that tray, you just piled it on," says Johnson. "Now, you can still go back and get as much as you want, but you hold your plate in one hand and your glass in the other, and you take less food at a time, so there's a reduction in waste."

Many of the movements on campus are student driven and are tailored to help each Virginia Tech student to lead

a more sustainable lifestyle. For example, the SGA has partnered with the RHF, U.S. Foods, and Au Bon Pain to provide a reusable bag to every meal-plan holder. "We're really trying to change behavior," says SGA President Brandon Carroll.

SGA has played a large role in helping students to go green and has even created two new positions dedicated to sustainability: the director of green initiatives, held this year by Alex Funk, who handles programs like the Green Effect Game in which recycling is encouraged and students educate tailgaters about recycling at games, and the director of sustainability, a position held by Nathan Latka, who is involved in policymaking. "We're utilizing our talent to maximize our voice," says Carroll.

The SGA also teamed up with TCP, the largest producer of compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs) in the country, to distribute 1,500 CFLs to Blacksburg homes during the Big Event. "We're mak-

ing the Big Event not just about community outreach, but also a green event."

Carroll notes that behavioral changes are the most important and will make the biggest impact. "It's the little things like recycling or adjusting your thermostat. The small things will add up to hopefully make Virginia Tech a model for sustainable practices."

De Soto, who wrote the Behavior and Campus Lifestyle section of the Sustainability Plan and helped to pen a sustainable-living guide for students, also emphasizes the important role each individual plays in making sustainability a reality. "Every one of us can make a difference. What it breaks down to are the daily decisions of each individual. The carbon footprint of our society is just the carbon footprint of each of us added together. It has to be a societal effort to be more conscious of our actions."

For the Virginia Tech community, these changes are well underway, thanks to leadership and cooperation from all aspects of campus life: faculty and staff members, administrators, and students.

THE VIRGINIA TECH CLIMATE ACTION COMMITMENT (VTCAC) RESOLUTION

The VTCAC Resolution, reviewed and approved by the university governance system in April 2009 and subsequently approved by the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors on June 1, 2009, contains the following 14 initiatives:

1. Virginia Tech will be a leader in campus sustainability.
2. The university will represent the Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment (VTCAC) and Sustainability Plan in the Virginia Tech Strategic Plan.
3. Virginia Tech will establish a target for reduction of campus greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 80 percent below 1990 emission level by 2050 and interim targets from 2006 emissions of 316,000 tons consistent with the Virginia Energy Plan, the Governor's Commission on Climate Change, the Town of Blacksburg, and the federal administration: for 2012, 295,000 tons (on path to 2025 target); for 2025, 255,000 tons (2000 emission level); and for 2050, 38,000 tons (80 percent below 1990 emission level).
4. Virginia Tech will work toward these emission reduction targets through improved energy efficiency, reduction of energy waste, replacement of high-carbon fuels, and other measures identified in the VTCAC and Sustainability Plan.
5. Virginia Tech will establish an Office of Sustainability to
 - a. coordinate programs for campus sustainability,
 - b. oversee implementation of the VTCAC and Sustainability Plan,
 - c. monitor annual electricity and other energy use and GHG emissions, and
 - d. working with faculty and departments, manage a campus-wide student internship and undergraduate research program using the campus as a sustainability laboratory.
6. Virginia Tech will pursue Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certification or better and exceed American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE)—an organization that advances technology to serve humanity and promote a sustainable world—90.1 2004 energy performance by 35 percent (ASHRAE 90.1 2007 by 30 percent) for all new buildings and major renovations. Capital budgets should account for future energy price, cost of building operation, return on investment, and environmental benefits of achieving this level of performance. LEED is a program sponsored by the U.S. Green Building Council that verifies a building's level of sustainability.
7. Virginia Tech will improve electricity and heating efficiency of campus facilities and their operations, including the heating and cooling infrastructure and operation, lighting efficiency, controls and operation, and equipment efficiency and controls.
8. The university will adopt at least four reduction measures in the waste minimization component of the national RecycleMania competition. Virginia Tech Recycling will adopt a goal of 35 percent recycle rate by 2012 and 50 percent by 2025.
9. Virginia Tech will require purchase of Energy Star (a government-backed program helping businesses and individuals protect the environment through superior energy efficiency) rated equipment, maximum practicable recycled-content paper, and other low lifecycle cost products, with exceptions for special uses.
10. Virginia Tech will engage students, faculty, and staff through education and involvement to reduce consumption of energy, water, and materials in academic and research buildings, dining and residence halls, and other facilities.
11. Virginia Tech will improve transportation energy efficiency on campus through parking, fleet, and alternative transportation policies. Alternative transportation use will increase from the current level of 45 percent, to a goal of 52 percent in 2015 and 60 percent in 2020.
12. The university will create and support a virtual Virginia Tech School of Sustainability or similar mechanism to coordinate, develop, and communicate related instructional, research, and outreach academic programs.
13. The university will monitor energy use and GHG emissions as well as changing internal and external conditions, prepare an annual report card showing progress toward targets, and periodically re-evaluate targets, making adjustments to targets as appropriate based on changing internal and external conditions and evolving technologies.
14. With regard to all the items in this resolution, major personnel and investment decisions, including capital projects, associated with implementing the VTCAC and Sustainability Plan will be based on a joint review of costs and benefits by university financial and facilities staff and be subject to availability of funds. Virginia Tech will provide funding to support sustainability programs through a variety of sources, which might include savings from reduced electricity and energy fuels, E&G (state) funds, loans, a Green Development Fund from private sources, and a student Green Fee.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
on how Virginia Tech is going green or to read the full VTCAC Resolution and Sustainability Plan, visit www.facilities.vt.edu/sustainability.

AMBLER-JOHNSTON HALL



Renovations to Ambler-Johnston (AJ) will meet the requirements to make the building the first LEED Silver-certified residence hall on campus. AJ will meet such standards as abatement of asbestos and lead paint, preserving open space equal to the footprint of the building adjacent to the site, water-use reduction (low-flow faucets and showers), reuse of main building structure, use of recycled material, and use of low volatile organic compound materials.



HOKIES THINKING GREEN

BY DENISE YOUNG

the sustainability efforts of Virginia Tech alumni

It isn't just faculty, staff, and current students whose research and endeavors are contributing to a more sustainable future. Countless Hokies across the globe are involved in efforts to reduce our impact on the environment, whether that means thinking more sustainably when it comes to architecture, water conservation, or renewable energies. This article focuses on a small number of Virginia Tech alumni who are working toward a better—and greener—future for people and the planet.

BUILDING A BETTER TOMORROW

"There's no such thing as 'green architecture,'" says Mike Brady (architecture '04), a LEED*-certified architect for Clark Nexsen, an international architecture and engineering firm. "There is good design and bad design, and 'green architecture' is just one aspect of good design."

It is important to incorporate sustainable aspects into building design, notes Brady, due simply to the facts: building waste can represent as much as 30 percent of total landfill waste, and buildings consume one-third of all energy produced. "Sustainability and resource management are global problems, and the architecture profession is just as accountable as anyone else for doing the right thing."

Bill George (architecture '90), also a LEED-certified architect with the firm, began his foray into sustainable building practices in 2000, when he designed an Army barracks complex at Camp Ederle in Vicenza, Italy, the first LEED-certified building for the Army and the first

LEED Silver certification in Europe for the federal government.

"The ever-increasing pace of development in the world throws many natural and manmade systems out of balance, and the focus on sustainable design is necessary to address this imbalance," says George.

He notes that a growing awareness of the planet's frailty has come from a rather unexpected source. "Ironically, the pioneering of space travel, in itself a very

non-sustainable activity, has enlightened the world like nothing else of how limited our planet's resources are, how interrelated we are to each other, and how manmade development is having a global impact on the planet."

According to Robert T. Gunn (architecture '72), also with Clark Nexsen, "The trend toward green has expanded from a handful of proponents to a major component of the last presidential campaign and cap-and-trade legislation



Bill George, a LEED-certified architect with Clark Nexsen, helped to design the Army barracks complex at Camp Ederle in Vicenza, Italy. The project was the first LEED Silver-certified building for George and the first one for the federal government in Europe.

LEED SILVER-CERTIFIED BUILDING

GREEN ROOF INSTALLATION

Green roof installation between Seitz and Fralin Halls

JOHN MCCORMICK

* Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design

in Congress. The trend is in every major aspect of commercial and retail sales. It is quickly going from a trend to a given."

For Gunn, sustainability must begin at the foundation and work its way up. "The most important aspect is designing it from the beginning to be green. Thinking that you can conventionally design a building and then sprinkle some green on it at the end is where most clients go wrong.

"Green architecture is important to me personally—we have traded two gas guzzlers for two Priuses—and plan to have expansions and renovations to our house LEED certified. It is important personally as well globally because it is the right thing to do on every level," says Gunn, who adds that his years at Tech prepared him for the work he does now.

Mike Brady also credits his experiences in the architecture program at Tech with preparing him for his career as a LEED-certified architect. "The Virginia Tech architecture program does its best to instill the sensibilities of good design into its graduates, giving them the opportunity and responsibility of incorporating that into their professional lives."

"At Tech I was taught to look at things in a new and fresh way; this creativity helps in all aspects of design, including green architecture," says Rebecca Brady (architecture '07), who is also LEED certified and an intern with Clark Nexsen. She adds that in order to think green, people need only to reflect on three R's—reduce, reuse, recycle—and put these concepts into practice.

WATER: A PRECIOUS RESOURCE

For Janelle Hope Robbins (M.S. biological systems engineering '03), ensuring that people from the Ganges to the Gulf of Mexico have access to safe, unpolluted drinking water is just another part of her



WATERKEEPER ALLIANCE

Janelle Robbins serves as the staff scientist for the Waterkeeper Alliance, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the world's water resources.

role for the Waterkeeper Alliance. Across the globe, members of the alliance are working to stem water pollution, patrolling waterways in kayaks or research vessels, advocating for stronger enforcement of environmental laws in the courtroom, rallying community support in town meetings, or educating young people in the classroom. Robbins serves as staff scientist for the organization, providing scientific and engineering support to Waterkeeper organizations worldwide.

She also coordinates the group's anti-coal campaign (www.thedirtytie.com) and co-coordinates the storm-water campaign, in addition to serving as the Gulf of Mexico regional coordinator by providing strategic planning, capacity building, and other services to Waterkeepers in that region. "The fight for clean water is a fight for one of the most basic and essential human rights," she says.

For Robbins, pursuing a career in sustainability came easily, as it fulfilled her passion for the environment—she even dressed as a recycling bin one year for Halloween.

During her studies, she developed a growing awareness that many nonprofit organizations are underserved by individuals with hard technical skills like engineering. "You have to understand

the facts and be able to analyze the data because strong, effective environmental advocacy is based on fact and good science, not spin. From there, it was easy for me to see the way to apply my passion to my career," says Robbins.

The worldwide water situation is grim, she notes. More than 3.6 million people die each year from water-related diseases; 84 percent of those deaths are children under the age of 15. Ninety-eight percent of those deaths occur in developing nations—in the U.S., people often take for granted that in most cases they can turn on the tap and get clean and safe water, says Robbins.

However, she adds, even in the U.S., drinking-water supplies are also in danger, from coal mining and combustion waste, endocrine-disrupting compounds from wastewater discharges, and numerous contaminants from industry. "When your water has been contaminated, that polluter has stolen your right to clean water. Unless we all take a more active role in our communities, the situation will get worse before it gets better."

For Robbins, fighting for water resources is just one aspect of a larger picture, ensuring that the planet remains a life-sustaining, healthy place for people to live. "Protecting our natural resources

is a necessity, not a luxury, and we all have a part to play in that—whether it's in the little choices we make at the grocery store or the bigger choices like where you live and how you commute to work."

Robbins' advice for those looking to go green is simple: just make small lifestyle changes, such as using a reusable water bottle or coffee mug or using canvas shopping bags instead of disposable plastic. "I think there's a huge misconception that in order to be sustainable or an environmentalist you have to be uncomfortable, but that's just not true—many changes make you more comfortable," says Robbins, whose sustainable lifestyle includes membership in a community-sponsored agriculture program, growing her own vegetables, raising her own chickens, using rain-water barrels to collect water for her plants, and weekly jaunts to the local farmer's market.

GATHERING SUNSHINE

Jenny French's (aerospace and ocean engineering '85) experiences always seem to end up with her looking toward the sky. Her journey began as a Virginia Tech Cooperative Education student working at NASA and took to the skies during her years as a flight instructor and jump pilot. From an education in aerospace engineering, she has landed in the solar energy sector.

"My experiences at Tech solidified my view of the Earth as a fragile blue ball; my fascination with orbital dynamics; interest in flying and zero gravity; understanding that energy cannot be created or destroyed, only transformed; and the diversity of my analytic and problem-solving skills," says French.

In the late 1980s, French was living in Santa Barbara, Calif., and working on special projects. On a trip to visit her family in Virginia, French met her future

husband, Scott, a skydiver. The two moved to Harrisonburg, Va., soon after, where she began a new career as a certified flight instructor and jump pilot.

Then, in 2008, a longtime friend approached French and her husband with a business proposal they couldn't refuse. The couple now owns half of SUNRNR, a company that produces and sells solar-powered generators, providing a solar solution for those living off the grid. "We saw the need and potential and joined in, and like good pilots, we have been learning ever since."

One of the obstacles, says French, is that the generators have so many potential markets. "We fit everywhere a fossil fuel-powered generator could be used," she notes.

"Of course, solar and wind power will help cut our emissions in the U.S., but I think personal or communal stored alternative-energy systems will make the greatest impacts in third-

world and non-grid countries where they will help provide fresh drinking water, increase productivity, foster education and communication, deter disease, and be available for disaster relief."

French tries to remind others that although the U.S. has an inexpensive electrical grid, it should really be utilized only during shortages, failure, or in cases of hyperinflation, like water during a drought. "Getting off the grid is like privatizing the commodity and working toward self-reliance, independence, and sustainability. We should be reducing (conserving), reusing (storing for later), and recycling (renewing) electricity for ourselves and the earth."

Whether protecting water resources, designing sustainably from the ground up, or providing solar storage for those living off the grid, these Hokies and many others are helping to craft a greener future, one step at a time. □

SOLAR-POWERED GENERATORS



For Jenny French, her experiences at Virginia Tech and in a cooperative education experience at NASA solidified her awareness of the earth's frailty. Today, French and her husband co-own half of SUNRNR, a company that sells solar-powered generators.

Find out what you think about Virginia Tech

BY SHERRY BITHELL

Earlier this year, Virginia Tech sponsored an Alumni Attitude Study to learn more about what you think of the university's alumni programs, communications efforts, and reputation. Keep reading to learn what you think about us—or at least what we think you do.

Appreciative alumni

Excellent. Strong. Innovative. Tradition. Pride. Community. Hokie. Family. Quality. Home.

These are some of the most common answers to the survey question, "What one word best describes Virginia Tech?" Other frequently cited responses include "unique," "outstanding," "foundation," "value," and "awesome!!"

The enthusiasm of Tech alumni was reflected in other questions as well. For example, when comparing Virginia Tech alumni against those of other schools, Hokies show appreciably higher rates for the frequency with which they read their alumni magazine and alumni e-mail, visit the university website, visit campus, get in touch with other alumni, and attend university sporting events. (For a better breakdown, see the graph on page 17.)

ABOUT THE SURVEY

How were these results obtained, and from whom? A breakdown of the logistics of the survey follows:

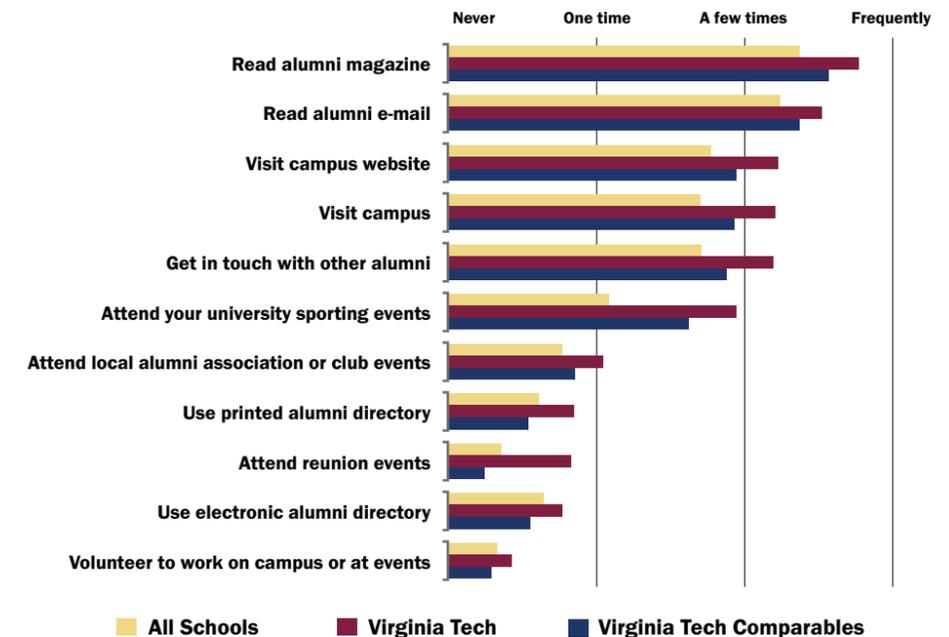
- ✓ The survey was prepared by a third party company, Performance Enhancement Group Ltd., and e-mailed in January 2009 to a random sampling of 11,721 alumni, 1,721 of whom responded.
- ✓ The same survey was distributed to 79 other institutions—called "All schools"—including 10 that were labeled "Virginia Tech comparables": Auburn University, Colorado State University, George Mason University, Iowa State University, Kansas State University, Purdue University, Rensselaer Polytechnic University, University of Colorado, University of Georgia, and University of Michigan.

Respondents were broken down into categories based on class year:

- ✓ World War II/Post-World War II: all classes through 1963
- ✓ Woodstock/Vietnam: 1964-1973
- ✓ Post-Watergate: 1974-1980
- ✓ Yuppie/End of Cold War: 1981-1993
- ✓ Electronic Revolution/Dot-com: 1994-2000
- ✓ Post-Sept. 11: 2001-present
- ✓ The majority of respondents were male, and the largest number of respondents fell in the "Yuppie/End of Cold War" category. The "Post-Watergate" category had the second-highest number of respondents and the "Woodstock/Vietnam" category the third.

JIM STROUP

In your relationship with the university, please describe how often you do or have done the following.



Tech alumni also had positive memories of their experiences as students, ranking as "good" or "excellent" the university's performance in supporting academics, providing career skills and training, giving exposure to new experiences, and sharing traditions and values.

Student experience was explored in another question, "In which of the following organizations/activities did you participate as a student?" Some of the answers were surprising, including the fact that about 50 percent of alumni participated in intramural athletics and about 55 percent participated in professional or career-related activities.

Another question asked, "How well did the highest degree from the university prepare you for each of the following?" and cited current work status, commitment to lifelong learning, the ability to respond to new career opportunities, pursuing personal development, and contributing to the community. Across the board, alumni ranked each as good-to-excellent preparation.

When asked to rate their decision to attend the university, 80 percent of alumni said that it was a "great decision," 18 percent said that it was a "good decision," 2 percent said that it was a "fair decision," and no one said that it was a "bad decision." In contrast, the Virginia Tech comparables (other similar universities) rated lower: 68 percent said "great," 28 percent said "good," 3 percent said "fair," and 1 percent said "bad."

The results also show the top four factors that currently influence alumni opinion of the university: value and respect for degree, history and tradition, campus aesthetics, and accomplishments of students. Current feelings toward the university seem to be high, with almost 80 percent of alumni rating their opinion today as "excellent"; that figure was 60 percent for the Virginia Tech comparables and 52 percent for all schools. Finally, nearly 50 percent of alumni said that they promote Virginia Tech to others "all the time," versus 30 percent of the Virginia Tech comparables' alumni and 25 percent of alumni at all schools.



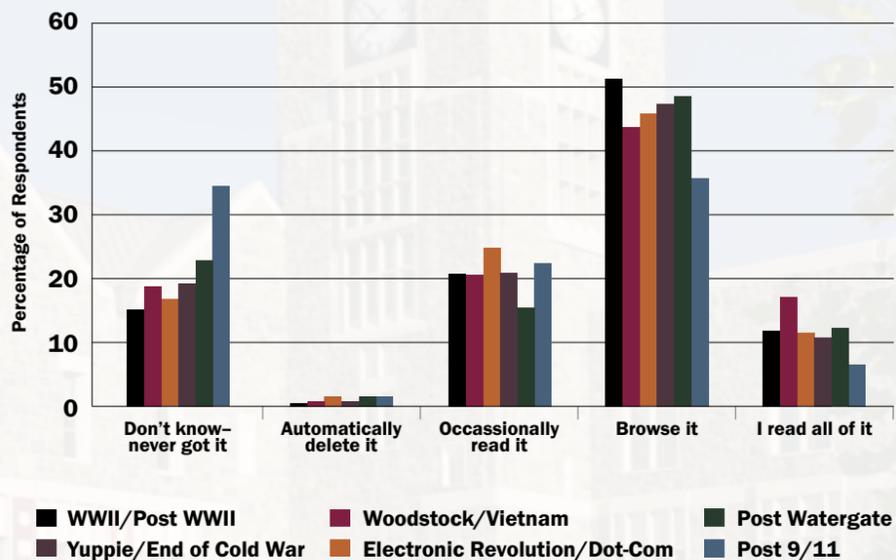
The VT NetLetter is a free, monthly e-newsletter that is produced by University Relations and distributed by the Alumni Association to anyone who wishes to receive it. To view the latest version online, go to www.vtnewsletter.vt.edu. To subscribe to the VT NetLetter, e-mail a request to alumni@vt.edu.

Communications and contact

The survey also provides valuable information about the way that alumni prefer to hear from their alma mater. The response to the question “How would you most like to be contacted by the university?” was overwhelmingly in favor of e-mail; more than 80 percent chose this option over the second-favored choice, mail, which was about 14 percent.

Another question targeted use of an e-mail publication, the VT NetLetter (see box above): “Which of the following best describes how you use the NetLetter?” Forty-five percent of respondents browse it, 22 percent “occasionally read it,” 13 percent read all of it, and 1 percent “automatically delete it.” (Nineteen percent marked “don’t know, never got it.”) For a breakdown of generational use of the VT NetLetter, see the chart below.

Which of the following best describes how you use the NetLetter?
by Era



TECH BYTES

In mid-September, the university began changing the process for alumni to access their Virginia Tech e-mail accounts. Look for details at www.alumni.vt.edu/gateway/index.html.

Do you want to keep receiving correspondence from Virginia Tech? Go to www.alumni.vt.edu/gateway/index.html to make sure the university has your current contact information.

Be on the lookout for a survey about your communication preferences in the Spring 2010 issue of *Virginia Tech Magazine*.

Finally, alumni were asked, “How important are the following to you in the *Virginia Tech Magazine*, and how well do we do at reporting it?” With two exceptions—“caliber of academic programs” and “campus news”—performance outranked importance.

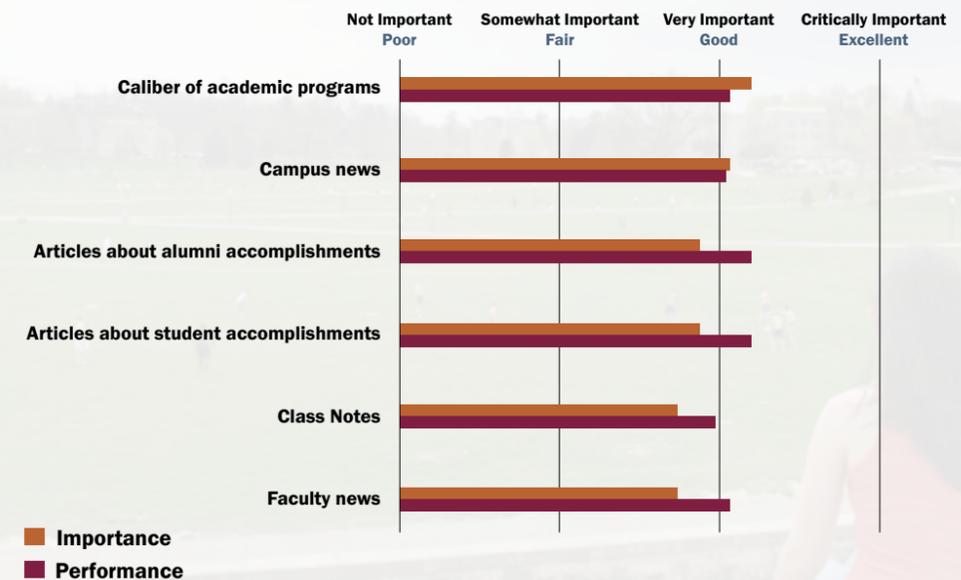
What do you (really) think?

Because this is simply a small cross-section of the greater alumni base, we have a question for you: Are these results accurate? In other words, do

you agree or disagree with some of the findings? If so, we want to hear about it—your opinion is of utmost importance to the university. Virginia Tech prides itself on the achievements and contributions of the Hokie Nation. Keep up the good work, and stay in touch. ☐

To contribute your feedback on the survey, you can mail a letter to Virginia Tech Magazine, 105 Media Building (0109), Blacksburg, VA 24061; or send an e-mail to vtmag@vt.edu. The magazine staff welcomes any and all communications.

How important are the following to you in the magazine, and how do we do at reporting it?





Nothing hokey about Hokie hockey

BY RICHARD LOVEGROVE

Think of Division I collegiate athletics and what comes to mind? Well-compensated coaches? Athletes on scholarship? Special dorms and team meals? Comfortable transportation? Nice practice and game facilities on campus?

Meet Mike Spradlin, a Virginia Tech head coach of the year whose team won its first-ever ACC regular season and tournament championship (11-0-1 league record) in 2008-09 and just missed the regional playoffs. Like all coaches, he works long hours preparing for and getting through a season. His salary? Zip. He's a volunteer who never even attended Tech. Ditto for Brian Myers, assistant coach and general manager, and Jesse Long, assistant coach.

Then there are players Jimmy Pope, offensive MVP of 2008-09, and Joe Woermer, defensive MVP for 2008-09 and captain of the 2009-10 squad. They aren't even on partial scholarship; in fact, each pays \$1,500 a year to be on the team.

The facilities? They're 40 miles away at the Roanoke Civic Center. Team members carpool and share gas expenses for two to three practices a week.

Welcome to the world of Hokie ice hockey.

"We have to pay for our hockey. You have to commit a lot of time to it," says Woermer. "We don't get any benefits out of it other than our enjoyment."

Officially, the team is one of 29 university club teams that play sports that range from clay target shooting to women's lacrosse. It is a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference Hockey

League (ACCHL), a Division II league in the American College Hockey Association (ACHA), and follows NCAA guidelines concerning eligibility requirements, grade point average, and the number of years a student can play.

While ice hockey at a Southwest Virginia college might seem a little out of place, Tech has had a team of some sort since 1984 and has been in the ACCHL since 1995, playing against Virginia,

JOHN MCCORMICK

North Carolina, North Carolina State, Duke, and Georgetown. Other ACC colleges have teams but play in different leagues to reduce travel expenses.

Spradlin played hockey in Vinton, Va., as a youth, went north for junior hockey, and then journeyed to Radford. He was coaching youth leagues when he learned seven years ago that Tech needed a hockey coach. Then, the team had 12 jerseys for 15 players, the annual budget was \$8,000 (team dues alone bring in \$45,000 now), and players practiced once a week—at 11:15 p.m. “We’ve come a long way since then,” says Spradlin, who works during the day for his family’s floor covering and retail business.

Myers, who is from Botetourt County, Va., and works for Norfolk Southern, has never even played hockey, “but I’ve had a passion for the game for many years,” he says. After attending a few Tech games, he offered to help out and ended up working in marketing and operations. Both coaches say they spend at least as much time on hockey as they do on their paying jobs.

Woermer played hockey at the Gunnery, a Connecticut boarding school. He visited universities that, first, boasted a superior engineering program and, second, fielded a competitive ice hockey team. He chose Tech for both.

Woermer’s story is typical of most of the players on Tech’s team: academics and then hockey. Because just a few dozen universities offer ice hockey scholarships, “there’s a ton of talented hockey players who want to play somewhere,” Spradlin says. “Our hockey program is now starting to compete with some of the northern programs.”

Since Spradlin took over, improvements in playing conditions and on the ice have been steady. Seven years ago, 20 to 25 players tried out for the team.



JOHN MCCORMICK

Now, tryouts draw about 60 hopefuls. Practice time at the Roanoke Civic Center is 8:15 p.m. “The civic center really saved the program” after the Ice Station in Roanoke closed down, Spradlin says.

What about team travel? Last year, Winston Samuels (M.S. APSC ’80, Ph.D. ’83), the father of player Joel Samuels and president and chief executive officer of Maxx Performance Inc., an entrepreneurial scientific company that manufactures microencapsulated food ingredients and food delivery systems, volunteered to cover charter buses for the season.

“He wanted to make sure the team

Virginia Tech hockey team members stretch during an early-season practice (top). Head Coach Mike Spradlin chats with the team in the dressing room (right).



JOHN MCCORMICK

was safe in our travels,” says Spradlin. The entire team was able to ride to games and tournaments together. “Plus, it impresses the other teams,” Spradlin says.

The team’s 2008-09 season was one of firsts. The Hokies won their first-ever game against a Division I ACHA team (Maryland) and their first ever against

“Everyone was excited to win the ACC tournament for the first time. It was a great achievement,” Woermer says. “We hope this will help us turn the corner. We’ve got a bunch of good guys this year.”

a regionally ranked team (Temple, which was No. 6), and they came close to a regional top 10 spot (the top 10 go to the regional tournament), ranking 11th at one point. The game against the University

of Virginia drew 5,200 fans (tickets are just \$4; free to children 12 and under and to people with a Tech ID). The team finished 18-6-1 with all the losses but one coming to hockey powerhouses, took their first ACC regular season title, and then won the tournament on their home ice.

“Everyone was excited to win the ACC tournament for the first time. It was a great achievement,” Woermer says. “We hope this will help us turn the corner. I expect to be in regionals for the first time. We’ve got a bunch of good guys this year.”

Spradlin and Myers have their own dream: an ice rink on campus, which is a requirement to move up to Division I. Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va., has its own rink, and it now has four hockey teams.

“We’re already getting the talent to take this program as high as the university wants,” Spradlin says. “We love the game, we love the university, and we love our guys.” □

An international dimension:

The Center for European Studies and Architecture

BY CLARA B. COX '84 MA

In a small, ancient, picturesque Swiss town and the region surrounding it, Virginia Tech students learn how to interact with—and appreciate—cultures quite different from their own.

The late Olivio Ferrari, Alumni Distinguished Professor at Virginia Tech, often talked about the need for students to have “the international dimension.” When he and his wife, Lucy, a language and culture instructor, came across an impressive 250-year-old villa in Riva San Vitale, Switzerland, in the late 1980s and helped President Charles Steger, then dean of architecture and urban studies, convince university officials to purchase it, they expanded opportunities for Virginia Tech students to acquire that dimension.

Since opening in 1994, the three-story, pale yellow house, called Villa Maderni, has served as the base for the university's Center for European Studies and Architecture (CESA). Managed by the Office of International Research, Education, and Development, the center offers university-wide study abroad programs.



CESA programs span a range of topics, from preparing future faculty for global perspectives to courses on biologically inspired materials. Colleges and departments design their own courses and programs, and professors gear their syllabi to the strategically located setting in the Italian-

speaking Ticino region of Switzerland. Thus, students spread beyond Riva San Vitale, making educational forays into other parts of Europe.



During the past 15 years, more than 1,000 students have taken advantage of CESA programs. According to Paul Knox, University Distinguished Professor and Senior Fellow for International Advancement, these students “broaden their intellectual and cultural perspective. They gain self-confidence, adaptability, and self-

reliance. As a result of their experience, they also become more competitive in the international marketplace.”

Knox calls CESA “a crucial hub” for Tech's activities in Europe. “Academic distinction now operates in global



context: Virginia Tech's programs must have international impact and visibility and must have the flexibility and agility to create innovative partnerships and collaborations with universities here and abroad.”

Anne-Lise Velez (architecture '03), who participated in the study abroad program in fall 2001, compares the knowledge gained by traveling through a foreign country with that gleaned from living in another country. “Traveling creates snapshots of the immediate differences in architecture, in food, manner of dress, and acceptable behaviors of a place,” she says. “Living in the same place for a season can create an entirely different view of the world. It provides a sense of the rhythms of the day for the people who live there, how the appearance and mood of the place changes as the weather changes, and how formalities change into everyday slang and familiarities as relationships are formed.”

Velez and a few fellow students, who shared an apartment that looked out over the Riva San Vitale Town Hall, learned a lot about town life merely by looking through their windows. “Over the period of several weeks,” she recalls, “we learned which cars drove by first in the mornings, that warm weather would draw children to the town hall fountain to spray one another, and which dogs would bark upon seeing another dog or motorcycle.”

Italian classes are required as part of some CESA programs, and students use

what they learn in daily interactions with native speakers—if they want to communicate. Velez says that such interactions lead to friendships between the students and the locals—and sometimes the friendships lead to impromptu evening soccer matches.

During their sojourn in Riva, many students embrace town life. Velez remembers a festival where students “lined up and shuffled past the huge copper polenta pot before finding places scattered among the various long wooden tables that had been placed in the street for the event. It was at this moment that I felt we truly fit in with the town; we were comfortable spreading out to sit down with strangers because we felt that we were part of the town attending the festival rather than attending guests.”

Such exposure to other cultures enhances learning, and many students call their experiences life-changing. Certainly, lessons learned can last a lifetime. Says Velez, “It taught us that no matter how unfamiliar and confusing a particular situation may initially seem, there is always some commonality that can be found, especially over food or sports, and with time, the unfamiliar will become familiar and possibly even comforting.”

For more information on CESA, go to www.oired.vt.edu/cesa.



Villa Maderni

Villa Maderni was constructed in the mid-1700s, reportedly for Abbondio Bernasconi, a lawyer who served as leader of the Republic of Riva San Vitale for 25 days before the republic was overthrown. The villa was purchased by the Virginia Tech Foundation in 1991 and was rented by the university to serve as the base of operations for the newly established Center for European Studies and Architecture.

Following its purchase, Villa Maderni was completely renovated, including updates to plumbing and wiring and restoration of its beautiful frescoed ceilings, which are painted so well that they have a dimensional look. Visitors enter the 19,259 square-foot building through double doors that lead into a columned, Lombard-style entry hall.

The grounds, which cover approximately 1.1 acres, include a spacious garden and patio and a gated courtyard bordered on one side by former horse stables. Villa Maderni faces Via Settala, an ancient Roman road.

PHOTOS BY LARRY HINCKER

BY ALBERT RABOTEAU

Alumni couple helps students learn abroad

During the summer of 1972, Steven House (architecture '75) explored Europe's great cities while photographing and drawing historic buildings as part of a College of Architecture and Urban Studies (CAUS) study abroad program based in Salzburg, Austria.

He found the experience to be so valuable that after he graduated and married fellow architecture student Cathi Bowden House (architecture '77), they saved half their income for 18 months to travel throughout Europe for a year. The Houses spent much of that time on the Greek island of Santorini. Steven says their experience "really crystallized our philosophy of architecture." Cathi notes, "My soul as the architect that I have become was born there."

More than three decades after that formative journey, Steven and Cathi run House + House, a successful architectural firm headquartered in San Francisco, while spending about a third of the year living and working in Mexico.

In 1989, *Architecture* magazine featured House + House in its issue on emerging talent. Since then, the firm has received more than 50 design awards, and its work has been featured in numerous national and international publications. A new book, *Houses in the Sun: light movement embrace*, which documents the last 10 years of the firm's work, was recently published.

Yet even at this stage of their career, Steven and Cathi still make it a point to travel abroad regularly so that they can continue to learn from other cultures and incorporate those experiences into their own projects. The Houses have also made it a point to ensure that future generations of architects can broaden their horizons through travel, and in 1998, they endowed the Steven

& Cathi House Traveling Scholarship to help pay for student trips abroad.

"You learn about all these buildings through your classes," says Marisa Brown (architecture '10), who traveled in Europe last year on a House scholarship, "but to actually be there and see them, I think you get a sense of what makes them so well known."

One of Steven's classmates on the Austria trip in 1972 was Reynolds Metals Professor and CAUS Dean Jack Davis. Due to globalization, Davis says, education abroad is even more valuable now than it was back when he and Steven traveled, but the cost can be prohibitive. "It's only through gifts like those of the Houses, which help underwrite and lower those costs, that many students can study abroad," Davis says.

Paying to study abroad is one thing, but students also need a place to visit and an itinerary, and the Houses are eager to provide that as well. Two years ago they hosted a dozen students for a three-week intensive program in San Miguel de

Allende, a recently declared UNESCO World Heritage Site in central Mexico, where the Houses have lived part time and worked during the past 16 years.

Along with touring the city, which was founded in the 16th century, the students sketched, built models, visited construction sites, and worked on design challenges the Houses created. The couple is currently working to establish a regular study abroad program to bring students to San Miguel de Allende from Virginia Tech and other universities. A groundbreaking ceremony recently took place for a new studio building to house the study abroad program.

The Houses have helped their alma mater in many other ways as both donors and volunteers. They are members of the university's Legacy Society, having given generously to the university through their estate plan, and their lifetime giving puts them in the Ut Prosim Society, a select group of the university's most generous supporters.

The Houses serve on the Bay Area Regional Committee for the current \$1 billion Campaign for Virginia Tech: Invent the Future and chaired their region's committee in the university's previous campaign, which ended in 1998. They have also served on the CAUS Advisory Council and in 1999 were presented their college's Award for Outstanding Professional Accomplishment in Architecture.

Cathi says she and her husband feel that it's important to give back to Virginia Tech because "the longer we practice

Steven and Cathi House relax at their home in Mexico.



Both this room and the courtyard in the photo of the Houses on page 26 are part of their home, which they designed, in San Miguel de Allende.

architecture, the more we realize the true value of the education that we received.”

Steven adds, “We would not be where we are today had it not been for the architectural education that we received at Virginia Tech.”

Another benefit of staying involved with the university, Cathi says, is that it puts them in contact with talented graduates, some of whom wind up working at their firm. Virginia Tech’s architecture programs are among the nation’s highest rated, and House + House has employed about a dozen

Hokies over the years.

Michael Baushke (architecture ’88) began his career at House + House and now has his own firm, Apparatus Architecture. Shortly before graduating, he asked the Houses if he could meet with them. Steven and Cathi reviewed his portfolio and immediately offered him a job. “Anyone from architecture school at Tech who comes out here knows of Steven and Cathi,” Baushke said. “They have a reputation [for being helpful].”

While the Houses do have an aesthetic, which has been called “handcrafted modernism,” their designs emerge from an intensive research process. They always begin with an extensive questionnaire to help their clients find an inner voice for elements that are important but are often lost in the complex process of creating a home.

The Houses collect leaves, bark, rocks, and grasses from the site where a home will be built and use them to determine color schemes and appropriate materials. Their goal is to create a home that perfectly suits both its owner and the surrounding landscape.

Though it’s been many years since they graduated and the field of architecture has changed a great deal, the Houses say they are confident that their alma mater has maintained the special character of its architecture program, which encourages students to think independently. That character was evident, Cathi said, when she and her husband hosted the students in Mexico.

“We gave the students an assignment to design two homes in the historic center on a vacant lot, but the students, in their interactions with neighborhood children, decided it would be more appropriate to design a community center. Seeing them take the initiative to change the program was very gratifying.” □

Albert Raboteau is a writer for University Development.

ONLINE: Learn more about Steven and Cathi House’s career and design process by visiting a slideshow at www.campaign.vt.edu/house. The Houses have authored a book inspired by their travels, *Mediterranean Villages: An Architectural Journey*, and their work is the subject of two monographs, *House + House Architects: Choreographing Space* and *Houses in the Sun: light movement embrace*. All three books are available at Amazon.com

House + House’s work can also be seen at the firm’s website: www.houseandhouse.com.

Parents’ generosity makes a big difference on campus

BY ALBERT RABOTEAU

Walk into Litton-Reaves Hall during the day and it’s a safe bet you’ll see students studying in the first-floor lounge. After hours, one of the three dozen student groups in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs) is likely to be using the space. Thanks to the Hokie Parents Fund, it is a very nice space indeed.

In fiscal year 2008, an extensive renovation of the lounge was one of more than a dozen projects paid for with money from the Hokie Parents Fund, a special giving program for parents of current and former students. Thanks to thousands of Hokie parents who give to the fund, the university is able to provide hundreds of thousands of dollars each year to initiatives that help students.

In fiscal year 2009, for example, more than \$400,000 from the fund was earmarked for projects that include furnishings and displays for a planned visitor center, new furniture for library study rooms, and additional signs to remind drivers to be alert for students walking on campus.

“For 31 years, the Hokie Parents Fund has been an important resource that helps us to improve campus life and



Molly Stedfast enjoys the Litton-Reaves lounge funded by parents.

Parents fund helps all across campus

Mary and Kerry Donnelly are among the many Virginia Tech parents who recently gave to the Hokie Parents Fund. “We felt like by supporting the fund we were supporting all aspects of our daughter’s education,” Mary says. And she’s right; money from the Hokie Parents Fund is used for a host of projects to benefit students. In recent years, the fund has supported Family Day, the Hokie Parents newsletter, Common Book programs that have allowed new students to share learning experiences, and many other important initiatives. Visit www.campaign.vt.edu/parents to learn more.

the overall quality of education for all students here at Virginia Tech,” says Elizabeth “Betsy” Flanagan, vice president for development and university relations. “It’s played a large role in funding projects throughout campus and has helped tens of thousands of students get more out of their time here.”

Molly Stedfast is one such student. The senior biochemistry major is president of the CALs’ Student Leadership Council, an umbrella organization for the college’s various student groups. Stedfast says that she and other students were delighted when they first saw the much-improved lounge.

“When you walk in, it just looks a lot nicer than it used to,” Stedfast says. “It’s a pretty relaxing environment that just brings everyone’s stress level down, which for a college student is very important.”

The renovation did far more than make the lounge look better, however. The room now has numerous electrical outlets to allow students to work on their laptops. The furniture can be easily

moved to accommodate club meetings. Overall, the space just works better for all those students who rely on it.

And, as Stedfast points out, that includes “pretty much everybody in the college.”

Leadership in the corps of cadets

BY ROCK ROSZAK '71

In the '60s and '70s, the way cadets attained leadership positions in the corps of cadets was a bit of a mystery; one day, there was an announcement about the regimental commander for the upcoming year and then another about battalion/group/company commanders. O.T. Crowther, (political science '70) 3rd Battalion commander in the class of 1970, recalls being tapped by that year's regimental commander, Cadet John Janney (mechanical engineering '70), who also chose company commanders with input from the outgoing senior class and incoming battalion and/or group commanders with the commandant giving approval authority.

Things are different today. All junior and senior class leaders undergo a rigorous application and selection process, much like a promotion board in today's military. The experience is great for the cadets, and our track record shows that the right people are chosen—those who are professional at all times, look out for their people, and are ready to lead in the spirit of *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve). This fall semester, the regimental commander is Cadet Colonel John Steger, an outstanding example of today's cadet leader.

Steger—pronounced “Stay-ger,” unlike the other Steger on campus in a leadership position—was born in Utah, and his family moved to Springfield, Va., when he was 11. He has wanted to be a soldier since he was a child, and in high school, he began to look at colleges with an eye toward preparing for a career as an Army officer. After months of research, Steger found the Virginia Tech

Corps of Cadets. As a senior in high school, he spent the night here, and he says that he fell in love with the place.

Toward the end of Steger's sophomore year, he interviewed with the incoming Echo Company chain of command to serve as the Echo first sergeant for the fall 2008 semester. Steger says that being put in charge of 22 new cadets was a life-changing experience. In the spring 2009 semester, he moved up to regimental sergeant major, the ranking member of the junior class, where he found that every day presented a new challenge and learning experience.

For his senior year, Steger wanted to give back to the corps of cadets and to lead the regiment in the right direction, so he interviewed for the position of regimental commander. He notes that sitting down in front of the commandant of cadets, the three deputy commandants, and the three ROTC commanders was nerve-wracking. Yet a few weeks later, the commandant, Maj. General Jerry Allen, asked him to serve as regimental commander for the fall 2009 semester.

As regimental commander, Steger says that one of his major goals is to improve retention. “If we do a better job of giving cadets a reason to stay with the corps and to see the many wonderful benefits of being a cadet, we will be a much stronger organization, and we will be able

John Steger



to produce leaders of an even higher caliber.” He has plenty of opportunity to lead this fall—the 2009-10 regiment is the largest in the past 40 years.

Steger is representative of the caliber of the young leaders the corps is producing, and he has established his post-graduation goals. He plans to earn a commission in the U.S. Army and hopes to branch into infantry and follow that up with Ranger School. From there, Steger would like to have the honor of serving as a special forces team leader and, when his Army career ends, to settle down in a rural community and teach and coach at a high school. Based on his record thus far, he will achieve any goal he sets for himself. *Ut Prosim*.

Col. Rock Roszak '71, USAF (Ret.), is the alumni director for the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.

Alumni Association

Alumni Association News



Commentary

This past year was a successful one for the Alumni Association. Nearly 27,000 alumni and their guests participated in alumni events throughout the year, both on and off-campus. Given the slowing economy, we were delighted by that level of participation, which was reflected in other areas. More scholarship funds were raised and awarded by alumni chapters than any year



in our history. Our chapters also enthusiastically supported community service projects to engage alumni in contributing their time to worthy causes. Additionally, increasing numbers of recent graduates are becoming engaged in chapter and campus constituency group events.

On the following pages, we illustrate how our volunteer alumni and Alumni Association programs are having an impact. We have more than 207,000 alumni living around the globe, and their successes—professionally, philanthropically, and as community servants and leaders—continue to elevate the name and reputation of Virginia Tech. Just as importantly, our alumni display a sense of spirit and loyalty that ranks among the best in the world of higher education.

Alumni Association programs support students, celebrate faculty excellence, serve the broad base of alumni, engage leadership potential, and embrace community.

These five areas are critical to fulfilling our organizational mission. We look upon alumni as an extension of the core values of the university. Each group of graduates builds upon the successes of those who preceded them. And all alumni feel immense pride toward and ownership of this special place.

There are important ways alumni can “pay it forward” to help other alumni in this weaker economy. The Alumni Association is placing emphasis on networking among alumni to strengthen prospects for finding and filling employment opportunities. The Hokie Nation Network (HNN) is a secure online resource for all alumni—plus current students, faculty and staff—to list jobs and post resumes. Like other social networks, such as Facebook and LinkedIn, HNN is free and easy to use; its advantage is that it is exclusively for Hokies. We hope it will become the go-to site to match alumni who have openings to fill with skilled alumni who are seeking job opportunities.

Our Hokie Nation is resilient. We have been through challenging times and now face a changing global economy. However, we know how to pull together and help each other in difficult times. That is part of being a Hokie—we help those in need. And we will continue serving and nurturing an expanding Hokie Nation.

Tan Tiller '69

Vice President for Alumni Relations



SUPPORTING STUDENTS | 65 chapter awards presented

Student Programs build on traditions

Student Programs complement the mission of Alumni Relations by helping instill a sense of loyalty and pride in students who will soon become members of the Alumni Association. In addition, the Student Alumni Associates (SAA) and the class system are two active and respected programs that foster traditions designed to create a bond between students and the university. Last year, SAA recruited 43 new members, one of the largest groups in many years. The Class of 2010 had record attendance at Ring Dance in the spring, and class leaders continued to encourage class spirit and affinity with Virginia Tech. During the spring semester, the Alumni Association offered a speaker series to address issues that seniors would face after graduation.

Alumni chapters connect with students

Chapters and clubs foster strong student-alumni relationships through programs that bolster their lifelong loyalty to Virginia Tech. Many alumni chapters hosted annual student send-off events for current and incoming students and stayed in touch with their students throughout the year by inviting them to tailgates, providing care packages during exam time, and inviting them to other events, such as holiday parties. Alumni chapters also provided assistance in recruiting students.

Chapters raising scholarships

Alumni chapters raise thousands of dollars to help students from their respective areas. Scholarships not only provide financial assistance to outstanding students, but they also lead to local exposure for the chapter and university within communities. In 2008-09, 57 alumni chapters awarded 156 freshman scholarships totaling \$175,550. In addition, the association created an endowment, now totaling more than \$1.5 million, that provides annual scholarship support for students.

118 active alumni chapters and clubs; **207,000** total living alumni;
109 alumni traveled with Alumni Association-sponsored tours



CELEBRATING FACULTY | 19 Faculty Excellence Awards presented

Honoring the best

The association recognizes Virginia Tech's top teachers with its Faculty Excellence Awards for teaching, advising, outreach, Extension service, research, and international outreach, research, and education. A total of 19 faculty members were honored in 2008-09 with stipends of \$2,000 each. An endowment was created by the association in 1972 to provide support for the first named professorships. The Alumni Distinguished Professorship appointments, which provide annual salary supplements, currently support 10 outstanding professors.

Faculty featured in alumni programming

The university has many dynamic and entertaining professors who regularly visit alumni chapters. Last year, Tech faculty members provided presentations that demonstrated the breadth of innovative teaching and research underway at Virginia Tech. In addition, faculty members and university administrators were featured at reunions, constituency events, and other special occasions.

ENGAGING LEADERSHIP | 90 advocates at Hokie Day with the General Assembly

Alumni advocacy events

The legislative advocacy group supporting higher education and state General Fund appropriations for Virginia Tech provides vocal backing on issues of importance to Virginia Tech and higher education and cultivates support among elected officials. During advocacy events, the group hosted a breakfast for alumni members of the General Assembly. The 11th annual Hokie Day at the General Assembly, which included a visit to the state capitol by alumni chapter and student representatives, was also a success.

Alumni Board of Directors

Twice a year, members of the Alumni Board of Directors convene to review Alumni Association programs, evaluate progress toward accomplishing the association's annual goals, make plans for strong financial and administrative management, and develop future initiatives and programs that support the goals of the university. The 30 board members, who were elected by Alumni Association members, have been active with the university in some capacity, such as serving as alumni chapter officers, student leaders, and/or representatives of academic colleges, constituencies, and multicultural interests.

156 chapter scholarships totaling **\$175,550** awarded to freshmen;
alumni chapters conducted blood drives, collecting **615** pints





SERVING ALUMNI | more than **4,000** were early registrants in the Hokie Network Nation

Alumni tours

The Alumni Association sponsors group travel opportunities—often at substantial savings over the price of private tours—to exciting places worldwide. In 2008-09, 16 tours gave 109 Hokies the chance to visit places far and near, including a group of recent graduates who traveled on the 25-day Essential Europe tour.

Alumni awards

Since 1972, the Alumni Association has honored almost 100 alumni with the prestigious Alumni Distinguished Service Award for their career achievements and their service to the association, Virginia Tech, and their communities. Each year, the association recognizes one alumnus/a with the Graduate Alumni Achievement Award and eight alumni, one from each college, with the Outstanding Recent Alumni Award. Additionally, students from each college received the Outstanding Senior Award and three graduate students were honored with teaching and service awards. The Alumni Humanitarian Award is presented periodically to individuals who have had a profound impact on the lives of others.

Holtzman Alumni Center

Since 2005, the Holtzman Alumni Center has been a popular destination for alumni throughout the year, especially during busy fall reunion weekends and for such events as college programs. In the center, the Alumni Gallery provides space for receptions and events and features rotating art exhibits by alumni and local artists. The Alumni Museum displays memorabilia that illustrate the university's rich history. The Alumni Library has a collection of alumni and university publications, yearbooks, and works authored by alumni. The Alumni Relations staff offices are located on the top floor of the center. Last year, several events were held on the outdoor Alumni Terrace, including a reception for students, an open house during Homecoming weekend, a celebration for graduating seniors, and a wine festival sponsored by the New River Valley Alumni Chapter.

Staying connected

Alumni can stay connected with each other and their alma mater through such resources as the Alumni Association online directory and the 2006 print directory. Several thousand alumni were early registrants in the new Hokie Nation Network. This free and private social/professional network is intended to help Hokies share information, learn about employment opportunities, and simply stay connected in a setting similar to Facebook and LinkedIn. The new network launched in April exclusively for Hokie alumni, students, and faculty and staff members.

Chapter Officers Leadership Forum

The annual Chapter Officers Leadership Forum provides an opportunity for alumni chapter volunteers to return to campus for special workshops, updates on the Alumni Association and the university, and general information sharing. Approximately 140 participants from 46 alumni chapter areas attended the 2008 forum, which focused on networking and engaging alumni of all ages. Chapter officer training was held in January with 17 chapter volunteers, who concentrated on reaching out to different alumni populations, particularly young and multicultural alumni. Participants also shared and generated ideas on chapter programming and community service opportunities. Teleconferences were scheduled throughout the year. Some had specific topics and others were open forums.

Reunions and homecomings

In fall 2008, the Alumni Association enjoyed a successful reunion season, with more than 2,400 alumni attending six class reunion weekends, seven college homecomings, a corps of cadets reunion, and a Graduate School homecoming. Young alumni and multicultural reunions were held in Charlotte, N.C., in conjunction with the Virginia Tech-East Carolina football game. The annual Old Guard Reunion, held in the spring, was attended by 190 members of the classes

of 1935 through 1958. An additional 900 alumni and friends attended other special reunions throughout the year including the Virginia Tech Rescue Squad, Eighty-Tighties, Omicron Delta Kappa, Greek organizations, and a reunion for former basketball players.

Special alumni programs

Nearly 600 alumni and friends attended educational and entertaining programs last year, including Summer Around the Drillfield, the Valentines Weekend Escape to Italy, the Civil War Weekend, the Savor the Flavor wine event, and A Day in the Life of College Admissions.

Alumni Association section of the Virginia Tech Magazine

Beginning in fall 2008, the *Alma Mater*, formerly published by the Alumni Association, was merged into the *Virginia Tech Magazine* to provide a more comprehensive Alumni Association section in each issue. Published four times a year, the magazine reflects the interests and intellectual vigor of the university and its alumni. The Alumni Association section of the magazine allows the association to communicate more frequently with alumni about its programs and services; to highlight alumni chapter activities, reunions, upcoming alumni programs, and other special events; and to introduce new Alumni Association initiatives.

EMBRACING THE COMMUNITY | **19** attended first international service trip

Service at home and abroad

The Alumni Association introduced the Hokie Nation Serves initiative to inspire in all Hokies a commitment to service, especially during the month of April. The Hokie Nation bond fosters both a sense of spirit and a desire to live the university's motto, *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve). In the spring, 19 alumni, faculty and staff members, and students participated in a service trip to Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic (co-sponsored with the College of Architecture and Urban Studies) to construct a playground for an elementary school.

Outstanding volunteerism

Through their enthusiastic participation in Hokie Nation Serves and VT-ENGAGE, thousands of Hokies contributed their talent and time to deserving causes. Alumni chapters and clubs also made a difference in their communities by engaging in service projects. The Shenandoah Alumni

Chapter, for example, constructed an 8,000-square-foot memorial garden for the victims of the April 16 tragedy. The area parks and recreation department donated space for the garden, which was completed with donated landscaping materials and dedicated in April 2009. Hokies in Cincinnati joined other local volunteers in March to pre-build walls for Habitat for Humanity, completing 132 walls for three houses. Fourteen chapters conducted blood drives throughout the spring, collecting a total of 615 pints. One of those was the Richmond Alumni Association Chapter, which has an ongoing competition with University of Virginia alumni to see who collects the most pints of blood through blood drives. The two alumni groups also participate in Hokies vs. Hoos, which plays upon the rivalry between the two universities to benefit Habitat for Humanity and the Central Virginia Food Bank. Both schools work closely to promote service in the spirit of competition and, of course, to claim bragging rights.

140 participants from **46** chapters attended the fall 2008 Chapter Officers Forum; **60** chapters participated in nine training teleconferences; **188** alumni constituency events were held

Nearly **27,000** participated in all alumni events; **43** chapters organized community service projects; more than **4,000** '09 and '10 class rings purchased

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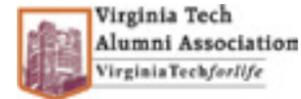
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Awards

University and Alumni Association Awards

Virginia Tech's talent and service extend around the world and are embodied in the achievements of loyal alumni, faculty and staff members, and students. Each year, a few of these individuals are recognized with special awards or citations by the university and the Alumni Association. During the past year, the following individuals were identified and recognized for their special service to society, their professional achievements, or their exemplary performance as members of the university community. Congratulations to all who were nominated or selected for their achievements and service. We encourage future nominations of others who may be deserving of special recognition.

William H. Ruffner Medal

Eugene V. Fife (business administration '62)
Retired general partner of Goldman Sachs & Co., currently heads Vawter Capital LLC

University Distinguished Achievement Award

Henry A. Long (business administration '59)
Founder of Long and Foster, currently heads the Henry A. Long Co.

Alumni Distinguished Service awards

Marni E. Byrum (political science '76)
Attorney

Patricia Caldwell (mathematics '71)
Cofounder of Gordian Group LLC

John B. Higginbotham (civil and environmental engineering '77)
CEO of Integral Systems Inc.



JOHN MCCORMICK

Graduate Alumni Achievement Award

Joseph M. DeSimone (Ph.D. chemistry '90)
Chaired professor at UNC and NC State

Outstanding Recent Alumni awards

Graduates of the past 10 years representing the academic colleges

John S. Radcliffe '95, '97, '00
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Lia Bratten-Hager '98
College of Architecture and Urban Studies

Nicholas D'Angelo '00
Pamplin College of Business

Kelley E. Jessee '02
College of Engineering

Caitlin A. McHale '06
College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

Sean K. Wohltman '04

Sybille A. Klenzendorf '02
College of Natural Resources

John F. Berry '00

Kevin M. Rosso '98
College of Science

Tanya LeRoith '99
Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine

Alumni Award for Outreach Excellence

Nikki Giovanni, University Distinguished Professor of English

Alumni Award for Team Outreach Excellence

CENTER FOR WATERSHED STUDIES

Brian Benham, associate professor of biological systems engineering and director, Center for Watershed Studies

Kevin Brannan, former research associate

Theo Dillaha, professor of biological systems engineering

Conrad Heatwole, associate professor of biological systems engineering

Sang Min Kim, former postdoctoral associate

Karen Kline, research scientist

Saied Mostaghimi, H.E. and Elizabeth F. Alphin Professor and head of the Department of Biological Systems Engineering

Mary Leigh Wolfe, professor of biological systems engineering

Gene Yagow, senior research scientist

Rebecca Zeckoski, former research associate

Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching

Amy Nelson, associate professor of history

Ann Stevens, associate professor of biological sciences

Alumni Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Academic Advising

Wayne Moore, associate professor of political science

Alumni Award for Excellence in Graduate Academic Advising

Hanif Sheralli, University Distinguished Professor and W. Thomas Rice Chair of Industrial and Systems Engineering

William E. Wine awards

Carol Bailey, associate professor of sociology

Jaime De La Ree Lopez, associate professor of electrical and computer engineering

John Simonetti, associate professor of physics

Alumni Award for Excellence in International Education

Jan Helge Bøhn, associate professor of mechanical engineering

Alumni Award for Excellence in International Outreach

M. David Alexander, professor and department unit chair for the School of Education

Alumni Award for Excellence in International Research

Sue Tolin, professor of plant pathology, physiology, and weed science

Alumni Award for Excellence in Extension

David Moore, unit coordinator and Extension agent, Middlesex Cooperative Extension Service

Tony Wolf, professor of horticulture and director of the Alson H. Smith Jr. Agriculture Research and Extension Center

Alumni Award for Excellence in Research

Roger Ekirch, professor of history

Brett Tyler, professor at the Virginia Bioinformatics Institute

Graduate student awards

Linsey Barker, industrial and systems engineering (Teaching Award)

Sunny Crawley, biological sciences (Teaching Award)

Christina Newman, crop and soil environmental science (Service Award)

Outstanding Academic College Senior

Class of 2009 graduates recognized by the Alumni Association for scholarship and leadership

Meagan Meyers

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Amrita Raja

College of Architecture and Urban Studies

B. Stuart Vyule

Pamplin College of Business

Alek Duerksen

College of Engineering

Kathleen Cooperstein

College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

Ritchie Vaughan

College of Natural Resources

Kevin Finelli

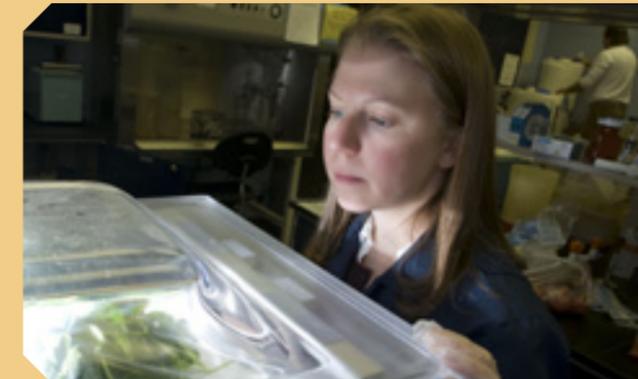
College of Science

Lindsay Turnbull

Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine



JOHN MCCORMICK



Virginia Tech's International Presence



Virginia Tech alumni can be found working and living around the world. The university fosters an international presence by sponsoring formal educational programs for its students. Two study abroad destinations, Riva San Vitale in Switzerland and Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic, provide opportunities for students to participate in full semesters or shorter, concentrated courses, all taught by Virginia Tech faculty. Students from Cairo, Egypt, and Mumbai, India, also participate in Virginia Tech graduate programs.

Alumni tours for 2010

Each year the Virginia Tech Alumni Association puts together a calendar of exceptional alumni tours to several destinations around the world. Many tours are value priced, with ground expenses and most meals included. One recent traveler observed, "The Alumni Association's AHI tour to the Tuscany region of Italy was expertly organized with a comfortable hotel, daily excursions, delicious meals, several speakers on art, culture, and politics of the region, and an opportunity to meet local residents. It was a turn-key traveler experience."

Our well-designed vacation packages encompass active itineraries for the

young and young-at-heart, including luxury, classic, and educational trips that everyone will enjoy. Every detail is arranged, from hotels to sightseeing. Join us in 2010 for a Hokie travel experience to remember for years to come.

Cruise the Panama Canal Feb. 3-14 (\$2,895*)

Experience gorgeous views of tropical paradise, including Antigua and the calm waters of Costa Rica. Admire the verdant rain forests and impressive architecture of St. Lucia and the white beaches of the British Virgin Islands. Explore the sun-soaked islands of the Caribbean Sea before traversing the incredible Panama Canal.



Legends of the Nile Feb. 16-27 (\$3,995*)

See the best of the ancient land of the pharaohs on this magical tour of Egypt that includes a 4-night Nile cruise and trips to the Great Pyramids at Giza, the hidden hieroglyphic tombs in the Valleys of the Kings and Queens, the Temple of Ramses II, and the capital city of Cairo.

Treasures of Morocco April 2-11 (\$2,995*)

Embark on an exciting tour of a vibrant culture shaped by the influence of Phoenicians, Romans, Spanish, and French. Enjoy the sites of the famous city of Casablanca, the capital city of Rabat, and the cultural capital of Fez. Dine at a Marrakech restaurant and learn about the traditions of Moroccan cuisine.

The Masters April 7-9 (\$2,585*)

Come experience golf's most historic event, the Masters Tournament in Augusta, Ga., with a group of Hokies. This comprehensive tour includes admission for two days to the Masters, a special Masters viewing social, two night's deluxe hotel accommodations, and much more.



Provence: Aix-en-Provence June 1-9 (\$2,595*)

Provence is where the sun-drenched French beaches and undulating hills tie the Mediterranean to the Alps. Enjoy the historic Aix-en-Provence and a private tour of Chateau d' Arnajon, and be a guest at a special wine and olive oil tasting. Take in the majestic sites as the Roman Empire comes alive during a visit to the historic monuments of Arles and Pont du Gard.

Tuscany: Cortona June 23-July 1 (\$2,395*)

In her book *Under the Tuscan Sun*, Frances Mayes captures the charm and romance of Italian living. Experience her idyllic world firsthand on this travel program that combines guided sight-seeing tours with total immersion in community life. Walk the cobbled streets



of Etruscan Cortona and discover the art, architecture, cuisine, and culture of one of Italy's most beloved regions.

Canadian Maritimes July 14-23 (\$3,195*)

Immerse yourself in the culture and history of the Canadian Maritimes as you visit Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island. Enjoy the rugged coastal scenery, beautiful

lighthouses, charming fishing villages, and a whale-watching cruise on the Bay of Fundy.

Scotland: Oban and Stirling Aug. 15-23 (\$2,695*)

From deep glacial lakes to rugged, heather-covered Highland hills, Scot-

Virginia Tech's International Presence

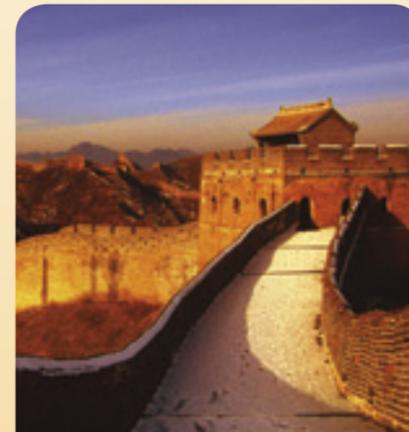
land's landscape sets a scenic stage. Travel through the cities of Edinburgh, Oban, and Stirling, and explore Scotland's most famous lakes and castles, including the mysterious Loch Ness. Attend a folkloric performance that showcases traditional Scottish music and dance. Visit St. Andrews, internationally renowned as the home of golf. Experience the famed Tatum Military Festival in Edinburgh, which is held only once a year.

Saxony on the Magnificent Elbe River Sept. 24-Oct. 2 (\$2,795*)

Sail through the breathtaking scenery of the Saxon Alps to Prague. Visit some of Germany's most picturesque cities, including Potsdam, Wittenberg, and Torgau. Delight in the charming cities of Meissen and Dresden. A city once divided, Berlin is the perfect prelude for a journey into one of Europe's most majestic and historic regions.

China and the Yangtze River Oct. 31-Nov. 13 (\$3,195*)

Cruise the scenic Yangtze River aboard the Viking Century Sky and marvel at the Three Gorges. See such legendary wonders as Beijing's Imperial Palaces, the Great Wall, Xi'an's Terra Cotta Warriors, and the Bund in Shanghai. Experience Chinese culture and watch a traditional Peking Opera performance and a show by the Shanghai Acrobatic Theater.



Germany's Legendary Holiday Market Cruise Nov. 26 - Dec. 4 (from \$2,195)

Recapture the magic of the holidays, and step into scenes that glitter with fairy-tale charm in Germany. The smell of warm glühwein, roasted chestnuts, and spicy gingerbread will fill the air and tickle your senses as you shop in the best of Germany's famed Christkindlmarkts. Marvel at picture postcard towns, stately castles, medieval villages, and awe-inspiring churches. Enjoy first-class accommodations as you discover the charming towns along the rivers. All excursions are included.



*Prices may vary per person and are based on double occupancy. Airfare and V.A.T. tax are not included, unless otherwise noted. Special airfare available from most major cities.

Dates and prices are subject to change. If you have questions, please contact Gwen Harrington, Alumni Travel Coordinator, at 540/231-6285 or by e-mail at alumni@vt.edu. Visit us online for complete details at www.alumni.vt.edu/travel.

Hokie Nation Serves



Alumni gather in Pittsburgh, Penn.

Virginia Tech and the Alumni Association Board of Directors encourage all members of the Hokie Nation to commit to service. The VT-ENGAGE initiative was launched to encourage students, faculty and staff members, alumni, friends, and other members of the university community to commit to performing service hours specifically to honor the university. The Hokie Nation bonded anew after April 2007, more than any other time in our history. This bond created a sense of spirit and a momentum of living the university's motto *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve).

To further help demonstrate to the world the power of Hokie pride, Hokie Spirit, and Hokie tradition, join our Hokie Nation Serves service initiative. You can get involved by visiting the following websites:

your local chapter
www.alumni.vt.edu/chapters

Hokie Nation Serves
www.alumni.vt.edu/hokienationserves

VT-ENGAGE
www.engage.vt.edu

We thank all of our chapters and volunteers for their dedication to the *Ut Prosim* motto. (And don't forget to log your hours with VT-ENGAGE.)

Virginia Tech Alumni Association • www.alumni.vt.edu/hokienationserves • VirginiaTechforlife™
Ut Prosim (That I May Serve)



HOKIE NATION SERVES



Virginia Tech Alumni Memorial Garden
 Stephens City, Va., a community service
 project by the Shenandoah Chapter



HokieBird Fights Hunger Food Drive
 Central Pennsylvania

**Service projects popular
 with our chapters include:**

- VirginiaTechforlife Blood Drives
- Adopt-A-Highway cleanups
- Marathon aid stations
- Special Olympics
- Habitat for Humanity
- Memorial gardens
- Relay For Life
- Book drives
- HokieBird Fights Hunger food drives
- festivals
- public broadcasting telethons

VirginiaTechforlife is more than our motto.

It is the university's commitment to keep you engaged all of your life.

**The Alumni Association plans to print its
 next official Alumni Directory in 2010.**

Watch for mail and e-mail communications from the Alumni Association to confirm your listing.

**Do we have your correct e-mail?
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Alumni have the opportunity to have a "vt.edu" address and e-mail account. To create your free account, go to www.alumni.vt.edu/gateway/started or call the Alumni Center Staff at 540/231-6285. Make @vt.edu your permanent e-mail address or link to it with a current e-mail address. This will ensure you always stay connected to the university electronically.

**Online social network for Hokies only!
 Hokie Nation Network**

Register in the new, free online social and professional network, exclusively for Hokies at www.alumni.vt.edu/hnn. HNN is great for career and job networking; linking to Hokie alumni, students, faculty, and staff; and advertising items or tickets for sale.

VirginiaTechforlife™

Virginia Tech Alumni Association
www.alumni.vt.edu

Chapter Awards

Virginia Tech Alumni Association Chapter Awards

Outstanding Chapter Awards

- Alleghany Highlands
- Amherst-Nelson
- Annapolis
- Atlanta
- Austin
- Baltimore
- Central Florida
- Central Pennsylvania
- Central Virginia
- Charleston
- Charlotte
- Chattanooga
- Cincinnati
- Coastal Carolina
- Columbia
- Danville
- Denver
- East Tennessee
- Emporia/Roanoke Rapids
- First State
- Franklin County/Smith Mountain Lake
- Fredericksburg
- Grand Strand/Myrtle Beach
- Jacksonville
- Knoxville
- Loudoun County
- Middle Tennessee
- Minnesota
- National Capital Region
- NC Triad
- New River Valley
- New York City
- Palmetto
- Pittsburgh
- Prince William
- Research Triangle
- Richmond
- Roanoke Valley
- Rockbridge
- San Antonio
- Shenandoah
- South Florida
- Southwest Virginia
- Tampa Bay
- Tidewater
- Williamsburg

Superlative Awards

- Event/Activity**
Shenandoah: Virginia Tech Memorial Garden
- Community Service**
Atlanta Blood Drive, Shenandoah Blood Drive
- Fundraising Event/Activity**
New York City: Maroon Effect 2009
- Golf**
Charlotte 10th Annual VTAA Golf Classic
- Website**
Charlotte
- Outstanding Volunteer**
Dorothy Long (Grand Strand/Myrtle Beach)
- Outstanding Volunteer**
Lauren Lakdawala (Pittsburgh)

Special Category Awards

- Most Improved Chapter**
Amherst-Nelson
- Outstanding New Chapter**
Columbia
- Outstanding Chapter Officer**
Randy Rose (Alleghany Highlands)
- Outstanding Chapter Officer**
Bruce Wilson (Shenandoah)



Hall of Fame

- Outstanding Volunteer**
David Stanley (New River Valley & Charlotte)



The Iowa Chapter welcomes students back after the flood of 2008 at the University of Iowa.

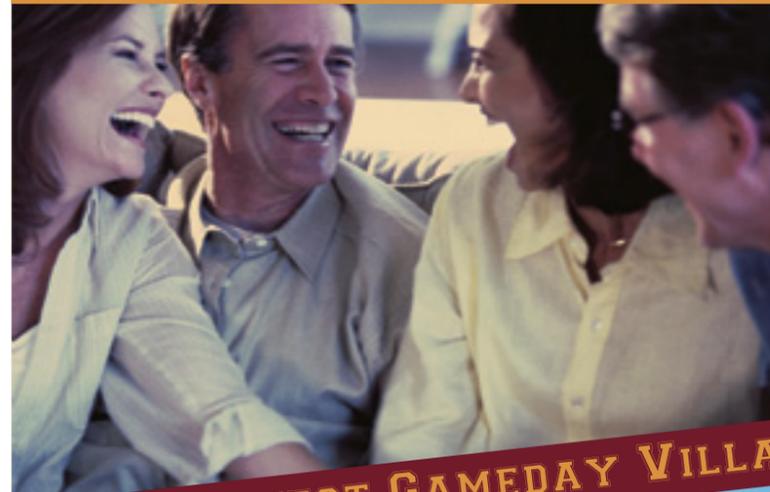


James I. Robertson Jr., Alumni Distinguished Professor (left), signs books at a chapter event.

Achievement Awards

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| Chicago | Orange County |
| Hilton Head | Pinehurst |
| Houston | San Diego |
| Iowa | Savannah |
| Las Vegas | Seattle |
| Los Angeles | Tri Cities |
| Northeast Ohio | |

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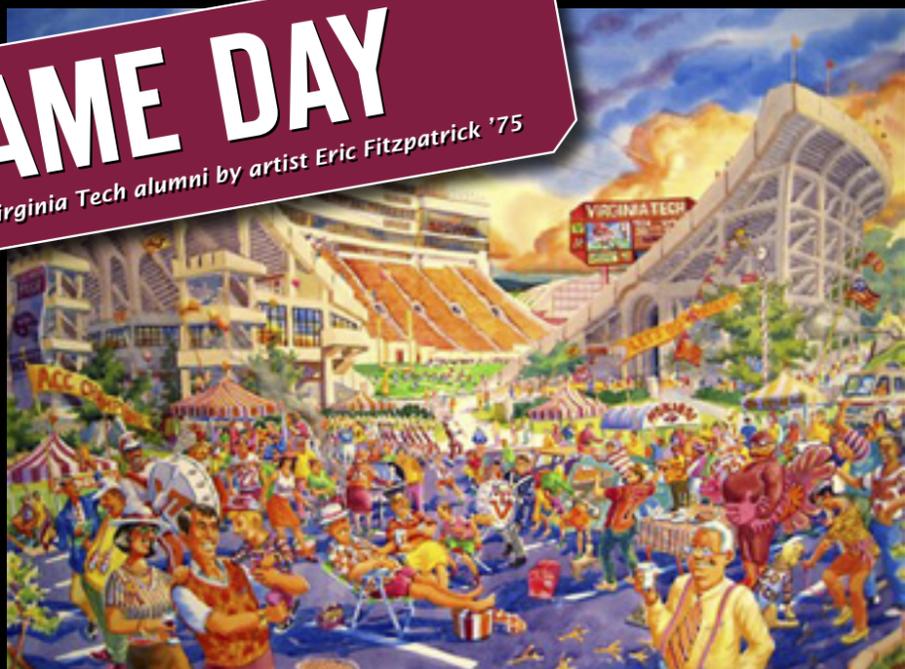


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Virginia Tech Magazine is pleased to note books by alumni, faculty, and staff or books about Virginia Tech. To submit a book, please mail it to Book Notes, Virginia Tech Magazine, 105 Media Building (0109), Blacksburg, VA 24061. For more information about Book Notes policies, go to www.vtmagazine.vt.edu/bookreview.html.

Books by faculty and staff

In *To Test or Not to Test: A Guide to Genetic Screening and Risk*, Doris Teichler Zallen, professor of science and technology studies, explores the pros and cons of genetic tests used to determine a person's risk of disease and arms readers with questions they should consider before deciding whether to pursue genetic screening.

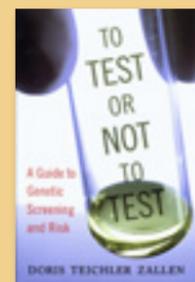
The publisher is Rutgers University Press (100 Joyce Kilmer Ave., Piscataway, NJ 08854-8099); <http://rutgerspress.rutgers.edu/index.html>.

Books by alumni

From *Adam's Apple to Xmas: An Essential Vocabulary Guide for the Politically Correct*, by H.D. Curet (mechanical engineering '62, M.S. nuclear science engineering '64), traces the origins of various words and phrases to the Bible and offers politically correct substitutes.

The book is self-published through Vantage Press Inc. (419 Park Ave. S., New York, NY 10016); www.vantagepress.com.

In *To Hell in a Handbasket*, Beth



Groundwater's (M.S. software engineering '83) character Claire Hanover, a gift-basket designer, is thrown into yet another murder mystery during a vacation in Breckenbridge, Colo., when a young woman is killed on the ski slopes.

The publisher is Five Star Publishing, an imprint of Gale, Cengage Learning (295 Kennedy Memorial Dr., Waterville, ME 04901); www.gale.cengage.com/fivestar.

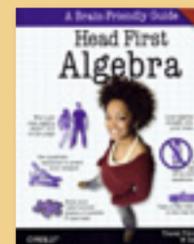
Chimerical, by Brian O'Beirne (psychology '99), is a children's book that takes the young reader on a journey of redemption and reconciliation as the main character, Dillon, grapples with overcoming his past, a struggle in which heaven and earth meet.

The publisher is Tate Publishing (127 E. Trade Center Terr., Mustang, OK 73064); www.tatepublishing.com.

Head First Algebra, by Tracey Pilone (civil engineering '99) and Dan Pilone, is full of practical, real-world explanations and engaging stories presented in a visually rich format to help students struggling with algebra to learn new concepts.

The publisher is O'Reilly Media Inc. (1005 Gravenstein Hwy. N., Sebastopol, CA 95472); <http://oreilly.com>.

In *A Passion for Design: Human-centered Architecture and Synergenial Practice*, Earl S. Swensson (architecture



the well-being of the people who use the spaces he creates, and why such practices in design are important.

The book is published by Zenda Inc. (1055 Harvard St., Rochester, NY 145610).

Internal Medicine/Pediatrics, by E. Allen Liles and Richard M. Wardrop III (biology '94), provides an in-depth look at combined internal medicine/pediatric residencies, surveying topics taught in these residencies.

The book is published by McGraw-Hill Professional Books (7500 Chavenelle Rd., Dubuque, IA 52002); www.mhprofessional.com.

From the *Shenandoah to the Kanawha: The Story of Col. John Smith, His Descendants, and Their Ancestors*, by Chris Smith (chemical engineering '61), chronicles the story of the migration of the author's ancestors to Virginia in the 18th century, including their struggles during both the French and Indian War and American Revolution.

The book is self-published through Chris Smith Publishing (P.O. Box 4432, Charleston, WV 25364); www.chris-smithpublishing.com.



Alumni, we want to hear what you've been doing. Although we cannot print stories or obituaries, we can post on-line photographs of weddings, babies, and spirited alumni. Mail photos to *Virginia Tech Magazine*, 105 Media Building, Blacksburg, VA 24061, or e-mail them to vtmag@vt.edu. Please mail career, retirement, wedding, birth, and death notices to Alumni Notes, Virginia Tech Alumni Association, Holtzman Alumni Center, Blacksburg, VA 24061; send them via e-mail to fleets@vt.edu; or submit them online at www.vtmagazine.vt.edu/submit.classnotes.html.



50's

'51

Stonie Barker Jr. (MINE) was inducted into the Academy of Engineering Excellence at Virginia Tech (1878 Mission Dr., Naples, FL 34109).

'53

W. David Fletcher (ANSC) received the prestigious A.M. Mills Award for his exceptional lifetime service to the veterinary profession and to his community (5 Euclid Ave., Townhouse 208, Bristol, VA 24201).

'55

Barry Kantor (BAD) was selected as one of the Best Lawyers in America in Family Law and as Norfolk Area Best Lawyers Family Lawyer for the Year 2009 (2316 Mariners Mark Way, Unit 204, Virginia Beach, VA 23451).

William C. Latham (GAG) was inducted into Virginia Tech's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Hall of Fame (2539 Logmill Rd., Haymarket, VA 20169).

'56

Donald L. Sage (IE) was inducted into the Academy of Engineering Excellence at Virginia Tech (1940 Lauderdale Dr., Apt. 303, Henrico, VA 23238).

'59

Thomas H. Row (NSE) received the Tennessee Governor's Volunteer Stars Award (114 Nebraska Ave., Oak Ridge, TN 37830).

60's

'60

S. Travis Pritchett (BAD) is the recipient of the 2009 Distinguished Service Award from the Moore School of Business at the University of South Carolina (709 Marlin Ln., Charleston, SC 29412).

'62

J.H. Ballengee (ME) was inducted into the Academy of Engineering Excellence at Virginia Tech (2731 Wycliffe Ave. S.W., Roanoke, VA 24014).

Philip N. Bergstresser (STAT) retired from ADTRAN Inc. after 46 years of service (128 Jackson Ave., Madison, AL 35758).

Joe T. May (EE) was inducted into the Academy of Engineering Excellence at Virginia Tech (40354 Foxfield Ln., Leesburg, VA 20175).

Robert van Luyn (IE) authored a book, *From Lion to Eagle*, a true story of an immigrant that shares the message of what is still possible in America (1492 Boxwood Dr., Blacksburg, VA 24060).

Joseph H. Vipperman Jr. (EE) was inducted into the Academy of Engineering Excellence at Virginia Tech (250 Tranquility Rd., Moneta, VA 24121).

Ernest V. Zoby (ME) won the 2009 Thermophysics Award from the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (464 Winterhaven Dr., Newport News, VA 23606).

'63

Rita Sutherland Purdy (CTRA) retired from Baylor University as chair of the

Department of Family and Consumer Sciences (9400 Oak Hill Dr., Waco, TX 76712).

'65

Irving M. Blank has been selected to receive the Richmond Jewish Community Federation's Distinguished Community Service Award (17 East Square Ln., Richmond, VA 23238).

Thomas B. Cox (METE) was inducted into the Academy of Engineering Excellence at Virginia Tech (6 Benthaven Pl., Boulder, CO 80305).

Arthur W. McKinney Sr. (ARE) was named Virginia Tech's Distinguished Engineering Alumnus for 2009 (14200 Scotchtown Rd., Beaverdam, VA 23015).

Arthur G. Ware III (EM) was the Distinguished Visiting Professor in the mechanical engineering department at the American University in Cairo, Egypt (2585 Shannon Ct., Idaho Falls, ID 83404).

'68

Robert D. Mitchell (PSCI) retired from BMW of North America after 32 years of service (551 Waterfront Way, Spring City, TN 37381).

Leo A. Vecellio Jr. (CE) was inducted into the Academy of Engineering Excellence at Virginia Tech (589 North County Rd., Palm Beach, FL 33480).

'69

Jimmie G. Anderson (PAD) co-authored a book, *Entrepreneurship in Action* (442 Edgehill Wood Dr., Manakin-Sabot, VA 23103).

Duane Gold (EE) retired from Eastman Chemical Company with more than 40 years of service (133 Herron

Dr., Kingsport, TN 37663).

Trudy Knicely Henson (MKTG) retired as a professor of sociology from the University of South Carolina after 31 years of service and was named Distinguished Professor Emerita (1708 Pine Log Rd., Aiken, SC 29803).

Wayne K. Nystrom (IE) is president/CEO of Graphics Gallery and was recognized as the Business Leader of the Year by the Henrico Business Council of the Greater Richmond Chamber (2405 Islandview Ct., Richmond, VA 23233).

'72

Satish V. Kulkarni (PHYS) was inducted into the Academy of Engineering Excellence at Virginia Tech (9000 New Delhi Place, Dulles, VA 20189).

A. Ross Myers (CE) was inducted into the Academy of Engineering Excellence at Virginia Tech (P.O. Box 98, Worcester, PA 19490).

'73

Christopher W. Umberger, NCARB (ARCH) is a senior project manager for Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon Inc. in Knoxville, Tenn. (1743 Sams Dr., Dandridge, TN 37725).

'74

Robert E. James (DASC) received the 2009 Certificate of Teaching Excellence from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Virginia Tech (3570 Indian Meadow Dr., Blacksburg, VA 24060).

Thomas D. Mull (ME) has formed a professional organization, Institute of Energy Professionals, to help companies, governmental agencies, institutions, and others better utilize their energy resources by training personnel to develop effective and sustainable energy management programs (503 Tiffany Cir., Garner, NC 27529).

'71

Donna Woodrum Dunay (ARCH) was named an American Institute of Architects Fellow (302 Washington St. S.E., Blacksburg, VA 24060).

Lindley V. Pryor (ARCH) is director of community development of the Warren-Forest Counties Economic Opportunity Council in Pennsylvania (72 Division St., Salamanca, NY 14779).

Dana K. Smith (ARCH) co-authored a book, *Building Information Modeling: A Strategic Planning Guide* (1625 Hiddenbrook Dr., Herndon, VA 20170).

Robert L. Zier (PSCI) is the chief of staff for the Indiana Department of Transportation (11212 Ravenna Way, Indianapolis, IN 46236).

'76

Allan A. Anderson (BION) is secretary/treasurer of the American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry (114 Riverside Dr., Cambridge, MD 21613).

Mary Pollak Lewis (EDSU) is director of first-year experiences in the Office of the Provost at Virginia Tech (4492 Preston Forest Dr., Blacksburg, VA 24060).

Barbara Prentiss Peterson (PSYC) is director of information technology for the School of Medicine and director of finance and administration for the Department of Pathology at the University of Washington (7307 Heather Way, Everett, WA 98203).

'77

Michael P. Parrella (ENT) is a chairman for the Department of Entomology, University of California (25450 Country Rd. 95, Davis, CA 95616).

'78

Melanie A. Gregor (PHED) is the head softball coach and associate director of athletics at Holy Names University in Oakland, Calif. (25A Crescent Dr., No. 128, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523).

Robert D. Grisso Jr. (AGE) is a member of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers' 2009 Class of Fellows (Biological Systems Engineering, 211 Seitz Hall, Blacksburg, VA 24061).

James F. Kirby (LASC) has authored a photography book, *Harpers Ferry, A Crossroads in Time* (2057 Swans Neck Way, Reston, VA 20191).

Matthew J. McGinniss (ZOOL) is director of the Molecular Diagnostic Laboratory at Caris MPI (15485 Andorra Way, San Diego, CA 92129).

Douglas J. Nelson (ME) is the recipient of the National Science Foundation Outstanding Long-Term Faculty Advisor Award (Mechanical Engineering 0238, 201A Randolph Hall, Blacksburg, VA 24061).

'79

Janet Jordan Perkins (SOC) attended the 2009 Georgia Archives Institute (Museum of the Confederacy, 1201

E. Clay St., Richmond, VA 23219).

80's

'80

Ronald J. Kendall (FIW) is director of the environmental and human health programs at Texas Tech University, which received the 2009 Texas Environmental Excellence Award in Education (Texas Tech University, Environmental and Human Health, Lubbock, TX 79409).

Walter H. Peake III (ENGL) was named to Best Lawyers in America and Super Lawyers in 2008 and 2009 in the field of medical malpractice defense (3047 Bancroft Dr. S.W., Roanoke, VA 24014).

William S. Swecker Jr. (ANSC) is the department head for Large Animal Clinical Sciences at the Virginia Tech-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine (1302 Oak Dr., Blacksburg, VA 24060-5530).

'81

Linda M. Shifflette (EDVT) is superintendent of schools for Hampton School Board (51 Nelson Maine, Carrollton, VA 23314).

Marcia Jones Thom (LASC) was awarded the Excellence in Teaching Award by the Student Government Association at Sweet Briar College (5021 Wedgewood Rd., Lynchburg, VA 24503).

Bevlee A. Watford (MINE) received Virginia Tech's 2009 Distinguished Alumni Award (3585 Deer Run Rd., Blacksburg, VA 24060).

'83

B. Wayne Adams (MKTG) received the designation of certified regulatory compliance manager from the American Bankers Association (Unit 306, 6311 Terra Verde Dr., Raleigh, NC 27609).

Suzanne Beamer Bohnert (COMM) authored two books, *Game-Day Goddess: Learning Basketball's Lingo* and *Game-Day Goddess: Learning Baseball's Lingo* (1325 North Illinois St., Arlington, VA 22205).

Steven L. DeBusk (ME) is global energy solutions manager for CFFilms (1418 Whittle Ct., Martinsville, VA 24112).

Steven C. Heifner (MATE) is an ASQ-certified quality auditor overseen by the Certification Board of the American Society for Quality (7405 Keisler Way, Louisville, KY 40222).

Barbara S. Simpson (ENGL) earned her M.F.A. in creative writing from Antioch University, Los Angeles. (1304 Wolcott Ave., Saint Joseph, MI 49085).

'84

Aaron K. Ball (EDVT) was honored with the 2009 Outstanding Teaching Award from the southeastern section of the American Society for Engineering Education (4002 Angelus Cir., Asheville, NC 28805).

William R. Burden (BIOC) is principal investigator for the Mentor Corporation's FDA-approved study for post-operatively adjustable silicone implants (Destin Plastic Surgery, The Grant Building, Destin, FL 32541).

Matthew Clark (CHEM) founded Pharmatropo Ltd., a company providing adverse event prediction and consulting for the pharmaceutical industry (324 Croton Rd., Wayne, PA 19087).

Regina E. Dugan (ME) is director of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (13914 Glen Mill Rd., Rockville, MD 20850).

Thomas P. Lanagan (IEOR) directs the Army's analytical studies efforts at the Pentagon as the chief of the Army Studies Program Management Office (5808 Buxton Dr., Chester, VA 23831).

'85

Craig H. Matthews (EE) is a partner with Austin Brockebrough and Associates LLP (6326 Little Sorrel Dr., Mechanicsville, VA 23111).

Scott N. Wilson (CE) is a new associate for Thompson and Litton in Wise, Va. (430 Baugh Ln. N.E., Abingdon, VA 24210).

'86

Elaine Crable Cieluch (FCD) is clerk of court for Lexington-Rockbridge General District Court (Apt. 1, 15 Beverly Ct., Lexington, VA 24450).

Mitzi R. Vernon (ARCH) received Virginia Tech's 2009 Edward S. Diggs Teaching Scholars Award (4115 River

Rise Rd., Blacksburg, VA 24060).

'87

Percival G. Ricketts (POUL) is a licensed psychotherapist, nationally certified counselor, parenting and divorce consultant, and the author of five books (10031 Pines Blvd., No. 242, Pembroke Pines, FL 33024).

'88

Kristine B. Miller (ART) is an associate with Access Advertising and Public Relations in Roanoke, Va. (1502 Denniston Ave. S.W., Roanoke, VA 24015).

Kimble Reynolds Jr. (MKTG) received the 2009 Distinguished Alumnus Award from Virginia Tech's Pamplin College of Business (401 Starling Ave., Martinsville, VA 24112).

Marc T. Steiner (ECAS) is commander of the Naval Ocean Processing Facility Dam Neck in Virginia Beach, Va. (4300 Galston Ct., Chesapeake, VA 23321).

'89

Kay Wright Baughan (FIN) is assistant vice president of Citizens Bank & Trust Co. in Crewe, Va. (329 Robertson Siding Rd., Crewe, VA 23930).

B.K. Fulton (UA) is the recipient of 2009 Friend of Education Award from the National Association of State Boards of Education (8023 Southridge Way, Hurricane, WV 25526).

90's

'90

Heather M. Brown (HIDM) received her doctorate in instructional design/technology from Old Dominion University (1129 South Birdneck Rd., Virginia Beach, VA 23451).

James E. Crosley (PHYS) is commanding officer of the USS ALABAMA GOLD (8046 Wenatchee Pl. N.W., Silverdale, WA 98383).

Joseph M. DeSimone (CHEM) received the Graduate Alumni Achievement Award for 2009 from Virginia Tech (7315 Crescent Ridge Dr., Chapel Hill, NC 27516).

William L. Turner (FCD) is a professor of human and

organizational development at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn. (1809 Creek Ln., Northfield, MN 55057).

'91

David S. Bennett (EE) is a senior member of the professional staff in the Applied Physics Laboratory at Johns Hopkins University (820 Ivy Way No. 1A, Frederick, MD 21701).

Jennifer K. Martin (ART) has juried her sculpture "New Species" into the National Art Encounter 2009 in the Von Liebig Art Center and Museum in Naples, Fla. (30390 Quail Roost Tr., Big Pine Key, FL 33043).

'92

Tsu-Sheng Chang (EM) received Virginia Tech's 2009 Sporn Award for Excellence in Teaching Introductory Engineering Subjects (291 New Kent Rd., Blacksburg, VA 24060).

Ellington T. Graves (SOC) received Virginia Tech's 2009 Edward S. Diggs Teaching Scholars Award (305 Windsor Dr., Christiansburg, VA 24073).

'93

Paula Brown Newbill (FR) received her Ph.D. in second language education from Virginia Tech (4432 Rosecrest Rd., Roanoke, VA 24018).

'94

Michele Thomas McNiff (PSCI) received her masters in education from the University of Virginia (9924 Coach Rd., Vienna, VA 22181).

Dana S. Reeder (AGE) is a clinical assistant professor of equine field service for the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine (2055 Mt. Tabor Rd., Blacksburg, VA 24060).

Rickie D. Rudd (EDVT) has been named the Virginia Cooperative Extension Professor of Excellence in Community Viability by the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors (4074 Pearman Rd., Blacksburg, VA 24060).

'95

Scot H. Goodman (ACCT) is managing vice president for audit, information systems and enterprise projects

for Capital One (10901 Ashmont Ct., Glen Allen, VA 23059).

Scott E. Habeeb (EDCI) has co-authored a book, *The Ninth-Grade Opportunity: Transforming Schools from the Bottom Up* (2451 Tyler Way, Salem, VA 24153).

Bethany Trapp Little (PSCI) is vice president of design and implementation services for Convio Inc. (2813 Rio Mesa Dr., Austin, TX 78732).

'96

Janeen B. Gingrich (FCD) is the development director of Legal Aid of North Carolina (1016 9th St., Durham, NC 27705).

Michael C. Rembold (IS) is chief for the Office of Defense Cooperation for the U.S. Army (5619 Jefferson Pike, Frederick, MD 21703).

'97

Amy K. Cheatham (CE) received her Ph.D. in civil engineering at Virginia Tech and is employed with CH2M Hill in Oklahoma City (9501 S. I-35 Service Rd., Apt. 1312, Moore, OK 73160).

Elizabeth Snead Combs (HIST) is chief magistrate for the 28th Judicial District, Region I of Virginia (P.O. Box 2848, Lebanon, VA 24266).

Matthew S. Cosner (ECON) earned his master's degree in public policy from George Mason University and was inducted into Pi Alpha Alpha (5637 Sherborne Knolls Ln., Centreville, VA 20120).

Cynthia J. Denbow (PPWS) is the recipient of the 2009 Certificate of Teaching Excellence from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Virginia Tech (4725 Preston Forest Dr., Blacksburg, VA 24060).

David M. Moore (DASC) received Virginia Tech's 2009 Alumni Award for Excellence in Extension (227 Circle Dr., Deltaville, VA 23043).

John R. Tomlin Jr. (MINE) was a finalist for the 2009 American Association of Railroads John H. Chafee Environmental Excellence Award (62 The Promenade, Newnan, GA 30265).

John M. Nutting (AAEC) was awarded the 2009 Eisenhower Agriculture Fellowship (24 Elliott Rd., Vassalboro, ME 04989).

Robert E. Emard (ARCH) is a licensed architect in Virginia

(422 N. Armistead St., Unit 302, Alexandria, VA 22312).

00's

'00

Aaron D. Link (ISE) earned his M.B.A. from the Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan (42665 Morgan Creek Ct., Novi, MI 48377).

Rachel A. Mair (FSCI) received the first-ever Rachel Carson Award for Scientific Excellence from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (1908 Millstream Dr., Salem, VA 24153).

Somil R. Mehta (BIOL) received his master's degree in international business from University of South Carolina's Moore School of Business (6497 Lake Meadow Dr., Burke, VA 22015).

Jason C. Rushing (CE) received the 2009 Paul L. Busch Prize from Malcolm Pirnie Inc. (519 North Payne St., Alexandria, VA 22314).

'01

Amanda C. Akin (HNFE) received her master's degree in health communications from Emerson College and Tufts University and is the COO for Encompass In-Office Surgery in Texas (3175 Armstrong Ave., Dallas, TX 75205).

Laura M. Marshall (HD) received the Milken Educator Award from *Teacher Magazine* (107 Holly Hill Dr., Unit A, Bridgewater, VA 22812).

Erin P. Silvoy (BIOL) received her master's degree from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania (6406 Darwin Rd., Laurel, MD 20707).

'02

Gregory A. Brazeau (CE) has earned his professional license and is a staff engineer on the utilities team with Draper Aden Associates in Blacksburg, Va. (Apt. D, 501 Sunridge Dr., Blacksburg, VA 24060).

Haden D. Conrad (HIST) is pastor of Bethlehem United Methodist Church in Bremen, Ga. He received his master of divinity from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University (7 Coles Rolling Rd., Scottsville, VA 24590).

James K. Houff (FIN) is senior manager for DRT Strategies (Apt. 322, 880 N. Pollard St., Arlington, VA 22203).

Eric J. Melniczek (ELPS) is director of career services at High Point University in North Carolina (10 Windstream Ct., Radford, VA 24141).

Lydia Steele Roberts (LAR) received her doctorate in osteopathic medicine from the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine (219 Crowfield Cir., Lewisburg, WV 24901).

'03

Robert B. DiGiacomo (COMM) is the director of marketing and promotions for the Virginia Tech Department of Athletics (601 McBryde Dr., Blacksburg, VA 24060).

Allegra C. Johnston (ENGL) is the author of a novel, *Nothing But Scandal* (15205 Chelmsford St., Colorado Springs, CO 80921).

Felicia Rankin Qashu (BIOL) earned her doctorate in neuroscience from the Uniform Services University in Bethesda, Md. (13528 Hamlet Square Ct., Germantown, MD 20874).

'04

Ahmed K. Ali (ARCH) has authored a book, *Silence, Darkness, and Light* (403 Marlinton St., Apt. 5, Blacksburg, VA 24060).

Bradford Ashby (MKTG) is assistant vice president of BB&T in Ashburn, Va. (14486 Four Chimney Dr., Centreville, VA 20120).

Sarah E. Bowman (ENGL) has authored a novel, *White Vacation* (5832 Valley View Dr., Alexandria, VA 22310).

Abbey Akin Fowler (IS) is an assistant district attorney for Dallas County, Texas. She received her juris doctor from The University of Miami School of Law (Apt. 307, 2885 Woodside St., Dallas, TX 75204).

Katherine L. Weaks (HD) is a licensed practicing counselor with National Counseling Group in Richmond, Va. (2712 No. 1 Hanover Ave., Richmond, VA 23220).

'05

Melinda R. Cep (APSC) was named one of the two 2009-10 American Veterinary

Medical Association Congressional Science fellows (11569 Old Cordova Rd., Cordova, MD 21625).

Derrick T. Hogan (HIST) is an associate attorney with Tully Rinckey PLLC in Albany, N.Y. (6169 Sleepy Hollow Rd., Rome, NY 13440).

'06

Rachel L. Doudera (PSYC) earned a master's degree in psychology from Radford University (1115 College St., Christiansburg, VA 24073).

Yang Xu (GSCR) received the 2009 Penn State Award for Excellence in Teaching (3550 7th Street Rd., New Kensington, PA 15068).

'07

Shiv D. Kale (BIOC) was awarded a Graduate Research Fellowship from the National Science Foundation (1009 Kentwood Dr., Blacksburg, VA 24060).

'08

Alia C. Ghannam (ENGL) is a public relations account coordinator for Fry Hammond Barr (Apt. 25203, 612 Coliseum St., Orlando, FL 32826).

'09

Nicholas D. Tatalovich (BIOL) is an environmental scientist for The Louis Berger Group Inc. (11709 Henderson Rd., Clifton, VA 20124).

Weddings

'51 Frederick L. Phlegar and Kris Ferbert, 9/12/08 (320 Hershberger Rd. N.W., B-33 Friendship Manor, Roanoke, VA 24012).

'53 S.D. Garthoff and Donna J. Wade, 5/16/09 (2164 Ayers Ave., Akron, OH 44313).

'93 Paula Brown and **'98 Cecil B. Newbill**, 1/3/09 (662 Mount Pleasant Rd., Amherst, VA 24521).

'93 Barbara A. Shirley and Richard A. Fiero, 3/28/09 (6573 Zoysia Ct., Alexandria, VA 22312).

'95 Stephen M. Carrick and Anne Lee Day, 5/16/09 (21232 Ravenwood Ct., Potomac Falls, VA 20165).

'96 Tamara A. Laon and Nicholas L. Overcash,

4/25/09 (2812 Prospect Pky., Durham, NC 27703).

'97 Brian T. Boylan and **'03 Priya P. Gowda**, 4/25/09 (12001 Market St., Apt. 176, Reston, VA 20190).

'99 Jaimee W. Hammit and Kevin David, 4/18/09 (85 S.W. Williams Dr., Beaverton, OR 97005).

'99 Melanie Frazier and Andrew Raymond Kjar, 7/4/09 (9288 Blagdon Dr., Mechanicsville, VA 23116).

'01 Christopher W. Bishop and **'01 Jennifer E. Cable**, 4/25/09 (2652 Woods Meadow Ln., Salem, VA 24153).

'02 Michelle Arevalo and **'03 Mark A. Winston**, 10/25/08 (MCQ Inc., 1551 Forbes St., Fredericksburg, VA 22401).

'02 Christy L. Herman and Timothy Fielding (123 Pickett Mill Blvd., Okatie, SC 29909).

'02 James A. Johnston and **'04 Julie E. Dyke**, 4/18/09 (44065 Ferncliff Terr., Ashburn, VA 20147).

'02 Edward J. Manlucu and Kala N. Edwards, 10/4/08 (9300 Rustic Breeze Ct., Bristow, VA 20136).

'02 Christine Kiely O'Hara-McQueen and Scott G. Wilkerson, 4/18/09 (2350 Garnett Dr., Alexandria, VA 22311).

'02 Maria V. Evangelista and Josh Robison, 4/18/09 (306 Holly Point Ln., Chesapeake, VA 23325).

'03 Jonathan D. Cohen and Sara Leppine, 6/6/09 (715 Ten Rod Rd., Apt. C, North Kingstown, RI 02852).

'03 Christopher E. Glenn and Danielle Burke, 3/14/09 (1087 Garner Dr., King George, VA 22485).

'03 Michael S. McDonald and Jessica Stainback, 8/23/08 (21778 Leatherleaf Cir., Sterling, VA 20164).

'04 Melissa G. Lasken and **'04 Miles P. Shifflett**, 10/4/08 (4001 Summit St., Lynchburg, VA 24503).

'05 M.E. Dawika Chang and **'06 Bethany L. Draggoo**, 7/26/08 (2192 Heath Green Pl. S., Jacksonville, FL 32246).

'05 Ross G. Hewitt II and **'07 Jodie A. Hamrock**, 10/17/08 (460 Babbs Mountain Rd., Winchester, VA 22603).

'05 Erin C. Bryant and Christopher Rice, 6/27/09

(4965 Deer Path Rd., Suffolk, VA 23437).

'06 Rachel Lynn Doudera and **'07 Matthew W. Soukup**, 5/31/09 (1115 College St., Christiansburg, VA 24073).

'06 Lauren A. Gallagher and **'06 Bryan T. Gassenmeyer**, 5/9/09 (11222 Silentwood Ln., Reston, VA 20191).

'07 Neal M. Ballas and **'08 Jill E. Ballas**, 5/23/09 (Apt. 1030, 9931 Hyatt Resort Dr., San Antonio, TX 78251).

'07 Derek A. Davis and Danielle Rogne, 6/13/09 (147 Canterbury Run, Newport News, VA 23602).

'07 Sarah A. LaMotte and **'08 Zachary R. Eckhart**, 10/11/08 (Apt. 404, 8100 West Hwy. 98, Pensacola, FL 32506-8940).

Births and adoptions

'85 Jeffrey N. Johnson, a son and a daughter, 4/21/09 (5846 Edgehill Dr., Alexandria, VA 22303).

'86 Kevin B. Sullivan and **'87 K.M. Lukas**, a daughter, 7/7/08 (30 Greenwood Ln., Waltham, MA 02451).

'88 Scott L. Levin and **'92 Betty A. Levy**, a daughter, 5/4/09 (352 Westover Ave., Norfolk, VA 23507).

'89 David A. Capwell Jr. and **'96 Amanda C. Weidner**, a daughter, 4/3/09 (230 Mountain Breeze Dr., Blacksburg, VA 24060).

'90 Matthew M. Malanga and **'91 J. Megan Ray Malanga**, a daughter, 6/7/09 (380 S.E. 3rd St., Pompano Beach, FL 33060).

'90 Melissa Jones Sharpe and **'91 Philip C. Sharpe**, a son, 10/9/08 (4820 Sandtyn Dr., Waxhaw, NC 28173).

'91 John D. Back and **'95 Shannon L. Daley**, a son, 3/26/09 (3756 Heverley Dr., Glen Allen, VA 23059).

'91 Beatriz S. Kelly-Rosenberg, a daughter, 7/10/08 (9453 William Kirk Ln., Burke, VA 22015).

'91 Amy Campbell Stock, a son, 5/8/09 (1416 Valley Ave., Winchester, VA 22601).

'92 Charles R. Fraley and **'93 Meredith Blunt Fraley**, a daughter, 1/14/09 (6930 Pimlico Dr., Mechanicsville, VA 22611).

'93 Nicole Dikeman Anderson, a daughter, 10/29/08

(650 Alabama Dr., Herndon, VA 20170).

'93 Catherine Steele Hogan, a son, 6/2/09 (10200 Lakent Ln., Richmond, VA 23236).

'93 Susan Stryker Jensen, a daughter, 2/04/09 (14015 Wethersfield Terrace Ct., Chesterfield, MO 63017).

'93 Heather Miller Pierce, a son, 6/8/09 (1465 Lake James Dr., Virginia Beach, VA 23464).

'94 Andrew G. Foster, a son, 2/15/09 (11222 Fox Meadow Dr., Richmond, VA 23233).

'94 Joshua C. George, a son, 5/6/09 (172 Irving Rd., York, PA 17401).

'94 Russell J. Parrish, adopted a daughter, 2/12/09 (24 Dashiell Dr., Smithfield, VA 23430).

'94 John E. Slaughter III, triplets, 2/18/09 (4731 Alderbrook Dr., Durham, NC 27713).

'94 Christopher J. Yianilos, a son, 4/6/09 (811 Beverley Dr., Alexandria, VA 22302).

'94 Tracy Reynolds Zeleskey, a son, 1/12/09 (5531 W. Amherst Ave., Dallas, TX 75209).

'95 Kory C. Brendsel, a son, 5/6/09 (Apt. 303, 21787 Baldwin Square, Sterling, VA 20164).

'95 Amy Klear du Fief and **'95 Robert T. du Fief**, a son and a daughter, 5/8/09 (4476 Mariner Dr., Frisco, TX 75034).

'95 David T. Polk, a daughter, 4/15/09 (5259 5th St. N., Arlington, VA 22203-1301).

'95 Jennifer Howard Stanislav, a daughter, 7/1/08 (400 N.E. Faulconer St., Sheridan, OR 97378).

'95 Catherine Merz White, a daughter, 12/11/08 (7383 Ruby Stone Ct., Leland, NC 28451).

'96 Randi Richards Lutz, a son, 4/28/09 (15576 Fox Chase Ln., Culpeper, VA 22701).

'96 Charles L. Moore Jr. and **'96 Hilary Winkler Moore**, a daughter, 6/5/09 (618 Stafford St. S. Arlington, VA 22204).

'97 Jeffrey C. Hinkle and **'97 Tara Carter Hinkle**, a daughter, 2/26/09 (2613 New Oxford Dr., Apex, NC 27539).

'97 Susan Dodd O'Keefe and **'97 Kevin J. O'Keefe**, a son, 6/27/08 (247 Baywood

From Appalachia to Tibet: The art of Jane Vance

BY DENISE YOUNG

Jane Vance (M.A. English '83) was born a painter. Her earliest memories stretch back to the age of one, a period of her life from which she has vivid recollections.

“To paint, for me, is like an obligation. I know it's why I'm in this world. My paintings are not of bowls of fruit or a flower; they're cross-cultural stories,” says Vance, whose work is meant to serve as a bridge between her native home in the Appalachian mountains and the bright, bold hues and motifs of Tibetan art in the Himalayas.

Vance, who has visited Nepal eight times, finds herself in an unusual position: a Western woman situated at a crossroads between her homeland and the Nepalese culture that inspires her. This is best seen in the documentary she recently helped create: *A Gift for The Village*, which chronicles the journey of one of her paintings from its creation, which received the blessings of the Dalai Lama, to its travels to its final home in a tiny village in what Vance calls “the wild west of Nepal.” The film follows the story of a painting that became more than just a gift for one man and his family but rather one for an entire community.

The project spans almost a decade's worth of work for Vance and the other members of the team, including co-producers and videographers Jenna Swann and Tom Landon. In 2001, Nepalese spiritual leader Amchi Tsampa Ngawang stayed with Vance while teaching for a semester at Virginia Tech. Vance decided to paint Ngawang's portrait as a Tibetan lineage painting, which places a significant individual in a cultural genealogy. “You have to understand the history of the great teachers in Tibetan Buddhism and the encyclopedia of symbols and motifs that serve as the clues to these paintings,” explains Vance.

Of the documentary and the countless hours of teamwork that went into its creation Vance notes, “I am a painter, but that's almost nothing compared to the privilege of collaboration. I was born with the ability to draw in this infinite detail; I was compelled, propelled to draw, but also, lots of doors have opened for me; I've met the right people.”

To see more photos from Vance's treks to Nepal and to view a selection from the documentary *A Gift for The Village*, visit www.vtmagazine.vt.edu/fall09/shorts.html, or for more information about the documentary, visit www.agiftforthevillage.blogspot.com.



Jane Vance

Orchestrating cross-cultural understanding

BY LINDSEY LOVE

After dedicating two years to her undergraduate research project, Morgan Cain Grim (religion and culture '09) was looking forward to a study abroad opportunity in Europe. Little did she realize that her Appalachian-focused research would trigger a multicultural interac-

tion with a gospel group in Spain.

Cain Grim's undergraduate research project focused on citizens of Wake Forest, Va., an African-American community that formed adjacent to Kentland Farm. "I spent two years recording oral histories in order to preserve the religious history and culture that had given Wake Forest hope and unity for over 200 years," says Cain

Grim. She compiled the community's stories, prayers, and songs about their culture into a book, which is now one of the largest oral-history collections of Appalachian African-Americans to date.

While in Barcelona, Spain, Cain Grim stumbled across an unexpected and remarkable opportunity: after being introduced to the director of the Barcelona Institute of Gospel, Oscar Alberdi, at a host family's dinner, she was invited to share her undergraduate research with the gospel choir. Cain Grim ultimately gave three lectures to the gospel choir on the religious history and culture of Wake Forest. Inspired by her presentations, Alberdi was eager for the gospel choir to travel to the United States so they could learn more about some of the African-American communities where gospel music originated, and he asked for Cain Grim's help in coordinating a trip for the group's 20 founding members.

Back in Blacksburg, Cain Grim arranged a two-week program for the touring group. The Spanish gospel choir performed at several venues, including FloydFest 8 and Harriet Tubman's home in Auburn, N.Y.

"It is a powerful gift to see cultural boundaries being transcended right before your eyes," says Cain Grim.

A video detailing more about Morgan Cain Grim's experiences is available on the online version of this article at www.vtmagazine.vt.edu/fall09/shorts.html.

Lindsey Love is a communication major interning with the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.



Morgan Cain Grim

Ave., Mount Lebanon, PA 15228).

'97 David M. Mader, a daughter, 4/6/09 (5326 Windings Lake View, Mableton, GA 30126).

'97 Adam J. Read and '99 Amanda Moore Read, a daughter, 4/4/09 (11235 Holly Ridge, Smithfield, VA 23430).

'97 Andrew J. Rosenberger and '97 Julie Zurfluth Rosenberger, a son, 4/30/09 (105 Maywood St., Blacksburg, VA 24060).

'98 Rachel Chabalewski Lenahan and '98 Francis S. Lenahan, a son, 1/6/09 (113 Kestrel Ct., Williamsburg, VA 23188).

'98 Megan G. Barnes, a son, 3/26/09 (446 Dwarf Grass Ct., Lawrenceville, GA 30045).

'98 Damon R. Josue and '00 Carolyn Grovac Josue, a daughter, 1/6/09 (10014 Cotton Farm Rd., Fairfax, VA 22032).

'98 Betty Shaver Keith, a daughter (7329 Jonathan Dr., Wendell, NC 27591).

'98 Amanda Cordes Person, a daughter, 6/3/09 (1318 N. 19th St., Bismarck, ND 58501).

'98 Amy L. Shober, a daughter, 3/30/09 (1306 Hatcher Loop Dr., Brandon, FL 33511).

'99 Patrick H. Brindle and '00 Sabrina Dillon Brindle, a son, 5/26/09 (100 Springhill Dr., Oakdale, PA 15071).

'99 Alex T. Edwards and '01 Amy Benedict Edwards, a daughter, 4/25/09 (7154 West Kings Ave., Peoria, AZ 85382).

'99 Carmen McGough Stowers and '01 Steven Stowers, a son and a daughter, 4/29/09 (138 Penn Station, Savannah, GA 31410).

'99 Rebecca Wiesner Erfurt, a son, 1/7/09 (42868 Clay Ct., Novi, MI 48377).

'99 David M. Finch, a daughter, 1/12/09 (3763 Sanctuary Way N., Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250).

'00 Kelly Keister Svihovec and '00 Brian W. Svihovec, a son, 5/9/09 (105 Carpenter Brook Dr., Cary, NC 27519).

'99 Justin M. Klingman, a daughter, 6/26/09 (6413 Ivy Stone Dr., Jamestown, NC 27282).

'00 Jonathan S. Ebbert, a daughter, 3/15/09 (623 S

Columbus St., Alexandria, VA 22314).

'00 Kevin P. Healy, a son, 4/12/09 (17404 Park Mill Dr., Derwood, MD 20855).

'00 Aaron D. Link, a daughter, 3/20/09 (42665 Morgan Creek Ct., Novi, MI 48377).

'01 Jennifer Aschermann Kaywork and '01 Timothy L. Kaywork, a daughter, 6/15/09 (38 Hazel Ave., West Orange, NJ 07052).

'01 Jason E. Long and '02 Lora Sudduth Long, a son, 3/8/09 (5055 Red Fern Ct., Midlothian, VA 23112).

'01 Melissa Maltempo Maciborski and '02 Jeffrey D. Maciborski, a son, 3/3/09 (4900 Single Shot Cir., Austin, TX 78732).

'01 Peter J. Rappoccio, a daughter, 6/19/09 (Westchester Country Club, 99 Biltmore Ave., Rye, NY 10580).

'02 Amanda Cangemi Crook, a daughter, 5/10/09 (13608 Penn Shop Rd., Mount Airy, MD 21771).

'02 Ashley Chapman Gentry and '02 Jay P. Gentry, a daughter, 5/21/09 (3508 Farrier Cove, Suffolk, VA 23435).

'02 Brent M. Decker, a son, 3/2/09 (148 Bluffton Rd., Mooresville, NC 28115).

'02 Julia Rose Duszak, a daughter, 6/13/09 (10409 Park Tree Pl., Glen Allen, VA 23060).

'02 Christina Marks Evans and '02 Matthew H. Evans, a daughter, 6/12/09 (1333 Pondhaven Dr., High Point, NC 27265).

'02 Christopher J. Flood and '02 Emmy Clevenger Flood, a daughter, 3/1/09 (9629 Pierrpont St., Burke, VA 22015).

'02 Anita L. Marino, a son, 12/19/08 (Rt. 1, Box 526, Warren Center, PA 18851).

'02 Nicole McKeown Juhan and '03 Steven M. Juhan Jr., a daughter, 1/27/09 (117 Sherwood Dr., Morganton, NC 28655).

'03 Grant O. Hill, a daughter, 2/2/09 (20327 Notting Hill Way, Germantown, MD 20876).

'03 Heather Packs Turner, a daughter, 5/30/09 (170 Summerfield Rd., Hardy, VA 24101).

'04 Krysta Kerzner Ardigo and '04 Ryan L. Ardigo, a daughter, 6/2/09 (14802

Strayer Ln., Haymarket, VA 20169).

'05 Stephen C. Pitts and '05 Megan McCormally Pitts, a son, 1/27/09 (Life-line Ambulance Service, 310 Bell Rd., Christiansburg, VA 24073).

'05 David M. Zielinski, a son, 4/9/09 (29 Bluegrass Dr., Middletown, RI 02842).

'06 Kourtney T. Vaillancourt, a son, 1/17/09 (146 Key Deer Ct., Las Cruces, NM 88007).

'07 Derek A. Davis, a daughter, 9/23/08 (147 Canterbury Run, Newport News, VA 23602).

Deaths

'33 R.B. Pamplin Sr., 6/24/2009 (R.B. Pamplin Corporation, 805 S.W. Broadway, Ste. 2400, Portland, OR 97205)

'34 E. Crawley Williams Jr., 4/29/2009 (200 The Glebe Boulevard, Apt. 2024, Daleville, VA 24083)

'36 C.H. Pace Jr., 4/30/2009 (64 Oakwood Dr., Chapel Hill, NC 27517)

'36 Nat W. Terry, 6/24/2009 (P.O. Box 87, Willis Wharf, VA 23486)

'36 Stewart B. West, 7/12/2009 (19464 Old Jonesboro Rd., Abingdon, VA 24211)

'37 Conrad J. Logan, 3/26/2009 (200 Trad St., Apt. E 303, Tarboro, NC 27886)

'38 R.M. Allen Jr. (8311 Northmeadow Cir., Dallas, TX 75231)

'38 Robert T. Franzel, 11/25/2008 (Rt. 5, Fuller Estates, Boston, MA 02139)

'39 Virginia McPherson Hale, 2/23/2009 (Pratts, VA 22731)

'39 Milton H. Lehr, 7/9/2009 (2730 N.E. 42nd Ave., Homestead, FL 33033)

'39 James W. Simmons, 4/22/2009 (Apt. 313, 3088 Lenox Rd. N.E., Atlanta, GA 30324)

'40 Edmund W. Cannon, 4/17/2009 (3210 N.E. 5th Dr., Boca Raton, FL 33431)

'40 Richard F. Guerrant, 4/25/2009 (4101 Belle Aire Cir. S.W., Roanoke, VA 24018-1205)

'40 Lyell A. Knighton, 5/20/2009 (107 Mulberry Ct., Martinsville, VA 24112)

'40 Philip L. Smith, 3/3/2009 (2368 Franklin St., Augusta, GA 30906)

'41 John A. Howell Jr., 2/22/2009 (718 Dumville Ave., Suffolk, VA 23434)

'42 John T. Blakely, 5/5/2009 (Hq 216th F.A. Bn APO 175, New York, NY 09175)

'42 James R. Dalton, 4/30/2009 (2175 West Lakeview Dr., North Vernon, IN 47265)

'42 Seymour Garfinkel, 2/26/2008 (619 Woodland Rd., Hopewell, VA 23860)

'42 Waverly S. Green Jr., 3/17/2009 (39 Ladue Meadows, Saint Louis, MO 63141-7560)

'42 Glenn W. Kinzer, 7/11/2009 (P.O. Box 574, Dublin, OH 43017)

'42 Daniel Ligon, 4/9/2009 (316 Ashton Rd., Ashton, MD 20861)

'42 Frances Jamison Lindsey, 3/23/2009 (402 Peacock Cir., Duncanville, TX 75137)

'42 Millard F. McKinsey, 3/12/2009 (4132 Longhill Rd., Williamsburg, VA 23188)

'42 Robert P. Merchant, 6/27/2009 (P.O. Box 1080, Lynchburg, VA 24505)

'42 S. Jerome Rosenbaum Jr., 3/20/2009 (931 Ashland Ave., Apt. E-201, Bedford, VA 24523)

'43 John Beebe, 3/26/2009 (P.O. Box 287, White Stone, VA 22578)

'43 Charles L. Childrey Jr., 2/27/2009 (217 Queen Charlotte Rd., Richmond, VA 23221)

'43 W.D. Craghead Jr., 1/7/2009 (2175 Unicorn Rd. S.W., Deming, NM 88030)

'43 William K. Dickey, 5/25/2009 (4830 Kennett Pike, Apt. 1523, Wilmington, DE 19807)

'43 M. William Dutton Jr., 6/20/2009 (P.O. Box 889, Hagerstown, MD 21741)

'43 Floyd H. Fish Jr., 4/22/2009 (4830 Kennett Pike Apt. 4650, Wilmington, DE 19807-1862)

'43 J.A. Holz, 2/18/2009 (Apt. 27, 400 Georgia Ct., Towson, MD 21204)

'43 Leonard F. Jones, 4/14/2009 (1680 Union Mills Rd., Troy, VA 22974)

'43 Willie Watterson Martin, 7/14/2009 (5226

Addison Dr., Charlotte, NC 28211)

'43 Russell B. McClain, 4/13/2009 (77 Victoria Dr., Binghamton, NY 13904)

'43 J. Arthur Mills Jr., 6/5/2009 (2300 Cedarfield Parkway, Apt. 3811, Richmond, VA 23233)

'43 Gilbert H. Rollins, 6/23/2009 (608 Delwood Dr., Auburn, AL 36830)

'43 Frank V. Rosson, 4/7/2009 (Apt. 227, 14001 Turnberry Ln., Midlothian, VA 23113)

'43 James E. Snidow, 5/9/2009 (152 Garden Oaks, Princeton, WV 24740)

'43 M.T. Watson, 1/5/2009 (1700 Longview St., Kingsport, TN 37660)

'44 Gordon E. Barlow Jr., 2/25/2009 (8381 Blounts Corner Rd., Smithfield, VA 23430)

'44 Charles E. Cawthorn Jr., 3/11/2009 (771 Alondra Dr., Hemet, CA 92343)

'44 James H. Hedrick, 5/29/2008 (1893 Island Ford Rd., Elkton, VA 22827)

'44 J.F. Kasten Jr., 3/13/2009 (2212 Bashford Manor Ln., Louisville, KY 40218)

'44 William K. Petticrew Jr., 5/18/2009 (114 Barbary Ct., Lakeway, TX 78734)

'45 W.P. Copenhaver, 5/15/2009 (451 Stevens Creek Rd., Augusta, GA 30907)

'45 Joseph H. Scales Jr., 12/27/2008 (15 Woodrow Ave., Greenville, SC 29605)

'45 Robert M. Wallace, 3/30/2009 (12403 Pleasant Run Terr., Richmond, VA 23223)

'46 H. Thomas Diehl Jr., 2/11/2009 (1600 Westbrook Ave., Richmond, VA 23227)

'47 Andrew F. Giesen Jr., 6/11/2009 (558 Mooney Rd. N.E., Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547)

'47 A.C. Mueller Jr., 5/5/2009 (310 Timber Ridge, Pompton Plains, NJ 07444)

'47 T.S. Williams Jr., 5/9/2009 (4955 Candacraig, Alpharetta, GA 30022)

'48 Cecil C. Avery, 2/17/2008 (712 Pelham Pl., Virginia Beach, VA 23452)

'48 Hugh G. Brown Jr., 5/12/2009 (3 Crome Momiigaoka Fuchu-Shi, Tokyo, Japan).

'48 H.T. Gregg Jr., 2/20/2009 (Apt. 113, 1820 Pissgah Dr., Hendersonville, NC 28791)

'48 Richard W. Hamel Jr., 4/2/2009 (Apt. 364, 2300 Cedarfield Pky., Richmond, VA 23233)

'48 Edgar R. Rosen, 4/1/2009 (2017 Monroe St., Waynesboro, VA 22980)

'48 W. Murphy Scott, 5/14/2009 (1324 Stoutamire Dr., Salem, VA 24153)

'49 Alexander Alexander, 5/17/2009 (9 S. Wilton Rd., Richmond, VA 23226)

'49 William H. Andrews, 10/25/2008 (44902 17th St. W., Lancaster, CA 93534)

'49 Mary Tate Campbell, 5/7/2009 (1005 Horseshoe Dr., Front Royal, VA 22630)

'49 Claude L. Cook Jr., 3/30/2009 (203 Melody Ln., Slidell, LA 70458)

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'49 Sidney Davis, 2/1/2009 (42 Valley Ln. E., Valley Stream, NY 11581)

'49 J.B. Gilmer, 3/13/2009 (Apt. 124, 825 Meadowview Rd., Bristol, TN 37620)

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'50 John K. McIlhenry, 4/28/2009 (1600 Marshall Cir., No. 46, Dupont, WA 98327)

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'51 Raymond E. Bowles, 3/11/2009 (2220 Executive Dr., Hampton, VA 23666)

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'51 Everett B. Davis, 6/10/2009 (12015 Bexley Ct., Richmond, VA 23233)

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'51 W.S. Shelburne, 2/9/2009 (Rt. 2, Box 411, Pennington Gap, VA 24277)

'52 James B. Bostic Jr., 3/28/2009 (1112 Battle Royal Cir., Virginia Beach, VA 23455)

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'53 William E. Diggs, 4/22/2009 (6521 South Jamestown, Tulsa, OK 74136)

'53 William S. Graybeal, 4/24/2009 (1700 Fox Run Ct., Vienna, VA 22182)

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In Memoriam: Robert B. Pamplin Sr.

BY SOOKHAN HO

“In addition to my education, I received three things from Virginia Tech that have meant more to me in my life and in the business world than anything else,” Robert B. Pamplin (business administration ’33) once said. “They are honesty, discipline, and humility. My charge to all of you is that we continue to stress these values.” The former chairman and CEO of Georgia-Pacific Corp. died June 24 at age 97 after a long illness.

Pamplin was widely respected for his business acumen and leadership and his support of higher education, including the Pamplin College of Business, which was named for him and his only son, Robert B. Pamplin Jr. The Pamplins have given more than \$35 million in personal, corporate, and family foundation funds to Virginia Tech, including more than \$25 million to the Pamplin College. The college was named in their honor in 1986 in recognition of a \$10 million gift it received from them; the building housing the college was named in honor of Pamplin Sr. in 1969.

“Mr. Pamplin and his family have played a singular role in helping us grow and develop into a nationally ranked business school,” says Pamplin College Dean Richard E. Sorensen. “Their extraordinary support has helped us recruit and retain outstanding students and faculty members, expand and develop our academic programs, and undertake new construction and renovation.”

The Pamplins have generously supported other university programs, including a scholarship fund for outstanding students from throughout Virginia. Pamplin’s long list of university honors and awards includes the Alumni Distinguished Service Award in 1973 and the William H. Ruffner Medal in 1981. He also served on the board of visitors from 1971 to 1979. A native of Dinwiddie County, Va., and a longtime Oregon resident, Pamplin started work after graduating from Virginia Tech at a small lumber company that later became Georgia-Pacific. After a 43-year career with the company, which he helped shape into a leading manufacturer of paper, building products, and related chemicals, Pamplin retired and went on to build his own multimillion dollar business in textiles and concrete and asphalt manufacturing. The R.B. Pamplin Corp., a Portland holding and investment company that he formed with his son, today includes farms, radio stations, and newspapers among its subsidiaries.

During an interview for a Pamplin College publication, Pamplin Jr., a business administration student in the Class of 1964, said, “One of the greatest successes is when you bring a lot of happiness, love, and hope to people who haven’t had that, and give them the opportunity to improve themselves.”

Sookhan Ho is the communications manager for the Pamplin College of Business.



Robert B. Pamplin Sr.



Paul N. Derring: Light from darkness

BY CLARA B. COX M.A. '84



Derring Hall

“Out of his shadow has come sunshine for others, for he has influenced and inspired thousands of students.”

William W. Tuck, *Sight & Insight*

As a college student, Paul Neyron Derring, for whom Virginia Tech's Derring Hall is named, worked on publication staffs, took part in student government, won medals for oratory, and participated in sports. He was president of the Philomathean Society and the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) before graduating as class valedictorian.

He was also blind.

Derring was born in Surry County, Va., in 1894. Following the 1907 shooting that took his sight, he studied at the Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind. After graduating, he enrolled in the College of William and Mary, earning a bachelor's degree in 1917.

In 1918, he secured a job as associate student Army Training Corps secretary, part of the National War Work Program of the YMCA, at Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College and Polytechnic Institute (popularly called VPI—today's Virginia Tech). Before the year ended, he was appointed general secretary.

In that position, Derring counseled thousands of students and provided them with religious instruction and extra-curricular activities. According to Harry Temple in *The Bugle's Echo*:

He was a friend of all students and a wise counselor. His sympathetic understanding of young men's problems enabled him to counsel with the

wisdom and gentleness of an older brother. His excellent work soon endeared him to the corps of cadets and marked him as a man honored and respected for his strength of character, exceptional personality, and practical Christian life.

Derring loaned students money, started student orientation, spurred a survey that led to formation of the Department of Philosophy and Religion, brought noted speakers to campus, and organized rural Sunday schools. He helped cadets find jobs and established a housing bureau. His work, Temple said, “permeated life at VPI.”

In 1921, Derring married Katherine Cook, and the couple later had two daughters. He took a leave of absence 1922-1923 to earn a master's degree in philosophy at Vanderbilt University.

Derring relied on sounds to recognize people and places and on his memory to recall names and move unaided from one location to another. Ellison A. Smyth (Class of 1925) wrote in *I Remember Paul* that when his father was riding his bicycle, Derring would call out, “Good morning, Dean. How are things today?” Derring later told Smyth that “the bike Dad rode was so old it had a characteristic squeak which Paul always recognized.”

Off campus, Derring spent 30 years

on the State Commission for the Visually Handicapped. He also led a fundraising effort to construct a new church, helped raise money for a new Wesley Founda-

Derring loaned students money, started student orientation, spurred a survey that led to formation of the Department of Philosophy and Religion, brought noted speakers to campus, and organized rural Sunday schools.

tion Student Center, and served on the Blacksburg Town Council. His reputation spread, and in 1944, the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* listed him as one

of 12 most distinguished Virginians.

In 1957, Derring resigned his job to become coordinator of religious affairs. He retired in 1964 after more than 45 years at Virginia Tech. The board of visitors named him director emeritus of campus religious activities, and in 1969, Derring Hall was dedicated in his honor. By then, he had moved to Richmond, where he died in 1973. His funeral was held in Blacksburg, and he was buried in Westview Cemetery.

More than two decades later, Alfred “Alf” Knobler (ceramic engineering '38), who had enjoyed discussions with Derring, said of him, “Good people never really die. You remember them forever.”

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