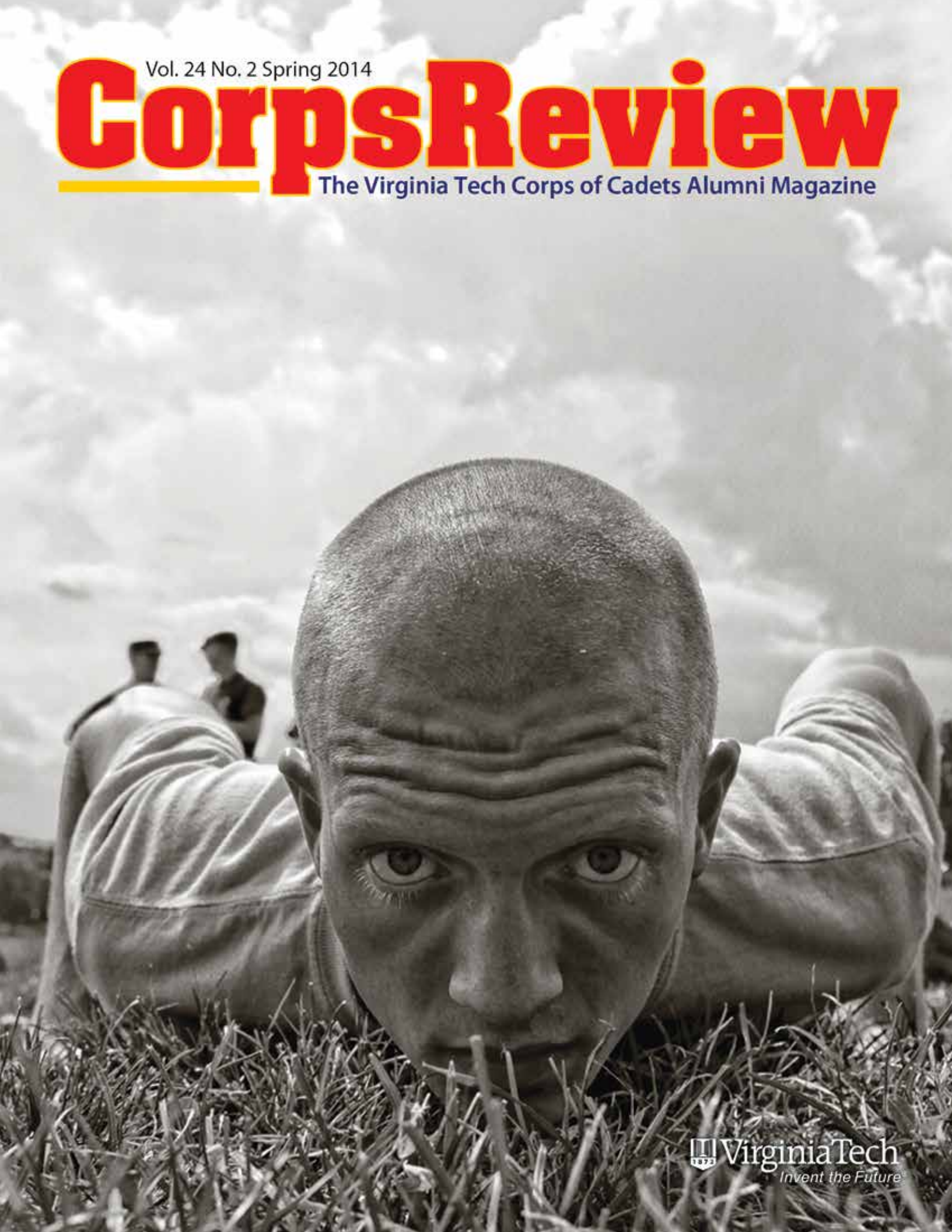


Vol. 24 No. 2 Spring 2014

CorpsReview

The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Magazine





Second Lt. Patrick Hilleary '12 deployed to Afghanistan with the First Infantry Division conducting village support operations. Patrick is a legacy cadet; his parents, Jim '82 and Susan Hughes '84 Hilleary, are both Delta Company alumni.

From left, U.S. Air Force Capt. Chris Horsfall '06 and Lt. Col. Greg Lowe '97 in front of an A-10 Warthawg aircraft at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. Capt. Horsfall is the 75th Aircraft Maintenance Unit officer in charge, and Lt. Col. Lowe is the 455th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron commander. Both Chris and Greg served as regimental buglers while in the Corps.



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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 '71, Michael Diersing, Michael Kiernan, Randal Fullhart, Kathy Fullhart, Bradley Larkin, Logan Wallace, *Photography*

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

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Front cover: Photo by Michael Diersing

Back cover: Photo by Pat Artis '71

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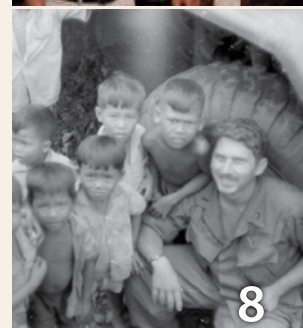
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Foundations of STONE

by Matt Nelson '87



You can't construct a great building on a weak foundation. You must have a strong base on which to place each stone.

We each bring our history with us when we first step onto campus and choose to toe the line in the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets (VTCC). That history is part of what defines us and gives us a drive to make the choices we do. As a member of the Class of 1987, I believe that the history I carried with me seemed most appropriate.

First Lt. Matt Nelson, target assessment, Operation Desert Storm, February 1991



Nelson finishing the 90-kilometer Comrades Marathon in Durban, South Africa



Nelson and his family in June 2013, after he had completed a 450-mile run to raise money for victims of the Boston Marathon bombing



Nelson pausing as one of many sandstorms buffeted competitors in the seven-day, 250-kilometer Marathon des Sables in Morocco's Western Sahara

I was born in Thomas Memorial Hospital in South Charleston, W.Va., a hospital named after Sgt. Herbert J. Thomas '41, the U.S. Marine and Virginia Tech alumnus who, while fighting in the Solomon Islands in 1943, threw himself on a grenade to save the lives of his men and posthumously earned the Medal of Honor.

I grew up listening to stories of the service that had preceded me: a great-great grandfather who lost his arm at Gettysburg—we have 29 relatives who fought in the Civil War—my maternal grandfather who fought alongside Dan Daly at Belleau Wood in World War I, and my paternal grandfather who landed at Utah Beach on D-Day and fought his way to Berlin in a Sherman Tank. Truth be told, the family lines stretch back to the Revolutionary War and continue forward, unbroken through the generations, with my father having served in the Navy during the Korean War. It seemed that the die had been cast even before I knew there was a choice to be made.

In 1983, I graduated from high school and, through hard work and good fortune, secured a four-year scholarship from the U.S. Marine Corps as a Marine-option Naval ROTC midshipman. When I was applying to schools that offered Naval ROTC, Virginia Tech had shown up as the newest program; it started in the fall of 1983, when I arrived as a new cadet.

The assimilation of the Navy and Marine Corps way of thinking was a different animal for the VTCC. We brought some fundamentally different ways of addressing daily life in the Corps. After a few years, though, the midshipmen were fully integrated into the cadet leadership structure—so much so that by the end of my senior year, the first female Marine-option cadet at Virginia Tech, Denise Shuster '88, was selected as the Corps' first female regimental commander.

In my graduating class, I was one of only four Marine-option midshipmen. Although we were small in number, we worked hard to lay the foundation of the Naval ROTC program, the Marine option in particular. During my sophomore year, we began a daily physical training

program. My junior year, we established the first Navy/Marine Corps Drill Team as a Marine alternative to the well-established Gregory Guard, and I served as the commander during my senior year. My junior year also saw the establishment of the first Marine Raider unit—an alternative to the Army Ranger program—and the foundations of the Semper Fidelis Society. In addition, as a senior, I served as the NROTC Midshipman Battalion executive officer and was recognized as the NROTC honor graduate by the Marine Corps Association.

I graduated with a B.S. in chemistry and Russian as my language focus; it was an obvious choice as the Soviets were the big threat. At my commissioning on June 13, 1987, my mother and father pinned on my bars, and I promptly exited the War Memorial Chapel and presented Gunnery Sgt. Gary Green the traditional silver dollar as I returned my first salute as a Marine Corps officer.

After initial infantry and armor training, I spent a few years as a platoon commander and company executive officer and then made a lateral move to military intelligence. In the fall of 1990, I joined up as the intelligence officer for the 10th Marine Regiment, Field Artillery, in Camp Lejeune, N.C. I was just in time to witness the Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait by the Iraqi Army. Within four months, I found



Cadet Matt Nelson, senior year, 1987



Nelson presenting the silver dollar after receiving his first salute on commissioning day, June 1987



Nelson and teammates at the Auburn University Field Meet

myself stepping off a plane in Saudi Arabia on my 26th birthday.

The early days in Saudi Arabia were intense. As part of II Marine Expeditionary Force, 10th Marines was responsible for the targeting of Iraqi forces throughout the eastern sector of Kuwait. On Jan. 17, 1991, the coalition assault of Kuwait commenced, and Operation Desert Storm was under way. Within two weeks, we were engaged in the defense of Saudi Arabia during the limited incursion by Iraqi armored forces in the coastal town of Khafji. On Feb. 23, we crossed the border into Kuwait at night and prepared to breach the minefields and begin the massive offensive ground assault.

We were busy processing targeting data and handling a steady flow of enemy prisoners of war. As we rapidly advanced through the burning oil fields, two things became obvious: Our targeting was spot-on, and we couldn't handle the influx of surrendering Iraqis. Those units that did fight were quickly put down, but the scorched-earth policy of the retreating forces was devastating.

By the night of Feb. 26, we were on the western outskirts of Kuwait City. Iraqi forces that had occupied the city were looting it heavily and retreating, and the Republican Guards were moving towards the Euphrates River. They never made it. Blocked by armored forces and pounded into submission by air power

and the 10th Marines' 155 Howitzers, the roads became a kill zone with more than 2,000 burning and destroyed vehicles clogging what became known as the "Highway of Death."

On the morning of Feb. 27, I was dispatched with a team of intel analysts to sift through the wreckage, identifying units, and looking for maps of the minefields and evidence of crimes. By the next day, a cease-fire was called, and the occupation and drawdown began.

By the spring of 1992, I began my transition to the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve and the civilian world. I served as the intelligence officer and the surveillance and target acquisition platoon commander for 1st Battalion, 24th Marines, in Detroit and started my career with Pfizer Pharmaceuticals. In 1995, I married my wife, Michelle. As my career progressed, my family grew, and I transferred reserve units and joined up with 4th Force Service Support Group military police, developing urban warfare and in-extremis hostage rescue techniques.

With a growing family and as time commitments and other interests pulled in opposite directions, I stepped away from the Marine Corps in 2000 at the rank of major. A love for adventure and pushing myself physically—both traits that I had set in motion while at Virginia Tech and honed while in the Marine

Corps—that set the tone for this next phase of my life.

In 1998, my wife and I ran our first marathon in Napa Valley. Within two years, we had both graduated to athletic endeavors beyond the marathon. Michelle began competing in open-water swimming events and Ironman triathlons. I made use of my navigation skills and began doing expedition-level adventure races around the world. These events soon led to my current passion of running long-distance stage races of 160-200 miles and ultra-marathons of 50-120 miles. I have had the great pleasure of running in 23 different countries on six of the seven continents—I haven't been to Antarctica yet.

In 2005, in the true spirit of Ut Prosim, I founded a non-profit organization, The Endurance Trust, with the sole purpose of helping endurance athletes raise money for charitable causes through athletic endeavors. The process started with my own 250-mile solo run—from Marco Island, Fla., across the Everglades to Key West in 4 ½ days—to raise money for pediatric brain tumor research. In the past nine years, we have helped athletes in 20 countries raise money for countless causes, from drilling wells in earthquake-ravaged Haiti to helping build libraries for kids in Mongolia. We have raised money for children's hospitals, drowning prevention programs, schools for autism,



Nelson during live-fire training with 4th Force Service Support Group Military Police



Nelson and his wife, Michelle, in Buenos Aires, December 2012

and adoption organizations, to name just a few.

Our most recent effort in June 2013 raised money for the victims of the Boston Marathon bombing. I paired up with a good friend, Frank Fumich, and we ran the 450 miles from Washington, D.C., to Boston in 4 ½ days, each logging more than 250 miles. Our efforts raised more than \$80,000 for the victims and helped increase awareness of the continued need for healing in Boston. One of the highlights of the event was when Mike Connor '88 appeared out of nowhere in the 90-degree heat in the hills of Connecticut to bring me cold water and cheer us along! We were able to run through D.C., Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Manhattan and finish our run with a complete running of the Boston Marathon course.

In 2011, I left Pfizer after 20 years and stepped out on my own with my present company, FitFul. We provide post-race recovery meals and jackets to marathons and other running events around the U.S. and Canada. Some of our premier events include the runDisney races, the Chicago Marathon, the Army Marathon, the Army Ten-Miler, and the Marine Corps Marathon. Additionally, I recently started a race management company, Land's End Expedition Racing, which is hosting an international race series. Our events will be 160-200 mile-long races in Canada, Portugal, Greenland, and Norway.

The best parts about what I do now are the gifts of time and purpose I have been afforded. I can now spend more time with my four children: Jessica, 20; Collin, 15; Aidan, 11; and McKenna, 7. I am able to invest in them and be the role model they so deserve, demonstrating to them that you can pursue the dreams you are passionate about and give back and make a difference while you do something you love. I get to spend more time with my wife and support her passion and dreams. She recently completed the 24-mile Tampa Bay Marathon Swim, did a swim across the Strait of Gibraltar, and is gearing up to swim around the island of Manhattan.

On June 12, 1987, the eve of my commissioning, I remember watching President Ronald Reagan as he stood at Brandenburg Gate in West Berlin and implored, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall." The world was changing rapidly around us. The Cold War was ending, and a new threat was emerging. Like everyone who came before us, and those who followed, we were charged with the great responsibility of defending this country.

I stepped forward in June 1987 as an officer of Marines, thankful for the foundations of character, service, loyalty, and fortitude that had been instilled in me during those few short years at Virginia Tech—the stones upon which a full life has been built.

Ut Prosim. Semper Fidelis.



During a 165-mile race in Nepal in 2011, Nelson and local kids on a suspension bridge



Nelson at the helm of the USS Von Steuben during ROTC training, summer 1985



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

Lt. Col. Roy Burrows '60, U.S. Army Reserve (retired)

When Japan surrendered in 1945 to end World War II, Lt. Col. Roy Burrows '60 was a 7-year-old boy who joined in a joyful street parade, marching along and banging on a pan.

The feeling that he simply had a duty to serve his country began early for Roy. When he was ready to apply to college, he fought to get into Virginia Tech's Corps of Cadets despite doubts that he could pass the physical entrance exam.

Even though he ran cross country and rowed on his high school team, he had broken his neck at age 13 in a diving accident at a quarry.

Once Roy did pass that exam, he formed a lifelong attachment to the Corps; Virginia Tech's Honor Code of honesty, integrity, and trust; and the school's motto, *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve). After two years of active duty in the Army, he spent 26 years in the Army Reserves. He also devoted his engineering career at Fort Eustis to making aircraft

safer to fly, leading to his 2008 induction into Virginia Tech's Aviation Wall of Fame.

"I found that if you take the Honor Code and make it your life, no one can ever question your ethics or your standards, and then you go from there," says Roy, 75, whose focus on aviation safety began after a 1974 car crash. "From the Corps, you get a discipline, a sense that you're all in it together and that you owe it to your country to give it a part of your life."

Military service was always on Roy's radar. He grew up outside Washington, D.C., with a father who served in World War I and several relatives who battled in World War II. As a teenager, he delivered *The Washington Post* and read stories about the Korean War. Later, when the Vietnam War began, he watched many classmates and friends go off to fight.

By then, Roy had studied hard to earn a mechanical engineering degree from Virginia Tech. He had always liked the challenge of math and science and wanted to build an engineering career. He also felt a tug to serve, especially with what was happening in Vietnam. "I love the military," he says. "It is a part of me."

His solution was to combine the two worlds. After graduating from college in 1960 with a commission as a second lieutenant, Roy served two years active duty as a project engineer at Fort Eustis. He then joined the reserves and made it a second job while he built a civilian career as an aerospace engineer, mostly at what is now known as the Aviation Applied Technology Directorate (AATD) at Fort Eustis, Va.

Roy started on the performance side of aeronautics, working on projects such as helping to develop engines for Black Hawk and Apache aircraft. He also went to Belgium for a year to earn the equivalent of a master's degree in fluid dynamics at a special NATO post-graduate school.

Then, on May 24, 1974, Roy's priorities shifted. He was driving his family through Suffolk, Va., when a drunk driver plowed into his side of the car, knocking his left arm through his ribcage, rupturing his diaphragm, and causing a severe concussion and multiple broken bones. He spent two weeks in intensive care. "I wasn't supposed to survive that one," he says.



Roy Burrows, L Company commander, 1959-60 school year

However, when he did, Roy wanted to help other people survive crashes, too. For the next 20 years, he worked with the Safety and Survivability Division at AATD on a wide range of crash-resistant features, including seats, restraints, landing gear, and fuel systems. He also completed two crash-survival investigation schools at the International Center for Safety Education in Arizona.

Roy got the most attention for co-inventing a wire strike protection system, or WSPS, to help helicopters avoid getting tangled in electrical or telephone wires. The system has an upper wire cutter to protect a helicopter's main rotor and a lower cutter to guard its skid gear. "It feels good knowing that it has saved lives," he says. "It's a nice thing to be able to tell my grandchildren."

The WSPS was what made Roy the 2008 Corps of Cadets inductee into the Aviation Wall of Fame, which is dedicated to Tech alumni who distinguish themselves through service in the fields of aviation or aerospace. Almost all are heroic military pilots.

"It was a huge surprise," he says. "I was 70 years old at the time, and I figured any recognition I was going to get

would have been a long time ago. This just blew me out of the water. I felt so honored."

Since his retirement from AATD in 1995, Roy has continued to work as a self-employed flight and crash safety consultant for a number of companies. He has also stayed very active with Virginia Tech, raising money for its academic and athletic programs and supporting the Corps of Cadets.

While the Corps has shrunk to a much smaller percentage of the student body than in his day, Roy

believes it still has great powers to shape young lives. Beyond its physical and mental rigors, the program "is a way to be part of something much bigger than an individual," he says. "Those were my brothers, and I can tell you that bond lasts a lifetime."

One enjoyable duty has been presenting the Corps' Emerging Leadership Scholarship to high school graduates. He awarded four scholarships in the spring of 2013. He also has great respect for young men and women who choose to serve in the military. "They deserve our full support," he says. "I don't like anybody bad-mouthing them."

People who don't choose any kind of military service have many other chances to give back, Roy adds. "Service is manifested in a lot of ways: country, community, university, church, family," he says. "I believe people should make room for all that's important to them. Step up to the plate because you can't always find someone who will." *Ut Prosim.*

This article is modified from a story by Alison Johnson in the July 2013 edition of Next Door Neighbors, a Williamsburg, Va., publication.



Fox's awards, from left, Bronze Star with V (valor) device, Vietnamese Service Medal, Purple Heart

My Last Day

by James R. Fox '71

I started at Virginia Tech in the fall of 1963 as a freshman cadet in I Company. Even though participation in the Corps of Cadets became voluntary in 1964, a large percentage of my “rat” class decided to stay in the regiment through our senior year. In early 1968, having completed all the ROTC requirements, I applied for and was granted a direct commission in the Army. I attended officer basic training at the Engineers School at Fort Belvoir, Va., and in May 1969, I found myself, as so many others did, headed to the “conflict” in Vietnam. And that is where this story begins and ends.



Lt. Fox as a new second lieutenant



Fox, right, with his squad leader, Gary Sharp, who carried him to the evacuation chopper in Vietnam



Fox, left, with Tom Littrell, the driver of Fox's armored personnel carrier in Vietnam

Sept. 7, 1969

I was a relatively new first lieutenant serving as a platoon leader with the 919th Armored Engineer Company supporting the 3rd Squadron of the 11th Armored Cavalry. I had been in Vietnam for about four months as the engineering support arm for the four company-size units that made up the 3rd Squadron. My platoon traveled in armored personnel carriers (APC) and spent most of our time in the field performing jungle mine sweeping, clearing roadways, disarming land mines, and using C-4 explosives on a daily basis.

On Sept. 7, 1969, my platoon was assigned to accompany the tank company, 13 M-80 tanks, to provide mine detection and clearing operations near the Cambodian border. About midday, the tank on the left flank reported North Vietnamese in the open. The North Vietnamese didn't mess with tanks unless they were ready to do so.

A firefight ensued at 1200 hours with heavy fire coming in from all sides. I laid down fire from the right-rear M 60

machine gun. Approximately an hour later, a North Vietnamese soldier fired a rocket-propelled grenade, an anti tank round, at the APC I was riding in. The round missed the APC, but exploded in a tree 20 yards away. A flaming ball of explosive about the size of a softball arched out of the explosion and entered the APC through the rear hatch.

The burning mass hit me, causing severe damage to the lower part of my left leg. As I went down, I automatically grabbed a loose strap on the side of the APC and secured a tourniquet around my thigh just above the knee in the hope of saving my leg and my life. My main thought was, "Do not let yourself go into shock, keep busy, and stay occupied. If you go into shock, you won't make it out alive." Looking back, I can say that one of the best things that happened to me that day was being hit by a flaming ball of explosive. While it did cause extensive damage and I lost one of the main arteries in my leg, the flaming explosive also cauterized the wound and kept me from bleeding to death.

At this point I moved myself back under the main turret of the APC to the radios and called in a rescue helicopter to evacuate the wounded. As I sat in the bottom of the APC, I felt the hot 50-caliber shell casings from the main gun fall down the back of my shirt; I was unable to move to get out of the way.

Three hours later, as the heavy firefight continued, a chopper attempted a rescue but was shot down and crashed about 200 yards outside our position. My men fought their way out of the encirclement, rescued the three men who had survived the chopper crash, and then fought their way back into our position.

It started raining really hard later that afternoon, and we were finally able to break contact with the North Vietnamese. A number of wounded, myself included, still needed to be evacuated. At about 2000 hours, a small landing zone (LZ) was cleared; and as the downpour continued, another rescue chopper came in to attempt to remove the wounded.

The pilot was unable to land the chopper because of the static electricity,



Fox, left, and his platoon sergeant, Sgt. Thomas



Fox's three armored personnel carriers



Fox with a helicopter like the one that evacuated him



Fox and three of his men out on patrol in Vietnam

so he had to hold the aircraft steady—about two feet off the ground, with just a couple of feet of clearance for his blades—while his crew chief stood in the door to bring each of us onboard. Surrounded by static electricity, the crew chief would reach down, smack us to ground us quickly, and then grab us and pull us into the chopper. That rescue chopper extracted seven or eight of us in one load that night and took us directly to a MASH unit where the doctors and nurses worked their magic. The wounds to my leg were stabilized, a balloon cast was applied, and an hour later I was on another helicopter headed to the hospital in Saigon.

In Saigon, I was taken directly into surgery, and my wounds were further attended to. It turned out that shrapnel was also in my right leg and left shoulder. I had spent almost eight hours with nothing but the self-applied tourniquet holding my leg together. My leg was so badly infected that the wound could not be closed. I was very grateful to wake up

in the hallway that morning to find I still had my left leg.

The copilot we had rescued the day before came by to see me. He told me just how lucky we had been the night before. He said he knew only one pilot who could fly a chopper into an LZ that small, in the rain, and hold it steady enough to take out the wounded. That pilot was a lieutenant colonel. The crew chief who had stood in the door and hauled each of us into the chopper was also a lieutenant colonel. The copilot said that lieutenant colonels typically didn't fly those kinds of missions and that those officers had no business being out there. Thankfully, that big twist of fate had saved my life and the lives of several other young men that night.

Later that same day, I was air-evacuated out of Saigon to a hospital in Japan. I spent a month there as the doctors continued to monitor the healing of my leg and other wounds. I progressed from being in a wheelchair to being able to move around on crutches. I wore a cast

that extended from the bottom of my foot to my crotch. I still remember the first time I tried to stand up on crutches: The blood rushed down my leg, and the pain was so excruciating that I almost passed out. To this day, that is my only recollection of pain.

After a month's stay in Japan, I was put on an airplane for the return trip to the United States, where I spent the next five months continuing to heal and relearning to walk in the orthopedic hospital at Fort Bragg, N.C. The wounds to my leg not only had destroyed one of the main arteries, but also had cut the main tendon to my big toe. The doctors performed a tendon transplant in my left ankle and foot in order to raise my big toe up so that I could wear shoes. For the next two years, I used a cane when I walked.

Once out of the hospital and out of the Army, I married my fiancée and returned to Virginia Tech to complete my degree, graduating in 1971 with a B.S. in civil engineering.



Fox, left, and Tom Littrell

Some 35 years later, in 2005, I attended my first 919th Armored Engineer Company reunion in Berkeley Springs, W.Va. I was unsure what to expect; whom I might meet; who, if anyone, would even remember me; and what emotions the experience might bring.

I was standing in a room full of people whom I did not recognize when, from across the room, I heard someone say, "Lt. Fox is over there." This big man with tears running down his cheeks came over to me and said, "Lt. Fox, I've been looking for you for 35 years. We didn't know whether you had made it out alive or not. I've been to the moving Vietnam Wall, and your name was not there. I was your APC driver in Vietnam, but I was not with you on the day you were injured. I've lived my entire life following what you said to us your first day in country, 'I will never ask any of you to do anything that I will not do myself.'"

I still believe that simple message. And I now have some treasured new friends who were not only there in Vietnam, but also shared many of the experiences I had.

For the past 40 plus years, my approach to life has been to never say I cannot do something. I am always looking for ways to move forward with honesty, integrity, and professionalism. As a registered professional engineer, I continue to mentor young engineers as they develop and grow within their chosen careers. And it continues to be an honor and a privilege to serve.

Ut Prosim.



Fox (above and below) at various locations in Vietnam



The Long Road to the SKY

Hollans at the controls of the U.S. Army's de Havilland U-6 Beaver

by Lt. Col. Lester H. Hollans '58 U.S. Army Reserve (retired)

At 5 years old, I looked up at a plane and told my mother I wanted to fly; this urge never left me. In 1954, I enrolled in the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC) at VPI—today's Virginia Tech—where I was certain my graduation day would see me awarded a commission in the U.S. Air Force.

Once classes concluded at the end of my junior year, I reported for AFROTC summer camp at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla. At that time, MacDill was a Strategic Air Command B-47 bomber field. One of my most enjoyable experiences during the camp was a familiarization ride in a T-33 jet. That flight made my dream of wearing military aviator wings all the more real.

Unknown to me, during my time at camp, the Air Force had begun a reduction in forces. When I returned for my senior year, full of excitement about my military future, I was told I had been discharged from ROTC altogether. Instead of a future as an officer in the Air Force, I was subject to being drafted into the U.S. Army as a private. Why? My medical evaluation had revealed that I have third-degree flat feet and a “trick shoulder” from an old high school wrestling injury, and I had failed my flight physical.

I wondered what I could do about my dream of flying, and I considered several options. I looked into enlisting in either the Navy or the Marines, but neither branch would promise me a shot at Officer's Candidate School or flight school. My long-held dream of becoming a military pilot was fading away with each rebuff. My older brother, who had graduated from Virginia Tech in 1953,

had left me his New Testament when he'd entered the Air Force. I fervently read two chapters a night before taps, and I prayed earnestly that God would somehow resolve my predicament. Well, that he did in a remarkable way.



Hollans, who transitioned to flying helicopters, with a Bell OH-13G



Hollans at a 2010 air show ... wishing he could fly B-17 bomber

Out of the blue, the Army ROTC detachment at Virginia Tech contacted me. “Cadet Hollans, we hear you want to fly. Is that right?” Of course I did. “The Department of the Army is starting a new ROTC flight training program at the Blacksburg airport. We have 10 cadets enrolled, but we need one more cadet to start the program. If you can pass our flight physical, and if you will double your course load to take two full years of Army ROTC courses in your senior year, we will teach you to fly and make you a second lieutenant. What do you say?”

They had to be kidding, right? Everybody knew that the Army had no aircraft—or did they? My flight physical was immediately scheduled at Fort Eustis, Va., and here is the miraculous part: The Army ignored my flat feet and “trick shoulder.” One more student was needed for the new ROTC flight-training program at VPI, and I was blessed to be that one.

I began flying the Piper J-3 Cub at the Blacksburg Airport under Fred Broce, where I soloed in 9 1/2 hours and soon was flying the more powerful Super Cub. However, I did hit one snag. The requirement that I take two years of Army ROTC classes in one year had been too much on top of my regular studies. I had to finish in summer school and then waited another year to receive my

diploma. I also had to wait out a year to attend the Army ROTC summer camp at Fort Knox, Ky. But finally it happened: My commission as a second lieutenant in the Army took place on July 31, 1959.

Unbelievably, the Army then began a reduction in forces. Two-year active duty tours were being reduced to only six months. To be sent to flight school, I absolutely had to get a minimum two-year tour. It seemed that every imaginable obstacle was still being put in my way to keep me from becoming a pilot.

I asked the Corps’ Commandant of Cadets Maj. Gen. John M. Devine to intercede for me. As commander of the 8th Armored Division in World War II, he knew everyone in the Pentagon. Soon, I had orders to begin a two-year tour of

active duty at Fort Knox, with a third year to be added if I went to flight school and earned my wings.

After I had completed the Armor Officer Basic Course, my orders finally came to report to flight school at Fort Rucker, Ala. In May 1960, I arrived for Officer Fixed Wing Class 60-7. What a long, long battle it had been to get that far.

For 18 years I flew 26 different fixed wing and helicopter aircraft and accumulated 2,000 flying hours. I kept instrument ratings in both fixed and rotary wing aircraft, was a U-6 transition instructor pilot, and received a star on my wings as a senior aviator. As a lieutenant colonel, I continued flying in a field grade slot until 1977 and eventually retired from the reserves in Birmingham, Ala., in 1984.

To those in the Corps of Cadets who are facing obstacles in reaching your dream of flying in the military—or reaching any dream—I can only say, “Don’t give up.” As happened to me, someone might make you an unbelievable offer. And if so, may you be blessed on your every flight as you seek to “touch the face of God.”

Note: “Touch the face of God” is from President Ronald Reagan’s address after the space shuttle Challenger tragedy. The phrase is taken from a 1941 poem by Royal Canadian Air Force pilot John Gillespie McGee.



Hollans preflighting the U-6 Beaver



Air Force ROTC News

Air Force ROTC Detachment 875

by Cadet Eموke Toth, Class of 2014

The fall 2013 semester took off with much excitement among Virginia Tech's Air Force ROTC cadets. With a new wing commander, Cadet John Turbyfill, Class of 2014, and many interesting events planned, the detachment had much to anticipate.

Shortly into the semester, the wing conducted its first physical fitness assessment (PFA), introducing the freshman class to PFA procedures and standards, as well as the culture of fitness in Detachment 875. This initial assessment proved to be a strong start to the detachment's semester-long physical training program, which included a warrior assessment, an obstacle course workout, swimming, a hero workout to honor veterans, and a zombie run, among other physical challenges.

Also starting the semester strongly was Leadership Laboratory, which kicked off with briefs to educate cadets about opportunities abroad and AFROTC organizations and hosted a field day competition to build camaraderie in all levels of the cadet wing. Throughout the semester, leadership laboratory continued to develop cadets' unity, along with their professionalism, leadership skills, and preparation to become future officers. Additionally, the cadet wing organized and attended several events: a combat dining-in, the Veterans Day vigil, the Air Force Marathon, and the senior social.

Overall, Detachment 875 had an outstanding semester. Cadets were given many opportunities to lead, learn, face challenges, rise, and deliver.



Cadets played football during the morale-boosting Leadership Laboratory.

Leadership development

by Cadet Eموke Toth, Class of 2014

Every Tuesday, Air Force ROTC cadets participate in Leadership Laboratory (LLAB), a one-credit class that provides critical knowledge on all aspects of leader development and allows cadets to practice and demonstrate mastery of their leadership skills in preparation for becoming Air Force officers. During the fall 2013 semester, LLAB provided a wealth of knowledge to cadets, including information about active duty and such opportunities as Project Global Officers, a foreign language and culture immersion program for ROTC cadets. Briefings introduced an array of local organizations: Air Force Flyers, Robert Femoyer Service Squadron, and Armed Forces Special Operations Prep Team (AFSOPT). The Commandant of Cadets Maj. Gen. Fullhart spoke about his illustrious career and the lessons he learned along the way. Along with instruction, LLAB also provided cadets with opportunities to bond,

practice leadership, and promote warrior ethos with such events as a field day competition, group leadership projects, and a morale booster day. Lastly, cadets participated in an open ranks inspection, a flight drill evaluation, and a navigation and first aid course. Each of these events allowed cadets to demonstrate their proficiencies as well as learn new skills.

Field day competition



Col. Montgomery congratulating cadets who performed well at field training last summer

by Cadet Jai Chauhan, Class of 2014

On Sept. 10, 2013, the warriors of Detachment 875 had a treat in store for them. With a grueling lineup of challenges, each flight displayed impressive motivation and willingness to help their brothers and sisters get through the tough field day competition held during Leadership Lab.

The competition consisted of an obstacle course, a one-mile run, a modified Marine Corps Physical Fitness Test, and a set of 650 push-ups and sit-ups distributed throughout the flight. As if those events were not enough, each cadet had to buddy-carry a flight member the length of the obstacle course.

The total time required for each flight to complete these exhausting challenges contributed to warrior flight rankings. More importantly, this event contributed to helping meld the cadets to work as a team and offered valuable leadership lessons through either practice or observance.

Physical training

by Cadet Eموke Toth, Class of 2014

Much happened in Detachment 875's physical training program during the fall semester. Not only were cadets introduced to new, interesting ways of staying physically fit, they also improved upon the excellence that was already prevalent in



Cadets at the start of the 1.5-mile run during their physical fitness assessment the program, increasing the average PFA score to a 96.0 (out of 100) from a 95.5 in spring 2013 and a 94.4 in fall 2012.

Among the new activities for physical training was a session with the High Techs, a university dance group, during which cadets learned how much physical strength and flexibility are required to be a dancer. In addition, cadets spent two weeks learning and practicing swimming and diving at the pool in the War Memorial Gym.

Some fun was had with a zombie run for Halloween, as well as some sobering moments when physical training was held in honor of others' sacrifices on Sept. 11 and Veterans Day.

All in all, each training session helped cadets improve physically and mentally towards a lifetime of fitness.

Aviation Wall of Fame

by Cadet Eric Daly, Class of 2016



Col. Ayers '74 with Cadet Tharp, Class of '17, the youngest cadet in attendance

On Sept. 17, 2013, Virginia Tech's Aviation Wall of Fame proudly welcomed its most recent inductee, U.S. Air Force Col. Francis H. Ayers '74 (retired). The ceremony was held at the Virginia Tech airport, where Detachment 875 also celebrated the 66th birthday of the Air Force. The newly formed Robert Femoyer Service Squadron organized the event.

Col. Ayers graduated from Virginia Tech in 1974 with degrees in history and education and served in the Air Force for 26 years as a B-52 pilot. During his career, he served as a B-52 instructor pilot, a commander of a B-52 training squadron, a combat support group commander, and as chief of Joint Military Education Policy at the Pentagon. Since his

retirement, Col. Ayers has continued to contribute to the aviation world through education. He is currently the chancellor of the Prescott, Ariz., campus of Embry-Riddle University and is responsible for leading more than 1,700 students.

Virginia Tech's Airport was filled with distinguished guests and new cadets for the ceremony. The Corps of Cadets Color Guard initiated the ceremony, and a chorus of Air Force cadets led the singing of the Air Force song. Col. Ayers closed the celebration with the traditional cake-cutting with the youngest cadet in attendance.



Veterans Day vigil

by Cadet Logan McNaney, Class of 2016

On Veterans Day 2013, Detachment 875 remembered those who served our country with a number of events, including a ceremony at the War Memorial Chapel, a formal retreat held by the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets, presentations held in the Squires Student Center's Haymarket Theater, the guarding of the Pylons, and the playing of "Echo Taps" at midnight in honor of those who gave their lives.

Along with these events, the Robert Femoyer Service Squadron (RFSS) provided Air Force cadets a way to remember our veterans. The RFSS organized a 24-hour vigil, starting at midnight on Nov. 11, to guard the Rock. Located in front of the flagpole on the Upper Quad, the Rock honors Virginia Tech alumni who died in World War I. The RFSS furnished a signup sheet that allowed any cadre, cadets in Detachment 875, or selected guests to guard the Rock for a 30-minute shift. Between each half-hour shift, a ceremonial change of guard occurred.

Many cadets reflected on this experience and believed it was a great way to honor our veterans. Cadet Laclede from Charlie Flight explained, "It is one thing to remember the veterans, especially ones from Virginia Tech, but it is another thing to feel like you are actually doing something for them."

The Veterans Day vigil turned out to be a well-organized event and was a great way to honor and remember the men and women who have come before us and served in our military.



Air Force Marathon

by Cadet Eموke Toth, Class of 2014

Detachment 875 sent 24 representatives to participate in the 17th annual Air Force Marathon, which was held Sept. 19-21, 2013, at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. Some 15,000 runners participated in eight events: the marathon, half-marathon, 10K, and 5K for both men and women.

The cadets from Detachment 875 did a phenomenal job both as ambassadors of Virginia Tech Air Force ROTC and as competitors. Three cadets placed in the overall top 30 of the full marathon: Cadet Randal Thomas placed 29th, Cadet Stephen Tupta placed 11th, and Cadet Trevor Schmidt placed 7th, with an average mile time of 6:18.

In addition to the marathon events, cadets took the opportunity to immerse themselves in aviation history by visiting the National Museum of the United States Air Force.



Not only did the trip allow cadets to push themselves physically and mentally, they were also reminded of the rich history of the men and women who came before them in the greatest Air Force in the world.



The pugil-stick competition at dining-in

Combat dining-in

by Cadet Elizabeth Howe, Class of 2017

Dining etiquette aside, Air Force ROTC Detachment 875's combat dining-in offered cadets an opportunity to bond within squadrons and as a whole, cheer on each squadron's representatives demonstrating aptitude with pugil sticks, and release any pent-up emotions towards the wing staff. An alumnus of Detachment 875, guest speaker Capt. Brendan Graham '07 shared his experiences, and Tech. Sgt. Stokes said goodbye with not only a culinary bang but also some words of advice.

By the time cadets with eye protection arrived at the old hangar at the Virginia Tech airport, Squadron Six had transformed the hangar's interior. Setting a combat scene, the sides of the hangar were plastic-proofed, and there were cadet-painted banners and face-fill boards, table centerpieces, camouflage netting hanging from the high ceilings, and enough seating for the entire detachment.

Describing his initial reaction upon entering the hangar, Cadet Alb, Class of 2016, said, "I didn't know what to expect, but when I walked in, I was really impressed. They went all out to make it feel like a combat atmosphere. I still can't figure out how they got the net on the ceiling!" Many cadets entering the hangar made a beeline to talk to the Pulaski, Va., Army National Guard members sitting on top of a Humvee with specialized equipment.

When seats were taken, emcees Class of 2015 cadets Snyder and Milot made opening remarks and dismissed cadets by squadron to line up for pork, chicken, coleslaw, pasta salad, and potatoes all prepared by Class of 2014 Cadet Tanner Smith's father, Tom Smith, and his assistant, Tim.

After dinner, there was a pugil-stick battle in which each squadron's champions dueled, only to be surprisingly conquered by Capt. Moy. After the victory, Capt. Graham and his wife expressed their gratitude to the detachment for the invitation to speak. An alumnus of both the Corps and AFSOPT and a current combat rescue officer, Capt. Graham could confidently assure current cadets that AFSOPT has, in fact, grown soft over the years. However, "all joking aside," he recognized that the competition to commission has grown steeper and the need for only the sharpest cadets has become more prevalent.

Tech. Sgt. Stokes also spoke to the detachment for the last time after viewing a video made by Air Force cadets to express their gratitude and well wishes for Stokes' future assignments. Tech. Sgt. Stokes dedicated countless hours—and staples—to the detachment and will be missed by all cadets whose careers he helped launch.

The event ended with a food war that engulfed the entire hangar and its occupants with water balloons, sand, and half-masticated food. "The place started as a hangar and ended in ruins," said Cadet Frew-Kuhns, Class of 2017, who stayed to right tables that had been flipped for barricade use. After a cease-fire had been declared, Col. Montgomery said, "Congratulations. I had no idea there was this much water in this room," referring to the accumulation of pugil-stick battle juice, weaponized soda, sweat, and tears that had gone into the best combat dining-in the detachment has ever hosted.



Cadets visited the British Embassy in Washington, D.C., where they met the Royal Marines Attaché.

American Veterans Conference

by Cadet Nicholas Tibbetts, Class of 2014

Nineteen Air Force ROTC cadets were given the unique opportunity to attend the 16th annual American Veterans Conference and Honors ceremony held in Washington, D.C., at the

U.S. Navy Memorial. Shaking hands with American military heroes and legends such as Staff Sgt. Clint Romesha, who received the Medal of Honor for his extraordinary heroism in Afghanistan; Chester Nez, the last living original Navajo code talker; Lt. Calvin Spann, one of the original Tuskegee Airmen; and Gen. Richard Meyers, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was an experience that few are given and a remarkable honor for all in attendance.

Over three days, the cadets attended a range of panels focusing on the Wounded Warrior experience, Iwo Jima and Guadalcanal, and insights from two Medal of Honor recipients. The cadets also participated in a televised awards ceremony that recognized real American heroes.

The unique atmosphere of the conference allowed the cadets to interact with many of the speakers after the panels. Cadet Nick Tibbetts, for example, grabbed a drink with Staff Sgt. Romesha following the awards ceremony and was able to ask questions about the 2009 Battle of Kamdesh and Romesha's experiences as a Medal of Honor recipient. "It was the most humbling experience of my life," Tibbetts said.

Needless to say, Detachment 875 looks forward to attending next year's conference.

Field training graduates and awards, summer 2013

Awards

- 3 Top Gun (TG)
- 3 Distinguished Graduate (DG)
- 6 Superior Performer (SP)
- 3 Warrior Spirit (WS)
- 10 Expert Marksmanship (EM)
- 2 Honor Flight (HF)
- 2 Warrior Flight (WF)
- 16 Cadet Training Assistant Recommendation (CTAR)

Adams, Ryan P.
 Appleton, Joshua L.
 Bailey, Savannah L.
 Bishop, Ryan S. (TG, two CTARs)
 Blazon, Andrew J.
 Bolin, Benjamin K.
 Conway, Shawn P.
 Dillon, Stephen A.
 Domann, Alexander T. (SP)
 Dreher, Leah M. (DG, WS, EM, CTAR)

Flanagan, James F.
 Forrest, David J. (EM)
 Franklin, Chanel D.
 Giddings, Aaron C.
 Godoy, Preston S. (CTAR)
 Graf, Austin M.
 Grant, Alexander
 Graves, Brennan J. (WS)
 Greene, Dylan N.
 Gurski, Matthew M. (TG, WS, CTAR)
 Hardy, Sean C. (HF, WF)
 Hrovat, Jacob A.
 Katuzienski, Daniel O. (SP, CTAR)
 Knickerbocker, Tyler D.
 Koenig, Erika A. (CTAR)
 Laclede, Allison M.
 Markovcy, Kimberly O. (EM, HF)
 May, Jessica M. (DG, two CTARs)
 McKinley, Samuel T. (EM, CTAR)
 McLaughlin, Jeffrey
 Milot, Joshua M. (SP, EM)
 Newton, Keegan A. (SP, EM, two CTARs)
 Norris, Gavin W. (EM)
 Olson, Eric Z.
 Parker, Jillian L. (DG, WF)
 Pereira, Raymond (SP)
 Phongpitakvises, Panupong
 Pucci, Matthew L.
 Puckett, Samantha E.
 Romans, Stephen J.
 Schafer, Jordan A. (TG, two CTARs)
 Snyder, Cody J.
 Sobieski, Timothy T. (EM)
 Spangler, Connor M.
 Stefaniak, Carla E.
 Tan, Kristopher B.
 Tello, Erick A.
 Veal, Cameron M. (SP, EM, two CTARs)
 Watkins, Antonio G. (EM)
 Whitley, Allison M.
 Riggins, Matthew W.



Swim sessions at the War Memorial gym are a new part of physical training.



Detachment 875 held a "zombie run" for physical training on Halloween.



Cadets dressed as "zombies" waited to chase Air Force cadets who ran by.



Cadets enjoyed mingling at the senior social.



Cadet Gurski quizzed other cadets on their knowledge of aircraft.



As part of a group leadership project, cadets worked together to move a dummy on a stretcher over a wall.

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 last half of this year's football season.



1st Lt. Josh Eggleston '10, USAF
Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan



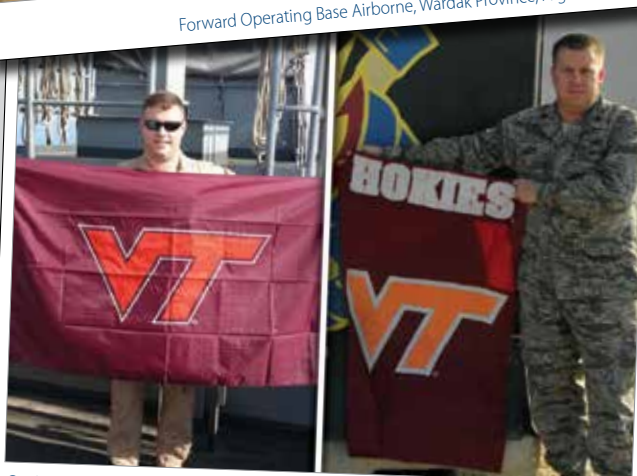
1st Lt. John Piluso '11, USMC
Helmand Province of Afghanistan



1st Lt. Scott Forsythe '11, USA
Forward Operating Base Airborne, Wardak Province, Afghanistan



1st Lt. Sean Heatherman '11, USAF
Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan



Cmdr. Jason Darish '95, USN
USS Harry S. Truman, CVN-75

Maj. Craig Mills '02, USAF
Southwest Asia



Capt. Michael Robertson '08, USAF
Africa

Maj. Ted Downs '99, USA
Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan



Cadet Dan Katuziński, a private pilot and certified advanced ground instructor, teaching the principles of flight

Cleared for Takeoff

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

The mission of the Maj. Gen. W. Thomas Rice Center for Leader Development is to educate and graduate global, ethical leaders who are prepared to succeed in leadership roles in their chosen career field. Because we continually strive to improve the center's programs, our fledgling aviation program deserves mention.

A significant number of our cadets are interested in the field of aviation, either as a career or as a lifelong ambition. For the past few years, the Corps has offered an ad hoc aviation ground school to help cadets become more competitive for a pilot's billet or pass the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Knowledge Exam. The semester-long course was voluntary, offered no academic credit, and met in any available classroom. Although the class helped many cadets do well on their military flight aptitude tests, we were ready this year to take the next step in building a flight program.

Working with the Department of Aerospace and Ocean Engineering (AOE) during the 2013 fall semester, we developed a special topics class with the intention of it becoming a permanent A-F class offered each year by AOE. Titled the Fundamentals of Flight Training, the two-credit, P/F class, which is open to any Virginia Tech student, covers the subjects on the FAA Knowledge Exam. This spring, we have 61 students in the class and had to turn away a few due to the classroom's size.

My teaching assistant, Cadet Dan Katuziński, who is a private pilot and a certified advanced ground instructor, and I incorporated field trips as part of the class. One we are looking forward to is a tour of the Roanoke Terminal Radar Approach Control and the Class C airport's control tower to learn how U.S. airspace is managed. Later in the semester, we plan to take the class to the Virginia Tech airport to study various aircraft and learn about aircraft maintenance.

In spring 2013, five local pilots took the class on an orientation flight, and we hope to schedule a similar event this spring.

Another significant part of the class is the incorporation of an FAA-certified flight simulator. Purchased with funds from a generous donation by Adrian Eley '72, which established the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Aviation Fund, each student will "fly" the simulator to reinforce classroom instruction. The simulator allows students, when supervised by a certified flight instructor, to log 2.5 hours toward a private pilot's license and 10 hours toward an instrument rating. The simulator is getting a real workout this semester. If you are on campus, I invite you to take it for a spin.

We are excited about our aviation program and helping young men and women achieve their dream of flight. The cadets and I sincerely thank you for your support.



Lonnie Brooks '76 preparing for a college fair in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.

Recruiting Task Force Update

by Bill Swan '66, Recruiting Task Force leader

I am using the off-season between fall college fairs and spring Emerging Leader Scholarship (ELS) presentations to work on realignments to make our volunteer network more responsive.

Please help me extend a warm Corps welcome to Bill Sterling '80, who has assumed the new position of Regional Team Leader for Virginia, and to Greg Wade '69, who will serve as an Area Team Leader (ATL) in Northern Virginia.

Bill will be the point of contact between the Corps' recruiting office and our alumni ATLS across Virginia. He has already started to better define such boundaries as city limits and county lines and to identify the schools that fall within each area. He expects this work to be completed before ELS awards are announced in April. Our goal is to eliminate the possibility of missing an award ceremony, as well as the need for any volunteer to drive more than one hour to attend a function. We sincerely hope that this effort will make volunteering for college fairs and ELS ceremonies more attractive to alumni who are not currently involved.

Sometimes we get so wrapped up

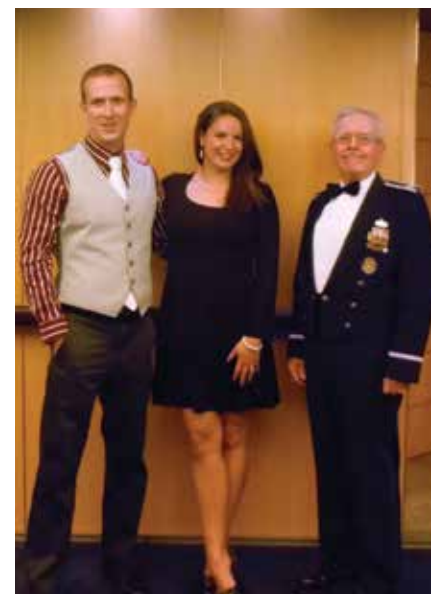
in extolling the virtues of our Corps that we forget we also represent the entire university when we appear at an event such as a college fair or an ELS presentation. In the past, we have had some success cooperating with the Virginia Tech Alumni Association's local chapters, but we've also missed opportunities to represent the Corps at Alumni Association-sponsored college fairs.

To help foster closer relations with Tech's alumni chapters, I distributed the alumni chapter locator from the summer 2013 edition of Virginia Tech Magazine to all ATLS, and I asked them to become actively involved with their local chapter. I also sent the consolidated ATL list to the Alumni Association to share with chapter presidents. Please remember that any representation must be approved in advance by the Corps' recruiting office.

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't extend a special thanks to the 17 alumni who participated in a college fair or Academy Day event in fall 2013. These activities are often the first exposure to Virginia Tech that many high school students and their parents receive. The

favorable impression they gain from contact with knowledgeable volunteers often paves the way for an outstanding son or daughter to become a Hokie and a cadet.

Please feel free to let me know what's on your mind. Call me at 912-265-7530, or send an email to twoswans911@comcast.net.



From left, Matt Seibert '08 and his wife, Anna '09, with Bill Swan '66, somewhere off the coast of New Zealand

Senior Cadet Commanders, Spring 2014



Regimental Commander
Jordan Disney

Cadet Col. Jordan Disney, who will graduate in May with a B.S. in psychology, plans to commission into the U.S. Army as a field artillery officer. After

spending eight months in Israel studying martial arts and Hebrew, Disney joined the Corps of Cadets in order to live a more disciplined college lifestyle and to try something off the beaten path. He has served as Hotel Company first sergeant, 2nd Battalion sergeant major, and 2nd Battalion commander and is a proud member of the Skipper crew. Honored to serve the regiment as it moves forward in these great times of change, Cadet Disney is a recipient of an Emerging Leader Scholarship.



First Battalion Commander
Wesley Royston

Cadet Lt. Col. Wesley Royston, a native of Pagosa Springs, Colo., is pursuing a B.S. in engineering science and mechanics. He plans to pursue

an M.S. in engineering science and mechanics and then to commission into the U.S. Navy, hoping to join the submarine community. Having joined the corps with a strong desire to better himself, Cadet Royston continues to work hard on developing leadership traits that will guide his life. He has served as Alpha Company first sergeant and Alpha Company commander and is a proud member of Submarine Society and Scabbard and Blade. Cadet Royston is a recipient of an Emerging Leader Scholarship.



Second Battalion Commander
Richard Credicott

Cadet Lt. Col. Richard Credicott, of Midlothian, Va., is pursuing a B.S. in aerospace engineering and a minor in mathematics. Upon his

graduation in May 2015, he plans to commission into the U.S. Air Force as a fighter pilot. Cadet Credicott joined the Corps of Cadets for the disciplined lifestyle and to follow his family's tradition of serving in the Air Force and Army Air Corps. He served as the Echo Company first sergeant during the fall 2012 semester and as the 2nd Battalion executive officer during the fall 2013 semester. Cadet Credicott, who has already earned his private pilot's license, is a recipient of an Emerging Leader Scholarship.



Third Battalion Commander
Zachery Lloyd

Cadet Lt. Col. Zachery Lloyd, of Bristow, Va., is pursuing a B.S. in biochemistry. He plans to commission as an Army military police officer

upon his graduation in May. Cadet Lloyd joined the Corps of Cadets for the disciplined lifestyle and to continue the family tradition of serving the nation. He served as the Kilo Company first sergeant during the spring 2013 semester and as Kilo Company commander during the fall 2013 semester. Cadet Lloyd, who graduated from the Army Air Assault School at Fort Benning, Ga., is a recipient of an Emerging Leader Scholarship.

Command Staff, Spring 2014



Regimental Executive Officer
Joseph Williams
History
Leesburg, Va.
Marine Corps



Regimental Adjutant
Dustin Rhoads
Business Management
Lansing, Kan.
Army



Regimental Public Affairs
Officer
Trevor Penkwitz
Political Science
Caroline, Va.
Citizen-Leader Track



Regimental Operations
Officer
Eric Satterthwaite
Mechanical Engineering
Downingtown, Pa.
Marine Corps



Regimental Supply and
Finance Officer
Scott Phelps
Industrial and Systems
Engineering
Vienna, Va.
Citizen-Leader Track



Regimental Academics
Officer
Grant Ribler
Psychology
Ashburn, Va.
Air Force



Regimental Sergeant Major
Leah Dreher
Aerospace Engineering
Palmyra, Va.
Air Force



Regimental Inspector
General
Timothy Roseland
Mechanical Engineering
Dinwiddie, Va.
Army



Regimental Historian
Jacob Brooks
History
Sykesville, Md.
Army



Regimental Information
Systems Officer
Chris Mobley
Mechanical Engineering
Newport News, Va.
Air Force



Regimental Medical Officer
Sally Woodrum
Psychology
Richmond, Va.
Air Force



VPI Battalion Commander
Brian Hagerty
Communication
Virginia Beach, Va.
Citizen-Leader Track



Air Force Wing Commander
Philip Norman
Mechanical Engineering
Pittsburgh, Pa.
Air Force



Naval Battalion Commander
Jeremy Jorge
Chemical Engineering
Virginia Beach, Va.
Navy



Army Battalion Commander
Grayson Williams
Accounting and Information
Systems
Midlothian, Va.
Army

Command Staff, Spring 2014



Alpha Company Commander
Derek Oesterheld
Electrical Engineering
Spotsylvania, Va.
Navy



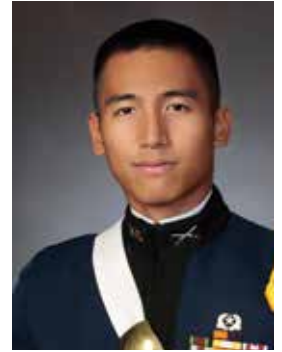
Bravo Company Commander
Patrick Harton
International Studies
Manassas, Va.
Army



Charlie Company Commander
Andrew Palmer
Mechanical Engineering
Springfield, Va.
Army



Delta Company Commander
Whitney Marrs
Chemistry
Fredericksburg, Va.
Army



Echo Company Commander
Brandon Torres
Mechanical Engineering
Woodbridge, Va.
Army



Foxtrot Company
Commander
Matthew Kszanznak
Mining and Minerals
Engineering
Dumfries, Va.
Army



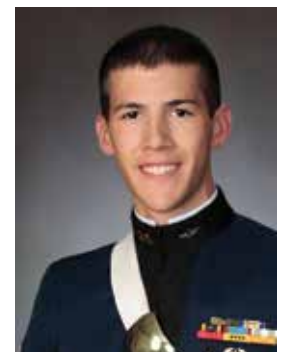
Golf Company Commander
Daniel Evans
Computer Science
Warrenton, Va.
Navy



Hotel Company Commander
Rebecca McAfee
Economics
Oakmont, Pa.
Army



India Company Commander
Emoke Toth
Aerospace Engineering
Herndon, Va.
Air Force



Kilo Battery Commander
Stephen Tupta
Aerospace Engineering
Pittsburgh, Pa.
Air Force



Lima Company Commander
Michael Krieger
Civil Engineering
Hershey, Pa.
Marine Option



Band Bravo Company
Commander
Jason Conder
Mechanical Engineering
Basking Ridge, NJ
Army



Band Alpha Company
Commander
Christopher Scott
Mining and Mineral
Engineering
Fredericksburg, Va.
Air Force



Band Bravo Company
Commander
Joshua White
Computer Science
Abingdon, Va.
Air Force



Regimental Safety Officer
Nicholas Tibbets
Aerospace Engineering
Assawoman, Va.
Air Force



New Beginnings

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

This is a time of new beginnings for the Corps! I suspect many of you have been following the progress of the building activity on the Upper Quad via my Facebook page. Go to www.facebook.com/CVTCC and “like” the page to follow my updates, or visit the Corps’ website at www.vtcc.vt.edu.

Rasche Hall has made way for new foundations; and over the course of the year, the first new residence hall will be rising to fill the skyline along Alumni Mall. Occupancy of the first building is currently set for fall 2015.

At the same time, the builders have transformed the area behind Lane Hall, on Shank’s Plain. The mobile home has been replaced by a large, multipurpose green space flanked by two new sidewalks that culminate at a new, albeit temporary, flagpole and monuments area. The Corps will form up here in the mornings and late afternoons for the next couple of years. The new sidewalks are also the first installment on the access paths to the new Corps Leadership and Military Science Building, which will be constructed after the two new residence halls are completed.

Our expanded staff is fully engaged, and we are now in the process of a top-to-bottom review of our curriculum and our plans for next fall’s Cadre and New Cadet weeks. The curriculum review will be aided by a new entity, the Board of Advisors to the Rice Center for Leader Development. We received a tremendous response to invitations made to major corporations and organizations, both public and private, to be part of this

organization that will meet annually to provide both feedback on our curriculum and a widening set of partnerships offering internship opportunities to our cadets. This effort is particularly important for our growing battalion of Citizen-Leader Track cadets. Such internships are exactly the kind of opportunities that can lead to employment and great careers following graduation. This board will also include key representatives from the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Board of Directors, including your chairman, Gary Lerch.

At a time of continued uncertainty in the economy and a downsizing military, we are keeping a close eye on enrollments for next year. As you might expect, the uncertainty of military budgets has created uncertainty in the types and numbers of ROTC scholarships that will be available to future classes. Two- and

three-year scholarships seem to be on the rise, while four-year scholarships are down somewhat. In addition, because of service downsizing, we expect to see an overall reduction in accessions. How that plays out for Virginia Tech and other Senior Military Colleges remains to be seen, but we continue to enjoy very strong success in terms of our graduates earning commissions by competing well on a national basis. At the time of this writing, the numbers are tracking slightly downward for next year’s class—but with a much larger number of students who are still “undecided”—so we’ll have to wait and see how the situation plays out.

Overall, our retention numbers have been rising, which speaks to the quality of our recruiting and overall program. For those cadets who are leaving the Corps, an increasing number are doing so because of financial reasons, namely



Workers relocating the Corps’ monuments and cannons to a temporary location on the Upper Quad

the delay in getting picked up for an ROTC scholarship or other types of financial assistance. These cadets would like to stay among our ranks, but are unable to afford to.

This trend fully underscores the tremendous importance of our Emerging Leadership scholarships (ELS), which, if available, certainly play a role in addressing these types of needs. Beginning this fall, we are adjusting the ELS payout in an attempt to offer scholarships to more first-year cadets—with amounts increasing over the four years to reward retention—all while keeping the overall total value of the scholarship the same. Alumni and friends of the Corps who endow and enable us to award these scholarships remain vitally important. Thank you all for your help and consideration as the need for these scholarships grows.

As I think everyone knows, the university will welcome a new president this summer. We look forward to introducing President Timothy D. Sands to the Corps and what it means to the university. Sands arrives at an exciting time for the Corps and its future on the campus, and I especially want to thank those alumni who continue to help us with our outreach across the country, the commonwealth, and the university. We'll be carrying that message of thanks to Richmond as we continue our engagement with the legislature and the members of the new governor's staff.

I'd like to close by publicly thanking Gary Lerch, the chairman of the Corps alumni board; the members of the executive committee, and the full board for their continued strong engagement and support. It is a blessing to the Corps to have their energy and their insights. In addition, they are working, with Rock Roszak in the lead, to further develop our ability to communicate with our alumni through the Class Champion program. A Class Champion is one member of each class who not only seeks to engage classmates and help keep them informed by having accurate contact information, but also facilitates special events at reunions and homecomings. Thanks to all of you.

Stay tuned for more exciting news as we continue to ensure that your Corps remains the best ever!



The first flag-raising at the temporary location of the Corps' flagpole, cannons, and the Rock, on the backside of Lane Hall, facing the power plant



VPI Battalion marched through downtown Roanoke, Va., in the city's 2013 Veterans Day parade.

In Good Company

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

Many factors attribute to the growth of the Corps of Cadets in recent years. Contributing to that growth, or perhaps because of it, the Citizen-Leader Track is experiencing record enrollment. In fall 2010, the 115 cadets assigned made for a right-sized company, known as VPI Company. By spring 2013, the number of VPI Company cadets had doubled to 230. This increase presented challenges for cadet leaders and Corps staff, but with challenge comes opportunity.

This past spring, a group of VPI cadets formed a working group whose charter was to reimagine the organization and manage its growth. The group represented all four classes and a variety of career interests. Some had been in VPI Company since arrival day; others were recent transfers from ROTC.

The group examined why cadets choose to be in the Citizen-Leader Track, how the organization should look, and what activities it should be doing. As a team, the cadets worked through issues and analyzed courses of action, all while learning practical lessons about complex problem-solving. The process was even a practical entrepreneurial exercise in how to create a start-up organization. The group's work resulted in several new initiatives and the rollout of a VPI Battalion structure. During the spring 2013 change of command parade, VPI Battalion was activated.

The battalion includes V, P, and I companies, along with a staff. V Company comprises first-year through junior cadets majoring in engineering and hard sciences. P Company includes

first-years through juniors majoring in all other subjects, from liberal arts to business and more. I Company's charge is twofold. One platoon comprises all of the VPI seniors—minus the commanders and executive officers—and recognizes their natural shift in focus toward graduating strong and post-graduation opportunities.

Similarly, cadets transferring from ROTC spend a designated period of time in the second platoon, resetting their career paths and getting up to speed with other civilian-track cadets. They are then reassigned to one of the other two companies. As a result, I Company is sometimes unofficially referred to as “transition company.”

To ease the transition from ROTC, new VPI cadets are assigned a hand-



VPI Battalion and its companies were activated by the commandant during the spring 2013 change of command parade.



VPI Battalion's colors and organizational scheme



VPI Battalion cadets conducting mock interviews: from left, Charles Zadd, Paulina Gochnour, Christa Higgins, and David Neverman

selected I Company senior as an informal coach, someone who has walked in their shoes. The coach's intended role is to help cadets who recently lost "plan A" to find their new plan. This course of action involves professional discussions about coursework, career options, résumé enhancement, and other value-added conversations. The battalion transition officer also individually welcomes all

new VPI members and oversees this important process.

VPI Battalion's new structure provides an overall synergy: mutually supportive groups of cadets, softer landings for new cadets, additional leadership opportunities, improved unity, higher morale, and the ability to better customize certain aspects of Citizen-Leader Track's curriculum.

Individually and collectively, Citizen-Leader Track achievements abound. The cadets and the staff continue to guide change. The groundswell of enthusiasm for the Citizen-Leader Track from cadets, employers, and alumni bodes well for the future of this growing leader development program. *Ut Prosim.*



The Story of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Inc.

by Gary Lerch '72, chairman

In this column I will share with you the mission, organization, and background of your Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Inc. (VTCCA).

Our stated mission is twofold. First, we support the commandant and his staff in the areas of recruiting, maintaining positive relationships with university leaders, maintaining contact with alumni, assisting in identifying employment opportunities for current cadets and alumni, and establishing strong relationships with state and local government officials. Second, we support University Development in fundraising efforts to support scholarship programs and private funding of infrastructure projects.

The VTCCA Inc. has a board of directors that meets twice a year. The term for a director is three years; however, many directors generally serve a second term, and most early members have been “grandfathered” to be active indefinitely. The directors are organized into task forces in the following areas: recruiting, government affairs, career opportunities, university affairs, class champion program, and development. The leaders of these task forces, along with the chairman, vice chairman, secretary, Highty-Tighty alumni chairman, VTCC alumni and development directors, and previous chairmen, form the executive committee, which meets an additional two to three times annually. The commandant and the chief executive officer of the Virginia Tech Foundation are also part of the executive committee.

The VTCCA Inc. was well established before I was invited to be a part of it, so in order to get an accurate account of its beginning, I reached out to T.O. Williams '59, who preceded me as the board's chairman. T.O. provided the following background:

“Charles Cornelison '67 headed the establishment of the Highty-Tighty Alumni group in 1975. In 1988, Harold Hoback '53 approached Charles about establishing a broader VTCC alumni organization. Harold Hoback was the Corps' representative on the Virginia Tech Alumni Association Board and the Air Force Academy liaison representative. Harold Hoback knew Henry Dekker '44, who had expressed an interest in being a part of a VTCC alumni organization. Henry was retiring from the garment industry and had been selected as a

member of the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors. In 1989, Harold, Henry, and Charles formed the VTCCA, and a charter was granted in January 1990. Charles wrote the articles of incorporation, and Henry became the first chairman of the VTCCA Inc. Board of Directors. At the time, I was employed by the Alumni Association with responsibility for Corps of Cadets alumni, and Henry invited me to join the VTCCA Inc. board.”

We are very grateful for the vision and initiative of these gentlemen. They ensured that a very special organization would live and prosper. We also appreciate the support of the Virginia Tech Alumni Association in providing guidance, reunion administration, and financial support.

Our unstated mission is to be the watchdog that ensures the continued



Charles Cornelison '67 with the Highty-Tighty Alumni Band for the national anthem in Lane Stadium

success of the Corps of Cadets. We have been very fortunate with the quality and professionalism of our commandants and staff, and we are grateful for the support of current university officials.

But only those of us who have worn the cadet uniform truly understand the significance and life preparation of being a cadet in the Virginia Tech Corps of

Cadets. We are not part of the university chain of command, but we will make certain that future Hokies have the opportunity and benefit of the cadet experience. We will also ensure that the cadet leadership experience continues to be relevant, challenging, and focused upon the leadership requirements of the military, government, and industry.

Gen. Fullhart has coined the expression, "Now, more than ever, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets," and I wholeheartedly agree.

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



Top, Lane Hall and Rasche Hall at the turn of the 20th century. Below, Lane and Rasche halls in December 2013, during Rasche's demolition.





Embracing Tradition and Change

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

The demolition of Rasche Hall began on Nov. 12, 2013, and the final bricks fell one month later on Dec. 12. The majority of that month was spent removing the “newer,” 1950s section of Rasche, while the older section took only days to come down. On the one hand, I am excited about the new and improved, beautiful Hokie Stone building I know will rise in Rasche’s place, but I also feel nostalgic each time I walk onto the “VT” from Brodie and can see clearly across to Main Street. My dorm barracks are gone.

For those of us who lived in Rasche, it was our college home. Even during my freshman “rat” year, I couldn’t wait to get back to Virginia Tech following breaks. Blacksburg was where I lived, where I belonged.

After more than a century of service, these dorms have witnessed all of the Corps’ history. These dorms are where we ratted, dragged the halls, braced up, shined our shoes, and pulled crazy antics on our dykes at Ring Dance. But most importantly, these dorms are where we grew up, learned to become leaders, and made some of the best friends of our lives—bonds that cannot be broken, not even by a wrecking ball.

I have heard from many Corps alumni grieving the demise of Rasche—and of Brodie in the coming years. Although the physical structure of Rasche is now gone, the traditions, friendships, and memories that took place inside its walls will never crumble.

The Corps today is working to ensure that it preserves those traditions we

alumni hold so dear. As you can read in the Alumni Announcements on page 33, some current cadets, on their own accord, have started a Spirit and Traditions Committee dedicated to helping collect, log, and preserve past Corps traditions. Some traditions may be brought back, others may not, but all will be recorded and maintained for future generations of cadets to read and learn about. Please consider sharing stories of traditions from your days in the Corps; today’s cadets love hearing from alumni.

It is an exciting time for the Corps as the Upper Quad transitions from the

19th century to the 21st century, making necessary accommodations for the ever-growing technological requirements that the university places upon students. The Corps, however, will never forget where it came from. A delicate balance must and will be maintained between embracing the past and improving the lives of our cadets. These improvements will help our cadets compete alongside their civilian counterparts, while we also ensure that future cadets will never lose touch with the Corps’ rich history, tradition, and esprit de corps.

Ut Prosim.

Dates to Note

- April 10**Spring Gunfighter Panel
- April 12**Gregory Guard/Pershing Rifles 50th anniversary dinner
- April 12**Spring Caldwell March, part II
- April 22**Commandant speaking at National Capitol Region VTAA chapter event
- May 2**Spring VTCC alumni board meeting
- May 3**VTCC Change of Command/Pass in Review
- Aug 23**New Cadet Parade
- Sept 11**Fall Gunfighter Panel
- Sept 12-13** ...Corps Homecoming weekend (Virginia Tech vs. East Carolina)
- Sept 27**Virginia Tech Homecoming (Class of 1964 50th Old Guard Reunion) and Highy-Tighty Reunion (Virginia Tech vs. Western Michigan)
- Oct 4**Caldwell March, part I

ALUMNI ANNOUNCEMENTS



Cadet Wins \$100,000

Cadet Christopher Blaney of Canfield, Ohio, a sophomore majoring in mathematics and a member of the Air Force ROTC program, beat out four other finalists to win the \$100,000 Dr. Pepper 2013 Tuition Giveaway during halftime of the ACC championship game on Dec. 7, 2013. Blaney won the final round by throwing 14 footballs through the target to win by five.

Looking for ways to ease the burden his parents faced with four children to send to college, Blaney made a video about life as a cadet and his dream of serving in the U.S. Air Force as a pilot and then becoming a math teacher. The video earned him a spot in the competition in Charlotte, N.C. Upon winning, Blaney said, "I can definitely thank my cadet experience for helping me to keep my composure and represent the university well."



Corps Alumnus Receives Humanitarian Award

On Oct. 3, 2013, Dr. Stephen Todd '70 was honored by CrossOver Healthcare Ministry in Richmond, Va., as one of three Compassionate Care Award recipients. CrossOver Healthcare Ministry is Virginia's largest free health care clinic, providing services to more than 6,815 patients yearly. A dentist in the Richmond area, Todd graduated from the Medical College of Virginia, completed a two-year dental residency in the U.S. Army, and retired in 1995 after a 21-year military career. He then entered private practice and has volunteered at CrossOver for more than 16 years. His love of dentistry always apparent in the way he interacts with his patients, Todd exemplifies what it means to be a servant-leader in the community. *Ut Prosim.*



HOKIE GOLD

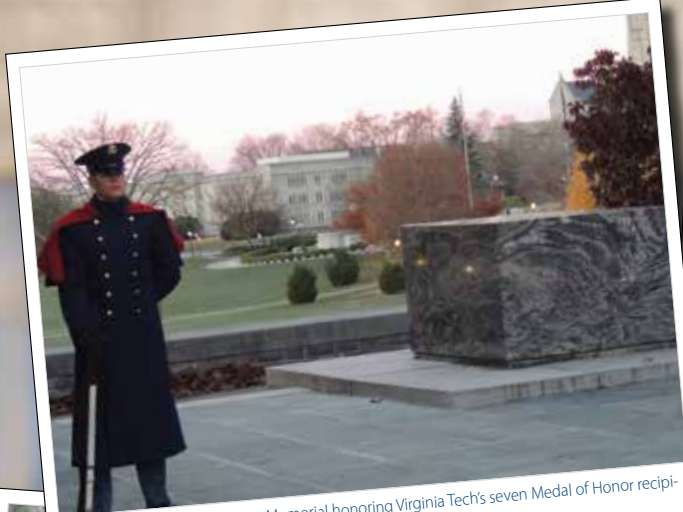
Alumni Class Ring Donations
Share the tradition
www.alumni.vt.edu/hokiegold

VTCC Spirit and Traditions Committee

The newly established VTCC Spirit and Traditions Committee is collecting memories of the Corps' past traditions for the "VTCC Traditions Book." The committee's goal is to preserve Corps traditions and possibly reintroduce some that have been lost or forgotten. Alumni who are interested in contributing to the book may send an email or Word document with an explanation of the tradition, the years it was active, and the participants (e.g., freshmen, a specific company, or ROTC unit). The committee will greatly appreciate submissions and looks forward to hearing from Corps alumni. Please send submissions to Cadet Joseph Wileman, Class of 2015, at wjoe113@vt.edu.

Veterans Day

Each year on Veterans Day, Virginia Tech conducts a series of events led by the Corps of Cadets and the ROTC departments. From holding vigils at the War Memorial and the Rock to participating in a local Veterans Day parade and a remembrance ceremony open to the campus and local communities, the next generation of leaders honoring past generations is vivid evidence of a university keenly aware of its military heritage.



A cadet stands post at the War Memorial honoring Virginia Tech's seven Medal of Honor recipients, whose names are engraved on the cenotaph.



Cadets helped Virginia Tech's Human Resources department honor the university's employees who are veterans. Cadet Dickey presented former U.S. Marine Brian Stanford, Tech's facilities maintenance coordinator, with a "VT for Veterans" pin.



The Highty-Tighties marched as part of the Veterans Day parade in Roanoke, Va.



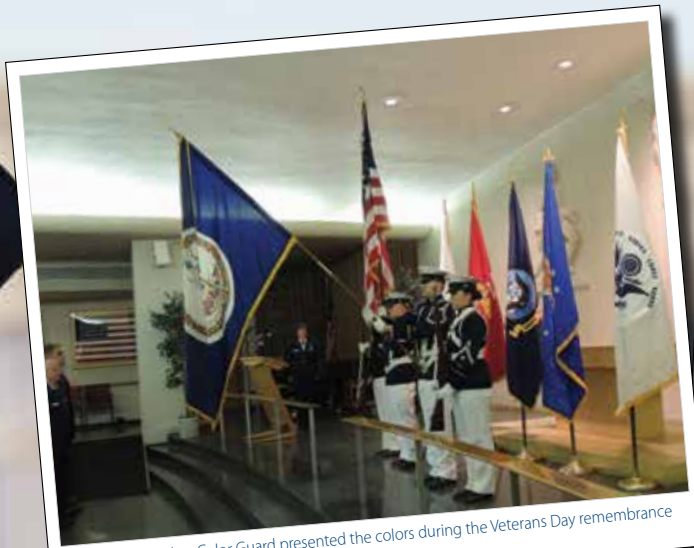
Before the Veterans Day parade in Roanoke, Va., VPI Battalion cadets interacted with and assisted local veterans.



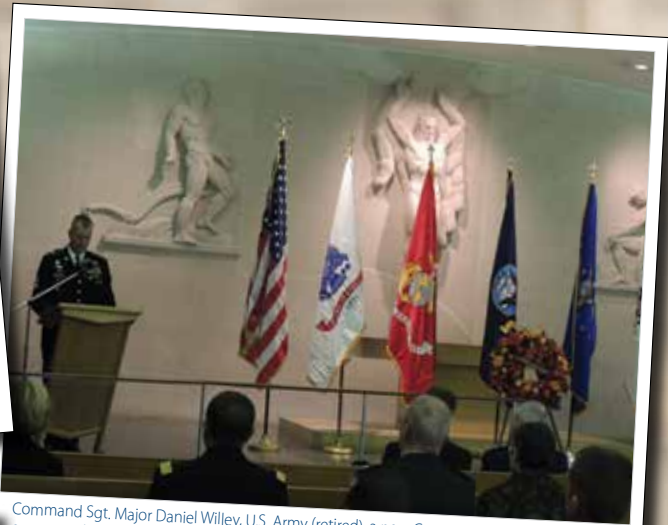
VPI Battalion, more than 200 cadets strong, marched in the Veterans Day parade in Roanoke, Va.



Echo Company held its traditional 48-hour vigil guarding the eight pylons that bear the names of those alumni who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. Two-person teams changed out every hour.



The Corps of Cadets Color Guard presented the colors during the Veterans Day remembrance ceremony in the War Memorial Chapel.



Command Sgt. Major Daniel Willey, U.S. Army (retired), a new Corps staff member, was the guest speaker during the Veterans Day remembrance ceremony.



Cadet Command Sgt. Maj. A.J. Dickey and Cadet Col. Peter Nettekoven assisted in the placement of a memorial wreath at the cenotaph at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month.



The Gregory Guard in place for the 21-gun salute during the remembrance ceremony



On the Upper Quad, Air Force ROTC's Robert Femoyer Service Squadron held a 24-hour vigil at the Rock, the memorial to our World War I alumni who died in Europe.



Sunset fell over the Drillfield as the ever-vigilant cadets stood their post.



Eagle Scout Association Cadets Reach out to Local Scouts

by Gary Cope VT'97

As the 8-year-old Cub Scout from Blacksburg Pack 152 held the lanyard connected to Skipper, a delighted grin spread across his face. Cadet Jeremy Boone, an Eagle Scout and gun captain of the Corps' cannon crew, issued the order: "Fire!" The Cub Scout pulled hard on the lanyard, slamming the hammer down onto the borehole of the cannon.

There was no actual detonation, of course, but it was clear from the expressions on the scouts' faces that in their imaginative minds, they had just fired an actual cannon ball at an enemy target.

"That was awesome!" exclaimed the Bear Cub as his fellow Cub Scouts looked on.

The scouts were invited to attend a Corps' formal retreat in the fall by Matt Pucci, a cadet sergeant and junior majoring in business information technology. Pucci is also an Eagle Scout and member of the Corps' Eagle Scout Association (ESA).

The ESA was founded in 1986 and is open to cadets who have attained either the rank of Eagle Scout in Boy Scouts or the Gold Award in Girl Scouts. Cadets can join the organization as early as their first year and are required to perform six hours of community service per semester to remain active.

Pucci arranged for fellow ESA members to meet with the Cub Scouts and talk to

them about the retreat, the Corps of Cadets, and the important role scouting has played in their lives.

"Our cadets always look forward to meeting, talking with, and especially hosting scout units to Virginia Tech to visit and see what the Corps is all about," said Commandant of Cadets Maj. Gen. Randall Fullhart. "That's also why our Eagle Scout Association thrives—the idea of encouraging the next generation of scouts to follow in their footsteps."

The scouts who attended the formal retreat were awestruck by the cadets, their uniforms, and the fact that they, too, were scouts. It was an experience that cadets and scouts seemed to enjoy. And it's Pucci's

hope that this relationship will encourage younger scouts to stick with it.

“One of the best parts of working with younger scouts and Cub Scouts is the excitement they have to learn new things,” Pucci said. “By having all of these Eagle Scouts spending time with the pack and showing where you can go and how becoming an Eagle Scout will help, I hope it keeps scouts involved.”

Pucci served as ESA commander during his sophomore year and remains an active member of the association. A chance meeting with a scout leader from Pack 152 led to the invitation to attend the formal retreat. Since then, pack leaders have invited ESA cadets to speak at the pack’s monthly meeting and attend its annual Blue and Gold Banquet.

Andrew Ide, a cadet corporal and sophomore majoring in physics, is the current ESA commander and, like Pucci, believes both cadets and scouts can learn from each other.

“It’s important for the Corps’ ESA to reach out and work with local scouting organizations because we live by the Boy Scout motto: ‘Be Prepared,’” Ide said. “The most important aspect of our outreach mission is to make sure kids stay

in scouting because it is such a beneficial experience that will help them throughout their lives.”

ESA members were invited to speak to the entire pack at its November 2013 meeting. Pack 152 is one of the larger packs in the New River District with more than 50 scouts. Despite an audience of more than 100 scouts, family, and friends, you could have heard a pin drop when the cadets spoke, according to Cubmaster Brent Harrison.

“We have a great group of scouts who are very enthusiastic and energetic at each and every meeting,” Harrison said. “But I can’t remember the last time they were that attentive for a speaker or, in this case, a group of speakers. The scouts hung on every word those cadets had to say.”

Six ESA cadets attended the meeting and spoke to the Cub Scouts about being in the Corps at Virginia Tech and how scouting has helped them as they’ve gotten older. Each of the six cadets emphasized the importance of earning the rank of Eagle Scout.

“The most important thing that scouting has taught me is personal motivation,” Ide said. “Scouting has helped

me develop this skill, and I am a better person because of it.”

While not every Cub Scout will go on to become an Eagle Scout, the ESA cadets’ shared hope is that by encouraging younger scouts and regularly interacting with them, the cadets can inspire them to stick with scouting and perhaps one day, if they so choose, join another prestigious organization, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.

“Historically, young men and women who are products of scouting programs are also very successful as cadets,” said Gen. Fullhart. “They have already demonstrated the drive and determination to broaden their skill sets and to understand what it is like to be in a program that also gives back to their community.”

Cadets and scouts believe in honor and duty, and they choose to hold themselves to higher standards and, as such, willingly serve as role models. But even role models need role models. The ESA cadets have gladly accepted that role for the scouts of the New River Valley and beyond.



The Corps’ Eagle Scout Association cadets escorted local Cub Scouts to view a formal retreat on the Upper Quad.

AVIATION

by Col. Rock Roszak '71, U.S. Air Force (retired)



*Boeing B-17F Flying Fortress flown by 1st Lieutenant Jim Dieffenderfer, USAAF
63rd Bomb Squadron, 43rd Bomb Group, 5th Air Force, South West Pacific, August 1942 - July 1943
Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Class of 1941*

Col. James C. “Jimmie Dee” Dieffenderfer obtained his pilot’s license in his junior year in VPI’s first civilian pilot training program. Graduating with the Class of 1941, he immediately entered the Army Air Corps (AAC) and served nearly 29 years in the AAC, Army Air Force, and the U.S. Air Force in a variety of roles. During World War II, Dieffenderfer flew 44 combat missions as a B-17 pilot in the Southwest Pacific and then returned to the states to train aircrews in B-24s, B-29s, and B-32s. After the war, he held positions developing aircraft and space electrical systems, including chief of the laboratory for developing new materials at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, and the executive officer for the Deputy Chief of Research and Development at the Pentagon. Dieffenderfer retired in 1970 as the vice commander of the Office of Aerospace Research in Washington, D.C. He continued working in the electrical field, installing systems and equipment in shopping malls and amusement parks until he joined the Walt Disney Corp., where he was responsible for the installation of all animation and sound systems at Epcot Center. Dieffenderfer retired from Disney in 1986 and resides in Orlando, Fla. His name was added to the Aviation Wall of Fame at the Blacksburg airport in March 2003.



*Lockheed F-80C Shooting Star flown by 1st Lieutenant Baird Martin, USAF
80th Fighter Bomber Squadron, 8th Fighter Bomber Group, Suwon Airbase, Korea, 1952
Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Class of 1950*

Lt. Col. Baird M. Martin graduated from Virginia Tech in 1950 after four years as a Highty-Tighty. He went straight to Air Force pilot training and received his wings in September 1951, after which most of his assignments were in fighter aircraft: F-80 with a 100-mission combat tour in Korea; F-84, all models; F-100; and F-4 with a 102-mission combat tour in Vietnam. He also earned a master’s degree, courtesy of the Air Force, from Stanford University, which resulted in assignment to joint staff duties at the Pentagon in the Defense Communications Agency and later at the Air Force Computer Selection Agency. In both of these assignments, Martin was privileged to work on multiple projects that advanced the development of computer systems, many of them the first of their kind worldwide. He also attended the Safety Officers School at the University of Southern California; and when he served as wing chief of safety in Vietnam, his program there was acknowledged as the best in the Air Force. After retiring from active duty in 1973, Martin moved to Houston, working in industrial management positions and in the rental industry, dabbling in programming computer systems, mostly for retail rental applications. Now fully retired, he remains in Houston with Betty, his wife of 60 years, and he enjoys golf and fishing.

The aviator spotlight for this edition of the Corps Review features four alumni who have served our nation in different eras and who hold a place of honor in the Alumni Aviation Gallery in Brodie Hall.



*McDonnell Douglas F-4B Phantom II flown by Captain Floyd Massey
Shot Down 28 April 1969
VMFA-314 "The Black Knights", Marine Air Group (MAG-13), Chu Lai Airbase, Republic of Viet Nam
Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Class of 1965*

Capt. Floyd L Massey, who graduated from Virginia Tech in 1965, entered Marine Officer Candidate School in March 1966, earning a commission as a Marine officer. After attending the Basic School, he went to Pensacola, Fla., for flight training as a naval flight officer, after which he was assigned to fly in the F-4 as a radar interceptor officer with responsibilities for the operation of radar, communication, and navigation equipment. After racking up more than 400 combat missions in Vietnam and being shot down by enemy fire, Massey returned to train radar interceptor officers before they entered combat. He served in various assignments as a staff officer, recruiting officer, and aircraft project officer at a Navy depot, flying test flights on F-4 and H-46 aircraft following depot level maintenance. Leaving the Marine Corps after 11 years of active duty, he worked as an aircraft maintenance program manager for Naval Air Systems Command until his retirement in 1998. After working for several contractors supporting naval aviation, Massey fully retired in December 2003. He lives with his wife, Helen Clare, in Martinsburg, W.Va., and remains personally connected to the Corps of Cadets by way of his niece, Cadet Catherine Grizzle, Class of 2014.



*Northrup B-2A Spirit "Spirit of Alaska" flown by Lieutenant Colonel Bruce "Pop" Adams, USAF
393rd Bomb Squadron, 509th Bomb Wing, Whiteman AFB, Missouri, 1996-2004
Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Class of 1982*

Lt. Col. Bruce "Pops" Adams graduated from Virginia Tech and received his commission in the U.S. Air Force in 1982. He spent 22 years on active duty in various operational and staff positions. During this time, he was an instructor navigator in the B-52 and instructor pilot in both the B-52 and the B-2 stealth bomber. He also held several staff positions, including B-2 program element monitor at Air Combat Command Headquarters during the initial delivery of the B-2 and chief of contingency plans for the United States Central Command Air Forces. Adams retired from the Air Force in 2004 and began working at Langley Air Force Base, Va., first as a program analyst with the A-10 aircraft and now in advanced programs. He resides in Chesapeake, Va., with his wife of 31 years, Denise; they have two sons, Chris and Lucas. Lucas has been a cadet and member of the Highty-Tighties for the past four years and plans to receive his Air Force commission this spring. In October 2002, Adams piloted the B-2 stealth bomber on its first flyover of a Virginia Tech football game.

Late Fall/Winter Events

Thanks to the efforts of Maj. Stan Cohen '49, the Hokie Nation experienced a fantastic flyover during the fall football game versus Duke when Tri-State Warbird Museum pilots flew vintage airplanes from the Batavia, Ohio, museum. Pat Artis '71 captured the perfectly timed photo just as the Skipper cannon was firing and the B-25 was over the 50-yard line at the conclusion of the national anthem.

Other highlighted events included a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Skipper cannon and the Highty-Tighties' participation in the January inaugural parade for Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe.



Stan Cohen '49, center, stands in the middle of Worsham Field to deliver the "Hokie Respect" message to fans before the Duke game.



Halloween in the Corps has always been a treat. Here, cadets "dress up" as Corps alumni for Halloween formation on the Upper Quad.



The three former cadets who were behind the 1963 creation of the Skipper cannon returned to Blacksburg to help celebrate its 50th anniversary. Homer "Sonny" Hickam '64 addressed the regiment in Burruss Hall, while Alton "Butch" Harper '64 and George Fox '64 waited to speak.



Sonny, Butch, and George stood with the "new" Skipper on the Drillfield after it had fired the 21st round of a 21-gun salute. When the original cannon suffered a blowout in 1982, Paul Huffman Jr. '78 volunteered to fabricate a new cannon at no charge.



Skipper creators Hickam '64, Harper '64, and Fox '64 with the commandant and current members of the Skipper crew in front of the cannon following the 50th anniversary celebration.



Caleb James, son of Tom '86 and Jeannine '87 James, laid a wreath at Arlington National Cemetery, along with members of Boy Scout Troop 1814 from La Plata, Md. The Jameses and other Tech alumni helped Wreaths Across America place more than 20,000 wreaths on gravesites at Arlington in December 2013.



The Highty-Tighties marched proudly and played superbly in front of the reviewing stand during Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe's inaugural parade in January.



Now that a battalion of the Corps is again living in Eggleston Hall after many years, curious cadets found "artwork" from the 1960s in attic areas of the dorm. Initials on this painting are "PLH."



News from the Development Office

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

I have some great news to report: Col. Robert Scott Lyman '84 just retired from the U.S. Army and has joined our development staff as the assistant director of development. Contact him at rlyman@vt.edu

Scott graduated from Virginia Tech in 1984 with a bachelor's degree in political science and then commis-



Scott Lyman '84

sioned as an Army aviation officer, becoming a third-generation Army officer. A member of Alpha Company during his four years in the Corps of Cadets, he comes from a long line of cadets and Hokies. Scott's father graduated from Tech in 1960 and retired from the Army as a lieutenant colonel with more than 2,500 flight hours. One of Scott's uncles, Edward Peters Ellison, graduated from Tech in 1924, went on to teach business law, and was heavily involved in the Virginia Tech Alumni Association. In fact, more than 10 relatives from both sides of Scott's family have graduated from Virginia Tech.

Following graduation, Scott attended the Armor Officer Basic Course at Fort Knox, Ky., and then the Rotary Wing Aviation School at Fort Rucker, Ala., graduating as an Army scout pilot. His operational assignments included tours with the 82nd Airborne Division, 2nd Infantry Division, and 1st Infantry Division as a military transition team chief/

deputy commander in Afghanistan. During his 29-year career, Scott has had various aviation, command, and joint assignments, culminating as the defense coordinating officer, U.S. Army Pacific, at Fort Shafter, Hawaii, in which he served as the single point of contact for requesting, validating, and coordinating Department of Defense support for the Federal Emergency Management Agency during natural or man-made disasters in the Pacific region.

Scott is married to the former Tammy Grover of Ashford, Ala., and they have three children: Danielle, 24; Dane, 20; and Grant, 13.

Welcome, Scott!

Annual Fund

Randy Holden, Director of the Annual Fund

Our motto, *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve), embodies the true spirit of the Virginia Tech community. The strong level of service, support, and participation that the Corps receives each year from our loyal contributors exemplifies those words and the character and pride of our institution. The mission of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets is to graduate leaders of exemplary character who are instilled with the values and skills essential for leadership success in service to our nation. Your annual support helps ensure the completion of our mission.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend Corps Homecoming on Sept. 12-13. The classes of 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, and 1989 will also celebrate special reunions this fall. An exciting array of

events is being planned for a memorable celebration, including lots of opportunities to reconnect with your classmates and friends.

We invite and welcome each class member back to campus for your special weekend. Reunion weekends are one of the strongest ways to reconnect with the friends, faculty, and facilities that shaped your formative years at Virginia Tech. Return to campus to celebrate what has changed and what has remained the same.

Major Gifts (\$25,000 and above)

Katherine P. Alexander has completed the funding for the VTCC **Alex Alexander '49 Scholarship** begun by her late husband. Alex started the scholarship in 2007, giving preference to a cadet in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies. He passed away in 2009, and Katherine has completed the endowment in his memory.

Clem and Georgia Carter have endowed a scholarship to honor his parents, the VTCC **C. Dean and Rosina M. Carter Scholarship**. Dean was a celebrated artist, as well as a professor in the Virginia Tech art department, which he helped establish after arriving at the university in 1950. Dean served in the Army Air Corps in India, China, and Burma during World War II, before completing degrees at American University and Indiana University. He taught sculpture, drawing, and art history at Tech until his retirement in 1995. One of his sculptures of a senior



cadet with cape and saber currently sits on Gen. Fullhart's desk in Brodie Hall.

Louise D. Downes has endowed the VTCC **Louise and M. R. "Randy" Downes '43 Scholarship**. Lt. Col. Downes graduated in 1943 with a degree in civil engineering and was a member of S Battery and the Cotillion Club. Immediately following graduation, he was sent to Officer Candidate School and on to the European theater. Downes landed on Omaha Beach as part of the second wave on D-Day, June 6, 1944, and also fought in the Battle of the Bulge. He later served as the military attaché to Bolivia. Mrs. Downes funded the scholarship in loving memory of her husband.

The VTCC **Judy O. and John H. Chesson Jr. '62 Scholarship** will give preference to cadets pursuing a major in engineering. John graduated in 1962 with a degree in industrial engineering and served as the administrative officer for M Company as a senior. His education and leadership development helped prepare him for his highly successful career with General Electric, from which he retired as a general manager in manufacturing and engineering.

A great friend in Richmond has made another wonderful gift to his scholarship. The VTCC **Virginia C. and August F. Davis '41 Scholarship** was created by Gus Davis in 2008 in memory of his late wife and to honor his time in the Corps. He speaks proudly of his job as the regimental adjutant his senior year. Gus was a test pilot in the Army Air Corps and worked as an engineer for General Electric after leaving military service.

Bob Dickinson has committed to funding a scholarship through his estate. The VTCC **Scottie E. and Robert L. Dickenson Jr. '68 Scholarship** will go to cadets from Southwest Virginia. Bob earned a bachelor's degree in business in 1968, commanded F Company during his senior year, and was a charter member of Ranger Company. After four years of active duty with the Army, Bob worked in law enforcement for the state of Georgia, rising to the rank of chief parole officer before retiring.

Sally Ferguson has committed to funding another Emerging Leader Scholarship in memory of her late husband. The VTCC **C. Barry Ferguson '63 Scholarship** was started by Barry and has been supported by friends and family in his memory since his passing in 2006.

Gene Fife, the commander of the Highty-Tighties in the Class of 1962, continues to provide payments to the VTCC **Eugene V. Fife '62 Scholarship**. Not surprisingly, Gene's Emerging Leader Scholarship is designated for members of the Highty-Tighties.

Dave Minichan has funded the VTCC **David P. Minichan Jr. '51 Scholarship**. A surgeon in Roanoke, Dave earned a bachelor's degree in biological sciences and a medical degree from the University of Virginia. As a cadet, Dave rose to the rank of captain, served as the executive officer of 1st Battalion, and was active in the Arnold Air Society, Scabbard and Blade, and the Cotillion Club.

Nick '53 and Fay Street have once again made a wonderful gift to benefit the Corps. This most recent donation will be used for the Corps Leadership and Military Science Building, which is currently in the planning stages.

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

Here Now and Loving It

by Judith Davis, Office of Gift Planning

Without the late Hal G. '45 and Rosemary T. Worley, sophomore Charlie Zadd '16 might not be at Virginia Tech today.

"I wasn't sure that I would be able to make it back to Tech this semester," said Zadd, a Norfolk, Va., cadet in the Citizen-Leader Track. "However, with the aid of the Worley Emerging Leader Scholarship, I am here now and loving it."

The Hal G. and Rosemary T. Worley Scholarship is making a real difference—not only for Zadd's future, but also for the lives he will touch. "My post-graduation dream," said Zadd, "is to join the Teach for America program, where I would teach in low-income schools. Being in the Corps teaches me appropriate ways of handling different situations with my peers, subordinates, and superiors. This knowledge will prove to be invaluable [when] I am a teacher, as I will be prepared for the challenges that await me."

The Worleys' gift did more than provide scholarship support for the Corps. Their gift also provided lifetime income payments to the Worleys.

The donors were able to address both their financial and their charitable goals by creating a charitable gift annuity—one of a variety of popular life-income gift plans. These plans are designed to generate lifetime income payments to their donors and, when the plan ends, to make a charitable gift to Virginia Tech, according to the donor's wishes.

In addition to income payments, life income gifts offer donors an immediate charitable tax deduction and potential savings on income, capital gains, and other taxes. You can use our online calculator at <http://bit.ly/vtpgcalc> to explore how different life income gifts might work for you.

You may discover a gift plan that not only fits your financial goals, but also creates a gift that will one day help make a Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets experience available to students like Charlie Zadd.

"I truly do love the Corps of Cadets," said Zadd. "Without its structure and heritage, I would not be the man I am today."

Learn more about life income and other gifts to the Corps. Contact David L. Spracher, director of development for the Corps of Cadets, at 1-800-533-1144.

In Memory

Marcus L. Powell, Jr. '39
1918 – 2013



Marcus L. Powell died Sept. 20, 2013. Born in Mecklenburg County, Va., he graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in business

administration. Col. Powell served in the U.S. Army and participated in the D-Day assault on Utah Beach as a captain, commanding a regimental antitank company. Powell was predeceased by his first wife of 49 years and mother of his children, Katherine Spencer. He is survived by his wife, Henrietta Parker Powell, three daughters, one son, three grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Wallace H. Robinson Jr. '40
1920 – 2013



Wallace H. Robinson Jr. died Aug. 17, 2013. Born in Washington, D.C., he graduated from Virginia Tech in 1940 with a B.S. in

civil engineering. Robinson, who served in the U.S. Marine Corps and rose to the rank of lieutenant general, saw action in the Pacific during World War II, participating in the first wave on the assault of Tarawa. In his final military assignments, he served as the twentieth quartermaster general of the Marine Corps, director of the Defense Supply Agency, and, lastly, as special assistant to the commandant of the Marine Corps. From 1977 to 1991,

Robinson served as president of the National Defense Industrial Association. He was predeceased by his wife, Irene Renee deTeodoro, and is survived by his daughter, two grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

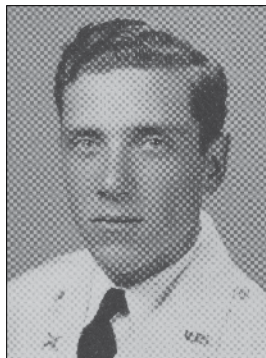
Joe F. Smith '41



1918 – 2013
Joe F. Smith died Aug. 2, 2013. Born in Bristol, Va., he graduated from Virginia Tech in 1941 with a B.S. in electrical engineering.

In the U.S. Army, Smith served in World War II as a code clerk on the staff of Gen. Douglas MacArthur. Later elected to two terms on city council and then city treasurer in Charleston, W.Va., he eventually became mayor and served in the House of Delegates. Smith was preceded in death by his wife, Betty Johnson Smith, and is survived by his daughter and son.

William P. Keeton Jr. '43
1921 – 2013

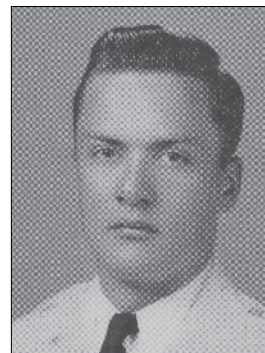


William "Bill" P. Keeton Jr. died Oct. 28, 2013. Born in Charlie Hope, Va., he graduated from Virginia Tech in 1943 with a degree in agriculture. Col.

Keeton served in the coast artillery and then converted to an infantry officer for the remainder of this career. He joined the National Guard and rose through the ranks to become the chief of staff for the

North Carolina Army National Guard. He was inducted into the North Carolina Military Academy Hall of Fame in 2005. Keeton was preceded in death by his wife of 67 years, Vivian, and is survived by his four children, nine grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

John W. East '43
1921 – 2013



John W. East died Sept. 15, 2013. Born in Staunton, Va., he graduated from Virginia Tech in 1943 with a B.S. in forestry. Col. East served in the U.S.

Army during World War II as a member of the coastal artillery and then as a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division. He briefly worked as a forester with Virginia Cooperative Extension before transitioning into a 22-year career as a special agent with the CIA. He concurrently served in the Army Reserve for 30 years. East is survived by his wife, Doris, two children, three stepchildren, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Charles T. Wolz '47
1924 – 2013

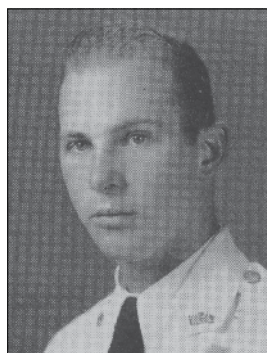


Charles T. "Tom" Wolz died Aug. 14, 2013. Born in Washington, D.C., Wolz performed with the Washington Redskins Marching

Band during high school and graduated

from Virginia Tech in 1947 with two degrees in industrial and mechanical engineering. He served as an engineering officer in Japan and China during World War II and retired from the Navy Reserve in 1984. Wolz was preceded in death by his wife, Shirley Agnes, and is survived by his three children and eight grandchildren.

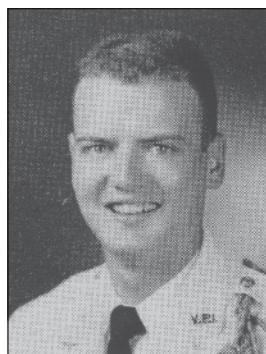
Richard C. Pearson '52
1929 – 2013



Richard C. Brighton Pearson died Sept. 5, 2013. A 1952 graduate of Virginia Tech with a degree in architecture, he was an Air Force pilot

instructor and later worked as a residential and commercial architect. Pearson is survived by a daughter and two granddaughters.

Henry H. Crittenden '58
1936 – 2013



an Air Force officer for 21 years. He also served as mayor of Crewe, Va., and as a member of Crewe's town council. Crittenden is survived by his wife, Frances, three children, and five grandchildren.

Henry H. "Hank" Crittenden died Aug. 28, 2013. After graduating from Virginia Tech in 1958 with a B.S. in business, he served as

Glenn Allen "Bud" Cosby '58
1930 – 2013

Glenn Allen "Bud" Cosby died Oct. 28, 2013. Born in Columbia, S.C., he graduated from Virginia Tech in 1958 with a B.S. in civil engineering. Cosby served as a radio operator in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and later worked stateside on numerous projects, including St. Louis' Gateway Arch, Pittsburgh's Three Rivers Stadium, an anti-gravitational chamber for NASA, and Reagan National Airport. Cosby is survived by his wife, Joyce, his four children, 11 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Floyd Withers "Sonny" Merryman
1924 – 2013



him in his box at Lane Stadium for every home football game. The Corps staff and cadets express their deepest sympathies to Sonny's family; he will be missed very much. Merryman is survived by his wife, Lou; a daughter, Pat; a son, Floyd; and a grandson, Lee.

Floyd Withers "Sonny" Merryman died Dec. 7, 2013. Born in Rustburg, Va., he attended Virginia Tech, where he was a member of the Corps and the Highty-Tighties and proudly earned the distinction of being named "Grossest Rat in the Class of 1946." An avid Corps supporter, Merryman received Virginia Tech's most prestigious honor, the Ruffner Medal, recognizing his lifetime of contributions and service to the university. For many years, he invited top-performing cadets to join



LEST WE FORGET

David H. Burrows '42, Roanoke, Va., 9/29/13

John D. Thompson '42, Naperville, Ill., 12/21/13

Harold J. Peake '42, Alexandria, Va., 10/12/13

Bernard Silverman '42, Syracuse, N.Y., 10/29/13

Morris W. Clements '42, Richmond, Va., 10/31/13

Robert L. Brehm '48, Summit, N.J., 11/5/13

Bill Gregory '49, Kingsport, Tenn., 9/4/13

David C. Stables '49, Farmville, Va., 12/27/13

Herman M. Orrell III '50, Wye Mills, Md., 9/5/13

Allyn H. Morton '51, Richmond, Va., 12/26/13

John K. Groseclose '53, Spanish Fort, Ala., 9/1/13

Donald W. Hunter '53, Lexington, Ky. 12/23/13

James R. "Ron" Short '54, Charlotte, N.C., 12/26/13

Henry H. "Hop" Dickenson '55, Kansas City, Mo., 12/24/13

John E. McDonnell '55, Fort Worth, Texas, 9/1/13

Charles P. Eichelberger Jr. '60, Newport News, Va., 10/31/13

Eric L. Hurt '67, Yorktown, Va., 12/20/13

Richard A. Reese '67, Chesterfield, Va., 12/23/13

Steven T. Varner '84, Cary, N.C., 2/8/13



Corps Homecoming • September 12-13, 2014

Virginia Tech vs. East Carolina University



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

This year, registration opens on Friday afternoon at 3:00 p.m. Formal retreat by the regiment will take place approximately at 4:45 p.m. The Friday night Cadet Leadership Reception and Dinner at The Inn at Virginia Tech is a coat-and-tie affair where you can meet and hear from today's cadet leadership.

Saturday will feature our annual homecoming meal, which we anticipate being a post-game dinner at The Inn at Virginia Tech after the Hokies' victory. This casual-dress event will include good food and fellowship, as well as the opportunity to hear from our guest speaker, Lt. Gen. Thomas W. Travis '76, M.D., surgeon general of the U.S. Air Force. In addition, Commandant of Cadets Maj. Gen. Randy Fullhart will present an update on facilities upgrades and continuing improvements to the leader development program.

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

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

Corps Homecoming Registration Website

www.alumni.vt.edu/reunion/vtcc/index.html

Corps Homecoming Registration Details

Cancellation:

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

Game Tickets (when applicable):

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

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

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

Confirmation:

- Confirmations detailing event registration will be sent prior to the event.
- For 2014 events: If the Alumni Association receives your event registration by July 1, 2014, confirmation will be sent by July 15, 2014. Registrations received after July 1, 2014 will be confirmed as soon as possible, prior to the event date.

Come to Corps Homecoming 2014 and Reunite with Old Buds and Classmates!



At Ft. Bliss, Texas, Lt. Col. Chuck Roede '91 and Virginia Tech quarterback Logan Thomas, surrounded by the Hokie football team, hold a well-loved Virginia Tech flag that made two combat trips to Iraq.



Members of the Corps of Cadets Color Guard enjoyed the El Paso skyline from the Rocky Mountains' southernmost point.



Virginia Tech alumni, many of them Corps alumni, along with the Corps Color Guard, participated in a community service project at the Old Fort Bliss Museum.

Sun Bowl 2013

by Lt. Col. C. Patrick Hogeboom IV '94, U.S. Army

Photos by Sgt. Patrick Doran, U.S. Army, 1st Armored Division Public Affairs; Dave Knachel; Lt. Col. Patrick Hogeboom '94; Lt. Col. Charles Roede '91; Wanda Kienzle.

Sixty-seven years after Virginia Tech's very first bowl game, Hokies once again found El Paso, Texas, to be a hospitable destination to cheer for their beloved football team in the Sun Bowl. Although the game didn't end in the Hokies' favor, fans were treated to outstanding Southwest hospitality, and the Corps of Cadets was prominently represented throughout the weekend.

Without a Virginia Tech alumni chapter in the area, Corps alumni stepped in to make the bowl game more than just another trip. Lt. Col. Chuck Roede '91 helped kick off the Hokies' visit to the Sun City by giving the Tech football team a pep talk before Saturday practice, and he coordinated support during the team's tour of Fort Bliss.

Local active duty alumni were invited to the president's reception, during which Lt. Col. Patrick Hogeboom '94 presented Coach Frank Beamer with a certificate to commemorate the El Paso Star, which was lit in his honor the night before the game. Patrick and Blythe Hogeboom hosted a Hokie fiesta, complete with an authentic Mexican meal, mariachi band, and piñata.

Members of the Corps of Cadets Color Guard were given the keys to the Hogeboom family vehicle to go sightseeing and participate in a community service project held at Fort Bliss. The cadets not only presented the colors at the president's reception, but also accepted the flags carried onto the field by the football players before the game.

Many enjoyed the fan fiesta, fireworks, and arguably the best weather Virginia Tech fans have experienced for an outdoor bowl game. Corps alumni rang in the new year at Cattleman's Steakhouse, while others joined President Charles W. Steger at a new year's dinner party.

The Virginia Tech Alumni Association is looking to make the community service project partnership with the Corps an annual event.

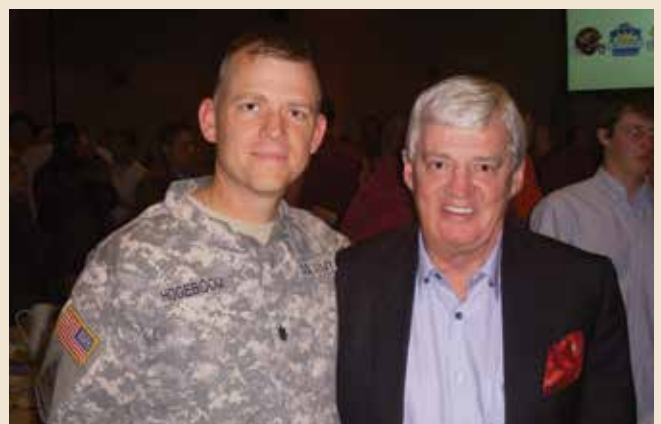
Editor's note: The cadets and Corps staff thank the Corps alumni, particularly Lt. Col. Hogeboom '94 and Lt. Col. Roede '91, for making the Sunbowl weekend a great time for all Hokies!



Lt. Col. Roede '91 addressed the Tech football team prior to the Sun Bowl game.



The Corps of Cadets Color Guard presented the colors at the president's reception held at El Paso's Abraham Chavez Theater.

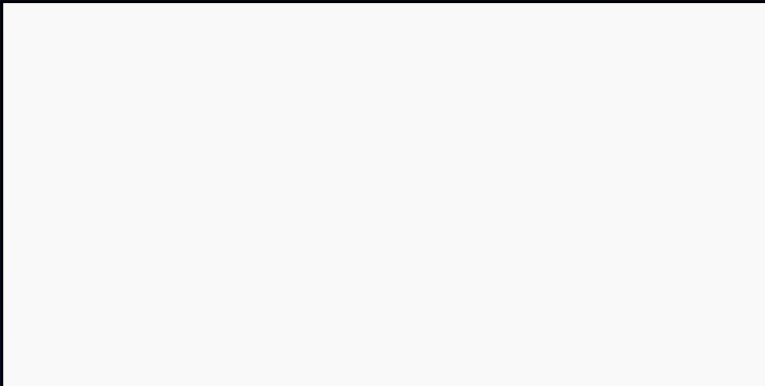


Lt. Col. Patrick Hogeboom '94 and Tech football coach Frank Beamer at the pregame meal at the Fort Bliss Centennial Club

VTCC Alumni Inc.

143 Brodie Hall (0213)
Virginia Tech
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