

Vol. 24 No. 1 Fall 2013

Corps Review

The Official Magazine of Cadets Alumni Magazine



 Virginia Tech
Invent the Future®



First Lt. Christina Forsythe '11 served with the 2nd Marine Air Wing Forward at Camp Leatherneck earlier this year.

The Skipper cannon was fired after the final note of the national anthem during pregame festivities for the Hokies' Oct. 13 win against the University of Pittsburgh, 19-9.



CorpsReview

The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Magazine

FEATURES

Fall 2013, Vol. 24, No. 1

The **Corps Review** is published three times a year by the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Inc. in cooperation with University Relations.

Gary Lerch '72, *Chairman*

Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart, *Commandant of Cadets*

Col. Patience Larkin '87, *Alumni Director and Editor*

David Stanley VT'95, *Art Director*

Juliet Crichton, *Assistant Editor*

Col. David L. Spracher '70, *Director of Development*

Pat Artis, Michael Diersing, Michael Kiernan, Randal Fullhart, Kathy Fullhart, Bradley Larkin, Logan Wallace, *Photography*

Melissa Richards, *Assistant Vice President for Marketing and Publications*

Comments and all material for the magazine should be mailed to Editor, **Corps Review**, VTCC Alumni Office (0213); 143 Brodie Hall, Virginia Tech; 310 Alumni Mall; Blacksburg, VA 24061. Persons wishing to reprint any portion of the contents of **Corps Review** must contact the editor for permission.

© 2013, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Corps Review can be accessed online at www.vtcc.vt.edu/alumni/corps-review-archive.html.

Virginia Tech does not discriminate against employees, students, or applicants on the basis of age, color, disability, gender, genetic information, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. Anyone having questions concerning any of those regulations should contact the Office of Equity and Access.

Front cover photo: Drum Major Cadet Vaughn Richardson, Class of 2014, is reflected in the mace he carries when leading the Highty-Tighties. Photo by Michael Diersing.

Back cover photo: Michael Diersing

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS

Cmdr. Mike Weaver '88

Service and Loyalty to the Corps

2

Sandy Seay '66, Weatherly Stradley May '88, Eric Beltz '02

The Corps in Reflection: Lessons that endure through time by John J. Kelley '87

6

New Faces on the Commandant's Staff

Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Willey, Master Gunnery Sgt. Lance L. Jones, Sgt. Maj. David Combs, Robin Atkins, and Nicole Ward have joined the commandant's staff in service to the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.

16

Overseas Educational Opportunity for Military-Track Cadets

In May, four senior cadets participated in the Olmsted Cadet Travel and Cultural Immersion Program, preparing them for careers as military officers.

18

'I've Learned ...' A tribute to Col. Gene F. Wilson

Robert E. Goodson Jr. '93, the Corps' regimental commander during his senior year, worked closely with Col. Wilson, the former assistant commandant of cadets who died in July.

46

PHOTOS

Photo essays of these Corps events on campus:

Corps Homecoming Week

14

Hokie Heroes

20

Virginia Tech Homecoming

26



2



18



46

DEPARTMENTS

VTCC Alumni Aviation Series.....	10
Alumni Announcements.....	22
Quad-Angle.....	23
ROTC News.....	28
Chairman's Column.....	33
Commandant's Column.....	34
Alumni Director's Column.....	36
Philanthropy.....	37
Leader Development.....	40
Recruiting Update.....	41
VPI Battalion.....	42
Honor Guard.....	44



Service and Loyalty to the Corps

by Cmdr. Mike Weaver '88, deputy commandant for First Battalion



Lt. j.g. Mike Weaver in the Persian Gulf while assigned to the NOAA ship, Mt. Mitchell

We were riding in a rigid hull inflatable boat along the coast of Saudi Arabia, looking for a place to land our scientists. Embarked from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) ship, Mt. Mitchell, my coxswain and I were escorting a shore party who would assess just how much damage a massive oil spill had caused on this particular segment of the Saudi coastline.



Cmdr. Weaver working with 1st Battalion Commander Forrest Rush on the seating plans for football games

Using a very primitive (at the time) GPS technology, we navigated our way through uncharted waters and located an appropriate place for our scientists to conduct their studies. As we sped through finger bays within the coast, I recall turning to my coxswain and telling him, “I can’t believe we get paid to do this!” He nodded in agreement.

In an act of scientific diplomacy, the Mt. Mitchell had been sent to the Persian Gulf to help the nations there respond to Saddam Hussein’s intentional act of environmental terrorism. Hussein had released an estimated 4 million barrels of oil into the gulf in an attempt to foil a landing of U.S. Marines during the first Gulf War. I was fortunate to be on the right ship at the right time, but this kind of project was exactly why I had joined the NOAA Corps.

I spent four years at Virginia Tech learning to be an engineer, but I always knew that I wanted an “active” career and never relished the idea of being tied behind an office desk. The NOAA Corps, a uniformed service within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-

tion, promised the kind of active life I wanted, and I eagerly signed up.

The NOAA Corps operates ships and aircraft that support NOAA’s scientific observation missions, including oceanographic research, coastal hydrographic surveys, and fisheries management. The corps prides itself as a combination of science and service, and I couldn’t think of a better way to express Virginia Tech’s motto, *Ut Prosim*.

I arrived at Virginia Tech in 1984 to enroll in Air Force ROTC, and the Corps of Cadets particularly piqued my interest. I’m not sure I fully understood what I was getting into at the time, but it was clear after a year in the program that I was there to stay.

I enthusiastically served as a cadre member and enjoyed several staff positions, including helping to create the position of regimental historian. Even in my senior year when I transitioned to what we now call the Citizen-Leader Track, there was never any question that I would remain in the Corps. The opportunities for leadership and the network of friends made that decision very easy.

The connection between choosing the NOAA Corps for a career and my years as a cadet was not lost on me, given how the NOAA Corps is a uniformed service within a larger civilian government agency, much as the Corps of Cadets exists as a military program within a larger civilian university.

After serving as a junior officer on the Mt. Mitchell for two years, I decided to pursue a dream of mine and submitted my name for consideration to become a NOAA pilot. I was surprised and elated to be selected and had the privilege of flying NOAA coastal survey missions for much of the rest of my career.

The last airplane I flew during my career was a Cessna Citation, originally designed for aerial photography and specially modified for aerial remote sensing and reconnaissance. During my time as a pilot and as chief of NOAA’s Remote Sensing Flight Program, the Citation was upgraded with advanced sensors and mapping systems that allowed us to conduct some very sophisticated observations, mostly involving mapping the coastline for nautical charting and



During the Persian Gulf War oil spill assessment mission, the Mt. Mitchell hosted scientists from around the world, including well-known oceanographer Sylvia Earle, at right.



Cmdr. Weaver served as chief of NOAA's Remote Sensing Flight Program and aircraft commander of the Cessna Citation.

conducting environmental analysis of shoal water and coral reefs.

When the twin towers fell on 9/11, NOAA sent the Citation to fly missions over ground zero to provide detailed and accurate 3-D maps of the site to assist with recovery efforts. In spite of the deep tragedy involved, my role in that project was a highlight of my NOAA career.

I have always enjoyed returning to Tech for football games, and I can't seem to resist the temptation to purchase something in orange or maroon (or both) at one of the Blacksburg shops when I visit. In 2009, I marched onto the football field as part of the alumni regiment, and that is when I first began to consider the possibility of a more permanent return to campus.

For sometime after that, I gave fleeting thought to what it might be like to serve the Corps of Cadets in a more official capacity, but I imagined that changes on the commandant's staff were probably very infrequent. When the opportunity to apply for a deputy commandant's position opened in spring 2011, it was clear that I would put my name forward for consideration.

To say that I am fortunate to serve today as a deputy commandant would be the essence of understatement. I work with fabulous colleagues on the commandant's staff—and in the Divi-

sion of Student Affairs—an extremely competent, dedicated, and caring group of retired officers, reserve officers, and civilians who consistently puts the needs of our cadets first and foremost.

Virginia Tech also routinely attracts some of the most outstanding students in the commonwealth and the country, and the Corps of Cadets provides a rigorous environment to form these high-potential students into capable cadet leaders. Working daily with some of the nation's future military and civilian leaders gives me a durable sense of hope for our future.

I am occasionally asked by cadets and alumni just how much the Corps has changed since I was a cadet “back in the day.” What hasn't changed is the daily “battle rhythm” of a residential leadership development program that gives cadets opportunities to explore issues of leadership through personal experience.

Cadets in appointed leadership positions benefit most from these experiences. During the intensity of new cadet training, members of the cadet cadre learn key leadership lessons—and a lot about themselves—as they practice leadership with the Corps' newest cadets. We used to call the Corps a “leadership laboratory” because of these experiences.

What has changed over the past decades—and what gave me such

strong motivation to want to join the Corps staff—is the new intentionality of the leader development program in the Corps. Cadets now take classes in leadership that connect directly to their Corps experiences and to their leadership positions, fostering a more deliberate approach to their development as leaders.

What hasn't changed is the central role of tradition, even as some specific traditions might pass away. Tradition is an essential part of the cadet experience, and cadets are faithful guardians of the traditions of their first cadet year.

Tradition is valuable because it serves a higher purpose, instilling esprit de corps and a unique Corps identity, while also forming responsible and ethical citizens and leaders. I sometimes wish for today's cadets to have the exact-same experiences I had as a cadet, but I also realize that the world and our military have changed, and they both demand a different kind of leader than when I graduated.

The Corps today continues the crucial tradition of producing promising young leaders who are instilled with a sense of service and loyalty to the Corps, the university, and the United States, and that's a tradition of which we should all be very proud. That's why I'm here.



Cmdr. Weaver with the HokieBird at a recent football game



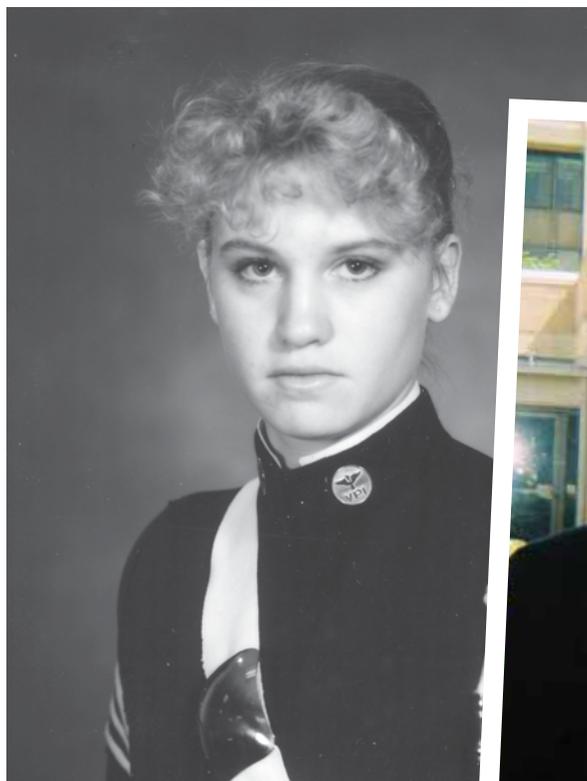
Cmdr. Weaver before Rasche Hall's Pylons mural, which he and one of his buds painted in 1987



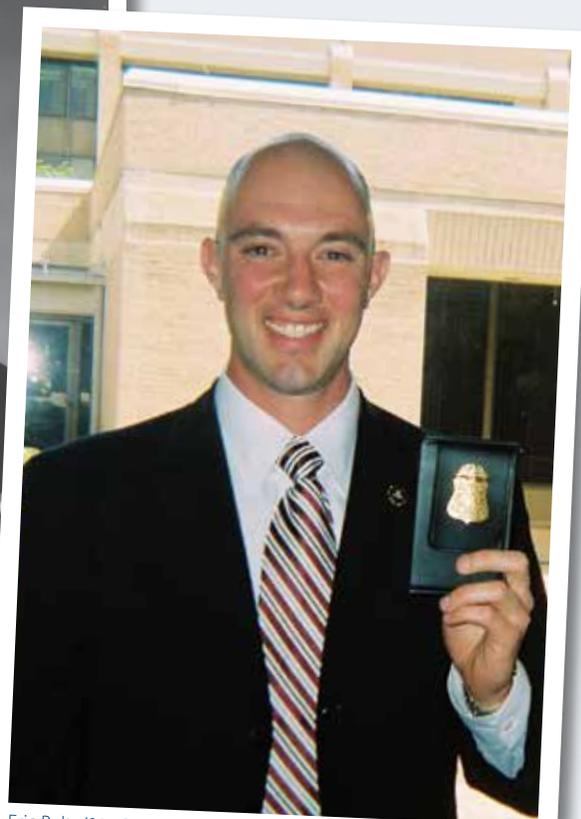
NOAA's Cessna Citation flying over the California coast



Raleigh "Sandy" Seay '66 and his future wife, Linda, during his senior year



Weatherly May '88, senior photo



Eric Beltz '02 after taking the oath to become an FBI agent

The Corps in Reflection: Lessons that endure through time

by John J. Kelley '87

Raleigh "Sandy" Seay '66 can't recall the weather on the day he first entered Monteith Hall in September 1962, so he figures it must have been nice. Lt. Col. Weatherly Stradley May '88 remembers a sunny arrival to campus in 1984, while dripping humidity and blaring strains of "Welcome to the Jungle" greeted Army Capt. Eric Beltz '02 on the Upper Quad in 1998.

Though the details have faded with time, these three alumni from different states and distinct eras are clear on one point. As their lives and careers have unfolded in the years since, all attribute their attitude, drive, and even achievements to lessons learned while in the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.

"I was young and stupid," Sandy said bluntly, recalling his introduction to cadet life. Born in Charleston, S.C., while his father was at war, and raised in the textile town of Roanoke Rapids,

N.C., he recalls a warm greeting from the H Company cadre. But the initial politeness had vanished by early evening when upperclassmen burst into his dorm room, ushering in the reality of being a "rat," back when the term was still used. What followed were episodes that cadets past and present know well: scurrying the halls with chins tucked, standing at full brace after falling short in room or uniform appearance, and receiving scathing critiques for blunders during team exercises.



Beltz '02 shows his Hokie pride in an Iraqi desert

Eric, a native of Indiana, admits that he sometimes had doubts, saying that new cadet training in Echo Company provoked “the entire gamut of emotions.” Still, he brushed aside thoughts of leaving, determined to prove himself. “I was committed to finishing,” Sandy agrees, recalling how all-wool uniforms in his day added discomfort to particularly intense sessions.

“I actually loved the discipline,” Weatherly laughs, “that, and people you could count on.” Friendships developed fast, an important consideration given the distance from her Florida home. Pride came quickly as well. Eric found that a sense of accomplishment helped temper the constant exhaustion. And despite the barrage of challenges, all felt a connection. Sandy is quick to point out that “from the first day, I knew I was a part of something larger.”

As the new cadet period proceeded and eventually drew to a close, each cadet found ample ways to give back, assuming leadership within the ranks while also

contributing through extracurricular activities. Weatherly shed an early shyness to pledge the Gregory Guard. “I learned to push myself, to be more extroverted,” she explains matter-of-factly. During sophomore year, she transferred from F-Troop into the Highty-Tighties, becoming a member of the popular Southern Colonels jazz band.

Sandy found a musical outlet as well, forming the Rake & Ramblin’ 4 folk/bluegrass quartet with buds who still perform together on occasion, including the Corps Homecoming dinner in September. He also joined the Cotillion Club, which later became Tech’s chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha. Eric, though a Navy cadet, found a home in the Rangers and in the Tactical Applications Company to expand his horizons. “For me,” he explains, “the Corps provided the perfect mix of structure and freedom.”

That structure is grounded in attributes represented by the eight pylons: Brotherhood, Honor, Loyalty, Leadership, Sacrifice, Service, Duty, and



May '88 carrying the guidon for the Highty-Tighty alumni band

Ut Prosim. And while the Corps grants broad freedom to grow, even to make honest mistakes, some lines must never be crossed. Sandy recalls a haunting evening during his “rat year” when upperclassmen quietly ushered his unit into formation on the Upper Quad. There, beneath the glow of cloaked sidewalk lamps, they participated in the solemn “drumming out” of a cadet who had broken the Honor Code, which forbids a cadet to lie, cheat, or steal—or tolerate those who do. Though chilled by the experience, he recognized even then that the “Honor Code was not complicated, but it was good and noble.”

Fortunately, memories of accomplishment and friendship dwarf those fleeting moments of distress. Sandy fondly recalls the traditions of Ring Dance, turn-about day, and the pride he felt carrying the H Company guidon. Eric’s freshman experience inspired him to serve on cadre all three subsequent years, preparing incoming cadets for the gauntlet that awaited them. Weatherly speaks of the “good,



May '88 marching in the 1987 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade



Seay '66 carrying the H Company guidon in Roanoke's 1965 Thanksgiving Day parade

crazy fun” of band trips to represent the Corps at Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City and the Coca-Cola Centennial celebration in Atlanta.

Still, perhaps the true value of an experience is how long it endures, the persistence of its lessons. By that measure, these three alumni all trace a line from their lives as cadets to the challenges they faced, and conquered, after graduation.

Sandy Seay carried a keen sense of duty to Germany, serving in an armor division of the famous 3rd Infantry Division, tasked with protecting western Europe at the height of the Cold War. He never forgot the Honor Code, either, employing its principals to build a thriving management consulting company. Even in private life, he attributes the spirit of service he discovered in the Corps with sparking an abiding faith, culminating in his conversion to Catholicism. Today, he is a member of St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church and has served the Orlando, Fla., community for years in a number of capacities, including positions on the Florida Governor’s Advisory Council on Business and Education and the board of advisors for the Holt School at Rollins College, where he is now an adjunct professor of humanities. He also serves on the Distinguished Alumni Board of Virginia Tech’s Department of English.

Lt. Col. Weatherly Stradley May took her confident, “I can do this” attitude

with her into the Air Force. Assigned to the most demanding commander in the Medical Services Corps, she pushed herself again, quickly earning the nickname “Sugarcoated Bulldozer” for her skill at employing both tact and determination to accomplish assignments. What drove her, she explains, was a desire to help clinical staff eliminate bureaucracy and provide better patient care: “I loved making a patient smile or a physician say, “That makes my day so much better.”” Such dedication was noticed early on, earning her Company Grade Officer of the Year recognition at Kadena Air Base, Japan. And while climbing the ranks to lieutenant colonel, she earned a master’s degree in health administration through a joint Army/Baylor University program, followed by a fellowship with Johns Hopkins University.

Retiring in 2008, Weatherly still works tirelessly to improve military treatment facilities, in addition to volunteering with community organizations near her home in Asheville, N.C. She and her husband also travel, globally as well as making shorter jaunts to Blacksburg. She introduced Tech to her stepson, Justin, who was drawn to the Corps just as she had been. After graduating with the Highty-Tighty Class of 2010, Justin now serves as a first lieutenant in the Air Force.

Capt. Eric Beltz’s career moved in a markedly different direction. Upon re-

ceiving his naval commission in 2002, he served for three years as a surface warfare officer. Yet the bonds he had found in the Corps’ Ranger Company tugged at him; in 2005, with the support of his commanding officer, he transferred to the Army, where he encountered the fiercest of challenges.

Serving in Iraq’s Anbar Province during the height of the Sunni insurgency, he faced grueling conditions and stark realities, experiencing “the worst people do to each other in a terrified populace being leveraged by horribly violent insurgents.” As a scout platoon leader for the 3rd Infantry Division, 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, he drew upon the perseverance he had first discovered at Tech in ways unimaginable at the time. Despite heavy casualties, he and his men endured. The Awakening Victory mission proved successful, with American forces and their Iraqi allies subduing the insurgency that had threatened Iraq’s stability. He went on to serve as a civilian affairs officer, forging relationships with Iraqis who to this day continue the work of rebuilding their nation.

Leaving the Army in 2008, Eric continues to stretch himself. Shortly after returning stateside, he applied to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and is now part of an international terrorism squad based in Kansas City, Mo. Though the hours are long, he still volunteers with the Leukemia and Lymphoma

Society, which he grew to love after beating leukemia himself two years ago.

Three unique individuals, three different eras, three distinct paths—yet their stories share similar themes and a common thread that began on a sprawling campus atop a broad plateau in Southwest Virginia. This year, another story begins there. On Saturday, Aug. 17, 331 new cadets from eight countries and 30 states arrived on the Upper Quad. They arrived as individuals and are at present learning to form a cohesive unit. What advice do Sandy, Weatherly, and Eric have for these young men and women, the Class of 2017?

“Learn from the Corps,” encourages Eric, pressing the new cadets to venture beyond their comfort zones, both physically and academically. “Take advantage of all the opportunities,” echoes Weatherly, “and make friends.” Sandy focuses on details first, urging new cadets to “look sharp and snappy in dress and in marching.” Then he pauses. “The Corps made me who I am today. It shaped and formed me in every way possible.” Ultimately, he wants the incoming cadets to

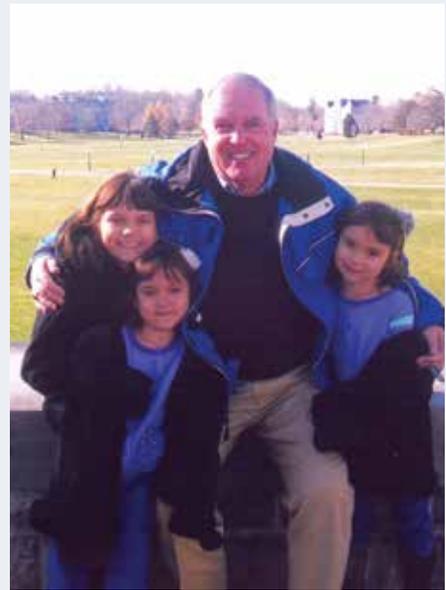
embrace the esprit de corps, to appreciate that together they form a band of brothers and sisters.

So to the young men and women now coming to terms with new surroundings, a fussy uniform, strange customs, struggling to move in stride and tempo with buds you’ve only just met: Years from now, you won’t recall the details. But for the record, the first day of your cadre week was warm, a mix of sun and clouds with passing showers. A lot like life, and there’s no better place to learn the lessons you’ll need than where you are now, at home in the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.

John J. Kelley '87, B Company, served as a captain in the U.S. Air Force from 1987 to 1993. He is now a writer. Inspired by a freshman cadet experience, his acclaimed debut novel is a work of historical fiction set in 1918 Virginia. “The Fallen Snow” is available in both paperback and eBook editions. For more information, please visit www.thefallensnow.com.



Beltz '02 with children in the streets of Ramadi, Iraq, in 2008



Seay '66 visiting Virginia Tech with his granddaughters, Annie, Kathryn, and Karleigh



H Company alumni Bill McAllister '65, Rod Smith '66, Dave Thomas '63, and Sandy Seay '66 performing as The Rake & Ramblin' 4



May '88 received top-flight honors at Squadron Officer School in 1995.



Not Ready to Give Up the Dream

by Lt. Charles Clark '95, U.S. Coast Guard Reserve

Lt. Clark at Lane Stadium during the Hokies' 2011 win over University of Miami

Even before my high school graduation in 1991, I knew I wanted to fly jets in the Navy. My father had been career Navy, and my grandfathers had served in World War II. I had to make a decision shortly after graduation between heading straight to college or deferring my enrollment for one semester by enlisting. I weighed the options and that fall reported to Rasche Hall for a close haircut and cadre week.

Freshman year in Alpha Company was full of big events: painting our hallway in Brodie, a coup in the former Soviet Union, “turn day,” Hokie football, Ring Dance for my adopted junior, and all the learning that comes from a full-time leadership laboratory.

During sophomore year, I was Alpha Company’s clerk. Halfway through fall semester, I was let go from Navy ROTC; I was a non-scholarship student, and there was a dearth of scholarships. Since I liked the Corps and its structure, I decided to remain as a Corps-Only (today’s Citizen-Leader Track) cadet in Alpha.

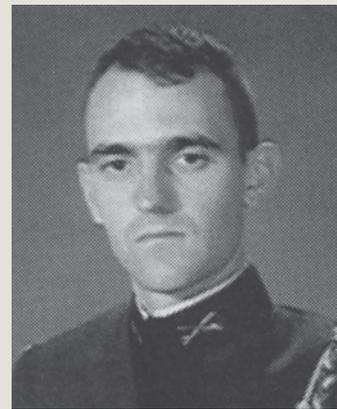
During spring finals, I was studying with my roommate when one of my buds was chased past my door by two civilians from Monteith Hall, at that time an all-female civilian dorm. I looked at Gary and said, “I don’t know who the tall one is, but I’ve seen her around. Any ideas?” He didn’t know her name, either.

For my junior year, I was a regular cadet private. I found out the name of the girl who had disrupted my preparation for finals, and we started dating. I adopted a freshman “rat” and tried to mentor him on the finer points of keeping his demerit count low. Later

in the year, I was the driving force behind establishing a college-based council composed entirely of Virginia Tech students for the Knights of Columbus. During that summer, I realized I was tired of school and decided not to return the following fall.

For the next two years, I got an education of a different kind, working entry-level jobs in fast food and private security to support myself while trying to determine in what direction I wanted my life to go. I still wanted to fly for the military. I applied for the Army’s warrant officer program, but my academic grades got in the way, and I was turned down.

It hit me that I really needed to finish my education if I wanted to fulfill



Lt. Clark, senior photo, 1997



*Eurocopter MH-65D Dolphin flown by Lieutenant Chuck Clark
United States Coast Guard Station Savannah, Georgia, 2003-2007
United States Coast Guard Station Atlantic City, New Jersey, 2007-13
Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Class of 1995*



my goals. In 1996, I dropped back into school just as my fiancée was graduating. I was determined to finish what I had begun in the Corps, so I convinced Corps leadership to allow me back into Alpha for a senior year. On the books I was a cadet second lieutenant, but the company command insisted that I be addressed as “Skipper,” a term usually reserved for fifth-year seniors.

Alpha had quite a few cadet second lieutenants, so Third Platoon was formed, and I was placed in charge. The Corps-Only group began to coalesce, and I led one of those platoons as well.

I joined the Honor Court and regimental special staff. In March 1997, during spring break, Tari VT’96 and I were married. Despite our marriage, I stayed in Brodie during the week and remained active in Corps and Alpha events and traditions. I graduated from the Corps with the Alpha cadets I’d mentored four years earlier, and I couldn’t have been prouder.

For the next two years, I worked jobs in Blacksburg while finishing my studies. I worked at Bogen’s as a cook, as a security officer with the Virginia Tech Police Department, and at the new EchoStar Dish Network facility in Christiansburg.

In the summer of 1998, I enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve. My combination of Eagle Scout and college credits allowed me to graduate as an E-3 seaman, and my Corps experience helped me win the Basic Training Honor Graduate award. I served my Reserve drills on the Coast Guard Cutter (CGC) Chock in Portsmouth, Va., apprenticing in navigation and charts and becoming an in-port officer of the deck in record time.

I finally graduated from Virginia Tech in 1999 with a B.S. in human nutrition, foods, and exercise. A few weeks later, I was class leader at my Coast Guard “A”



“Today” show weather anchor Al Roker (center) with Lt. Clark (second from right) and the crew after filming the Weather Channel’s special, “Miracle on the Hudson.”



Lt. Clark and his daughter, Rebecca, after the 2011 Atlantic City Half-Marathon

School, learning the finer points of navigation, charts, signal flags and lights, and leadership. I continued for the next two years on Chock as a third-class quartermaster, standing duty for one of the regular crew on the weekends.

During the summers of 2000 and 2001, I volunteered as part of the reserve call-up to man the CGC Eagle, the Coast Guard's tall-ship training vessel. I qualified as quartermaster of the watch, and my duties involved navigating the ship on rivers and open ocean while teaching the cadets and officer candidates how to do the same.

In 2000, we made port along the Eastern Seaboard, participating in the OpSail parade of ships. On July 4, we lead the parade into New York Harbor and up the Hudson River, carrying onboard an original copy of the Declaration of Independence. I was on the stern alidade for the transit and remember shooting a navigation bearing off the World Trade Center towers. In 2001, we took the Eagle to Europe, but I had to disembark in Ireland to fly back to join my Officer Candidate School class.

Officer Candidate School was more exciting for me since I already knew most of the instructors from my time on the Eagle; it is a dubious distinction to be the only name every instructor can yell while we did flutter kicks on day one. I and the two other prior quartermasters helped teach and coach the navigation classes, and I graduated in September 2001 with the highest academic average. I was awarded with my dream pick: flight



Lt. Clark teaching his daughters, Rebecca and Catherine, how to fly the MH-65D Dolphin

school in Pensacola, Fla.

I finished flight school in 15 months, getting through VT-2 and HT-8. In 2002, while at HT-8, fellow student Nick Brantley '01 and I planned to take a cross-country training flight to Blacksburg for a weekday football game. Weather prevented us from making the trip north, so we went to Texas instead and watched the game on a giant screen. Lt. Brantley was lost in 2005, when his Navy SH-60 Seahawk went down in the Atlantic Ocean.

After graduation, I went to Coast Guard Air Station Savannah, Ga., where I learned to fly the HH-65 Dolphin through all kinds of weather and for quite a few mission sets. I also learned to rely heavily on my enlisted crewmen in the back. During hoisting operations, the pilot can see only the front quarter of the boat, and we depend on commands from the hoist operator to move us into place so we can safely deliver the rescue basket or rescue swimmer. When hoisting directly to the water, we cannot see the swimmer or survivor at all once we get within 20 feet.

My first save was as a copilot looking for an overdue lifeguard on a jet ski. She had gone missing in the marsh and back bays, and we had already flown two full tanks of fuel without finding her. The decision was made to call off the search until the morning. At the end of a different case, we decided to use our remaining 10 minutes of fuel to do "one more look" for the lifeguard. Looking straight down in

my night-vision goggles, I saw her, alive and on the jet ski. We hurriedly put our rescue swimmer down and hoisted both of them back into the helicopter.

On my first duty day as pilot in command, we had two rescues. The first was a partially disabled sailboat in rough seas. We barely got my swimmer through the wires and onboard safely. After hoisting the patient, I made the swimmer jump into the water for recovery since that was safer than trying to thread the lines and wires again. The second rescue was an elderly couple whose boat had gone aground in the mud flats. We found them so quickly that I had to fly offshore to dump fuel so we could have a safe power margin to hoist.

After the birth of my first daughter in 2007, we moved to Atlantic City, N.J. I refined my poor-weather flying skills in the strange sea/land fog that pops up in spring and fall. I had a few search-and-rescue cases with a couple saves, but nothing like in Savannah. I flew security patrols around Baltimore; Washington, D.C.; and in New York City while watching the new World Trade Center



An MH-65D Dolphin flies over the 2012 Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, D.C.

being built. I also learned the new skill of helicopter air-intercept for the airspace protection mission in Washington, D.C. I spent a good deal of time manning the alert facility and intercepting and communicating with any light aircraft that happened to fly into the protected zone around D.C.

My second daughter was born in 2011. In October, I finished the trip that Nick and I had started nine years earlier. I brought an MH-65 to Blacksburg, took several cadets on flights around the town, and opened the game against Miami with a flyover.

In 2012, I was the senior duty officer both the day before and the day after Hurricane Sandy slammed the Jersey coast. I didn't see any action, but my crews saved numerous lives in the New York area. The next day I had the privilege of flying the advance man for the POTUS visit, showing him where the president could see the worst of the devastation.

In July, I left active duty and joined the Reserve again. Not ready to give up my dream, I am currently searching for a civilian position flying helicopters in the New Jersey area.

Ut Prosim.



Lt. Clark and his daughters enjoying a day at the zoo



Lt. Clark's wife, Tari VT'96, with their daughters at Washington Rock State Park in Green Brook, N.J.

Corps Homecoming Week

Corps Homecoming was a great success! To kick off the weekend, Air Force ROTC Detachment 875 inducted Frank Ayers '74 into the Aviation Wall of Fame. A Gunfighter Panel featured four alumni who shared career and military experiences with the regiment. Friday's formal retreat was moved from the Drillfield to the Upper Quad when the flyover sponsored by Stan Cohen '49 was cancelled due to bad weather. At a fantastic leadership dinner, six cadet leaders presented their Corps experiences. During Saturday's pregame program, a 200-strong alumni regiment marched onto a wet field—and in even heavier rain, the Hokies finally put away Marshall University in triple overtime. The weekend closed with a relaxed, informative evening featuring guest speaker Maj. Gen. Dan Dick '71 and the commandant's update on the Corps and the Upper Quad's renovations.



Frank Ayers '74, chancellor of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, Ariz., was inducted into the Virginia Tech Aviation Hall of Fame, which honors alumni achievement in the fields of aerospace and aviation. Cadet Newton, Class of 2015, the Robert E. Femoyer Service Squadron commander, presented Ayers with a photo of the Pylons.



This semester's Gunfighter Panel speakers in the lobby of Burruss Hall: from left, 1st Lt. Justin May '10, Lt. Cmdr. Jennifer Zuniga '99, Southwest Airlines captain James Godek '87, and 1st Lt. Peter Laclede '10



The color guard lowered the flag on the Upper Quad to signal the official start of the homecoming weekend.



The Rake & Ramblin' 4 performed during the cadet leadership reception: from left, Dan Forney and H Company alumni Sandy Seay '66, Rod Smith (You can see his bass!) '66, Dave Thomas II '63, and Bill McAllister '65.



Senior cadet leaders giving 'em an Old Hokie cheer at Friday's leadership dinner



G-75'ers reminiscing before the Corps alumni march-on: from left, Donnie Spence, Al Dattoli, Frank Harmuth, Jack Boyington, Joe Reich, and Jim Kranich



Corps alumni guidon bearers and commanders gathered around Command Sgt. Maj. Willey, 1st Battalion training NCO, to get last-minute instruction.



The Corps regiment was led on the field by alumni commander Sandy Seay '66 and lead guidon bearer J. Pearson '87.



First Battalion alumni from C and D companies marched proudly when they took the field.



K Company alumni were led by Dave Gutowski '65 and guidon bearer Don Robertson '67.



Class of '64 M Company members and their guests dined at the Saturday evening dinner held at The Inn at Virginia Tech.



Bill Barkley '58 and his E Company bud Jim Ford '58 visited after Saturday's Corps Homecoming dinner.

New Faces on the Commandant's Staff

In recent months, we've welcomed five new staff members to the commandant's staff. Three are recently retired senior non-commissioned officers (NCOs) who are working hand-in-hand with the deputy commandants and assisting with cadet training; one is a new assistant in the Rice Center for Leader Development; and another is a new assistant in the commandant's front office.

Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Willey, U.S. Army (retired)

Training Non-Commissioned Officer, First Battalion



Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Willey joined the North Carolina Army National Guard in 1982 and entered active duty a year later.

His first duty assignment was with the 82nd Airborne Division as a forward observer. Other positions Willey held during his Army career include aerial fire support observer; fire support sergeant at the company, battalion, and brigade levels; tactical NCO at the U.S. Military Academy; operations sergeant; and first sergeant.

Upon graduating from the Sergeants Major Academy, Willey served as the sergeant major for the New River ROTC Training Battalion. He then returned to the 82nd Airborne Division as the command sergeant major for 3-319 Airborne Field Artillery Regiment and deployed as a battalion maneuver task force (Task Force Gun Devil) to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom VI.

Upon redeployment, Willey was selected to serve as the Fort Lewis, Wash., garrison command sergeant major and

next served as the regimental command sergeant major of the field artillery.

Willey was then selected to serve as the command sergeant major to the deputy commanding general, NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan.

Willey's civilian education includes a bachelor of science from Excelsior College. He is married to the former Sandra M. Varley of Ontario, Canada, and they have two sons, Christopher and Zachary.

Master Gunnery Sgt. Lance L. Jones, U.S. Marine Corps (retired)

Training Non-Commissioned Officer, Second Battalion



Master Gunnery Sgt. Lance Jones joined the Marine Corps in 1984, attending boot camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, followed by Infantry

Training School at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Following graduation, Jones was assigned to Marine Barracks 8th & I, Washington, D.C., serving three years on the Marine Corps Silent Drill Team. He then proceeded to Camp Lejeune, where he served with 1st Battalion, 6th Marines, as a squad leader. During his tour at Camp Lejeune, Jones served on two combat deployments.

Jones' next assignment was to Okinawa, Japan, where he served as a team leader at the Jungle Warfighting School. He then proceeded to Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C., as a basic warrior instructor. After Parris Island, he proceeded to Charleston, S.C., as canvassing recruiter; he was meritoriously promoted to the next rank during this tour.

Jones returned to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, where he served for 12 years as an infantryman and warfighter at various units and executed three combat deployments, including Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, and eight contingency deployments.

After his successful tour in North Carolina, Jones received orders to the Pentagon to serve as the infantry occupational field sponsor and enlisted advocate for the Marine Corps. Following his tour at the Pentagon, Jones was selected as the deputy director of the Staff Non-Commissioned Officer Academy, Okinawa. His final active duty assignment was at Twenty-Nine Palms, Calif., as the senior enlisted advisor of the Tactical Training Exercise Control Group.

Jones completed 28 years of faithful service to God, country, and the Marine Corps. Following his retirement, he served at Hargrave Military Academy as a training advisor and counselor for post-graduate students. He is married to the former Connie Risher of Orlando, Fla., and they have four children, Tempestt, Lance II, Kiara, and Christian.

Sgt. Maj. David Combs, U.S. Army (retired)

Training Non-Commissioned Officer, Third Battalion



Sgt. Maj. David Combs entered the U.S. Army in August 1986. Upon completion of Basic Training, Advanced Individual

Training, and Airborne School, he reported to the 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.

Combs was assigned to 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, where he served until March 1990. He was then assigned to 2nd Battalion, 82nd Aviation Regiment, where he served for the next year as a UH-60 Blackhawk door gunner.

In 1990, Combs was assigned to 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, Fort Kobbe, Panama, where he served as team leader. In 1991, Combs was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, where he served as squad leader. In 1995, he was assigned to Company D, 102nd Military Intelligence Battalion, Long Range Surveillance Detachment, Camp Hovey, Korea, where he served as surveillance team leader.

In 1996, Combs was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, where he served as squad leader for two years. He was then assigned to Fox Company, 51st Infantry, Long Range Surveillance Detachment, 525th Military Intelligence Brigade, XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, N.C., where he served as surveillance platoon sergeant.

In 1999, Combs was assigned to the U.S. Army Alaska Non-Commissioned Officers Academy, where he served as small group leader while teaching the Warrior Leader Course. In 2001, he was assigned to 1st Battalion, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, U. S. Army Alaska, where he served as scout platoon sergeant.

In 2003, Combs was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry, Fort Drum, N.Y., where he served as platoon sergeant for 18 months. He was then assigned to 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry, where he served as rifle company first sergeant for three years.

In 2007, Combs was assigned to the Combat Applications Group, Fort Bragg, where he served as squadron training NCO, training sergeant major, and operations sergeant major for six years.

Combs is married to the former Deborah R. Potter of Grundy, Va., and they have three children, Jessica, Justin, and Michael.

Robin Atkins

Executive Assistant, Rice Center for Leader Development



Robin Atkins currently serves as the executive assistant of the Rice Center for Leader Development. She is the assistant advisor for

students seeking a military leadership minor and the special events coordinator for the Leaders in Action program and the Cutchins Distinguished Lecture series.

A graduate of Giles High School in Pearisburg, Va., and New River Community College in Dublin, Va., Atkins

earned a bachelor of science in organizational and leadership management from Bluefield College and is enrolled in the graduate program in agricultural and extension education (leadership communications) at Virginia Tech.

Employed at Virginia Tech for more than 25 years, Atkins is married to E. Bryan Atkins, and they have two children, Cody Atkins and Casey Atkins.

Nicole Ward

Administrative Assistant, Commandant's Office



Nicole Ward currently serves as an administrative assistant in Gen. Fullhart's office.

The primary point of contact for any visi-

tors to the office, as well as the primary contact for phone calls, Ward manages all filing, creates and maintains the roster of cadets, provides administrative support to the Corps scholarship program, generates letters for periodic mailings, serves as office representative to out-process cadets, organizes Corps coffees each semester, and provides fiscal support for the department through purchasing and reconciling funds monthly.

A graduate of Pulaski County High School in Dublin, Va., and New River Community College, Ward previously worked for eight years at Radford University for both the ROTC program and the financial aid office. She is married to Timothy L. Ward, and they have three children, Tiffany, Reed, and Dakota, and one grandchild, Billy.



Overseas Educational Opportunity for Military-Track Cadets

by Deputy Commandant of Cadets Capt. James Snyder, Second Battalion, 540-231-8595, jasnyde1@vt.edu

The George and Carol Olmsted Foundation, headquartered in Falls Church, Va., has a long history of supporting educational programs for active-duty military officers, as well as cadets and midshipmen at the U.S. service academies, to help them gain a deeper understanding of foreign cultures.

Assigned to China in 1943 during World War II, Gen. George Olmsted interacted extensively with Chinese and Japanese officials, an experience that convinced him of American military leaders' lack of exposure and sensitivity to foreign cultures. This belief, together with his lifelong dedication to the nation's security, led the general to establish the Olmsted Foundation to execute a foreign resident-study program for commissioned officers.

In 2004, the Association of Military Colleges and Schools of the United States petitioned the Olmsted Foundation to extend these educational op-

portunities to U.S. Code Title X Senior Military Colleges (SMC), which includes Virginia Tech. By fall 2004, the foundation's board of directors had established an international travel program to non-English-speaking nations for academically and socially qualified commission-tracked ROTC Cadets at each of the SMCs.

The Olmsted Cadet Travel and Cultural Immersion Program not only helps prepare future military officers for international assignments, but also strengthens our nation's ability to function efficiently and effectively in and with foreign countries. Program participants enhance their cultural sensitivities as they prepare for careers that will bring increasing responsibilities and interactions with civilian and military leaders worldwide.

The foundation provided the Corps of Cadets (VTCC) with a \$10,000 grant in 2005, which allowed three rising-

senior cadets to travel to Rio de Janeiro for two weeks during the summer. Since then, the foundation, recognizing the Corps' aggressive liaison with U.S. embassies for support in visited countries as a means to optimize cadet participation, increased Virginia Tech's annual travel grant to \$15,000 in 2006 and to \$20,000 in 2008.

Four cadets traveled to Santiago, Chile, in 2006; and five cadets, including a citizen-track cadet sponsored by the commandant, traveled to Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 2007. The trip in 2008 to Panama was large, with eight VTCC cadets joined by 12 cadets from Army ROTC units at 12 universities around the country. The experience was enlightening for our cadets who gained valuable insights into both the Panamanian culture and the military training in 12 distinct ROTC programs.

The downturn in the U.S. economy impacted the Olmsted Foundation's

endowment, resulting in a smaller grant of \$10,000 for the Corps' travel in 2009. To leverage Virginia Tech's previous planning efforts and its successful cultural-immersion travel, the U.S. Navy Service Training Command assigned one officer candidate and one midshipman to join the Corps' trip to Panama.

Due to financial constraints, the Olmsted Foundation made no awards to any SMC in 2010. With economic conditions improving, however, the foundation made \$12,000 grants to Norwich University, Virginia Military Institute, and the VTCC for cadet travel in 2011 and 2012. Because of the robust trips previously completed by the Corps, VMI requested to join our efforts for the 2011 and 2012 trips to Panama, assigning four cadets to accompany VTCC cadets.

This year, the foundation expanded its undergraduate scholar program to include Hampton University and Norfolk State University, two of Virginia's historically black colleges. The Corps was tapped to assist in launching the institutions' first cultural-immersion trips,



Attending a Memorial Day ceremony at the Corozal American Cemetery were, from left, Virginia Tech cadets Catherine Grizzle (Army), Christopher Miller (Marines), John Turbyfill (Air Force), and Samantha Rowe (Army); Norfolk State University cadets Kira Armistead and Alex Hildebrand, and Hampton University Cadet Warren Barksdale.

and two Army ROTC cadets from each school joined the VTCC contingent for the 2013 travel program.

In mid-May, VTCC senior cadets Catherine Grizzle (Army), Christopher Miller (Marines), Samantha Rowe (Army), and John Turbyfill (Air Force) well represented your Corps, Virginia Tech, and the nation as they completed several activities in Panama, including tours of the capital city and commerce port city of Colon, the Panama Canal, a tropical jungle area and native community, and the San Blas Island natural habitat area

The cadets, who also completed three community service projects, attended a country brief with the U.S. Ambassador to Panama Jonathan D. Farrar and the embassy political officer. Attendance at

Memorial Day ceremonies at the U.S. National Cemetery in the former Panama Canal Zone provided cadets the opportunity to speak with Ambassador Farrar after the events.

Upon returning to the states, Cadet John Turbyfill wrote: "Before traveling, I formed opinions of other cultures from

an American perspective. Never before had I realized the preformed opinions I had made concerning the status of other cultures' peoples. I assumed too much about the education, simplicity, and liveliness of what could be considered a third-world country.

"The experiences I had in Panama have guaranteed a lifetime of deeper thought in relations with groups from different nations. This trip changed my understanding of inhabitants of foreign lands and, even more, of how to operate in those conditions. The Olmsted Foundation has truly changed the way I will operate both personally and professionally. I will be forever grateful for the opportunity I was given in those two weeks and for the impact that the trip has made on my outlook on life."



The cadets with U.S. Navy Capt. Rene Finch, defense attaché to Panama



U.S. Ambassador to Panama Jonathan Farrar met with cadets, from left, Warren Barksdale, John Turbyfill, Prayer Jackson (Hampton University), and Kira Armistead (Norfolk State University).

Hokie Heroes

Started in 2006 by IMG College and sponsored by the University Bookstore, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Hokie Hero program honors Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets alumni who are currently deployed. Recipients of this honor are highlighted during the radio broadcasts of Virginia Tech football games by Bill Roth and Mike Burnop, on the Corps of Cadets website, and in the Corps Review magazine. Shown here are the Hokie Heroes featured during the first half of this year's football season.



1st Lt. Tracy Porter '10, USA
Kandahar Province, Afghanistan



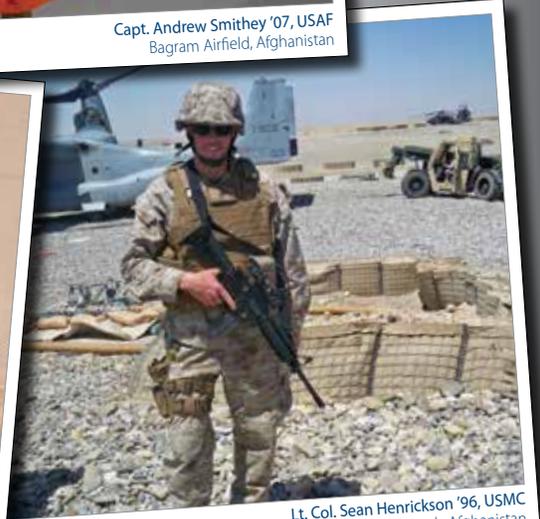
Capt. Andrew Smithey '07, USAF
Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan



1st Lt. Matthew Smith '11, USA
Forward Operating Base Kandahar, Afghanistan



Hokie Hero (left) Maj. John Kilariski '97, USAF, with Capt. Chris Reid '00, USAF
Air Forces Forward, Southwest Asia



Lt. Col. Sean Henrickson '96, USMC
Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan



1st Lt. Nathan Bier '11, USA
Wardak Province, Afghanistan



1st Lt. Ryan Murphy '10, USA
Forward Operating Base Shank, Afghanistan

May Your Hero



Become Our Hero

The Virginia Tech Aviation Wall of Fame is a memorial dedicated to recognizing Virginia Tech alumni who have distinguished themselves through significant contributions, service, and sacrifice in the field of aviation or aerospace. To honor these outstanding alumni, their names are inscribed on the Hokie Stone wall in the lobby of the Virginia Tech Airport. The wall and its associated affairs are administered by the Robert E. Femoyer Service Squadron of Detachment 875, Air Force ROTC, at Virginia Tech.

Nominations are open to recognize Virginia Tech alumni who have achieved one or more of the following distinctions:

- heroism through aviation;
- leadership in the development of aircraft or spacecraft;
- accomplishments as a commercial or military aviator;
- significant contributions to the field of aviation, aircraft design, or space travel.

Applications for nominees are accepted year-round; however, applications submitted after May 1 will not be reviewed for inclusion in that year's ceremony. For more information, contact the Robert E. Femoyer Service Squadron at Virginia Tech.

Robert E. Femoyer Service Squadron
c/o Air Force ROTC, (0204)
288 Military Building, Virginia Tech
320 Stanger St.
Blacksburg, VA 24061-0204
540-231-6404



U.S. AIR FORCE

ALUMNI ANNOUNCEMENTS

Class Champion Update

by Rock Roszak '71

The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Network has gotten off to a good start, and we need you to keep it going! As the volunteer network chairman, I'm taking this opportunity to explain what the project entails.

On a nearly weekly basis, I bring a new class into the network by sending an invitation email to those alumni whom Virginia Tech codes as a cadet in that particular class. The email recipients receive the name of their Class Champion and are asked to respond with the word "Participate," which clears them into the roster. After a series of three messages over the next few days, I give the Class Champion a class roster that has the email addresses of only those class members who have opted to participate. The entire process is designed to protect the privacy of our alumni.

The statistics for the class networks when Corps Review went to press are indicated in the accompanying table. Participation rates vary, of course, but an active Class Champion, through personal initiative, can do so much more with the information I send. As the numbers show, Scott Pearl '84 has done the most outstanding job so far with his class.

When Col. Larkin or Gen. Fullhart have an update that they want to share with our alumni, they send the message to me, and I forward it to my list of Class Champions who in turn forward it to their class roster. It's a great way to stay aware of what today's Corps of Cadets is doing, and the response from our participating alumni has been 100 percent positive.

If you don't see your class listed yet and are interested in being the Class Champion for your class, send an email to vtccalumni@vt.edu. Let's keep the ball rolling.

Ut Prosim, '71!

Year	Champion	Members	Participants	Rate
1960.....	Roy Burrows	486	71	15%
1966.....	Dick Kates	388	114	29%
1967.....	Charles Cornelison.....	408	109	27%
1971.....	Rock Roszak.....	187	67	36%
1973.....	Buck Hodges.....	134	50	37%
1976.....	Dee Morris.....	93	25	27%
1978.....	Vickie Mouras.....	65	27	42%
1981.....	Jay Jacobsmeyer.....	79	43	54%
1984.....	Scott Pearl	107	84	79%
1985.....	Sandy Siegrist.....	125	49	39%
1987.....	The Yambricks.....	125	43	34%
1993.....	Mike Miller.....	120	37	31%
1994.....	Patrick Hogeboom	50	25	50%
2008.....	Nick Nelson	143	40	28%
		Total:.....	783	

When Col. Roszak sought Class Champion volunteers, I cautiously raised my hand for the Class of '84. I have always enjoyed reuniting with my former Corps buds, but I wasn't sure about the time commitment required.

A few weeks later, I received the class roster from the university database, and off I went. The first thing I noticed was that three of my four roommates were not on the list! From there, I began to actively search for other missing names, looking through the old Bugle yearbooks that are available online, searching for people on Facebook, and posting the list of those "missing in action" on our class Facebook page. We have been able to grow the list of connected people from 21 to 84 so far.

The Class Champion role has been a richly rewarding experience for me thus far, and some of the catching-up conversations and emails still make me chuckle. I've fed the email addresses back to Col. Roszak to improve the Corps database, and we are now going to focus on getting our class together for our 30th reunion next year.

- Scott Pearl '84

Senior Cadet Commanders, Fall 2013



Regimental Commander
Peter Nettekoven

Cadet Col. Peter Nettekoven, of Hershey Pa., is pursuing a degree in history and a minor in medieval studies. Joining the Corps of Cadets for the

disciplined lifestyle, he served as 3rd Battalion cadet sergeant major during the fall 2012 semester and as cadet command sergeant major for the spring 2013 semester. This past summer, Cadet Nettekoven completed the Leader Development and Assessment Course at Fort Lewis, Wash., and Cadet Troop Leader Training at Fort Benning, Ga. He plans to commission as an Army infantry officer in May 2014.



First Battalion Commander
Forrest Rush

Cadet Lt. Col. Forrest Rush, of Christiansburg, Va., is pursuing a degree in marketing. Following in the footsteps of his older brother who served as

1st Battalion commander in fall 2010, he joined the Corps of Cadets not only because he witnessed his brother's discipline and professionalism, but also because he wanted valuable leadership experience. The recipient of an Emerging Leader Scholarship, Cadet Rush served as Bravo Company first sergeant and 1st Battalion sergeant major during his junior year. He plans to commission in the U.S. Army in May 2014.



Second Battalion Commander
Jordan Disney

Cadet Lt. Col. Jordan Disney, of Baltimore, Md., is pursuing a degree in psychology. He spent eight months in Israel learning martial arts and

doing volunteer work with the Israel Defense Forces. Cadet Disney feels honored to lead 2nd Battalion as it moves off the Upper Quad in one of the biggest changes in Corps history. The recipient of an Emerging Leader Scholarship, he hopes to commission in the U.S. Army in the armor field.



Third Battalion Commander
Joseph Williams

Cadet Lt. Col. Joseph Williams, of Leesburg, Va., is pursuing a degree in history and a minor in political science. He received an Emerging Leader

Scholarship and joined the Corps for the opportunities it offers in leadership and practical experience and its joint military-civilian environment. Cadet Williams served as Kilo Battery first sergeant and 3rd Battalion sergeant major during the 2012-13 school year. Having graduated from Marine Corps Officer Candidate School in July, he will be commissioned in May 2014 and will attend The Basic School at Quantico, Va., where he hopes to be designated as a signals intelligence officer.

Command Staff, Fall 2013



Regimental Executive Officer
Jason Conder
Mechanical Engineering
Basking Ridge, N.J.
Army



Regimental Adjutant
Derek Oesterheld
Electrical Engineering
Spotsylvania, Va.
Navy



Regimental Public Affairs
Officer
Anthony Rinaldi
Computer Science
Richmond, Va.
Citizen-Leader Track



Regimental Operations
Officer
Daniel Gaines
History
Rome, Ga.
Army



Regimental Supply and
Finance Officer
Timothy Roseland
Mechanical Engineering
Dinwiddie, Va.
Army



Regimental Academics
Officer
Michelle Aylor
Industrial and Systems
Engineering
Harwood, Md.
Navy



Regimental Sergeant Major
Austin Dickey
Business Management
Amarillo, Texas
Marine Corps



Regimental Inspector
General
Susanna Bradley
Industrial Design
Ellicott City, Md.
Army



Executive Court Chair
Corey Combs
Aerospace Engineering
Wrightsville, Pa.
Air Force



Honor Court Chief Justice
David Moore
Political Science
Christiansburg, Va.
Air Force



Regimental Chapel Liaison
David Neverman
History
Murrieta, Calif.
Citizen-Leader Track



Regimental Information
Systems Officer
Derek Loftis
Computer Engineering
Virginia Beach, Va.
Air Force



Regimental Recruiting
Officer
Evan Baker
Political Science
Granger, Ind.
Army



Regimental Athletics Officer
Andrew Sahol
Animal and Poultry Science
Greensboro, N.C.
Army



Regimental Historian
Dustin Rhoads
Business Management
Lansing, Kan.
Army

Command Staff, Fall 2013



Alpha Company Commander
Wesley Royston
Engineering Science and
Mechanics
Pagosa Springs, Colo.
Navy



Bravo Company Commander
Evan Faughnan
History
Newtown, Pa.
Army



Charlie Company Commander
Jeremy Jorge
Chemical Engineering
Virginia Beach, Va.
Navy



Delta Company Commander
Philip Norman
Mechanical Engineering
Pittsburgh, Pa.
Air Force



Echo Company Commander
Christopher Mobley
Mechanical Engineering
Newport News, Va.
Air Force



Foxtrot Company
Commander
Jason Micucci
History
West Friendship, Md.
Army



Golf Company Commander
Andi Stone
Food Science and
Technology
Stafford, Va.
Citizen-Leader Track



Hotel Company Commander
Scott Phelps
Industrial and Systems
Engineering
Vienna, Va.
Citizen-Leader Track



India Company Commander
Nikko Tanap
Industrial and Systems
Engineering
Virginia Beach, Va.
Air Force



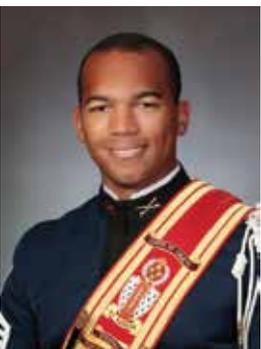
Kilo Battery Commander
Zachery E. Lloyd
Biochemistry
Bristow, Va.
Army



Lima Company Commander
Kirsten Hughes
Psychology
Virginia Beach, Va.
Citizen-Leader Track



Band Company Commander
Kevin Heald
Mechanical Engineering
Herndon, Va.
Army



Regimental Drum Major
Vaughn Richardson
Music Performance and
Education
Glen Allen, Va.
Citizen-Leader Track



VPI Battalion Commander
Conner VanSkiver
Finance
Manassas, Va.
Citizen-Leader Track



Regimental Medical Officer
Timothy Black
History
Richmond, Va.
Army

Virginia Tech Homecoming

Reunions for the Class of '63 and the Highty-Tighties were held during Virginia Tech's homecoming weekend in October. Celebrating its 50th reunion in style, the Class of '63 enjoyed an informative luncheon with Vice President for Student Affairs Patty Perillo and Maj. Gen. Fullhart, as well as an outstanding pass in review by the entire Corps on the Drillfield. Highty-Tighty alumni participated in the homecoming parade down Main Street, leading the way for the Corps, then held a tailgate brunch, and later marched alongside the current Highty-Tighties during the pregame show.



Cadet historians provided tours of the Corps Museum to Class of '63 alumni. The museum is temporarily located on Newman Library's fourth floor.



At the conclusion of the class's remembrance ceremony, members of the color guard moved the memorial wreath from the chapel to the Pylons.



Class president David Lowe '63, who as a senior served as the Corps' regimental commander, spoke at the pass in review.



Reviewing the regiment were, from left, Maj. Gen. Fullhart, President Charles W. Steger, and David Lowe '63.



The 2013-14 Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets in formation in honor of the Class of '63



Several hundred members of the Class of '63 attended the pass in review.



During the university's pep rally on Friday night, the Flaming VT—a Hotel Company tradition—was lit.



The High-Tighty alumni band led the homecoming parade down Blacksburg's Main Street.



J.B. Jones '45 caught up with old friends at the High-Tighty tailgate brunch.



High-Tighty cadets following in their parents' footsteps, from left, Cassie Davis, Class of 2017, and her mother, Maria Jaeger Davis '87; and Michele Caldwell Wrenn '89 and her son, Corey Morrell, Class of 2014



High-Tighty alumni and Ranger Company cadets on the field with the homecoming game ball



The High-Tighty alumni band performed during the pregame program.

Naval ROTC News

Virginia Tech's Naval ROTC (NROTC) battalion began the fall semester with more than 245 midshipmen divided among four Navy-option companies—Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, and Delta—and one Marine-option company, Raider. This year's head count is slightly lower than last year's, when the Corps of Cadets boasted its largest freshman class since the late 1960s.

One of the top-performing Naval ROTC units in the country, Virginia Tech's NROTC battalion regularly leads the way in nuclear program officer production. Our midshipmen's high academic standards and hard work account for the battalion's successes, including receiving roughly 10 percent of the two- and three-year scholarships awarded annually to midshipmen nationwide.

Supplementing the values taught to cadets by instilling the Navy's core values of honor, courage, and commitment, the NROTC unit continues its successful partnership with the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.

Marine Corps cake-cutting ceremony

On Nov. 1, 1921, Lt. Gen. John A. Lejeune, the 13th commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps, directed that the Marine Corps' honorable service be recognized annually with a celebration of its founding. Each year since, around Nov. 10, traditional cake-cutting ceremonies commemorate the Marine Corps' many accomplishments throughout its proud history.

Raider Company upheld the tradition by holding its annual cake-cutting ceremony at a Blacksburg restaurant, an event attended by NROTC unit staff, the company's aspiring Marine Corps officers, and several local Marines. According to custom, the first piece of cake was passed from the oldest Marine present to the youngest, an action that represents the passing on of wisdom and responsibility from the older generation to the next. Lt. Col. William Stringer, U.S. Marine Corps (retired), capped off the ceremony with inspiring words for the Marine Corps' future leaders.

Navy and Marine Corps Birthday Ball

On Nov. 3, 2012, at The Inn at Virginia Tech, the NROTC battalion celebrated the 237th birthday of the U.S. Navy—founded Oct. 13, 1775—and the U.S. Marine Corps. More than 450 midshipmen, staff, and guests attended the event that emphasizes the shared camaraderie of the Navy and the Marine Corps. The evening began with a social hour, followed by the arrival of the official party, parading of the colors, and reading

of official messages by the secretary of the Navy, chief of naval operations, and commandant of the Marine Corps. An official cake-cutting ceremony preceded the dinner.

The guest of honor, Rear Adm. Joseph Tofalo, commander of Submarine Group 10, addressed the midshipmen battalion and guests. After the formal ceremonies, guests enjoyed a night of dancing.

Senior dining-in

On April 12, the graduating NROTC seniors held their annual dining-in at The River Company in Radford, Va. More than 50 midshipmen, staff, and special guests enjoyed an evening steeped in traditions passed down from the British Royal Navy, where officers' meals aboard the ship were formal occasions. Adapted by the U.S. Navy, the dining-in custom honors the feats of individuals and units both afloat and ashore.

The guest of honor, who shares wisdom with the graduating seniors as they prepare for commissioning and joining the fleet, was Capt. Mike Cashman, a RH-53D pilot with more than 2,500 hours in numerous platforms and multiple combat-zone deployments. Capt. Cashman was named the 29th professor of naval science and commanding officer of the NROTC unit at the University of Virginia in the spring.

Guests enjoyed a cocktail hour followed by the welcoming of the official party, which entered the dining room behind the ceremonial bagpiper. Other dining-in traditions included the parading of the beef, formal and informal toasts, and a speech by Capt. Cashman. Members of the Highty-Tighties provided the official music, and Midshipman 1st Class Alex Mickle served as president of the mess.

Marine field exercise

In March, Raider Company held its final two-day field exercise (FEX) of the school year. The annual operation took place at the Selu Conservancy in Radford, where Marine-option midshipmen were challenged with multiple Officer Candidate School (OCS)-type events in order to build confidence through familiarization of OCS field concepts and procedures. Emphasis was placed on training and evaluating midshipman who would be attending OCS during the summer, and the underclassmen's transition from follower to leader was highlighted.

All midshipmen were graded on their proficiency in negotiating a land-navigation course. Additional exercises included fire watch, service-rifle nomenclature, service-rifle assembly/

disassembly, and hip-pocket classes. Overall, the spring FEX provided excellent training, better preparation for OCS, and enhanced camaraderie within Raider Company. Oorah!

Commissioning



Thirty-six Navy and Marine Corps officers were commissioned from the NROTC unit during the past year.

The Marine Corps commissioned 17 second lieutenants to proceed from Virginia Tech to The Basic School in Quantico, Va., to begin training as Marine Corps officers: Colin J. Chew, Christopher W. Hayes, Christopher J. Sohn, Ryan C. Brodarick, Colton S. Fetterolf, Cole G. Freeman, Nathaniel R. Gunter, Benoit-Jacques Hamel, John L. Hinsdale, James A. Hughes, Daniel C. Recktenwald, Jason J. Schnitker, Jonathan W. Thomsen, Robert L. Coggins, Markus B. Gibson, Michael D. Lowery, and David A. Reeves.

The following are Virginia Tech's most recent naval officers who are now in training as the U.S. Navy's newest naval aviators, naval flight officers (NFO), surface warfare officers (SWO), and submarine warfare officers: Samuel B. Howell (aviator), Margaret Kelly (submarines), Nicholas Quenga (SWO), Ian Smith (aviator), Christopher Tomlinson (submarines), Jean-Luc Vidal (submarines), Ross Leitch (SWO), Margaret Castelvechi (SWO), Scott Enos (aviator), Alexander Gutzler (submarines), Matthew R. Hearne (SWO), John W. Kim (SWO), Alex A. Mickle (aviator), Michael G. Shofner (SWO), Christopher B. Sturgill (aviator), John Waters III (aviator), Kevin M. Willett (NFO), Ethan A. Yelverton (SWO), and Lauren Adolph (NFO).



From left, Cmdr. Saufley, Lt. Gen Fedder, Ensign Lauren Adolph, President Charles W. Steger, and Maj. Gen. Fullhart at the joint commissioning ceremony in the spring

Honor graduates

Named for the Virginia Tech graduate who was killed in action during the 1983 bombings of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, the 2nd Lt. Maurice Edward Hukill Award is presented each year to a Raider Company cadet who best upholds the high standards expected of a Marine Corps officer. This year's recipient of the Hukill Award for outstanding Marine-option graduate is 2nd Lt. Markus B. Gibson.

The NROTC battalion also awarded its annual Chief of Naval Operations Distinguished Midshipman Graduate award to Midshipman Christine Brenek for having met the highest standards of leadership, academic excellence, and military performance. Majoring in industrial and systems engineering, Brenek will graduate in the fall. She has already been screened in the nuclear reactor field and is pending selection to become a submariner.

Fair Winds and Following Seas

Farewell, Capt. Daniel P. Forney

On April 6, Capt. Daniel P. Forney gracefully sailed into retirement as the NROTC staff and 100 guests, including guest speaker Maj. Gen. Fullhart, paid tribute to a great naval officer and submariner with more than 30 years of service to our country.

The son of career Army officer Brig. Gen. L.R. Forney Jr., Capt. Forney graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1983 and went on to have a tremendously successful career in the Navy, serving on six submarines, two under his command.



With his wife, Deborah, at his side, Capt. Forney goes ashore for the final time of his 30-year career.

When he became professor of naval science at Virginia Tech in November 2009, Capt. Forney focused on building the best leaders of tomorrow. Because of his active leadership style, he was credited with achieving a 99 percent completion rate for all Marine-option midshipmen who go on to Officer Candidate School.



Rear Adm. Joe Tofalo presented Capt. Forney with the Legion of Merit, his final end-of-tour award as an active duty officer.

Capt. Forney's career-long friend, Rear Adm. Joseph Tofalo, commander of Submarine Group 10, presented Forney with his end-of-tour award, the Legion of Merit.

During the ceremony, Capt. Forney said, "You often hear of people who are worried about the future of our country. I've worked with some of the finest young men and women that we have, so take it from me: We're going to be OK!"

Farewell, Lt. Cullen Matthews

After serving as Delta Company advisor for two years, Lt. Matthews transferred to the U.S. Navy Reserve and is working for an engineering firm in eastern Texas.

Hails

Welcome aboard, Lt. Adam Fehringer



Lt. Adam Fehringer

Lt. Adam Fehringer reported to Virginia Tech's NROTC in November 2012. An assistant professor of naval science, he serves as Delta Company advisor and as the medical qualifications officer, among many other duties.

In 2001, Lt. Fehringer enlisted in the Navy as an electronics technician (nuclear) and completed the enlisted nuclear power pipeline by qualifying as a reactor operator on the

S8G plant at Nuclear Power Training Unit, Ballston Spa, N.Y. In 2003, he earned a nomination to the U.S. Naval Academy and graduated with a B.S. in physics in 2007.

As an officer, Lt. Fehringer completed the nuclear power pipeline again before being assigned to the USS West Virginia (SSBN-736) Blue Crew in 2009. He served as the main propulsion assistant and communications officer and was selected to be the chemical/radiological controls assistant while the ship was entering Norfolk Naval Shipyard for an engineered refueling overhaul.

In 2011, Lt. Fehringer was assigned to Amphibious Squadron Four as the anti-submarine warfare officer and assistant materials officer. He led the squadron to the highest score on an anti-submarine warfare evaluation in four years for the amphibious force.

Human resources assistant competes in Ironman competition

Joe Snyder, one of two human resources assistants detached to Virginia Tech's NROTC unit, competed in New York's Lake Placid Ironman triathlon on July 29. A member of the permanent staff since 2007 and a former aviation maintenance technician chief in the U.S. Coast Guard, Snyder meticulously performs his many duties to help keep the office running

smoothly. If he's not in his office, he's more than likely swimming, running, biking, playing racquetball, or engaging in some sort of physical activity on and around campus.



Perched atop the Ironman seal are special marathon shoes—Bates Lites—that the NROTC staff presented to Snyder before he departed for the big race.



Snyder received moral support from his wife, Sue, during the grueling 26.2-mile portion of the Ironman.

More than 2,500 people participated in the race, which Snyder finished in just over 12 hours. He said that his preparation was an exercise in proper nutrition and keeping pace with the training schedule. What he didn't plan on were five flat tires that needed repair during the biking portion of the race. He was fortunate that so many other racers and spectators came to his aid and supplied him with extra CO2 cartridges or a bike pump to inflate his tire. By the last few miles, he just rode on a flat tire.

Switching gears for the last portion of the race, Snyder caught up with one of his training mates at around mile six of the run. For the remainder of the race, they ran as a team.



Among this group of Marine-option midshipmen attending OCS prior to commissioning were second lieutenants Gibson, Lowery, and Coggins, who commissioned in July as part of a special summer commissioning ceremony.

Officer Candidate School

During the summer between their junior and senior years, Marine-option midshipmen attend six weeks of training and evaluation at the Marine Corps' Officer Candidate School located in Quantico, Va. While there, midshipmen are trained, screened, and evaluated by the OCS staff "to ensure they possess the moral, intellectual, and physical qualities for commissioning and the leadership potential to serve successfully as company grade officers in the Fleet Marine Force."

Midshipmen are tested both mentally and physically throughout the six-week program as they participate in a number of training events, including an obstacle course, endurance course, platoon- and squad-sized drill, platoon- and squad-sized runs, conditioning hikes ranging from six to nine miles, combat course, confidence course, pugil sticks, and written examinations. To succeed, each midshipman must possess impeccable



character, physical and mental courage, and the ability to work as part of a team.

Summer cruise

Each summer, NROTC scholarship midshipmen spend approximately a month experiencing active duty life in the fleet, a unique opportunity that is often the highlight of their four years of midshipmen training.

At the end of their freshmen year, midshipmen attend Career Orientation Training for Midshipmen (CORTRAMID), spending a week in each of the following warfare communities: aviation, surface warfare, submarine warfare, and Marine Corps. The indoctrination training familiarizes midshipmen with the diverse careers in the Navy and Marine Corps.

After their sophomore year, Marine-option midshipmen attend Mountain Warfare School or Marine Afloat Training onboard an amphibious ship. Navy-option midshipmen are paired with enlisted sailors during their second-class summer cruise to give the future naval officers an appreciation for the work of the sailors who will one day be under their charge. During summer cruise, midshipmen visit ports in the U.S. and around the world.

Rising seniors are immersed into their prospective communities to shadow junior officers and experience the role of division officers at sea. They observe the day-to-day operations of a ship from a junior officer's point of view, both in port or underway. Message-writing, personnel administration, and equipment inspections are some of the areas that seniors learn about on their cruise.



At left, Midshipman Aylor, Class of 2016, happily learns what it means to be part of a "working party" onboard the USS Nimitz.



Midshipmen Quick and Moreira pose in front of the USS Alabama (SSBN-731), where they will serve during their summer cruise. The Navy first opened submarine service to females in 2010, with an increasing number of candidates serving on different platforms.



Midshipman Osterheld, Class of 2016, stands at the ready on the USS City of Corpus Christi (SSN-705).



Midshipman Englemann in front of a H-53 helicopter during aviation week at CORTRAMID East



From left, Midshipmen Mattern, Matheson, Lee, Zehner, and Witten on the catwalk of the USS George Washington (CVN-73)



President Charles W. Steger, a Friend of the Corps of Cadets

by Gary Lerch '72, chairman

In some of our articles in previous editions of the Corps Review, we have paid tribute to and have thanked several key alumni and former commandants for their outstanding contributions to the success of the Corps. Several, in fact, were instrumental in saving the Corps. These folks played a direct and instrumental role.

In this article, I would like to thank, on behalf of all Corps alumni, an individual whose leadership at the university level created an environment in which we could move forward. That individual is President Charles W. Steger, who recently announced his plans to step down.

President Steger, a Virginia Tech alumnus, though never a member of the Corps, believes in the Corps. As president, he regularly attended our parades and reviews and also participated in the Corps' breakfast events at bowl games to demonstrate his administration's support of the Corps. The president also attended ceremonies at the Pylons that honored Corps alumni lost during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and he clearly shared in our grief and demonstrated strong support for the families of the deceased. He also attended the Veterans Day events in the War Memorial Chapel.

When the governor's budget moved to reduce and then eliminate all funding for the Corps, President Steger's administration gave the Corps of Cadets and its alumni complete freedom to engage state government in a successful effort that resulted in full restoration of funding. Most importantly, President Steger clearly stated during the recent successful

fundraising campaign that a university goal was to have, and sustain, a Corps of 1,000 cadets—which we have now achieved for the second consecutive year.

President Steger is among the Class of 1969 alumni who have provided such strong and consistent leadership for the university, a group that includes Ray Smoot, Tom Tillar, and Frank Beamer. These gentlemen were not members of the Corps, but they clearly believed in our traditions and history and the importance of the Corps of Cadets to Virginia Tech.

My wife, Dawn, and I were honored and privileged to be seated at the table with the Stegers and the Allens at the dinner honoring Gen. Allen upon his retirement as commandant. Both President and Mrs. Steger enjoyed being in attendance and clearly had high regard for Gen. and Mrs. Allen.

As I recall, President Steger was originally scheduled to attend another function, which he declined in order to be with the Corps. Knowing the pressures and expectations placed upon him and his position and the many demands placed upon his time, we are very appreciative of the time and support that he has given to the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.

With ground about to be broken for the first new construction for the Corps of Cadets in more than a half-century, we know it was possible only with the support of President Steger. We all wish Charles and Janet Steger a well-deserved and happy retirement.

In the spirit of *Ut Prosim*,
Until next time,
Gary



University and Corps senior leaders "troop the line" during the pass in review to honor the 50th reunion of the Class of 1963: from left, Maj. Gen. Fullhart; Cadet Col. Peter Nettekoven, Class of 2014; President Charles W. Steger; and David Lowe, Class of '63 president and regimental commander.



Forward, March!

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

The 2013-14 academic year began in August with the arrival of the cadre and our new cadets, and we haven't looked back since! The Corps continues strong with 1,071 cadets, the second consecutive year that membership has surpassed 1,000 young men and women. Now, more than ever, our vision of global, ethical leaders has struck a chord with young people, and they are embracing the Corps' four-year leader development program.

Our Citizen-Leader track, now encompassing VPI Battalion, boasts nearly a quarter of the cadet corps in its ranks. In an upcoming edition of *Corps Review*, you'll read about the formation of the Rice Center Board of Advisors, which represents a commitment by significant corporate organizations to partner with us regarding our curriculum, internships, and post-graduation placement of our cadets.

This year also marks the arrival of several new members of our staff. Of particular note are three superb senior non-commissioned officers (NCOs), one assigned to each of the battalions. These officers bring a wealth of experience and the passion to engage with our cadets and help them live out the notion of servant leadership, the hallmark of our military services' NCO corps.

As reported in the summer edition, the university has begun the process of providing two new residence halls specifically designed for the Corps. In addition to meeting modern quality standards, the

new buildings will feature larger rooms, more storage—because of cadets' extra equipment—and facilities for company meetings. The Skipper cannon will have a new home with a viewing window so that this iconic symbol of the Corps will be much more visible than in the past.

This edition features preliminary drawings of and information about the new Corps Leadership and Military Science Building that, with Board of Visitors (BOV) approval, we will break ground for shortly after construction of the residence halls is complete. This update has long been needed and will address the decentralized locations of cadet-focused services, the condition of current structures, and the need for a

fitting building that recognizes the status and history of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.

The site proposed for the new building is at the north end of the Upper Quad and opens onto Shank's Plain, looking toward the north face of Lane Hall. During the construction of the new residence halls, the Corps will form on newly installed sidewalks on Shank's Plain and will utilize a temporary flagpole. Entering the proposed new building from Shank's Plain would lead into a three-story, naturally lit atrium and reception areas. A kitchen, just off the atrium, could allow for catering of special alumni events and other formal affairs.



The Corps of Cadets Color Guard and Gregory Guard presented arms as the Highty-Tighties played the national anthem before the Virginia Tech Homecoming game.

A sufficiently sized Corps Museum is shown off the atrium and would, no doubt, be a perfect venue to tell the story of the Corps' past, present, and future. Opening off the museum would be a library for Corps and ROTC materials, overseen by the Rice Center for Leader Development staff, whose offices would be adjacent.

The remainder of the main floor provides spaces for the commandant and staff, conference and meeting areas, recruiting, development, alumni relations, and the deputy commandant for the Citizen-Leader Track program. Other deputy commandants and their affiliated senior NCOs have offices with the cadets in the residence halls. The main functions of the tailor shop would also be on this floor.

Accessed by elevators and a staircase at the north end of the atrium, the second level could provide spaces sup-

porting the Air Force and Naval ROTC programs, including classrooms and staff offices. The third floor would provide offices and classrooms for the Army ROTC program, as well as a special room dedicated to the honor program.

Like the new residence halls, and in accordance with BOV policy, the new Corps Leadership and Military Science Building would be clad in Hokie Stone. In front of the neo-Gothic structure, a memorial plaza is anticipated and would feature Corps and service flags, in addition to the state and national ensigns.

The funding for the new Corps Leadership and Military Science Building will be a combination of Commonwealth of Virginia tax dollars and private donations. We are in the process of forming a committee to help with our fundraising efforts. Of course, Dave Spracher is available to answer any questions.

To say that your Corps is experiencing positive momentum is an understatement. The funding provided by the legislature and executive branch has enabled us to address chronic staffing shortfalls. The Corps' growth has led to the construction of two new residence halls. Our curriculum is undergoing enhancements and serves a Corps that has become all we have always said it could be. The creation of a Rice Center Board of Advisors is an exciting chapter in the life of the center. And the realization of a plan for a proper Corps Leadership and Military Science Building is heading for BOV approval.

I want to thank those whose energy and inspiration we are building upon and to call on all of us to rally to our position as we step off into the next 140 years of the Corps. Forward, march!



Rendering of the Corps Leadership and Military Science Building, courtesy of the Clark Nexsen firm



The Power of Class Champions

by Col. Patience Larkin '87, 540-231-9369, patience@vt.edu

As you may have read in Gary Lerch's column in the spring edition of Corps Review, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Inc. Board of Directors and the Corps' alumni office have begun a new endeavor called the Class Champion program. The goal of the program is to increase communications with the maximum number of alumni possible, not only to keep alumni apprised of Corps alumni events, but also to share updates on current Corps activities, including Upper Quad upgrades.

Col. Rock Roszak '71, my predecessor, continues to live our university motto, *Ut Prosim*, selflessly volunteering to take on this monstrous effort just months after retiring as the alumni director.

Simply put, the Class Champion program is a networking endeavor. The purpose is neither development nor fundraising, but to help us keep in better contact with those who have shared the Corps experience. To that end, we are asking a Corps alumna or alumnus from each graduation year to take the lead as his or her class' Class Champion.

The champion's role is twofold: to help us electronically locate as many alumni from his or her Corps class year as possible and to help us continue to communicate with them. Please note that participation in this program is voluntary. If you do not wish to be included, you can opt out.

Rock has kick-started the process by asking for volunteer champions, and he is methodically working through each

class, one week at a time. To learn more about how the process works, read Rock's article on page 22.

If you have not been contacted by anyone in your year group, either we have not reached that year yet or we do not yet have a Class Champion for that year. Maybe this article will inspire you to step forward for your year group!

Even though the Class Champion program has been in place only a short time, it is already leading to reconnections among old buds and classmates. Another role envisioned for the program is to use it to facilitate a section in the Corps Review that is similar to the Class

Notes department in Virginia Tech Magazine. Our class notes section would include listings for births, marriages, promotions, and so on for each year group or decade.

We want this program to be successful and to enable Corps alumni to locate old friends and keep up with what the Corps is doing. The program's early success shows great promise to achieve these goals.

If you would like to volunteer as a Class Champion or have any questions, please contact us at vtccalumni@vt.edu.
Ut Prosim.



In January 1957, the Pershing Rifles marched in President Eisenhower's second-term inauguration parade.



News from the Development Office

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

The air is full of excitement in Blacksburg this fall, and it is not all because another football season is upon us. Most assuredly, Coach Beamer's team is exciting, but the excitement I'm talking about is on the Upper Quad and in the halls of Eggleston.

We again had more than 1,000 cadets starting fall semester, even more than last fall when we broke through the 1,000-cadet barrier for the first time in 44 years. Construction will soon begin on our new dormitories, and planning is ongoing for a new Corps building, which Gen. Fullhart discusses on page 34.

Everyone I have talked to about the planning for this new building is legitimately excited—finally, for the first time in any of our lives, we will be able to participate in funding a building project directly related to the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. We will provide more information on giving opportunities as soon as we are able.

Last fall, I wrote in this space that the Corps' endowment had reached \$25 million. Thanks to the terrific performance of our investments managed by the Virginia Tech Foundation, that figure grew to nearly \$29 million as of June 30.

This amount will allow us to provide approximately \$1.6 million for the Emerging Leader Scholarship program this year and another \$200,000 for other scholarships and for the Rice Center's operations. In addition, our unrestricted operating budget will be about \$350,000 for this fiscal year (July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014).

Growth of the Corps and the larger staff required to keep improving our



Cadets and their Emerging Leader Scholarship sponsors gathered for a donor breakfast: from left, Michael Englund-Krieger, Class of 2014; Joshua Levine, Class of 2016; Nancy Artis; and Kristine Irene Mapili, Class of 2016. Nancy and her husband Pat sponsor Cadet Mapili.

leader development programs mean we need your generous help more than ever. The Annual Fund is the primary source for the operating funds that keep the Corps running.

Annual Fund

by Randy Holden, director of the Annual Fund

Thank you for your service to and support of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. Your participation in the Corps of Cadets Annual Fund is important, maybe even more than the size of your gift. Whether your gift is \$25, \$250, or \$25,000, I ask that you give. Your annual gift provides important resources to enhance leadership skills, bolster self-confidence, and improve learning experiences for all of our cadets.

Corps members have a strong tradition of philanthropy, a commitment that we appreciate a great deal. I am

proud to report that our mailings and calls brought in nearly \$475,000 for the Corps during the past fiscal year. You should be very proud of this level of generosity and of several other interesting statistics about Corps alumni and friends:

- The percentage of Corps alumni who give back to the university annually is more than 60 percent higher than the rate for all alumni.
- More than 60 percent of Corps donors who gave in fiscal 2012 gave again this year—the highest renewal rate ever.
- Despite declining numbers of Corps alumni, giving to the Corps through the Annual Fund in this past fiscal year reached its second-highest total on record.
- A total of 99 donors gave more than \$1,000. Ten years ago, that number was 17.

By the time you get this issue of the Corps Review, you will have received our fall mailing. Our phone contact from the Student Calling Center, with assistance from cadets, is planned for Nov. 11-14.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Major Gifts (\$25,000 and above)

Jim '79 and Sue '82 Chapman notified us that they have made estate provisions to benefit the **VTCC Chapman Family Scholarship**. In unrelated news, Gov. Bob McDonnell recently appointed Jim to the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors. Congratulations, Jim.

Adrian Eley '72, E Company, made a gift to the newly established **VTCC Aviation Fund**, which will be used to support aviation education and flight training for members of the Corps. The hope is that current and former aviators from the Corps will contribute to this fund to give our cadets a head start on careers in aviation in either the military or the civilian sector.

Cary Gill '67 has named the Corps and other areas of Virginia Tech as the beneficiaries of a very generous estate gift. The portion for the Corps will be added to the **VTCC S. Cary Gill Scholarship** that Cary earlier created.



Sarah Woods '04 (left) was honored for her eight and a half years of service to the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.

Rick and Mary Monroe signed a fund agreement that will create from their estates an endowed scholarship for the Corps. The **VTCC Mary M. and Richard W. Monroe '66 Scholarship** will benefit a cadet in good standing whose major is in the Pamplin College of Business. The Monroes built their retirement home in Blacksburg, and Rick serves as the secretary of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Inc.

Barbara N. Perkins notified us of a generous provision in her estate to benefit the Corps. Her estate will create the **VTCC James Russell Perkins '44 Scholarship** to honor her deceased husband, who was a member of N Battery as a cadet. The scholarship will benefit cadets in good standing, with preference for those majoring in engineering who have financial need.

The death of Jack Webb '44 was reported in the summer edition of the Corps Review. We have received a distribution from his estate, adding to the **VTCC Jack W. Webb, Sr. '44 and Jack W. (Bill) Webb, Jr. '70 Scholarship**. Many of you may be aware that Bill has served as the class chairman for the unequalled (no bias here) Class of 1970 for many years.

As always, thank you for your support of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. If I can help you in any way or answer any questions, please write or call.

Ut Prosim,
Dave



Pictured at the Pylons, 110 freshman cadets were sponsored for the fall Caldwell March.

Retirement Accounts Assets Make Smart Gifts

by Judith Davis, Office of Gift Planning

You can help train tomorrow's leaders and perpetuate the ideals you value—without changing your personal finances. One way is to designate retirement account assets as an estate gift that will come to the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets after your lifetime.

Maximize benefits and minimize taxes.

You may find that you can maximize your support to both your heirs and the Corps by donating potentially highly taxed assets remaining in your IRA, 401(k), 403(b), SEP, or other retirement plan and by passing less-highly taxed assets to heirs.

Your gift does not affect your lifetime finances.

Your retirement account continues to belong entirely to you, and you can change your gift at any time you wish. This flexibility is particularly helpful to individuals who would like to put a gift in place now, but are concerned about their own or their family's possible future needs.

It takes only a signature.

To set up your gift, sign a beneficiary designation form provided by the firm that manages your retirement account. Name as beneficiary "The Virginia Tech Foundation Inc., in support of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets."

Let us know.

When you establish this or any estate gift, please let us know. Informing us creates no obligation, and it allows us to record how you wish the Corps to use your future gift. It also gives us an opportunity to thank you and to welcome you to the university's Legacy Society, if you wish to accept that free membership.

For some donors, a 2013 charitable IRA rollover is a tax-wise gift today.

Until December 31, 2013, qualifying donors, age 70 1/2 or older, can transfer certain charitable gifts up to \$100,000 directly to the Virginia Tech Foundation Inc. from an IRA and avoid the usual additional tax liability. This makes a tax-wise retirement account gift from an IRA possible during the donor's lifetime and can count toward satisfying the required minimum distribution. Read more online at <http://bit.ly/irarollover>.

Make sure your gift fits your financial plan.

You are encouraged to consult your attorney or financial advisor to ensure that your gift fits your overall estate, retirement, and tax planning.

Learn more.

Contact Dave Spracher, director of development for the Corps of Cadets, to learn more about supporting the Corps with a gift from your retirement account or with any gift. He can be reached at 800-533-1144 or dlsprach@vt.edu.



Medal of Honor recipient Col. Wes Fox and Commandant of Cadets Maj. Gen. Randy Fullhart addressed the freshman class.

Assessing Our Leader Development Program

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

When preparing for this academic year, Corps personnel continued to outline improvements for our leader development program. Last year, the number of weekly contact hours was increased, and the subject material for military-track and citizen-leader track alike was broadened.

This year, our work has focused on enhancing how we assess cadets' learning and individual capacity for leadership. The resulting assessment plan is divided into two categories.

The first category includes self-improvement assessments intended to assist cadets as they develop self-understanding and come to recognize their preferred leadership style.

First-year cadets take the StrengthsQuest assessment to identify their individual strengths and are

exposed to the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator to learn about their personality and how it affects socialization. Cadets are introduced to the concept of emotional intelligence and take an assessment to measure their emotional quotient as a means to improve interactions with others. Lastly, cadets may take the Nelson-Denny Reading Assessment to gauge their effectiveness as readers and receive relevant strategies for improving reading speed and comprehension.

The second category of assessments will help determine the effectiveness of the Corps' leader development program and will inform our strategies for program improvement.

Annually, all cadets will complete assessments that render a snapshot of each cadet's aptitude for critical thinking and ability to lead. By tracking this

aggregate data over four years, we will gain insight into the effectiveness of our program and the leaders we graduate.

Our current assessments indicate that our graduates are indeed excellent leaders; however, these additional measures will bring us to a level of granularity we've not yet reached. Not only will the data allow us to refine our curriculum to address specific areas of leadership, it will help cadets determine their progress on their journeys to become strong leaders.

The year has so far been a great one for academics in the Corps. These enhancements to our assessment plan for our leader development program will help ensure that we are educating and graduating leaders of exemplary character. *Ut Prosim.*



In June, Lt. Col. Roy Burrows '60, U.S. Army Reserve (retired), far right, presented Emerging Leader scholarships to three incoming cadets, from left, Brandon Mrvan, Jacob Apostoles, and Ian Turner, at Jamestown High School in Williamsburg, Va.

Supporting Our Corps

by Bill Swan '66, Recruiting Task Force leader

I'll begin by thanking the more than 60 volunteers who assisted with presenting more than 310 Emerging Leader scholarships (ELS) this spring. Because of an upturn in economic conditions, the university was able to fund 190 ELS awards in Virginia and 126 out-of-state, including American schools in Germany, Italy, and Indonesia.

Area Team Leaders (ATLs) were able to schedule more than 162 face-to-face presentations at high school award events. However, most of the larger schools, generally those with more than 300 graduates, declined our request to make presentations. In many cases, we were able to arrange private ceremonies for these students. There were also nine transfer students from other colleges, plus five home-schooled students who did not have award ceremonies but were recognized at ceremonies with family and friends.

Because of the increased number of incoming cadets from Pennsylvania, we realigned that state from the northeast to the central region, but the change should be transparent to all but the Regional Team Leaders. I also discovered that my knowledge of Virginia geography was lacking when I inadvertently created some overlaps in school assignments. Fortunately, the ATLs in the affected areas helped resolve those conflicts. Virginia ATLs will help redraw area boundaries this fall, which should eliminate future problems.

We distributed updated rosters of attendees at past Corps reunions and homecoming events, adding more than 200 potential volunteers to the resource pool.

This fall, college fairs were concentrated in Virginia, with a few held out-of-state between September and November. Thanks to the 18 volunteers who worked

22 college fair and Academy Day events. As soon as schedules are confirmed with each location, we will send out a call for helpers at upcoming events.

Six New River Valley alumni volunteers helped out on the Upper Quad during new cadet arrival day on Aug. 17. These volunteers greeted and assisted parents as they arrived on campus.

All volunteers, please note the updated "no photos of participants" guidance for college fairs. This information was provided electronically and is included in the "How-To Guide" update that will be posted on the Corps' website—www.vtcc.vt.edu—before this edition of the Corps Review has gone to print.

Finally, please let me know what's on your mind regarding recruiting. Feel free to call me at 912-265-7530 or to email me at twoswans911@comcast.net.



Citizen-Leader Track cadets, from left, Drew Hildebrandt, Class of 2014; Eileen Long, Class of 2015; and Scott Phelps, Class of 2014

About Last Summer

by Deputy Commandant of Cadets Lt. Col. Don Russell, VPI Company, 540-231-0490, druss135@vt.edu

One of the features that strikes me about the Corps' Citizen-Leader Track is its diversity of cadets—in demographics, backgrounds, majors, and aspirations. Not surprisingly, that diversity has resulted in a range of summer internships for VPI Battalion cadets.

Securing internships is emphasized in our leader development program. Such real-world experience, combined with the Corps experience, differentiates cadets in a competitive job market.

Cadet Drew Hildebrandt, VPI Battalion's executive officer for the fall semester, is a senior geography major from Front Royal, Va. He hopes to serve in a federal agency in the intelligence arena. Actively

involved with Virginia Tech's Intelligence Community Center for Academic Excellence (ICCAE), Hildebrandt was competitively selected for a summer ICCAE scholars program to study abroad in China. The four-week program featured intensive language and cultural immersion, in-country travel, and the opportunity to live with a sponsor family.

"While the whole trip was a highlight, living with a Chinese family was most beneficial," Hildebrandt said. "Only the father spoke conversant English, but he was away traveling much of the time. They had two small children. It was awkward at first. I was able to break the ice with their oldest, a three-year-old girl, by

using my Angry Birds smartphone app. She was fascinated by it."

Cadet Logan Mauk joined Cadet Hildebrandt in the ICCAE scholars program in China. A junior accounting major from Bloomsburg, Pa., Mauk is VPI Battalion's sergeant major for the fall semester and, according to Hildebrandt, was a talented barterer with the Chinese entrepreneurs. Mauk's host family spoke no English.

Both cadets were introduced to ICCAE opportunities because of the close relationship between the center and the Corps of Cadets. The ICCAE seeks diverse students with the demonstrated interest and skills necessary for

21st-century national security challenges, and Citizen-Leader Track cadets like Hildebrandt and Mauk are great candidates for this pipeline program.

Cadet Scott Phelps, a senior industrial systems engineering major from Vienna, Va., is serving as Hotel Company commander this semester. He returned to campus this fall from an executive internship with Target. Assigned to the Target Distribution Center in Stuarts Draft, Va., Phelps spent the first half of his internship shadowing the manager of the inbound department. During the second half, he was given a leadership role and helped run one of the operation's shifts.

"I think it was unique that they let me, a summer intern, lead operations, represent the department in meetings, develop work schedules, and so on," Phelps said. "I was really given a lot of hands-on duties. In fact, I made a suggestion regarding a key logistics process that was later implemented, significantly improving warehouse efficiency."

Cadet Phelps' initial contact with Target occurred at a spring 2013 career fair in Squires Student Center. Quickly selected for a series of interviews, he earned the internship within weeks. In large part, Phelps attributes his success in the selection process and in the position to the Corps.

"I was able to leverage my platoon sergeant experience while leading a team of about 30 distribution center professionals," said Phelps. "The Corps definitely helped me with confidence, communication, small-unit leadership, working with diverse people, and having a sense of empathy." In August, Target offered Phelps a full-time position, which he will begin in June 2014, after graduation from Virginia Tech.

A junior wildlife sciences major and VPI Battalion squad leader, Cadet Eileen Long held a summer internship at Cougar Mountain Zoo near Seattle, Wash. She had researched and applied for the

internship in hopes of being closer to her family over the summer.

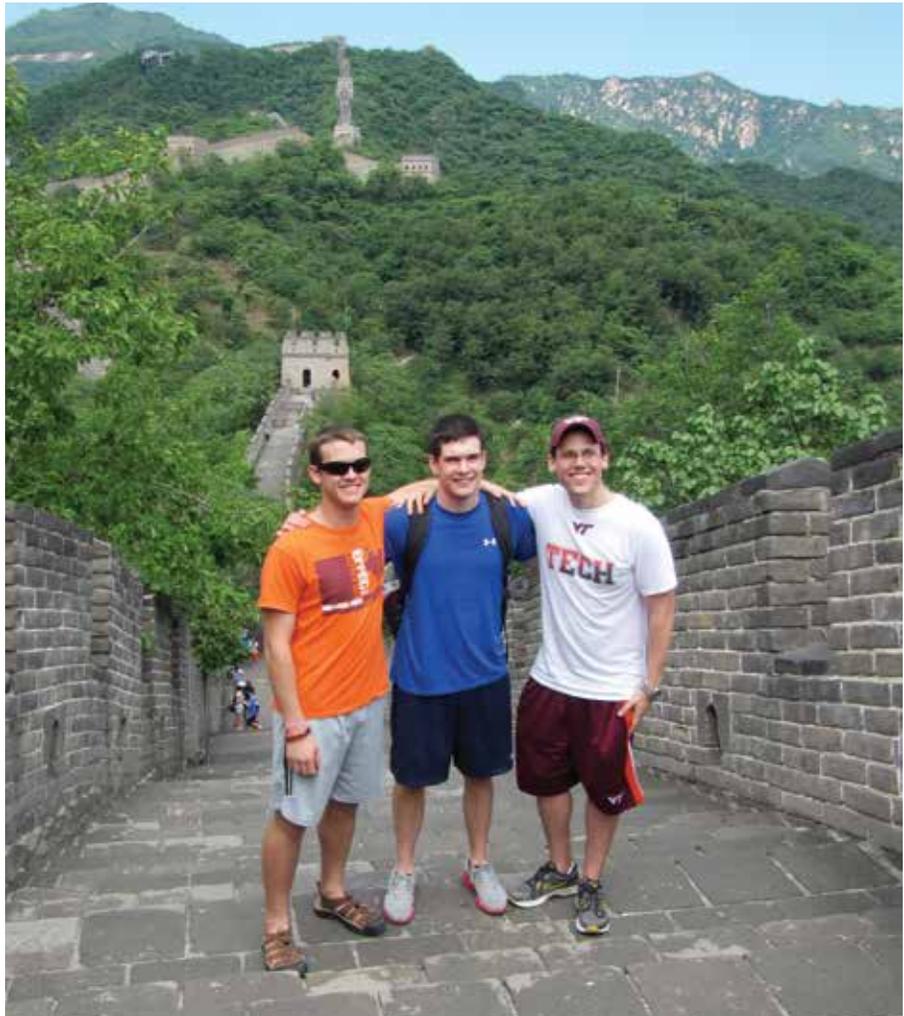
At the zoo, Long interacted with the public throughout the exhibits, maintained cages and common areas, and worked behind the scenes supporting the animals' dietary and environmental needs.

"I greatly enjoyed the experience," Long said. "In particular, I liked working with the lemurs, primates that require some type of daily stimulus. This could be food or object variation or perhaps social or structural enrichment. It was part of my job to be creative with the lemurs.

"During my phone interview, my supervisor mentioned the Corps of Cadets

on my résumé and reference letters as what differentiated me from the dozens of other applicants. She was drawn to the fact that I had experience working in a hierarchical structure and dealing with large groups of people. I was hired right there on the phone."

Having begun my second year serving the cadets of VPI Battalion, I'm convinced more than ever of the value of this unique program in preparing young leaders for careers in the public and private sectors. Without doubt, internships round out our program. Alumni interested in recruiting cadets are encouraged to contact me at druss135@vt.edu.
Ut Prosim.



VPI Battalion cadets, from left, Drew Hildebrandt, Class of 2014, and Logan Mauk, Class of 2015, along with Virginia Tech graduate student Stephen Groat, stood atop the Great Wall of China this summer.

In Memory

Alexander F. Giacco Sr. '42
1919 – 2013

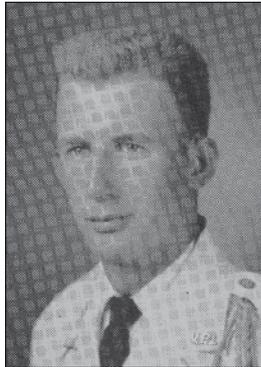
Alexander F. Giacco Sr. died June 27. Born in San Giovanni di Gerace, Italy, he immigrated with his family to the United States in 1921 and became a naturalized citizen in 1927. After graduating from Virginia Tech in 1942 with a degree in chemical engineering, Giacco had a distinguished career with the Hercules Powder Company, rising through the ranks to become its sixth president in 1977. He held the title of president, chief executive officer, and chairman of the board until his retirement in 1987. Predeceased by his wife of 53 years, Edith, Giacco is survived by five children, 15 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Edward Glenn Hart '38
1917 – 2013



Edward Glenn Hart died March 28. Born in Surry County, Va., he graduated from Virginia Tech in 1938 with a degree in business administration and was commissioned in the U.S. Army. Upon receiving orders to go overseas during World War II, he served until 1945. After leaving the service, he settled in Asheville, N.C., and began a 36-year career with Wachovia Bank and Trust Co. Predeceased by his wife of 69 years, Neta, Hart is survived by four children, nine grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

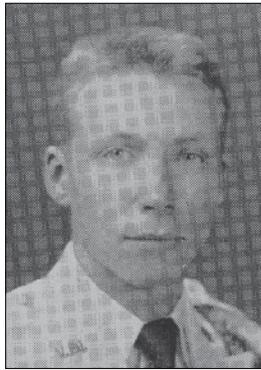
William Robert "Bill" Carr Jr. '56
1934 – 2013



William Robert "Bill" Carr Jr. died May 27. Born in Danville, Va., he graduated from Virginia Tech in 1956 with a degree in general agriculture. After

service in the U.S. Army, he was farmer until his retirement. Carr is survived by his wife, Mary Katherine; three children, and two grandsons.

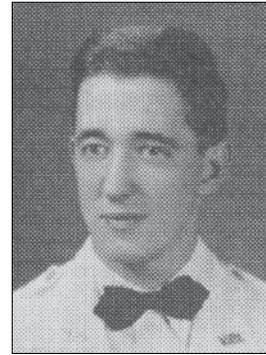
Mac Eason Rein '54
1933 – 2013



Mac Eason Rein died June 22 in Greenville, N.C. After earning bachelor's and master's degrees from Virginia Tech in 1954 and 1957,

respectively, he served in the U.S. Army as a lieutenant. He went on to work for Lincoln National Life Insurance Co. and later became president of Rein Co. Rein is survived by his children and their families.

John Dennis Kennedy '55
1932 – 2013



John Dennis Kennedy died July 20. Born in Pulaski, Va., he graduated from Virginia Tech in 1955 and served in the U.S. Air Force for two

years. Kennedy is survived by his wife, Jayne; two daughters, two sons, and three grandchildren. He was predeceased by a granddaughter.

Richard "Dick" M. Hylton '51
1929 – 2012



Richard "Dick" M. Hylton died June 9, 2012. After graduating from Virginia Tech in 1951 with a degree in architecture, he served in

the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Japan and Korea for two years. He went on to work as an architect in various firms and ultimately opened his own practice. Hylton is survived by his two children, seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Walter S. Medding '44
1922 – 2013



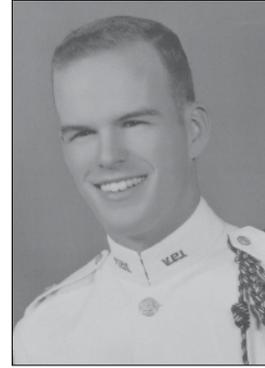
Walter S. Medding died June 21 in Fredericksburg, Va. A 1944 graduate of Virginia Tech with a degree in civil engineering, he also earned

a master's degree in civil engineering from Virginia Tech. Medding served in World War II and in Korea and received seven battle campaign ribbons and two Bronze Stars, among other decorations. A combat engineer, he was frequently at the "tip of the spear." Predeceased by his wife, Patty, Medding is survived by his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Stanley M. Giddings '49
1924 – 2013

Stanley "Stan" M. Giddings died Aug. 9. Born in Hampton, Va., he enrolled at Virginia Tech in 1941, left in 1942 to serve in World War II, and returned in 1946, earning bachelor's and master's degrees in mechanical engineering. In 1950, he went to work in the engineering department at Newport News Shipbuilding and then moved on to a 38-year career with DuPont. Giddings is survived by his wife, Margaret; a daughter, two grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter. He was predeceased by a son, a brother, and a sister.

William Ralston Lecky III '63
1940 – 2013



William Ralston Lecky III, of Mobile, Ala., died May 30. Born in Richmond, Va., he graduated in 1963 with a degree in electrical engineering from Virginia

Tech, where he was captain of the Pershing Rifles, captain of I Company, and a member of the German Club. Commissioned into the Army, he served in the 16th Signal Battalion in Germany from 1964 to 1966. He then worked for International Paper Company and retired after 34 years of service as a manager at Mobile and Natchez Reliability, Engineering, and Project Services. Lecky is survived by his wife of 48 years, Sue; three daughters, five grandchildren, and a brother.

LEST WE FORGET

Joe F. Smith '41, Charleston, W.Va., 8/2/13.

Vaughan E. Calder Jr. '44, Richmond, Va., 5/17/13.

Jack L. Vincent '46, Roanoke, Va., 8/11/13.

Dr. Charles R. Smathers '49, Jacksonville Beach, Fla., 6/1/13.

Charles F. Payne Jr. '50, Moseley, Va., 6/7/13.

H. Lay Phillips Jr. '50, Salisbury, Md., 8/12/13.

Virgil "Kirk" Kuykendall Jr. '51, Indianapolis, Ind., 5/17/13.

Richard A. Snyder '51, Waynesboro, Va., 5/27/13.

Frank H. Baber Jr. '52, Cartersville, Va., 8/7/13.

Richard A. Downing '53, Exmore, Va., 8/14/13.

William C. Jenkins Jr. '53, Norfolk, Va., 5/26/13.

Robert C. Perdue '53, Roanoke, Va., 4/26/13.

Robert F. Huchinson '54, Tappahannock, Va., 5/23/13.

Leonard A. Wingard '55, Abingdon, Va., 8/11/13.

Pete H. Papadakis '56, San Antonio, Texas, 5/23/13.

Paul V. Childress Jr. '57, Roanoke, Va., 4/25/13.

William R. Kirkland '57, Boykins, Va., 8/9/13.

Herbert Teets '57, Denver, Colo., 6/7/13.

Richard C. Carter '58, Dayton, Tenn., 5/25/13.

C. John Renick '59, Roanoke, Va., 8/15/13.

George F. Chandler III '62, Houston, Texas, 5/23/13.

Michael F. Lucier '66, Cape Charles, Va., 7/30/13.

David M. King '72, Lexington, Ky., 8/11/13.

Gene Frederick Wilson died July 26 in Durham, N.C. Born in Newport, Tenn., he graduated from Austin Peay State University and served 30 years in the U.S. Army, achieving the rank of colonel. He completed his "second career" as the assistant commandant of cadets at Virginia Tech, a position that brought him immense joy. Wilson is survived by his wife of 63 years, Mary; two sons, a daughter, and six grandchildren.



‘I’ve Learned ...’ **A tribute to Col. Gene F. Wilson**

by Robert E. Goodson Jr. '93

One of Col. Wilson’s trademarks was a short note, in the Corps Daily Bulletin, that always began, “I’ve learned. ...”

In the spring of 1993, I was preparing to graduate and receive my commission in the U.S. Army. That milestone in my life coincided with a milestone for Col. Wilson, who had announced his retirement from the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets after 10 years as a deputy commandant.

I was fortunate to pay tribute to Col. Wilson at his retirement ceremony. Twenty years later, when I learned of Col. Wilson’s passing, I felt compelled to again pay him tribute.

Col. Wilson’s retirement ceremony was like many others, but I very fondly recall one event. The evening after the ceremony, I found a handwritten note under my door in the regimental hallway. The note from Col. Wilson thanked me

for my kind words and wished me luck as I embarked upon my Army career.

The notion that a colonel—a 30-year veteran—would take the time to write to a 21-year-old cadet, especially on a day that was all about him, had a lasting impact on me. To this day, I make it a point to write handwritten notes to thank people for their generosity or to congratulate them for an accomplishment. I’ve learned the power of graciousness.

In early 2000, I resigned my Army commission. The decision to leave active duty was a difficult one for me. An Army career had been my goal for as long as I could remember. My path to a commission was not an easy one because of a medical condition that the Army had deemed a disqualification from military service.

Thanks to the efforts of people in the Corps and the Army ROTC program, I

was eventually granted a waiver. So when I decided to leave active duty, I wrote letters to those people who had been instrumental in my being granted a waiver. I wanted to again express my appreciation for their help and to explain my decision for leaving the Army.

One of the individuals I wrote to was Col. Wilson. His note in reply was thoughtful and compassionate; he thanked me for my service and applauded me for focusing on my marriage (a reason I chose to leave the Army). Even today, I try to empathize with people in challenging situations and to avoid judgment of their decisions. I’ve learned the power of compassion.

When I was a cadet, people would say Col. Wilson was a man of God. From some, it was likely meant as a compliment, from others, perhaps less so. I wasn’t a very religious person as a young

man, and it was just an interesting comment to me.

Today, I like to think I am a much more faith-filled person, and I believe I now understand what people meant when they called Col. Wilson a man of God. Whether one believes in God or not, I think most will agree that among the characteristics that religious people ideally associate with God and religion are compassion, humility, and love. I've learned that Col. Wilson was indeed a man of God.

My wife, Karen, who's also a 1993 Corps graduate, and I had occasion to see Col. Wilson after we had left Virginia Tech. We were also fortunate enough to correspond through the occasional note on Facebook. Each of those interactions left a smile on our faces. The smile was much bigger and the emotion much stronger when our encounter included a big hug from Col. Wilson. You immediately felt like you were getting a loving hug from Grandpa—or perhaps an embrace from the wings of a guardian angel.

This year, the Class of 1993 celebrates the 20th anniversary of our graduation. We will miss seeing Col. Wilson at the festivities. I suspect that while we will not see him, he will be there in spirit singing "Tech Triumph" with us. May he rest in peace. I've learned that he's earned it.

Selected notes by Col. Wilson from the final weeks of daily bulletins in spring 1993:

"I've learned that it often takes less time to do a task, project, paper, letter, see a cadet, or plan ahead than it does to procrastinate about those things. So, best to get on with what needs to be done."

"I've learned that I can fool lots of people, but I cannot fool the troops [cadets], my children, or my spouse on whether or not I care for them."

"I've learned that all I will leave at this university and the Corps upon my retirement is either a positive or negative influence on or contribution to other people's lives."

Robert E. Goodson Jr. '93, the Corps' regimental commander during his senior year, worked closely with Col. Wilson. Rob was on active duty in the U.S. Army from 1993 to 2001 and in the Army Reserve from 2001 to 2004. Currently a principal at the consulting firm Booz Allen Hamilton Inc., he lives in Annandale, Va., with his wife, Karen '93, and their three children.



Col. Wilson receiving the Legion of Merit, his third oak leaf cluster



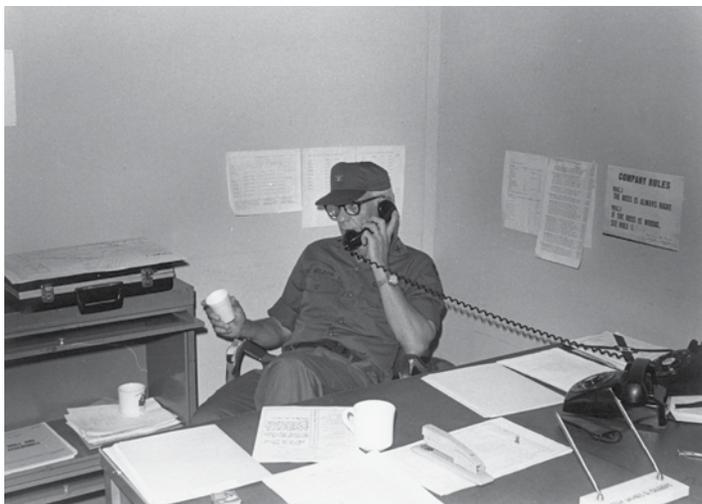
Virginia Tech graduate and grandson, Evan, with Granddaddy, enjoying another Hokie win



Col. Wilson with his sons, Dennis and Bruce, at Dennis' ROTC graduation

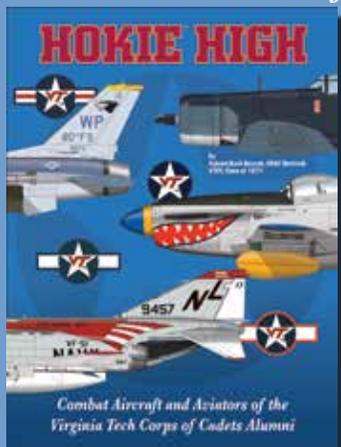


With four of his six grandchildren, Col. Wilson enjoying his "promotion" to grandfather



HOKIE HIGH

Combat Aircraft and Aviators of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni



All of the aviation alumni stories you've enjoyed for the past 10-plus years are now together in one great book. Read about our flying alumni who defended our nation from WWII to the present day. All of their stories are here, gorgeously illustrated and inspiringly written. Available at the Apple iBookstore and for Amazon Kindle. To purchase your copy, visit the following:



\$6.99

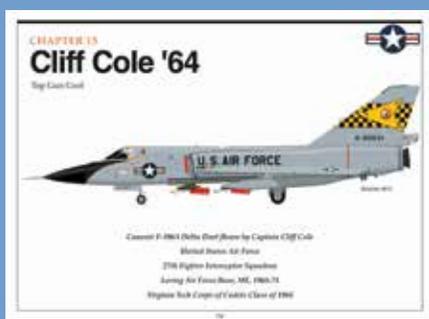
Go to iTunes and search for "Hokie High"



\$4.99

Go to Amazon.com and search for "Hokie High"

50% of all profits go to the Patty and Rock Roszak '71 Corps of Cadets Scholarship.



Dates to Note

- Dec. 9, 2013:** Commandant speaking at Huntsville, Ala., alumni chapter event
- Jan. 31, 2014:** Commandant speaking at Tappahanock, Va., alumni chapter event
- Feb. 15, 2014:** Women of the VTCC event
- March 27, 2014:** Cutchins Lecture by former Secretary of Education Bill Bennett
- April 10, 2014:** Spring Gunfighter Panel
- April 11, 2014:** Gregory Guard/Pershing Rifles 50th anniversary dinner
- April 12, 2014:** Spring Caldwell March, part II
- April 22, 2014:** Commandant speaking at National Capitol Region alumni chapter event
- May 2, 2014:** Spring VTCC alumni board meeting

Unidentified Cadet in Corps Review

It's always a pleasure to receive news of the Corps, in this case the summer 2013 edition of the Corps Review. On page 37, the unidentified cadet receiving sage advice from Brig. Gen Acuff on the steps of Brodie Hall is Robert L. "Bob" Krcelic. Bob was a cadet first lieutenant and the executive officer of Charlie Company. A U.S. Army veteran and academic junior, Bob joined the Class of 1979 at the beginning of fall quarter in 1977. He was an Army ROTC distinguished military graduate. In his senior year, he stepped up and became the Corps section editor for the Bugle. Bob had a great sense of humor, as evidenced by the self-deprecating caption he wrote to accompany this photo on page 313 in the Bugle: "General Acuff giving some friendly advice to a wayward cadet."

- John Costello '79, A Company



E-Frat alumnus Lt. j.g. Sean McCarthy '10 has been deployed since January as damage control assistant on the USS William P. Lawrence (DDG-110), part of the 5th Fleet's Nimitz Carrier Strike Group.

U.S. Army Maj. Heather Cleverger '99 (front row, fourth from right) is pictured in the joint operations center of the Multinational Battle Group East Headquarters, Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, where she is deployed until February 2014. Besides U.S. Army forces, the battle group consists of forces from Germany, France, Poland, Turkey, Morocco, Armenia, Romania, and Ukraine. The Virginia Tech hats were supplied by HokieHut.com.



VTCC Alumni Inc.

143 Brodie Hall (0213)
Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA 24061

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BLACKSBURG
VA 24060
PERMIT NO. 28



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY