

Vol. 25 No. 2 Spring 2015

CorpsReview

The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Magazine





(Clockwise from top left) Hokie pride from headquarters, International Security Assistance Force, Kabul Afghanistan: (from left) Capt. Gavin Reed '07, Col. Kenneth Rodgers '85, Col. Geoffrey Stewart '92, and Capt. John Arceta '06; Gen. Fullhart showed Virginia and George "Chick" Leftwich '64 the Corps' new residence hall; Lt. Col. Tom Whitlock '94 and his son, Connor, enjoyed the 2014 Military Bowl; Bill Weatherford '62 donated his saber to the Corps to be carried by future cadets; Ron Gibbs '66 spoke to Air Force ROTC sophomore cadets about his experiences flying the F-4 in Vietnam; the Tippetts, (from left) Diana '87, Olivia, and Tim '85, stopped by the Upper Quad to say hello during an official college visit; Corps alumni at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam: (from left) Capt. Dustin Bennett '06, Capt. Micah McCracken '07, Capt. Gabe Lavine '07, Capt. Amanda Goncalves '07, Capt. Branden Yarrington '11, and Capt. Lindsey Matney, M.D.



Spring 2015, Vol. 25, No. 2

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

Gary Lerch '72, *Chairman, VTCCA*

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*

H. Pat Artis VT'71, Michael Diersing, Kathy Fullhart, Randal Fullhart, Bradley Larkin, Patience Larkin '87, Raye Savage, Michael Shroyer, Jim Stroup, Brooke Williams, *Photography*

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

© 2015, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

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

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

Front cover: Fall 2014 Regimental Commander Andrew George, Class of 2015. Photo by H. Pat Artis VT'71.

Back cover: Photo by Mike Diersing.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS

Ben Ames '48

A D-Day Veteran's Homecoming

2

James S. "JB" Kash '72

Flying the Nation's Leaders

6

Joseph P. Dempsey '68

The Happy Corps

14

Remembering the Huckleberry Train

Half of the proceeds from the sales of the audio recording and the music video of "Huckleberry Train"—a song by The Rake & Ramblin' 4, a musical group of Corps alumni—will be donated to the Corps of Cadets.

5

The End of an Era

The Highty-Tighties will be saying goodbye to their longtime director, Lt. Col. George McNeill, bassist extraordinaire.

10

The One, the Only, the Skipper

The Skipper Crew has been invited to participate in the North-South Skirmish Association's Spring Nationals, a tournament featuring musket, pistol, artillery, and mortar competitions in Winchester, Virginia.

32

New Painting of Lane Hall Available

In commemoration of Lane Hall's addition to the National Register of Historic Places, artist and philanthropist P. Buckley Moss has created a rendering of the Corps' traditional home.

49

PHOTOS

Photo essays of Corps happenings on campus:

Late-Fall Events **18**

Early-Spring Events **40**

Hokie Heroes **41**

DEPARTMENTS

| | |
|------------------------------|----|
| Recruiting Update..... | 20 |
| Leader Development..... | 21 |
| Alumni Announcements..... | 22 |
| Quad-Angle..... | 23 |
| Commandant's Column..... | 26 |
| VPI Battalion..... | 28 |
| Chairman's Column..... | 30 |
| ROTC News..... | 34 |
| Philanthropy..... | 42 |
| Honor Guard..... | 45 |
| Homecoming Registration..... | 48 |





Ben Ames '48

A D-Day Veteran's Homecoming

by Sandy Broughton, assistant director for communications and innovative technologies, Division of Student Affairs

On a perfect autumn afternoon—66 years after he had served as Virginia Tech's student body president—Ben Ames (business administration '48) was inducted into the Order of the Gavel. The special induction ceremony honoring alumni leadership and service at Tech was held in the War Memorial Chapel during homecoming weekend on Sept. 26-28, 2014.

Following the ceremony, Ames, a guest of Commandant of Cadets Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart, occupied a front-row seat for the Corps of Cadets' pass in review on the Drillfield. As his company marched by, Ames stood and offered a salute. Afterwards, cadets gathered around him, eager to pay their respects and shake the hand of the former cadet who had served not only Virginia Tech as a campus leader, but also his country in World War II.

Ames' busy homecoming weekend began with a tour of campus, which included meeting Virginia Tech President Timothy D. Sands and Dr. Laura P. Sands and, as a guest in the president's box, watching the Hokies defeat Western Michigan in Lane Stadium. Even the homecoming king and queen stopped by to greet Ames, who, at 89, was the oldest participant in the Division of Student Affairs' Student Government Association and Order of the Gavel homecoming reunion.

In 1942, Ames arrived at Virginia Tech as a lanky, basketball-playing 17-year-old from the tiny village of Driver, Virginia. The following summer, he was drafted into the Army to fight in World War II.

Ames celebrated his 19th birthday in England. Shortly after, on June 6, 1944, the Allied forces landed on the beaches of

Normandy, France, the largest seaborne invasion in history. Five days later, Ames crossed the English Channel to France, where his assignment was guarding supply trains against black-market raiders.

In August 1945, Ames was on a ship bound for the Pacific theater when the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki occurred in Japan. Less than a month later, the war had ended, and Ames was shipped home at Christmas.

Back home, Ames returned to Virginia Tech in 1946 as a civilian student. He was named vice president of the German Club—the university's oldest non-Greek fraternal organization—and was in charge of selecting bands for the formal dances.

In a series of events that Ames called "divine intervention," his roommate, Jim Broadwater (Business Administration '46), introduced him to Ellen Gilmer, a Randolph-Macon Women's College graduate who had majored in child psychology. After their courtship and marriage, the Ameses eked out a living on \$95 a month in G.I. Bill assistance, along with extra money they made grading papers.

Ames capped his senior year serving as president of the student body. Besides his selecting the head of the Honor Court, his most serious issue concerned club officers' managing their organizations' finances. At the time, Stuart Kent

Cassell, who would later serve as the university's vice president for administration, was chief business officer.

"Mr. Cassell told me he was thinking about having all of the clubs on campus deposit their money with him. When they wanted to spend some, they could come to see him; and if he approved, he would give them a check. He asked what I thought about that. My reply was, 'Mr. Cassell, this is not your normal student body. These men have been out fighting a war, and I don't think they are going to want to let you tell them how to spend their money.'" Ames succeeded in making his point, and the students handled their own funds.

"The students at Virginia Tech," Ames said, "were good, solid people that didn't get into trouble"—or at least not much. He recalled the time when his friend Chap Harrison (agricultural and applied economics '48) was chair of a German Club dance and "borrowed" the white tablecloths to "enjoy romancing at the Duck Pond." Needless to say, the linen service heard a bit of explaining about about the mud.

Another occasion, which involved a dance, dates, two rented cottages at Mountain Lake—"Girls in one, boys in the other"—formal attire, and forgotten clothes, ended with the good friends going to class in their tuxedos and tails.



Cadets gathered with Ames '48 following the Corps' pass in review on the Drillfield.



Ames '48 (center) was inducted into the Order of the Gavel at a special ceremony during homecoming weekend.



(From left) Ben Ames '48, Laura P. Sands, President Timothy D. Sands, William Ames, Ben Ames Jr., and Ben's sister-in-law, Joann Langston, gathered in the president's box to watch the homecoming football game in Lane Stadium.

"Mr. Ames," the professor deadpanned, "are you gentlemen coming or going?"

After receiving his degree in business administration in 1948, Ames immediately went to work for Thalhimers department store in Richmond, Virginia, where he quickly rose to the position of vice president for personnel.

A long career in retail department stores followed, with positions in St. Louis, New York, and Boston. When he retired in 1987 at age 62, Ames was vice chair of Cohoes Specialty Stores, which had East Coast locations from Connecticut to Georgia. In their newfound free time, the Ames family enjoyed traveling and visited all 50 states. These days, they live in a retirement community in Suffolk, Virginia, not far from where Ben grew up. The couple recently established the

Ellen and Ben Ames Scholarship to recognize an outstanding student leader.

At the September 2014 Order of the Gavel induction ceremony, Vice President for Student Affairs Patty Perillo told past and current student leaders:

Watch your thoughts, for they become your words;

Watch your words, for they become your actions;

Watch your actions, for they become your habits;

Watch your habits, for they become your character;

Watch your character, for it becomes your destiny.

The charge was a fitting tribute to Ben Ames and his legacy of leadership and service.



Ames '48 and his sons, Ben Jr. (left) and William, enjoyed a homecoming reunion filled with memories and accolades.

Remembering the Huckleberry Train

by Dave Thomas '63



The Rake & Ramblin' 4 performed at the 2010 and 2013 Corps reunions. In 2014, the group's "Huckleberry Train" video was presented to Corps alumni by Maj. Gen. Fullhart at the post-game homecoming dinner.

Many of you are familiar with The Rake & Ramblin' 4, a Corps alumni singing group. Members Dave Thomas '63, Rod Smith '66, and Sandy Seay '66 have been singing and playing music together since their H Company days in Monteith Hall. In addition to Americana, traditional folk music, and bluegrass, the Rake & Ramblin' 4 also performs original material. In a 2013 conversation with Dave Thomas, fellow H Company alumnus G. Daland Webb '64 suggested, "Why don't you guys write a song about the Huckleberry Train?"

Rake & Ramblin' 4 bass player and lead singer Rod Smith did just that, writing a song that captured his memories of the old Huckleberry, an experience shared by many Corps and Virginia Tech alumni. One morning in May 2014, Dave and Rod drove to Mountain Fever Studios in nearby Floyd, Virginia, and recorded a single track entitled "Huckleberry Train." Rod sang and played bass. Dave arranged the music and played rhythm guitar, lead guitar, and banjo and sang baritone. While visiting the area

in June, Sandy added dobro and a third part to the chorus.

Rod's song chronicles the true story of the little spur line that ran from Blacksburg to Cambria, where it connected with the Southern-N&W mainline. Originally built by the Virginia Anthracite Coal and Railway Co. to serve the Merrimac mine, the rail line was extended to Blacksburg by cadet-student labor under the leadership of then-Virginia Tech President John McBryde.

The Huckleberry hauled coal, freight, passengers, and the VPI Corps of Cadets from 1904 to 1963. Anyone who has ridden the train can attest to the fact that it really did move slowly enough to dismount, pick huckleberries, and climb back aboard. As most probably know, the old railroad bed is the site of today's Huckleberry Trail, a paved trail for pedestrians and cyclists.

Dave's son, David, a professional videographer, created a music video to evoke even more memories of the story of the Huckleberry Train. The video is an enhanced version of the one shown at the

2014 Corps Homecoming dinner and the Class of 1964's 50th reunion dinner. See the links below to listen to the recording, watch the video, or purchase either.

The Rake and Ramblin' 4 will donate half of the proceeds from sales of the song and the music video to the Corps of Cadets. The group sincerely hopes all will enjoy this original work documenting a piece of local history and our shared Virginia Tech and Corps of Cadets experiences.



Audio recording (MP3)

www.cdbaby.com/cd/therakeramblin42
Also available for purchase on iTunes and Amazon Music (search "Huckleberry Train")

Music video

www.youtube.com/channel/UCML_BN1IqJHEZ4gOCCC0PLg
A commemorative video DVD and audio CD package is on sale through Virginia Tech's University Bookstore and Volume II Bookstore.

You can order directly by emailing video@rakeandramblin4.com or by visiting the Rake & Ramblin' 4 website at www.rakeandramblin4.com. To order via phone, call 540-320-9595.

Proceeds from all sales will support the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.

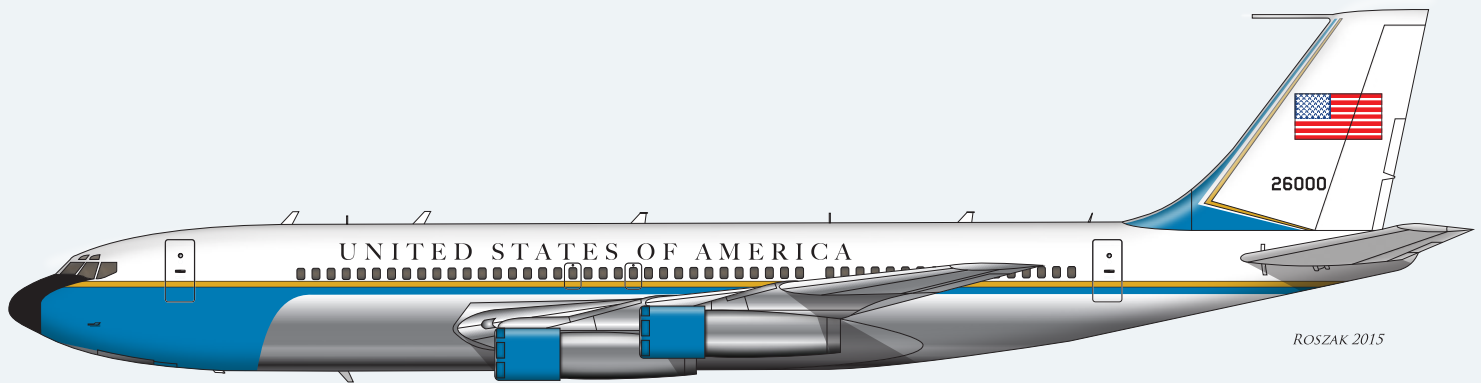


En route over the North Pacific, flying then-Secretary of State James Baker to an Asian summit, Lt. Col. Kash '72 (left) with his co-pilot

Flying the Nation's Leaders

Lt. Col. James S. "JB" Kash, U.S. Air Force (retired), was a member of both B and E squadrons while in the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets, was elected as the cadet member-at-large for his class, and upon graduation was commissioned into the U.S. Air Force in June 1972.

After commissioning, JB was assigned to Moody Air Force Base, Georgia, for undergraduate pilot training, where he received his wings and was then assigned to C-130 initial training at Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas. His first assignment was to the 36th Tactical Airlift Squadron (TAS),



*Boeing VC-137 Special Airlift Mission Aircraft Flown by LtCol James Kash
1st Airlift Squadron, 89th Military Airlift Wing, Andrews AFB, MD, 1988-1993
Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Class of 1972*

Langley Air Force Base, Virginia. While there, JB flew rotational deployments to Rhein Main Air Base, Germany, in support of the United States Air Forces in Europe (USAFE).

One year later, the tactical airlift mission became part of the Military Airlift Command, and JB was moved to McChord Air Force Base, Washington, where he upgraded to aircraft commander and flew numerous rotations to Howard Air Force Base, Panama, in support of Southern Command.

In 1977, JB was assigned to the 37th Flying Training Squadron, Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, where, as part of the Security Assistance Pilot Training program, he instructed Iranian and Saudi students to fly jets. JB said that the program's most significant challenge was moving these students—most of whom had marginal English-speaking skills, some who had never driven a car—into the jet age.

After JB's three-year assignment in Air Training Command, he returned to

the C-130 with the 41st Tactical Airlift Squadron at Pope Air Force Base, North Carolina, where he upgraded to instructor pilot and was also qualified to fly the low-altitude parachute extraction system (LAPES). The LAPES mission involved flying approximately 3 feet off the ground while having a 40,000-pound tank or other object extracted out of the rear of the aircraft. While at Pope, JB flew deployments to Mildenhall Air Base, England, in support of USAFE.

Following his Pope assignment, JB was assigned to the 62nd TAS as a tactical airlift instructor pilot/flight examiner and later became the chief pilot of the Tactical Airlift Instructor School, where he managed the training of C-130 pilots becoming tactical airlift instructors.

In 1985, JB was selected for assignment to the U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, as the deputy Air Force Program manager. The assignment required JB to attend Spanish language school at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California, and the Defense

Institute for Security Assistance Management at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

While in Honduras, JB served as an advisor to the Honduran Air Force during the Sandinista Revolution and the Contra War. Along with advising the Honduran Air Force, JB managed millions of dollars of direct aid and training to the Honduran military. During this assignment from 1986 to 1988, part of JB's duties were to escort congressional delegations and other VIP visits to the region.

Following the Honduran assignment, JB set his sights on the prestigious and challenging special-duty assignment with the 89th Airlift Wing at Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland. After a rigorous application process, JB was selected for the position. Crews from the 89th Airlift Wing fly the U.S. president and vice president, as well as cabinet and Congress members. JB stated that it was an extreme honor to fly missions carrying the nation's leaders who were making



Doing route study on the ramp in Cairo



At a remote airfield in Honduras



On the campaign trail with supporters of President George H. W. Bush

decisions that affected not only our country, but the entire world.

JB said that missions in the Boeing VC-137 Stratoliner were the most interesting and sometimes the most grueling missions he had ever flown. Normally, most trips were dispatched with three pilots, extending the crew duty day to 27 hours, which enabled the VIP to return to Washington from anywhere in the world without encountering delays.

The VC-137 aircraft assigned to the 89th Airlift Wing are steeped in history. The VC-137 was the first presidential jet aircraft and was first flown for President Eisenhower. That aircraft is on display at the Museum of Flight in Seattle.

JB explained that each aircraft contains tidbits of presidential history. One aircraft was fitted with President Kennedy's pipe holder. President Johnson had a doggie door installed to the state room on one aircraft and also had a specially fitted conference table that could be raised to make his conferees look small while he towered over them. President George H.W. Bush had a gimbaled cup holder installed, reflecting his nautical background.

Tail number 26000 had part of its aft bulkhead removed to accommodate placing President Kennedy's casket onboard for the return from Dallas. Mrs. Kennedy insisted that her husband's casket be

placed in the main cabin and not in the cargo compartment. This was the aircraft that JB flew on his final Air Force flight, and it is now on display in the Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson. JB said that all the VC-137s have been retired from the Special Airlift Mission fleet; one is also on display at the Reagan Presidential Library in California.

Some of JB's most memorable trips during his time with the 89th include flying Secretary of State James Baker on worldwide missions to get allies to join the U.S.-led coalition prior to the first Gulf War. JB says that although they had a schedule, it was always "in flex" as dictated by mission requirements.



Circa 1991, Special Air Mission pilots, Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland



On the ramp in Atsugi, Japan, with local military escorts



Touring the Great Wall of China during a layover in Beijing

JB flew several around-the-world missions with the secretary of state and secretary of defense visiting unique places, such as Ulan Bator, Mongolia; Muscat, Oman; Tirana, Albania; and Brunei, to name a few. When the mission had a stopover of several days in some areas, the crew was able to visit such interesting sites as the Great Wall of China and all the capitals of Europe, Asia, and the Middle East.

One especially unique trip began in Europe, transporting Secretary of Defense Cheney to several European capitals, then flying over the North Pole to refuel in Alaska, enjoying crew rest in Hawaii, and then flying on to Australia. JB also flew in command of many Air Force Two missions and several backup trips for Air Force One, always adhering to the credo of the 89th: "Safe, Smooth, and on Time."

After retiring from the Air Force in 1993, JB had a second career with Airborne Express for 17 years and retired as a B767 captain.

JB has been married to Terry Webb VT'73 for 41 years, and they currently reside in Mooresville, North Carolina. They have two sons: Steve, who is a director of engineering at B/E Aerospace in Winston-Salem, North Carolina; and Josh, an F-18 naval aviator stationed

at Oceana Naval Air Station, Virginia Beach, Virginia.

JB said that the greatest honor a person can have is to serve one's country, but that no service member serves alone. Beside him are family members who never receive the thanks they deserve. He is most appreciative for his sons' and his wife's service in supporting him and thereby supporting all the missions he was privileged to be a part of.



Reviewing our routing out of Cairo



Touring Cairo with a military escort



On the ramp in Sinop, Turkey, in support of a remote radar site

The End of an Era

by Bonnie Evangelista '08



Lt. Col. George McNeill, director of the
Highty-Tighties, 1992-2015



Lt. Col. McNeill ensures that the Highty-Tighties are ready before the 2007 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.



Lt. Col. McNeill with Highty-Tighty Drum Major Alex Granata, Class of 2015

I'm overwhelmed with emotion as I sit here trying to encapsulate Lt. Col. George McNeill's tenure as the director of the Highty-Tighties for the past 23 years. It is not enough to simply list McNeill's accolades and to cite the breadth and depth of his military experience that ultimately led him to Virginia Tech and his beloved Highty-Tighties. I've come to realize that all you need to know to understand who McNeill is and what he has been to the Highty-Tighties can be summed up by his love for music and the endless devotion to inspiring others through music.

Many of you who know McNeill will agree that his foremost quality is his enduring passion for music. I believe this affinity started at a young age in Baltimore, where he met Mr. Holloway, the neighborhood music teacher, and learned to play tuba in the teacher's basement.

McNeill's musical talent and potential were quickly recognized and fostered

at an early age. His high school music teacher told him, "Son, I'm gonna make somethin' outta you." That teacher's will came to fruition when, after encouraging his student to audition for a music scholarship, McNeill landed a spot as a marching Spartan at Norfolk State University.

McNeill later joined the Army Service Band and retired after 22 years of service. His accomplishments in the military band were not, however, what led McNeill to Blacksburg. He was first introduced to the Highty-Tighties by way of his son, Marvin, who had turned down a scholarship to the University of South Carolina to give the Highty-Tighties a try.

When Professor Joe Kennedy needed a bass guitar player for the university's jazz band, Marvin told him about his father. After McNeill had been playing with the jazz band for about a year, Kennedy asked him to serve as the assistant band director for the Highty-Tighties, then directed by Wally Easter. I believe a special kismet surrounded McNeill's circumstances: He was in the right place at the right time when opportunity called.

From that point forward, McNeill's commitment to the Highty-Tighties

never waned, despite challenges in the early going. "We didn't have a lot of experienced players," he said. In fact, in the early 1990's, the Highty-Tighties took great pride in their marching, though their interest in progressing musically was wanting, and some members were not as proficient as McNeill had hoped. To rectify the situation, McNeill committed himself to raising the musicianship of the band's members, and his emphasis on the recruitment and retention of skilled musicians would become the hallmark of his legacy as the Highty-Tighties' director.

Over the years, McNeill established programs and other initiatives that would bring in the type of talent he envisioned for the Highty-Tighties. He proposed to the Highty-Tighties Alumni Board of Directors that money be raised to provide scholarships to all freshman members of the band. He began holding auditions to gauge the abilities of all prospective cadets interested in joining the Highty-Tighties. And more recently, he offered a two-week trial period to all cadets who had even the slightest interest in playing with the band.

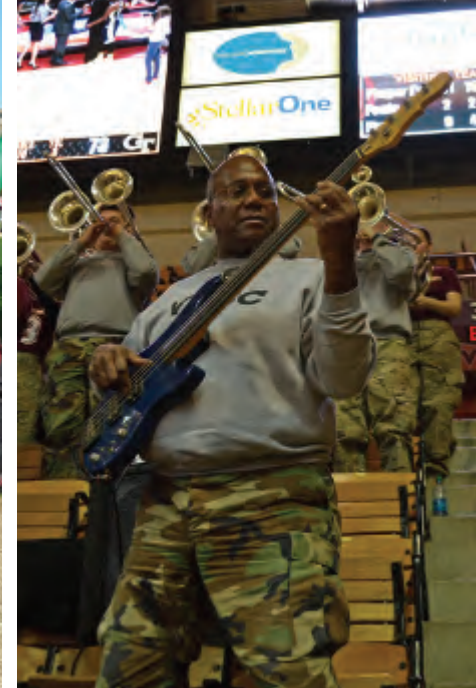
McNeill's desire for a strong recruitment program spread throughout the



Lt. Col. McNeill with Highty-Tighty Drum Major Lori Keck Beach '92



Lt. Col. McNeill with Bonnie Evangelista '08 and her husband, Andrew Rosado '09



Lt. Col. McNeill playing the bass guitar with the Highty-Tighties pep band

band's membership like wildfire and led to many other initiatives, including cold-calling prospective high school musicians and working the summer orientation tables to make sure incoming cadets were aware of the Highty-Tighties and why they should join.

Many Highty-Tighty alumni who were under McNeill's direction admit that they had had no interest in joining the regimental band until they heard the question, "Do you play an instrument?" when they approached the Corps of Cadets' registration table during orientation.

A happy upshot of McNeill's recruitment goals was the steady growth of the band's membership. His initial group of 60-70 Highty-Tighties has grown to more than 150 bandsmen during the past few years.

These days, McNeill can proudly proclaim that the Highty-Tighties are growing and sounding better with each passing year. But hindsight, as they say, is 20/20. What now is an amazing accomplishment was routinely viewed as a dubious aspiration when the band peaked at some 100 members approximately 10 years ago.

McNeill had always said that he would march a 12-by-12 block on the

field before his time as director was up. But now that he has well surpassed that goal, he continues to raise the bar, believing that he will see the band grow to 200 members even as he is about to leave. "It will happen," he promises.

With McNeill, even the smallest things have had huge returns. His love for jazz brought new energy to the Southern Colonels, the Highty-Tighties' jazz ensemble, and the group now performs for a number of university events and private gigs. Other small music groups emerged as proof of the type of talent being recruited. A new holiday tradition is marked by the Highty-Tighty brass quintet's annual Christmas caroling around the university. What once started as a way for the band to say thank you is now a Hokie gathering to share the holiday spirit.

One of my most memorable moments as a Highty-Tighty was when our concert band was asked to serve at a ceremony that President George W. Bush had called for immediately following the events of April 16, 2007. I've always assumed that no other group on campus could have mobilized as quickly as we did in the wake of such tragedy. I can now say that our efficiency was possible only because of McNeill's efforts to

achieve excellence in all aspects of the band, a process that had commenced years before I arrived.

Along with his dedication and hard work, McNeill is the consummate teacher. Transitioning from an active duty military band to the Corps of Cadets and the Highty-Tighties, he quickly realized that cadets are students first and they learn through mistakes. He empowered his cadets to lead the organization. He actively listened, sought their ideas, and gave them broad discretion and authority. He discovered that cadets thrive when they own the process, which leads to trust, mutual respect, and better results in the long run.

Although McNeill lessened his grip on the wheel, he never left the car. He spent a great deal of time working with bandsmen individually, helping them developing musically and professionally. And he liked the results. "I'm proud," he admitted, "of all the kids that come through, that I had a part of that."

Many of us bandsmen with a special connection to McNeill will always remember him as "Major Mac," the "funkadelic" bass player with an attitude that can't be matched. And we can't help but smile. Major Mac was a significant part of what made the Highty-Tighties



Lt. Col. McNeill with Anthony Lavopa '08, Band Company executive officer, before a football game



Lt. Col. McNeill marching beside the Highty-Tighties in the 2014 Virginia Veterans Parade in Roanoke

the band it is today, and we were lucky to have been a part of something so special.

Some of the greatest moments in Highty-Tighty history occurred under McNeill's direction, including the 43rd Presidential Inaugural Parade in 2004 in Washington, D.C., and the numerous Macy's Thanksgiving Day parades in New York City. McNeill's favorite memories will always be in New Orleans, however, when the band marched in Mardi Gras parades. Even my mother cherishes the time when McNeill and some members of the band found themselves in an impromptu jam session on Bourbon Street while waiting for the bus to take them back to the hotel. McNeill, of course, was laying down the groove on the bass guitar.

Among bandmen, the past 23 years are defined by McNeill's dedication to developing the Highty-Tighties into a first-class musical organization. Few people are revered as legends, but in the eyes of his bandmen, McNeill arrived long ago.

When asked if he had any advice for future Highty-Tighties, McNeill didn't hesitate to put in one last plug: "Join the band. and stay in the band."

Thank you, Lt. Col. McNeill. We will miss you!



For his many years of dedication to the band, Lt. Col. McNeill was presented with a gift of gratitude by Bert Kinzey '68, president of the Highty-Tighty Alumni Inc.

Miles Stadium, Homecoming 1964: The happy Corps performs a "hat trick" during Tech's victory over Florida State, 20-11.



The Happy Corps

by Joseph P. Dempsey '68

I received my letter of acceptance to Virginia Polytechnic Institute (VPI)—today's Virginia Tech—in March 1964. Just days later, the school's Board of Visitors revised a policy that had been in place since Virginia Tech's founding as Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College in 1872. Mandated by the Morrill Land Grant Act of 1862, this policy required that all male students at land-grant institutions be taught "military tactics."

Under the proposed policy change, enrollment in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) would be open to all students, but enrollment in the Corps of Cadets would be optional. If passed, the policy would establish two entirely separate and different military-training options at VPI. Moreover, had it remained in effect, the policy arguably would have been the death knell of the venerable Corps, which at that time comprised approximately half of the student body.

This change, according to Duncan Lyle Kinnear's book, "The First 100 Years: A History of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University," caused such controversy among students, alumni, and faculty that another meeting of the Board of Visitors was called in June 1964 to review the policy's viability.

The result of that meeting amended the previously announced policy change, and I soon received another letter from the dean of admissions informing me that incoming freshmen had the option of enrolling either as a cadet or as a civilian student; however, those who wished to enroll in the ROTC program would



Cadet Joe Dempsey, "rat year," 1964

be required to be a member of the Corps of Cadets.

Fortunately, this situation didn't prove to be a dilemma for me because I had known since childhood that I wanted to be in the VPI Corps of Cadets. As a 10-year-old digging through storage trunks in my grandmother's attic, I had come across my father's cadet uniform from Tech. He had been in L Battery, Class of 1939, and I wore his brass on my uniform throughout my time in the Corps.

In September 1964, I arrived in Blacksburg with my father and reported to Rasche Hall. I was given my room assignment and told, "Your commander is Commander. Report to his room on the third floor." Yes, Joseph Richard Commander '65 was E Company's cadet commander (CO).

Upon our arrival at the CO's room, my father knocked two times and swung open the door to find two cadets at attention. "Hi, my name is Dempsey, and this is my son. I want you to give him hell for the next year!" I didn't have the slightest clue of what was going on, but somehow I knew it wasn't good. The two cadets were the aforementioned J.R. Commander and the company's executive officer, James G. Phelps '65.

I later learned that my dad had endeared himself to them, and both would play a prominent role in shaping my love for the Corps. (I also learned later that Dad hadn't known what two knocks meant; it was just by chance that he had knocked twice!)

My first week included a parade of roommates; during the first month, I had



Cadet Cpl. J.P. Dempsey with Ellen Cox, Tech's 1966 homecoming queen, on the field in Lane Stadium



Dempsey dressed for formal guard mount with the original Skipper cannon, fall 1964



Dempsey's father, Cadet J.P. Dempsey Jr. '39



Three generations of Corps alumni: (from left) David Dempsey '76, J.P. Dempsey Jr. '39, and J.P. Dempsey III '68.



Thanksgiving 1964: E Company marching to the game against Virginia Military Institute in Roanoke

four! Not one was there long enough to become a real “ole lady.” The first, the son of an Army general, had not wanted to be in the military, but his father was very demanding and expected him to take military training and to pursue a military career. I believe he left before the return of upperclassmen to campus.

My second roommate was totally clueless. He moved down from the fourth deck where he'd been sharing a room with two other “rats.” The barracks were very crowded in those days, and some “rats” had been “tripled up.” (Yes, we were called “rats”! In spite of what the administration and the cadet manual said, it WAS the “rat system.”) Upperclassmen were being extremely hard on him, and he was upset that the shoes he had brought were not acceptable and he couldn't afford another pair.

Among the required items for incoming Corps freshmen to bring, the VPI College Catalogue clearly listed a pair of “plain-toed black shoes.” His had plain toes all right, but they were pointed like cowboy boots, and the sides were inlaid with white lightning bolts, the sort of shoes you might have seen in a production of “West Side Story.” This roommate was gone in two days; the upperclassmen on the second floor weren't any more accommodating.

I can't recall my third roommate, but his name is on the door card that I have

in my old scrapbook. My fourth and final roommate, Barry Grosman '68, became my “ole lady” for the remainder of my “rat year” and was one of the few Class of 1968 E Company cadets to graduate in four years.

During that first week, we attended a reception at the university president's home, The Grove, where President T. Marshall Hahn and his wife greeted each incoming cadet. It was said that President Hahn had a photographic memory, and I later learned its truth firsthand in a surprise encounter on the steps of Burruss Hall. When I greeted him, “Good afternoon, Dr. Hahn, sir,” he replied, “Good morning, Mr. Dempsey.” At first I thought he had read my nametag, but I realized I was wearing my windbreaker.

Meanwhile, upperclassmen began arriving on the Upper Quad, but our only contact with them was the cadet cadre. On the last day of orientation, the “rats” were marched to Burruss Hall. We were greeted by the commandant, Brig. Gen. Marion W. Schewe, and the dean of students, James W. Dean (yes, Dean Dean). In his remarks, Dean Dean echoed the appreciation of the fact that the incoming class, the Class of 1968, was indeed special, for its members were the first to be in the Corps of Cadets voluntarily. “Welcome to the happy Corps,” he declared.

Our return to the barracks from that

Burruss Hall gathering coincided with our introduction to—or, rather, the release of—the remaining upperclassmen. It hadn't taken long for them to hear of the dean's “happy Corps” remark, and they were going to find out just how “happy” these new “rats” were.

Many of the upperclassmen, particularly those in the junior class, were not amused. They had signed ROTC contracts prior to the policy change and were obligated to continue, after having been given false hope of “going grub,” a term of endearment for civilian students.

The sophomores, who were just chomping at the bit to extract retribution upon the new “rat class” after their own year of hell, were in no mood to appreciate cadets who were happy about their Corps enrollment. For the next hour, up until first call to retreat, the “rats” of Company E were reminded, as I'm sure those in the other companies were similarly informed, that the Corps was not a happy place.

For the first time since World War II, Corps enrollment took a big hit. Prior to the 1964-65 academic year, the total number of cadets each year had been in the 2,000-2,300 range for several years. At one point, there were two regiments, although I was unable to find any reference to the Corps as a brigade.

Once the new policy had gone into effect, however, enrollment started



Cadet Dempsey '68 with his mother and his brother, David '76



Dempsey (front row, center) at the E Company '68 "Happy Corps" class reunion, Lane Stadium, 1990

to slowly fall. In the fall of 1964, E Company had three platoons of three squads each, with eight or so cadets per squad, for total strength of some 75 or 80 cadets, including officers and non-commissioned officers. Seniors were also sergeants at that time.

It was clear from listening to the upperclassmen that the present company was much smaller than the prior year's. Previously, according to them, company strength had been between 110 and 120 cadets. By the end of September, company strength fell below 80.

In all, according to a copy of the company roster published on Sept. 22, 1964—the week after orientation—E Company had lost about 12 freshmen in the first two weeks, and another seven had departed by the end of the spring quarter of 1965. These losses, which were mostly the result of academic drops, not disciplinary or emotional reasons, left 28 remaining cadets of the 47 that had begun the year with the company. For many, it was NOT a "happy Corps."

By the end of our freshman year, our class had been molded into a strong fraternity of young men, although we would lose several more classmates during our second and third years. Ensuing cadets' academic success, although encouraged, was one of the Corps' weaknesses, and changes made to the freshmen system

since that time bear witness to the strong academic performances of today's cadets.

I was the last of our class to succumb to poor grades and left VPI after winter quarter in 1967, my junior year. I returned in May for the Class of 1968's Ring Dance and one month later was a private in the U.S. Army.

The fallout of the university's policy change had an almost immediate effect on the future of the Corps. The most significant omission was that no provisions had been made for the ultimate survival of the Corps through recruitment. In fact, the declining enrollment that continued through the early 1970s bears that out. By the spring of 1976, when my brother was 1st Battalion commander, Corps enrollment had dropped to less than 350 cadets.

Military schools by their very character are tough and require that their cadets accept discipline and work as a team in order to succeed. Under the former, long-standing mandatory requirement that "all physically qualified male students" enroll in the Corps, recruitment was not much of a problem. With the policy change of 1964, however, a whole new ballgame was fielded. Recruitment efforts became necessary, and no one in the official hierarchy immediately recognized that need. It was left to the members of the Corps to replace themselves, and we were

encouraged to return to our high schools to talk to seniors.

Personally, I returned to my high school a few times, in uniform, to meet with juniors and seniors who might be interested in VPI and to talk about the benefits of the Corps of Cadets. In fact, one recruit I met during summer break changed his commitment and did enroll in the Corps. He became one of my underclassmen in E Company and went on to serve as the Class of 1969's regimental S-1.

Of our original "rat class" of 47 cadets, 14 graduated. Most of the Class of 1968 served in the military. When I returned to Virginia Tech in the fall of 1972, six of my E Company "brother rats" were enrolled, and all of them, except one, were working to complete their undergraduate degree.

I was to become the last E'68 "rat" to graduate from VPI in June 1975. To this day, I remain in touch with many of my classmates, and the experiences and friendships I had as a cadet have been hallmarks of my life. Perhaps not a day goes by that I don't recall and appreciate how the Corps helped me. I am reminded of the immortal words of Gen. Douglas MacArthur, "... when I cross the river, my last conscious thoughts will be of the Corps, and the Corps, and the Corps."

Late-Fall Events

A number of events for the Corps and its alumni were held during the latter half of the fall semester. The commandant spoke to the Piedmont Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars, the Corps played a role in the university president's installation ceremony, and a past commandant was laid to rest. On Veterans Day, Virginia Tech conducted a series of events led by the Corps of Cadets and the ROTC departments, as the next generation of leaders honored past generations and their shared military heritage. At the close of the semester, cadets and alumni gathered to celebrate the holidays, and the fall graduates were commissioned.



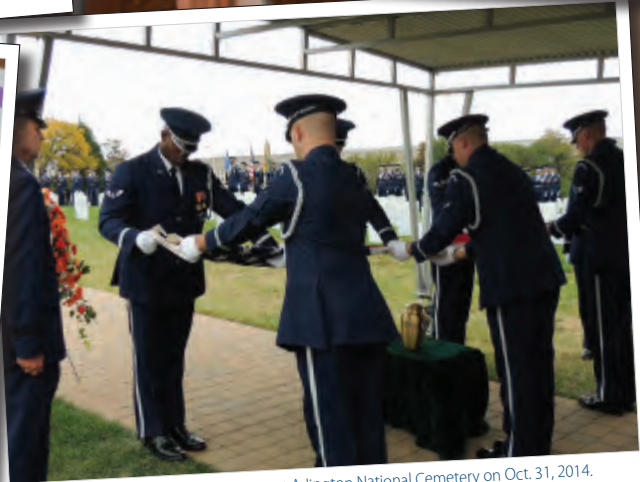
Commandant Maj. Gen. Fullhart briefed the Virginia Piedmont Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars, providing an overview of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets at the request of Edgar Kinnier '53.



Gen. Fullhart spoke with newly installed Virginia Tech President Timothy D. Sands after the Corps had honored the president with a pass in review on the Drillfield.



Brig. Gen. Timothy Williams '84, adjutant general of Virginia, spoke to the regiment as part of the Leaders in Action lecture series.



Lt. Gen. Howard M. Lane was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery on Oct. 31, 2014. During the service, an F-15 flyover coordinated by U.S. Air Force Capt. Peter Laclede '10 honored Lane.



On the Upper Quad, Air Force ROTC's Robert Femoyer Service Squadron held a 24-hour vigil at The Rock. Pictured here, cadets stand post during morning formation on Veterans Day.



Members of the Gregory Guard stand at parade rest waiting to perform a 21-gun salute during the Veterans Day remembrance ceremony at the War Memorial.



The Corps of Cadets Color Guard stands ready as the regimental commander and regimental sergeant major place a memorial wreath in front of the cenotaph at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month.



India Company passes the reviewing stand during the Virginia's Veterans Parade in Roanoke, Virginia.



Cadet Steve Wong, Class of 2017, speaks with a World War II veteran before the Veterans Day parade in Roanoke.



Freshman cadets enjoyed Blacksburg's annual holiday parade in December 2014.



Highty-Tighty Alumni Inc. President Bert Kinzey '68 (second from right) shared stories with cadets at the Corps' end-of-semester gathering in Brodie Hall.



A new batch of military officers was christened as Corps graduates were commissioned into their separate services upon graduation in December 2014.

Recruiting Task Force and Young Corps Alumni

by Bill Swan '66, Recruiting Task Force leader; and Max Adler '14



High school students attending the Corps' "Spend the Night" program look on as cadets demonstrate their proficiency on the obstacle course.

I hope that everyone is having a great Hokie year so far and that our recent recruiting successes can be duplicated for the Class of 2019 and beyond.

This past fall, we supported 26 college fair sessions at 22 locations in Virginia, North Carolina, Maryland, Nebraska, Ohio, South Carolina, Florida, and Germany. Of the 22 alumni volunteer representatives, six were "first-timers."

We are now soliciting helpers for college fairs and Academy Day events in Florida, Georgia, Massachusetts, Maryland, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, and Virginia. These events run through May. Please show your Ut Prosim spirit when asked to help or when considering donating your time.

We are also still looking to replace several Area Team Leaders in Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina, Georgia, and the Upper Midwest who have had to step down. In addition, since my term leading the Corps alumni board's Recruiting Task Force ends next summer, I am looking for an understudy to take over this year. If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact me.

I yield the rest of my space to 2nd Lt. Max Adler '14, who shares his observations about young alumni commitment:

After graduating from the Corps of Cadets and Virginia Tech in May 2014, I

found myself longing for an opportunity to experience the Tech atmosphere again. When I was offered a chance to serve as a recruiting ambassador for the Corps of Cadets at a college fair in Baltimore, I readily agreed, though I wondered what it would be like to stand on the other side of the table.

I volunteered for three sessions, each three hours long. I spoke with high school, middle school, and transfer students, as well as their parents. It was encouraging to meet students who had the same drive and high-reaching

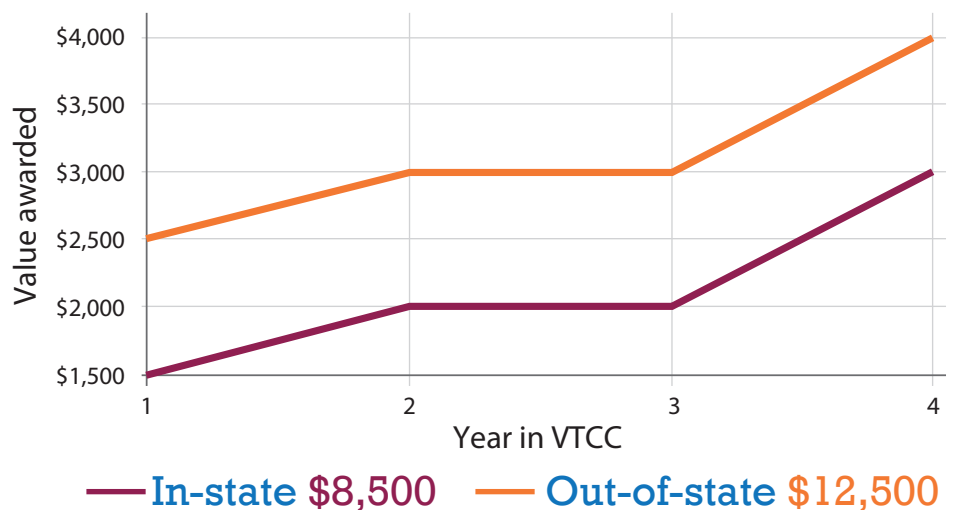
goals that I had in high school. I knew they, too, could find what they were looking for and could accomplish the goals they set for themselves at Virginia Tech.

The sessions allowed me to explain to future members of the Corps why I believe our organization is the best leadership and ROTC program available anywhere and how, unlike the military service academies, the diversity of university life is easily experienced at Virginia Tech. I talked about all the reasons why I believe Virginia Tech and the Corps represent excellence and how the Corps was such an amazing "home" for me.

It was energizing to share my success in the Corps and my love of the Hokie Nation to future cadets from Maryland. I encourage and challenge all alumni, especially those who have just graduated in the past several years, to consider supporting a Corps recruiting event in your area. Ut Prosim—and Go, Hokies!

Please feel free to let me know what's on your mind or to help us in our recruiting efforts! Call me at 912-265-7530 or email twoswans911@comcast.net.

Emerging Leader Scholarship Values



* Cadets who transfer into the Corps will begin at the first year amount

Because of additional funding, the amount awarded by the Emerging Leader Scholarship in the first year will increase by \$500. Prospective parents and cadets have greeted this development enthusiastically, a response that we hope will lead to an increase in the number of cadets enrolling this fall.



Col. Rock Roszak '71 offers career advice to cadet seniors.

Fall Recap, Spring Plans

by Col. Dave Miller, U.S. Army (retired), Ph.D., director, Maj. Gen. W. Thomas Rice Center for Leader Development

As I write this, we are halfway through the academic year, having just celebrated the holidays. The cadets will be returning soon with many stories of their travels over the break—and no doubt anxious to get settled for the spring semester. Before I share our plans for the spring, I think you'll be interested to learn how your Corps faired academically in the fall.

The combined grade point average (GPA) of the regiment for the fall 2014 semester was a 3.10, which continues the trend of the Corps' average GPA being above 3.0. Sixteen cadets earned a 4.0, and 642 cadets earned a place on the Commandant's List with a GPA of 3.0 or higher. These cadets will be recognized at an academic awards ceremony when the regiment returns for the spring.

In the fall, we offered nine accredited classes that included a two-hour freshman lab held on Monday evenings. These courses total 15 credit hours taught by

the commandant and staff. We capped off the fall semester by recognizing a number of cadets who graduated in December. Twenty-five of the 26 graduates earned a minor in leadership studies administered by the Rice Center.

The spring semester is always a busy time for the Corps, and 2015 will be no exception. We will offer 10 accredited courses, which will again include a two-hour freshmen evening lab, an online course for cadets who have a schedule conflict, and a ground school for aspiring pilots. The Corps will cohost a freshman leadership conference for Citizen-Leader Track freshmen, and we will again combine the Corps annual leadership conference with the Cutchins Lecture.

Our leadership conference is scheduled for March 25-27, and cadets and midshipmen from the federal service academies, the senior military colleges, junior military colleges and several

ROTC programs will be invited to campus for an in-depth study of leadership. The keynote speaker will be Doris Kerns Goodwin, who will talk about her new book on leadership. We've also scheduled a few alumni to return as guest speakers to share advice on leadership, ethics, career planning, and life skills. We remain very appreciative of our alumni's generous support.

Before closing, I also want to mention that the financial support provided by our alumni allows us to assist cadets with study abroad and international travel opportunities. We've been able to help cadets travel to Russia, Sri Lanka, Kenya, and Panama, to name a few destinations. This spring, five of our cadets will be traveling to Myanmar with a little help from the Corps.

This year is going well, due in no small part to the support of our alumni. *Ut Prosim.* Go, Hokies!

ALUMNI ANNOUNCEMENTS

Alumni reception at the Virginia International Tattoo



The largest event of its kind in the U.S., the 19th annual Virginia International Tattoo on April 23-26 at the Scope Arena in Norfolk, Virginia, will feature awe-inspiring displays of majesty, music, and unity by 900 performers from eight nations.

As part of the massed band, 40 members of the Highty-Tighties will perform alongside some of the world's most established bands, including the U.S. Marine Corps Band, the Guards Band of the Finnish Defense Forces, and the Royal Danish Navy Band.

Before the 2:30 p.m. show on April 26, join Virginia Tech alumni from 12:30-1:45 p.m. for a special reception at the beautiful Robin Hixon Theater. The Highty-Tighties will be making an appearance, as will the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets' commandant, Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart. Because of limited space, registration is required.

To register for the reception or to purchase discounted tickets to any performance of the Virginia International Tattoo, go to www.alumni.vt.edu/events/tattoo.



Corps alumnus to serve as an executive director for Teach for America

Adnan Barqawi '09, who served as the Corps' regimental commander, was named executive director of Teach for America's greater Nashville, Tennessee, region. A Palestinian born and raised in Kuwait with no access to education, Barqawi initially joined Teach for America because of educational inequalities that exist in the country where he'd sought refuge for educational opportunities.



Class of 2015 midshipmen (from left) Austin Dickey and Shane Wescott received major accolades from USAA. Cadet Dickey was awarded a \$1,500 scholarship and a clock as the top Marine-option cadet in our region, and Cadet Wescott was awarded a \$3,000 scholarship and a clock as the top Marine-option cadet in the United States.

Senior Cadet Commanders, Spring 2015



Regimental Commander **Austin Dickey**

Cadet Col. Austin Dickey, of Virginia Beach, Virginia, is pursuing a degree in business management and plans to commission in the U.S. Marine Corps as an infantry officer upon

graduation. A member of Raider Company and the Armed Forces Special Operations Preparation Team, Cadet Dickey has served as Raider Company first sergeant, regimental sergeant major, and 2nd Battalion commander. He joined the Corps of Cadets to develop his leadership skills to prepare for life as a Marine. Honored to serve his peers, Cadet Dickey is a recipient of an Emerging Leader Scholarship.



First Battalion Commander **Shane Wescott**

Cadet Lt. Col. Shane Wescott, of North Andover, Massachusetts, is pursuing a degree in geosciences and plans to commission in the U.S. Marine Corps as an infantry

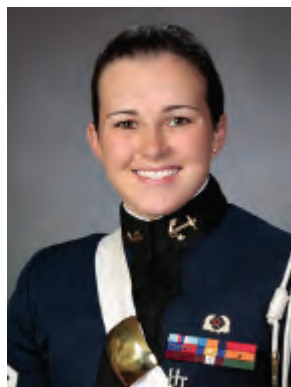
officer upon graduation. The president of both the Scabbard and Blade and the Semper Fi societies, Cadet Wescott is a founder and the commanding officer of the Corps' newly established Esprit de Corps spirit squad. A University Honors student and member of Omicron Delta Kappa honor society and Tactical Applications Company, he joined the Corps of Cadets to grow his leadership abilities before being granted the privilege of leading Marines. Cadet Wescott is a recipient of a Marine Corps three-year scholarship, an Emerging Leader Scholarship, and the Thomas Jeffries Geoscience Scholarship.



Second Battalion Commander **Logan Mauk**

Cadet Lt. Col. Logan Mauk, of Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania, is pursuing a double degree in finance and accounting and plans to join GE Capital's

financial management program upon graduation. A former summer intern in the Nielsen Co.'s financial leadership program at its Chicago office, a University Honors student, and a member of Omicron Delta Kappa honor society and the Corps of Cadets Color Guard, he has served as VPI Battalion commander, VPI Battalion sergeant major, and Foxtrot Company first sergeant. Cadet Mauk is a recipient of an Emerging Leader Scholarship.

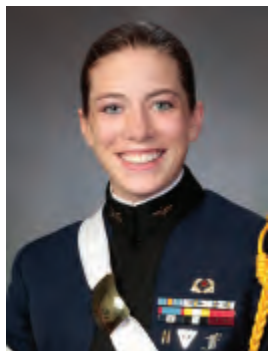


Third Battalion Commander **Emily Konoza**

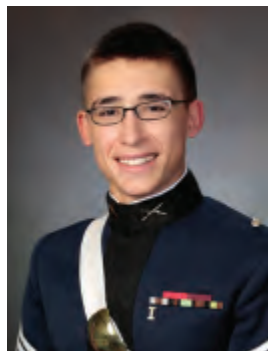
Cadet Lt. Col. Emily Konoza, of Warrenton, Virginia, is pursuing a degree in aerospace engineering with a minor in math and plans to commission in the

U.S. Navy as an aviator upon graduation. An active member of both the Scabbard and Blade and the Naval Aviation societies, Cadet Konoza has served as Band B first sergeant, Navy Battalion master chief petty officer, and Band Company commander. She joined the Corps of Cadets for its unparalleled leadership and training opportunities and the university's challenging academics. Cadet Konoza is a recipient of a Navy scholarship.

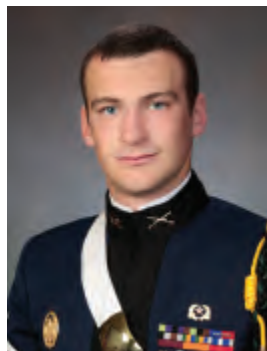
Command Staff, Spring 2015



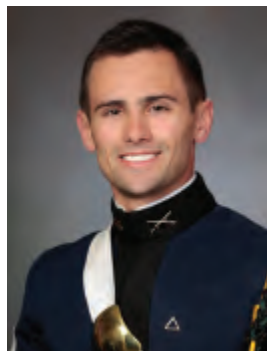
Regimental Executive Officer
Kimberly Markovcy
Mathematics, Physics
Ashburn, Va.
Air Force



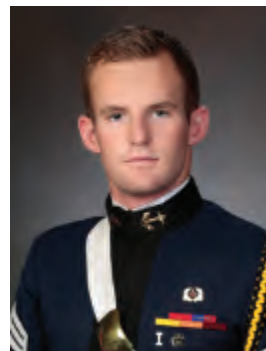
Regimental Adjutant
Hunter Deacon
Political Science
Franklin County, Va.
Army



Regimental Public Relations
Officer
Robert Skinker
Mechanical Engineering
Allentown, Pa.
Army



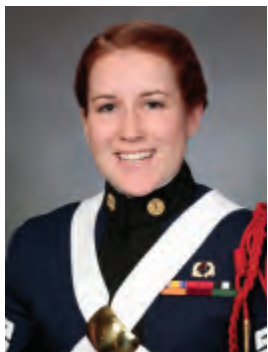
Regimental Operations
Officer
Tice Myers
International Studies
Richmond, Va.
Army



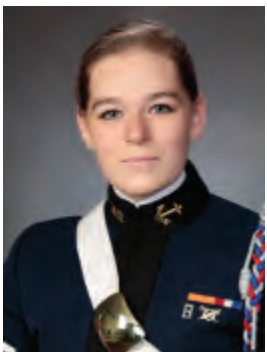
Regimental Supply and
Finance Officer
Bryant Throckmorton
Civil Engineering
Chesapeake, Va.
Navy



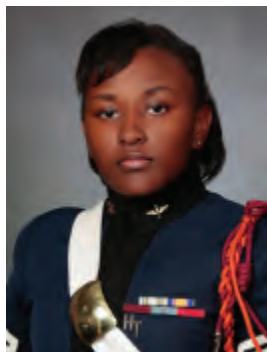
Regimental Academics
Officer
Jonathan Lewis
International Studies, Russian
Language
Yorktown, Va.
Navy



Regimental Sergeant Major
Leah Roberts
Industrial and Systems
Engineering
Fredericksburg, Va.
Air Force



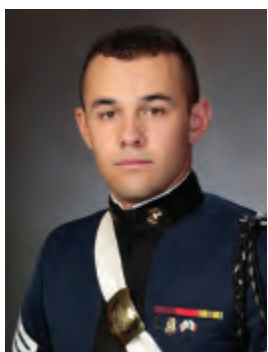
Regimental Inspector
General
Jessica Hawkins
International Studies
Churchville, Va.
Navy



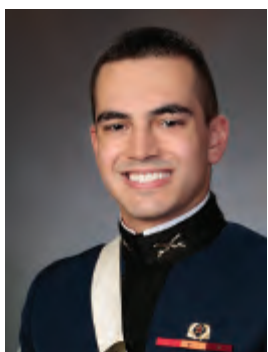
Regimental Recruiting
Officer
Chanel Franklin
Mathematics
Vienna, Va.
Air Force



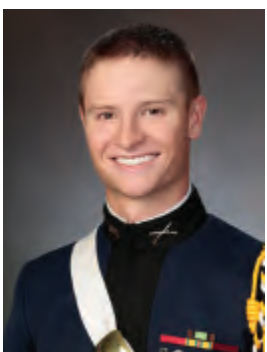
Regimental Athletics Officer
Matt Gimenez
Communication
Johns Island, S.C.
Army



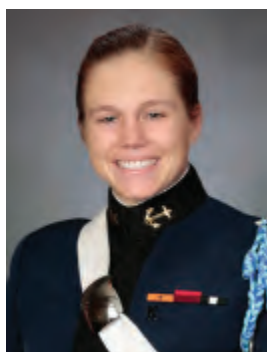
Regimental Safety Officer
Kevin Spaulding
International Studies
Dublin, Ireland
Marine Corps



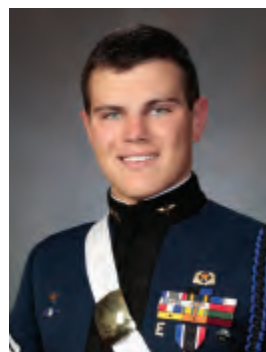
VPI Battalion Commander
Bryan Hieser
Economics
Aurora, Ill.
Citizen-Leader Track



Army Battalion Commander
Conor Cosgrove
Construction Engineering
Purcellville, Va.
Army

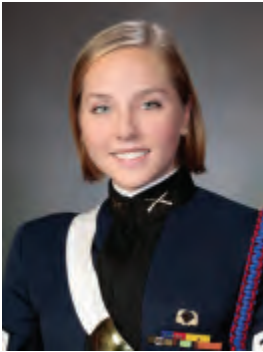


Naval Battalion Commander
Cassandra Quick
Aerospace Engineering
White Stone, Va.
Navy

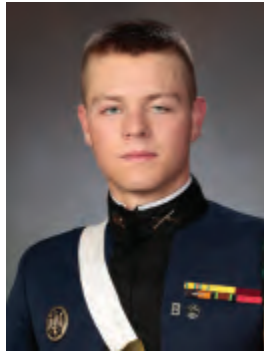


Air Force Wing Commander
Ryan Bishop
Mechanical Engineering
Fairfax Station, Va.
Air Force

Command Staff, Spring 2015



Alpha Company Commander
Marie Yacone
Psychology
Stafford, Va.
Army



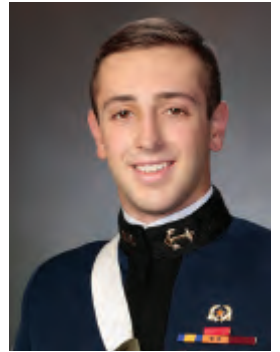
Bravo Company Commander
Ryan Gibson
Industrial and Systems
Engineering
Springfield, Va.
Army



Charlie Company Commander
Jeremy Boone
Business Management
Chesapeake, Va.
Marine Corps



Delta Company Commander
Cory Mitchell
Political Science
Catawba, Virginia
Army



Echo Company Commander
Joseph M. Balak
Mechanical Engineering
Garwood, N.J.
Navy



Foxtrot Company
Commander
Erika Koenig
Meteorology, Geography, and
Russian
Severn, Md.
Air Force



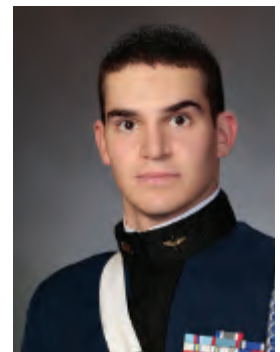
Golf Company Commander
Joshua Gruspier
Mathematics
Middletown, N.J.
Navy



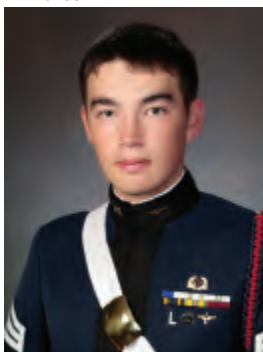
Hotel Company Commander
Jordan Schafer
Aerospace Engineering
Ashburn, Va.
Air Force



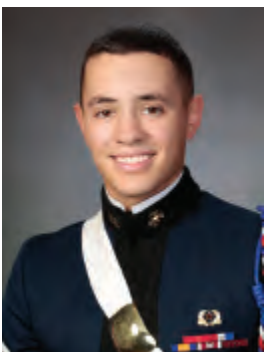
India Company Commander
James F. Flanagan
International Studies and
Russian
M.A., Political Science
Vienna, Va.
Air Force



Kilo Battery Commander
Joshua Milot
Industrial and Systems
Engineering
Yorktown, Va.
Air Force



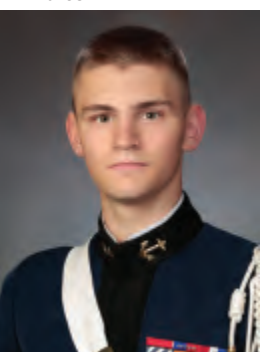
Lima Company Commander
Stephen J. Romans
Biochemistry
Springfield, Va.
Air Force



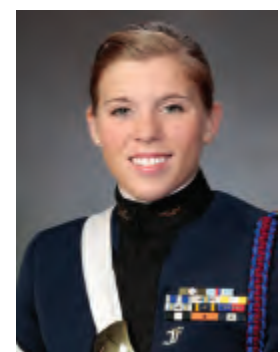
Band Company Commander
Andrew Neuman
Civil and Environmental
Engineering
Columbia, Md.
Marine Corps



Band Alpha Company
Commander
Shawnn Conway
Electrical Engineering
Woodbridge, Va.
Air Force



Band Bravo Company
Commander
Daniel Chasse
Chemical Engineering
Chesapeake Va.
Navy



Regimental Alumni Liaison
Officer and Second
Battalion S1
Allison Laclede
International Studies
Fairfax, Va.
Air Force



New Beginnings

by Commandant of Cadets Maj. Gen. Randal D. Fullhart, U.S. Air Force

It has been an exciting year thus far, with more excitement on the horizon—literally. Writing this article, I hear hammering and the rumble of equipment as roof trusses are installed on the first of our two new residence halls! If you're not already keeping track of the construction, go to <http://oxblue.com/open/BartonMalow/VATechUpperQuad> to view images captured roughly every 10 minutes by the webcam mounted atop Brodie Hall since February 2014.

By the time this edition of the Corps Review reaches you, the roof will be in place, the installation of the exterior por-

tions of the walls will be well in progress, and a beehive of activity will signal the finishing touches to interior rooms.

In late December 2014, I had the opportunity to visit the North Carolina company that is producing the precast concrete portions of the walls, which feature a significant number of heraldry items intended to help our buildings tell the story of the Corps and the university. This keen attention to detail will, I think, be appreciated by our alumni and will likewise elicit great pride.

Our cadets are coming off a strong first semester, having set new records for

service projects and blood drives while ably fulfilling their academic responsibilities. As a result, the Corps' average GPA increased to 3.10, 642 cadets earned recognition on the Commandant's List, and 16 cadets achieved a perfect 4.0 GPA.

Your sustained support as alumni continues to be crucial as you build the endowments that support our Emerging Leader Scholarship program, along with the Commandant's Priority account, which bolsters myriad programs, including our efforts to send cadets both around the country and around the world. Last summer alone, our cadets



(From left) Maj. Gen. Fullhart, Col. Larkin '87, Gary Lerch '72, and Maj. Gen. Dan Dick '70 chat before the Corps' homecoming dinner.

spent time in 35 countries on all but one of the world's continents. Our alumni are also stepping up in measurable ways as we strive to complete our private component commitment to the new Corps Leadership and Military Science Building.

A growing number of our staff is now calling Lane Hall home, including your alumni director, Col. Patience Larkin '87, and her new assistant, Jessica Taylor. We are very excited to welcome Jessica to our team, and I know all of you will enjoy meeting her when you come back to campus for your next visit or reunion.

We have also welcomed Alexandra "Allie" Oberoi '10 to our team in a new position as Lt. Col. Rewa Mariger's assistant. Allie brings both experience and enthusiasm to our recruiting and retention programs as we anticipate a Corps of more than 1,000 cadets for a fourth consecutive year. Our substantial use of social networks, a growing number of parents clubs, and our plans for future marketing and communication initiatives required expansion of our staff in this area, and we are grateful that Allie will participate in these efforts.

Lastly, our search is in full force to find the next director of the regimental band, the Highty-Tighties. We hope to find that perfect fit, a musician with real enthusiasm for the band and what it represents to the Corps and to the university. We certainly thank and honor Lt. Col. George McNeill for his years of dedicated service, and we are grateful that he is going to stick around for a few extra months to provide a terrific handoff to his successor. Thanks, George!

As you are aware, in accordance with the bylaws of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Inc., your board chairman, Gary Lerch '72, will be passing the baton to J. Pearson '87. It has been a great pleasure and privilege to work with Gary and others on the board charting a course toward the future of the Corps and its relationship with alumni.

Under Gary's leadership, we have fostered an active board with a number of committees, each chartered and filled by members who are working in very specific need areas for the Corps. These areas include such focuses as reconnecting members and classes, and creating relationships with organizations and alumni

who can assist with linking our current cadets with future career opportunities. In partnership with Col. Larkin, Gary also helped us inaugurate alumni dinners with our rising seniors in order to create better understanding of the value of and need for active alumni engagement before our cadets graduate.

We thank you, Gary, for all that you have done and will continue to do as an important leader in our alumni ranks.

I want to extend my congratulations to J. Pearson and to publicly state that I am looking forward to working very closely with him and the team in the coming months and years. As we work to update our strategic plan for the Corps, J. and the board will be doing the same for Corps alumni, and I know this process will be an opportunity for vision casting, active alumni involvement, and mutual benefit—for all.

Other than that, there's nothing much going on! Take care, and stay tuned.



A precast concrete piece with crossed cannons will be placed over the entrance to Skipper's home in the new residence hall.



Prior to formation in front of Lane Hall on a cold morning in November 2000: (from left) Col. Wesley Fox, 1st Battalion deputy commandant; Capt. Heidi Charles, recruiting officer; and Col. Rock Roszak '71, alumni director, stand by for the activation of VPI Company, the new organizational structure for Corps-only cadets. Cadet Erik Nowak '02 is front and center, preparing the troops, while Cadet Nathaniel Millison '03 bears the new VPI Company guidon. Commandant of Cadets Maj. Gen. Allen, not pictured, presided over the ceremony.

“Make Sure You Use Spell-check”

The Story of the Activation of VPI Company

by Deputy Commandant of Cadets Lt. Col Don Russell and Cadet Jordan Wells, Class of 2016, VPI Battalion historian

In the summer of 1998, twin brothers Ernest Cage '02 and Ericke Cage '02 reported for New Cadet Training and the start of their hopes for commissioning via Army ROTC. At the end of their sophomore year, however, both were medically released from Army ROTC due to vision issues, and the brothers became what was then known as Corps-only cadets.

This development presented an unusual situation in the Corps, for both cadets had already been selected to serve as senior sergeants for the next year: Ernest as the Bravo Company first sergeant and Ericke as the Third Battalion sergeant major. At that time, the unwritten rule, or culture, in the Corps was that the highest Corps position a non-ROTC

cadet could aspire to, with very few exceptions, was as a staff officer, which excluded serving in senior sergeant, executive officer, or command positions.

Then-Commandant of Cadets Maj. Gen. Jerry Allen saw the value of growing civilian-leaders, however, and allowed the brothers to continue in their senior sergeant roles the next fall.

Midway into that fall 2000 semester, Maj. Gen. Allen asked Ernest to draw up a proposal not only to afford Corps-only cadets more leadership opportunities, but also to get them in better physical shape. A week later, Ernest completed a written concept of operations for the new organization. Ernest recalls: “The moniker ‘VPI Company’ sounded cool

and gave homage to the past, so I penned the name. After a week of brainstorming, I sent my proposal to Maj. Gen. Allen, and his only comments were, if I recall correctly, ‘Great job, Ernest! Let’s make this happen . . . and also make sure you use spell-check!’

VPI Company was born.

A staff for this new organization was soon selected, and all Corps-only cadets were ordered to join. On a cold November morning, Maj. Gen. Allen, his staff, and the regimental commander presided over the VPI Company activation ceremony, with Cadet First Sgt. Ernest Cage given command of the unit.

The company started out strong, holding physical training sessions two

mornings per week and a professional development event once a month, normally a lecture by a member of the commandant's staff. By today's standards, these activities don't seem like much, but at the time, they constituted a significant step forward for Corps-only cadets, who in the past had only been required to attend morning formation and wear a uniform.

The first weeks were critical, but the response Corps-wide was positive. The perception that Corps-only cadets got off easy because they weren't required to participate in physical training diminished, and many VPI Company cadets sought and earned Corps leadership positions the following year.

More than 14 years later, the program continues to grow. A deputy commandant is now solely dedicated to overseeing the Citizen-Leader Track program, and the "Corps Only" terminology has vanished from use. The unit expanded to battalion size (see Corps Review, spring 2014, page 28) and, at more than 200 cadets, now comprises nearly 25 percent of the regiment.

Organizational pride is highly evident, and VPI cadets have served as regimental commanders. Mandatory physical training is held three to four times per week. Accredited management classes that contribute to a minor in leadership studies are offered. Employer outreach and engagement are prolific as more and more organizations learn about the value of this unique leader development program. Corps recruiting officers and alumni emphasize this track option to prospects. And VPI cadets continue to land lucrative internships and launch their post-graduation careers.

As for the Cage brothers, they've done pretty well for themselves, too. As a cadet, Ericke continued on to serve as Second Battalion sergeant major, Alpha Company commander, and regimental inspector general. Since graduation in 2002, he has enjoyed a distinguished career in law and legislative affairs and currently serves as director for government affairs at Teach for America.

In December 2000, shortly after activating VPI Company, Ernest was

offered a rare one-year Air Force ROTC scholarship/commission. After serving as the regimental sergeant major and as Second Battalion commander, he graduated from the Corps and commissioned as a logistics readiness officer.

Now a major in the U.S. Air Force, Ernest has served stateside and overseas in Guam, Diego Garcia, Korea, and Southwest Asia and in Europe on the NATO staff. He has deployed multiple times, most recently to Kabul, Afghanistan. Maj. Cage is currently assigned to the Office of the Under Secretary of the Air Force at the Pentagon and will take command of the 11th Logistics Readiness Squadron at Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland, this summer.

"I could never have imagined back then," Ernest said, "that one day there would be a VPI Battalion—amazing! I am so proud to have played a small role in the organization's development and am equally proud that our Corps continues to evolve. Never give up, never falter, and never fail."

Ut Prosim.



At left, Cadet Ernest Cage '02, the originator of VPI Company, accepts the company guidon during the activation ceremony held on the Upper Quad in November 2000.



Maj. Ernest "Nest" Cage '02 returned to Virginia Tech during Corps Homecoming in September 2014 to participate in the Corps' Alumni Gunfighter Panel. While at lunch with current Citizen-Leader Track cadets, he shared the history of the activation of VPI Company: (from left) Cadet Jordan Wells, Class of 2016, battalion historian; Cadet Melanie Otte, Class of 2016, battalion sergeant major; Cadet Logan Mauk, Class of 2015, battalion commander; and Maj. Cage.



Thank You and Farewell

by Gary Lerch '72, chairman, Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Inc.

This spring marks the end of my second three-year term as chairman of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni (VTCCA) board; and in accordance with our bylaws, I am turning the reins over to J. Pearson '87. I never imagined serving in this position, especially when so many members of our board possess outstanding credentials and experiences, but I am very grateful to T.O. Williams '59 for asking me to consider the job, and I am very thankful for the support of the members of the VTCCA Executive Committee, past and present.

I am grateful to my wife, Dawn, for supporting and encouraging me. She has become equally passionate about the Corps and the quality of its cadets. I look forward to continuing to serve, and supporting J. as he leads us to the next level of accomplishment.

The past six years were exciting, with some unforeseen challenges. The best achievement was reaching the long-awaited goal of a Corps of 1,000 cadets—and sustaining it. A larger Corps requires bigger and better facilities, and this dream is becoming a reality. Old Rasche has been taken down, and its replacement is well under way. Brodie is next, and the dream of a Corps Leadership and Military Science (CLMS) building as our home and headquarters is fast becoming a reality.

Also during the past six years, Maj. Gen. Jerry Allen retired as commandant and was ably succeeded by Maj. Gen. Randy Fullhart. Despite the fact that both gentlemen are U.S. Air Force Academy graduates, they both became



Gary Lerch '72 speaks to the Class of 2015 about the Corps' alumni program.

passionate Hokies, and we are fortunate to have their exceptional guidance, leadership, and vision for the future.

I would also add that the past six years have seen an increased appreciation and regard for the Corps by the university and the Hokie Nation, which can be attributed to the strength of our collective leadership, the support of former President Charles W. Steger, and especially the quality of our programs and alumni.

Moving forward, challenges and opportunities are plentiful. We need to complete the task of obtaining funding for the CLMS building. We need to ensure that the Corps maintains its strength and perhaps to consider growing to another level.

As always, our task is to make certain that our cadets are thoroughly and properly prepared for the world in which they will serve and live. As alumni, we need to be valued partners of the comman-

dant and staff, as well as the institutional memory of the Corps.

Lastly, a goal should be to ensure that a strong and vibrant Corps of Cadets is always a component of Virginia Tech and a key ingredient of what makes Virginia Tech special.

In closing, the past six years have been the trip of a lifetime, and I am honored and thankful to have had the opportunity to serve you.

In the spirit of *Ut Prosim*,
Gary



Lerch leading the spring 2014 Corps alumni board meeting



Lerch (right) discussing the route of march with Rock Roszak '71 before the alumni march-on during 2012 Corps Homecoming



Thank you, Lt. Col. Gary Lerch '72, U.S. Army Reserve (retired), for your service to the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets!



The crew "sighting in" the first shot: (from left) Kevin Oyarzo; Cadet Josh Miller, Class of 2017; Cadet Nancy Bateman, Class of 2016; Cadet Tyler Simmons, Class of 2016; Cadet Dustin Reynolds, Class of 2017; and Jeff Baldwin.

The One, the Only, THE SKIPPER

by Cadet Tyler Simmons, Class of 2016, Skipper Crew commander

It all began with the rivalry between Virginia Military Institute (VMI) and Virginia Polytechnic Institute—today's Virginia Tech.

Each year during the Thanksgiving Day football game, the Keydets, upon scoring, would fire their mortar, "Little John," and would follow up with a chant: "Where's your cannon? Where's your cannon?"

Of course, VMI rarely scored, but with no cannon of our own, the victories felt bittersweet, even hollow, and left many cadets wondering if the Corps ever would have a response.

Cadets Homer Hickam '64, Ben Harper '64, and George Fox '64 knew our Corps needed a response to VMI's "pop gun." After much planning,

research, and support from Corps and university officials alike, the Skipper was born just in time for the Thanksgiving game of 1963.

Gathering uniform brass from the cadet classes of 1964-67 and spent bullet casings from the gun range, the cadets brought the material to the Virginia Foundry in Roanoke. The director, Paul Huffman, agreed to cast the cannon free of charge.

After retrieving the cannon, the cadets proceeded to Washington, D.C., to pick up the carriage that would support the gun. On the drive back to Blacksburg, they heard on the radio that President John F. Kennedy had been killed. To honor the president, the cannon was named "Skipper."

Back in Blacksburg, charges were made by filling squeeze bottles—which had been liberated from the cafeteria—with gunpowder and igniting them with cherry bombs. Confident of the Skipper's ability, the Corps was ready to introduce her to VMI. The Skipper's next challenge would be her biggest.

As the 1963 Thanksgiving game drew near, the cadets moved the Skipper to a secret location where she was guarded until the day of the game.

In the stadium, the festivities began like every other year. VMI cadets brought out their "pop gun," fired it, and chanted, "Where's your cannon?" This time, the Corps had an answer.

On command, approximately 50 freshmen cadets pulled the Skipper onto

the field using ropes. Packed with three charges, she was aimed at the VMI stands and fired. The blast wave cracked the press box windows on the other side of the stadium and blew the covers off the VMI cadets. Our cannon had arrived.

From that moment on, the Skipper, the world's largest game cannon, became a cherished part of Virginia Tech history and one of the university's most valued traditions.

Although an unfortunate accident in 1983 caused the first Skipper to explode, the Roanoke Foundry again provided another casting free of charge. Made of high tensile strength gray iron with a stainless steel tube in the center, Skipper II is still used during football games, formal retreats, and parades.

No longer using squeeze bottles and cherry bombs for charges, the Skipper Crew has made improvements to safety procedures over the years. With research, we have been able to adopt loading and firing techniques, along with cleaning the gun after use, but we have never received official training from professionals. That changed last summer.

Kenneth Stiles, a retired CIA employee and current professor of geography at Virginia Tech, offered us the opportunity to work with the North-South Skirmish Association (N-SSA) to receive training. The N-SSA is the country's oldest and largest Civil War shooting sports organization with more than 3,200 individuals divided into 200-member units. These units represent companies or regiments that fought during the Civil War, and the organization includes many of the nation's leading authorities on Civil War uniforms, arms, and equipment.

Stiles has been a member of the organization for over 40 years, and through his and the commandant's efforts, we were granted permission to attend a training session in August 2014 at N-SSA's home base in Winchester, Virginia.

Bringing just sleeping bags, we camped out that weekend and received instruction by N-SSA artillery experts Kevin Oyarzo and Jeff Baldwin. Although

we could not bring the Skipper, Oyarzo graciously provided his cannon and equipment for us to use. Coincidentally, Kevin's piece is modeled after a 3-inch Confederate ordnance rifle, which happens to be the same model as Skipper.

For most of the day, we received instruction on the "school of the piece," which includes the eight positions of a cannon detachment and all of their duties. The process was tricky at first, but with a lot of teamwork and motivation, we picked up the instructions fairly quickly. We were hoping to impress our instructors enough to allow us to fire live rounds at the site's quarter-mile-wide shooting range—and we did.

Using sighting equipment, we took aim at our target: a sheet of drywall marked with a bull's-eye approximately 200 meters downrange. After priming the charge and making last-minute safety checks, we fired the first shot and watched in amazement as the aluminum projectile hurtled downrange.

Needless to say, we were all excited and wondered if we had hit the target. Using binoculars, we discovered that we had scored in one of the inner rings. After firing five more shots, we scored each time and came very close to hitting a bull's-eye.

There wasn't a dull moment the entire weekend, and we felt as if we were members ourselves because of the N-SSA community's friendliness and hospitality. Stiles, Oyarzo, Baldwin, the N-SSA staff and members, and our commandant, Maj. Gen. Fullhart, cannot be thanked enough for allowing us to develop as better leaders and professionals at what we do.

Since that weekend, we have been invited to participate in N-SSA's Spring Nationals tournament that takes place on May 14 at the site in Winchester. The tournament will include musket, pistol, artillery, and mortar competitions and will feature vendors selling Civil War merchandise.

The Skipper Crew will be competing in the artillery match, along with teams from West Point Military Academy and Slippery Rock ROTC. We hope to have some strong support and would love to see you there.

Go, Hokies! *Ut Prosim!*

For more information about the tournament, go to www.n-ssa.org/index.php or contact Cadet Simmons at chrts93@vt.edu.



The Skipper Crew upon completion of training: (kneeling, from left) Cadet Buford, Class of 2016; Cadet Simmons, Class of 2016; Cadet Crockett, Class of 2017; Cadet Reynolds, Class of 2017; (standing, from left) Jeff Baldwin; Cadet Glick, Class of 2017; Cadet Miller, Class of 2017; Cadet Bateman, Class of 2016; and Kevin Oyarzo.



“Det 875 ... Best Alive”:
Detachment 875 is the third-largest
Air Force ROTC unit in the United States.

Air Force ROTC News

Commander’s greeting

Greetings from Virginia Tech’s old Military Building/ tailor shop, which is next to the smokestack on campus. I am Col. Cameron “Cam” Torrens, and I took over from Col. John Montgomery this past summer. Col. Montgomery built a strong Air Force program here and left it in great shape. Following his retirement, he moved to Maryland and began working for Northrop-Grumman.

In November 2014, we celebrated Master Sgt. Wendy Goetz’s retirement after 23 years in the Air Force and four years at Detachment (Det) 875. We definitely miss her experience. In addition, Capt. Brandon Herndon made the decision to separate from the Air Force last summer. He is still in the area working for Virginia Tech and running a goat farm down by Tom’s Creek.

Fortunately, we welcomed several new arrivals. Following a tour on the space command staff at Vandenberg Air Force

Base, California, Maj. Howard Reed and his family joined us, and Tech. Sgt. Nicholas Ferebee and family arrived from Air Force Personnel Command in San Antonio, Texas.

Although I arrived here without much ROTC experience, I have put in a few years in a variety of Air Force roles. Most recently, I returned to the U.S. after a three-year tour as the air attaché in Beijing, China. Prior to that, I served as the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing commander in Southwest Asia.

I am a career mobility pilot with most of my time in C-130s and KC-10s. Along the way, my wife Linda and I put together a family that includes six kids ranging in ages from five to 18. The Torrens clan is excited about living in Blacksburg, and I’m proud that the second word my youngest son spelled was “H-O-K-I-E-S.” His first was his name.

The mission of Detachment 875 is to commission officers for military service in the U.S. Air Force who will be leaders of exemplary character. I’ve given my commander’s intent to the



Det 875 works hard, trains hard, and plays hard.



cadets and cadre of Det 875, and my priorities are as follows: commission second lieutenants in the U.S. Air Force; preserve and strengthen the relationship between Detachment 875 and the university, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets, our onsite sister-service ROTC detachments, and the local community; develop and take care of our cadre; and use strategic communications with cadets, cadre, the university, our chain of command, and the public to further our objectives.

We produce exemplary leaders by educating, training, and mentoring our future officers. At Det 875, our senior cadets take the lead in this role with my staff in close trail. As you read through our accomplishments for the past semesters, I think you will agree: Det 875 is the best alive!

SPRING AND FALL 2014

After a busy spring semester in 2014, the fall semester took off with even more excitement among Virginia Tech's Air Force ROTC cadets. With a new wing commander, Cadet Sam McKinley, Class of 2015, and many interesting events planned, the detachment had much to anticipate.



Air Force Training Exercise

by Cadet William Vician, Class of 2016

Detachment 875's annual warrior weekend, renamed Air Force Training Exercise (AFTX), took place April 5-6, 2014, at Caldwell Fields. The AS400 (senior) class planned the entire trip, including lunch provided by local Air Force Association and JROTC members.

The detachment was split into two groups, and both were required to set up separate forward operating bases. Each base was complete with a group commander and staff, security forces, an entry control point, and a civil engineer squadron.

Over the weekend, all six squadrons rotated different duties within their respective forward operating base (FOB).



Practicing ambush tactics during the Air Force Training Exercise

Beginning with tent setup, teams of builders were assigned to each tent, giving leadership opportunities to some of the underclassmen.

Other duties included security forces missions, wall-building, and wood-collecting. One of the highlights included the successful triage and treatment of seven victims while waiting for medical evacuation units to arrive. Col. Montgomery, the detachment commander, noted, “From planning to deployment to execution, what we saw this weekend was great leadership, great followership, and, most importantly, great wingmanship.”

After erecting the FOBs, quick-reaction forces were immediately sent on missions to rescue downed pilots and retrieve food for the afternoon. Later, in order to practice building relations with local nationals and collecting intelligence, every cadet participated in the mission to provide humanitarian aid to the “villagers” and help them perform tasks. Each group was then able to practice ambush tactics and different squad movements, including tactical reports while in transit from each location.

Once back at the base, leadership was truly put to the test by a surprise improvised explosive device attack, during which

cadets practiced the correct procedures for taking cover and sweeping the base.

On the final day, a scenario of a village in duress presented the challenge of security and medical procedures. Armed with paintball markers, cadets were sent out to secure the village and simulate medical treatment.

The seniors were divided into roughly three groups for the weekend. The first group was designated as “opposing forces” and was directly responsible for engaging the cadets with the paintball markers. The second group was designated as villagers, who role-played the scenario between the two FOBs. Lastly, the meta staff did everything from moving around the “meals ready to eat” for the cadets, to producing written evaluations and administering physical training and aircraft silhouette tests.

Overall, the weekend was a great success with great learning opportunities and morale-boosting activities such as bonfires. The spring 2014 AFTX represented the closest allowable exercise to what AS200 cadets face at field training during the summer. As a result, Detachment 875 is expected to perform exceptionally well in comparison to others, proving Det 875, best alive!



Another big splash at the dunk tank

Wing picnic

by Cadet Noel Sheaffer, Class of 2017

After a summer apart, the wing came back together on Aug. 29, 2014, for an afternoon of recognition and friendly competition at the wing picnic, the detachment's first function of the 2014-15 academic year.

The event kicked off by recognizing the accomplishments of the new professional officer corps cadets at summer field training. Those cadets who received special honors, including two cadets who received the Top Gun award, were given special recognition.

Following the awards, the flights broke off to play friendly games of football, ultimate Frisbee, and basketball. Following the unit competitions, it was time to eat and relax. While the squadrons enjoyed their hotdogs and hamburgers, bidding took place for the infamous dunk tank. The dunk tank was used to raise money for the wing, and cadets and cadre were both fair game. No one resisted their fate when it came to the dunk tank, and even Col. Torrens joined in the fun.

At the event's conclusion, the smiles on the faces of the cadets and cadre proved that the night was a success and the morale of the wing was high. The end of the first week of classes couldn't have ended better.

Wall of Fame

by Cadet Melinda Morris, Class of 2016

On Sept. 16, 2014, the Robert Femoyer Service Squadron hosted its 17th annual induction ceremony for the Aviation Wall of Fame, which honors selected Virginia Tech alumni who have contributed significantly to advancing the field of aviation. The ceremony was held at the Virginia Tech Airport.

This year's inductee was Peter Kurzhals, who immigrated to the United States from Germany in 1952 and went on to earn a B.S. in aeronautical engineering and an M.S. and Ph.D. in aerospace engineering from Virginia Tech.



Det 875 cadets speak with Peter Kurzhals before the ceremony

During his career, Kurzhals supervised the project that ran the first successful test of a fly-by-wire flight at NASA, and he helped improve aircraft performance through the Control Configured Vehicle Program.

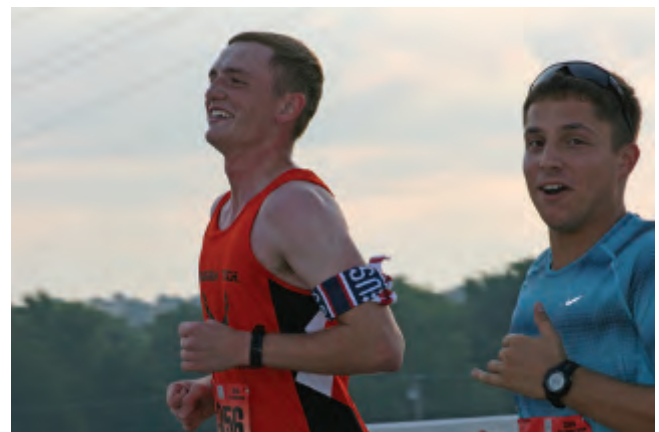
In 1984, Kurzhals left NASA to join Booz Allen and later McDonnell Douglas. When Boeing purchased McDonnell Douglas in 1995, he was named director of Boeing's product support for the International Space Station.

Having retired in 2011, Kurzhals and his wife live in Orange County, California, and help many cadets through the Corps' Emerging Leader Scholarship program. He offered the following advice to cadets: "Serve and give back and remember to mentor others."

Air Force Marathon

by Cadet Henry MacGibbon, Class of 2016, and Cadet Luke Bergeron, Class of 2017

Approximately an hour after a beautiful sunrise on Sept. 20, 2014, thousands of Air Force personnel and non-military runners mentally geared up for a very long run in the Air Force Marathon at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.



Det 875 cadets kicking it at the Air Force Marathon

Standing in the crowd of runners were several cadets and cadre from Virginia Tech's Detachment 875. Some had been training for months, and others were running for the first time, but all had a long way to go before crossing the big blue finish line.

Having arrived in Ohio on Thursday evening before the race, cadets explored the National Museum of the United States Air Force, which features bombers, fighters, and cargo airplanes from World War I to the present, full-motion simulators, and more.

Following the museum tour and dinner was the 5K race. The sole participant from Detachment 875 was ROTC instructor, Capt. Moy. With a time of 17:26, Moy crushed his nearest competitor by 30 seconds and took the title back to Blacksburg.

Arising at 5 a.m. the next morning, the cadets and cadre were eager to run the 10K, half-marathon, and full marathon. All Tech participants completed their runs, but not without some sweat and tears. Cadet Stephen Romans, Class of 2015, described the final mile of the marathon as "a tease. You were so close, but it seemed as if it was never going to end."

Romans, who planned this year's trip, said, "This year was executed better than last year. I was happy to see more involvement and participants."

- Cadet Samuel McKinley, Class of 2015, placed 10th in the 10K with a time of 40:21, the fastest time in the military division.
- Cadet Patric Burns, Class of 2017, placed second in his age group and 19th overall in the 10K with a time of 43:58.
- Cadet Walter Gonsiewski, Class of 2016, ran the half-marathon in a time of 1:33:42.
- Cadet Trevor Schmidt, Class of 2016, ran the marathon in a time of 3:01:17 (which including a 15-minute stop at the medical station).
- Cadet Kathryn Dyer, Class of 2017, ran the marathon in a time of 4:29:12 and placed first in her age group for females.

Veterans Day Vigil

by Cadet Morgan Frazier, Class of 2017, and Cadet Mike Magill, Class of 2018

On Nov. 11, Americans honor those who have sacrificed and served in our military. At Virginia Tech, cadets are given the privilege of guarding the Rock, alongside retired and active duty airman, during the Veterans Day Vigil. Located next to



Guarding the Rock on the Upper Quad

the flagpole on the Upper Quad, the Rock is a memorial to Virginia Tech alumni lost in World War I.

Det 875's organized vigil spanned the entire 24-hour period of Veterans Day, and the cadets who volunteered found the experience very moving.

Cadet Virginia Melton, Class of 2017, said, "Guarding the Rock ... was a beautiful moment. It gave me a sense of pride." Cadet Riley Cooper, Class of 2016, felt that "it was a privilege to honor those who have served this country, to take a break from the stresses of the normal week and reflect on our veterans."

Det 875's new commander, Col. Torrens, was "honored to take part in the Veterans Day Vigil. The majority of Americans do not have any connection with the military, and I think it's important ... to honor those who have served our nation. The vigil at Tech is special to me because it is an idea conceived by young cadets and future veterans who recognize the value of service."

Dining out: "Beyond All Limits"

by Cadet Preston Godoy, Class of 2015, and Cadet Erika Nelson, Class of 2018

Detachment 875 hosted its biannual dining out in fall 2014, bringing together all Air Force cadets and their dates,



The dance floor is open.



Det 875 cadre members (from left) Staff Sgt. Jones, Staff Sgt. Palmer, and Ms. Connie

cadre, and distinguished guests, including Commandant of Cadets Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart and his wife, Kathy. Lt. Gen. Charles R. Davis, U.S. Air Force (retired), was the guest speaker at the formal event.

Once the dinner bell had been rung, guests convened in the dining hall to begin the ceremonies, which featured the playing of the national Anthem by the Highty-Tighties' Southern Colonels, a short demonstration by the Gregory Guard, and a poignant prisoner-of-war and missing-in-action presentation by the Robert Femoyer Service Squadron.

After introductions, Lt. Gen. Davis took the podium to speak about his experiences at the Air Force Academy and in the Air Force. He urged us to question the status quo and to push beyond the limits that are placed upon us. Davis closed his speech with the inspiring story of Robert Femoyer whose service went beyond what was expected of him.

Following Lt. Gen. Davis' speech and dinner, Det 875's commander, Col. Torrens, closed the ceremonies with final remarks and opened the dance floor.

Special thanks are extended to Cadet Keegan Newton, Class of 2015, and his staff who worked tirelessly to make the event possible.

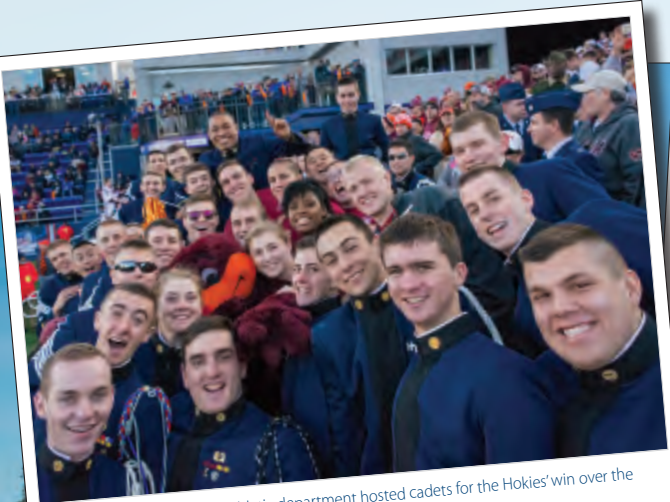
Det. 875's newest contracted cadets!

- Christopher Blaney +×
- Brett Bozeman °
- Anthony Carella +
- Nicholas Curren
- Eric Daly □
- Lyndon Daniel
- Teshaun Deberry
- Kyle Delgado ★
- Ian Dickerson
- Benjamin Dwyer
- Eric Fetcho
- Kyle Goggins
- Walter Gonsiewski ★✓×
- Matthew Gulotta
- Eric Jordan ★✓
- Benjamin Lyon
- Mark Mercier
- Evan Patoray
- Carlo Policastro *
- Joshua Preiss □
- Nicholas Ramunda
- Randall Rechkemmer ×
- Samantha Reed °
- Sean Ross +
- Keith Rossi
- Stephen Rozansky ×
- Trevor Schmidt *
- Dylan Sharpy +
- David Sinclair ×
- Alex Stone
- Randal Thomas
- Liam Totten
- Garrett Treaster +
- Billy Vician
- Eric Warrel
- Casey White

- * Top Gun
- ★ Distinguished Grad
- + Superior Performer
- ✓ Warrior Spirit
- × Expert Marksmanship
- ° Honor Flight
- Warrior Flight

Early-Spring Events

Spring semester started before it began, with cadets, staff, and alumni enjoying a Virginia Tech win in the 2014 Military Bowl in Annapolis, Maryland. Upon the cadets' return to campus, it was off to the races with change of command, the alumni Gunfighter Panel, and the Military Ball, all within the first month of the semester.



At the Military Bowl, Tech's athletic department hosted cadets for the Hokies' win over the University of Cincinnati. Even the Hokie Bird joined in the fun!



Gen. Fullhart passed the Corps flag from the outgoing regimental commander, Cadet Col. Andy George, to his successor, Cadet Col. Austin Dickey, during the spring semester's change-of-command ceremony.



The spring 2015 alumni Gunfighter panelists included (from left) Sean Henrickson '96, Devin Sperling '04, Matt Newman '06, and Alexandra Oberoi '10, who shared their experiences and lessons gleaned from their time in the Corps.



The Gunfighter Panel participants enjoyed dinner with cadet leaders at the University Club.



Col. Rock Roszak '71, U.S. Air Force (retired), was personally invited by the Class of 2015 cadets to speak at their senior banquet, which was held before the Corps' annual Military Ball.



The Gregory Guard gave an outstanding performance to start a fantastic Military Ball!

Started in 2006 by IMG College, 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.



Maj. Kurt Rathgeb '97, USAF
Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar



Col. Christopher Ireland '91, USAF
Combined Joint Special Operations Air Component, Afghanistan



Col. Geo S'tewart '92, USA
Kabul, Afghanistan



1st Lt. John Long '11, USA
Camp Lemmonier, Djibouti, Africa



2nd Lt. Andy Kress '13, USA
Camp Buehring, Kuwait



1st Lt. David Jacobs '11, USAF
Camp Lemmonier, Djibouti, Africa



News from the Development Office

by Scott Lyman '84, assistant director of development, 800-553-1144, rlyman@vt.edu

It is with great pleasure that I write to our friends, parents, and alumni for the first time. Since my hiring on March 3, 2014, I have had the opportunity to meet hundreds of our alumni, and I want to thank everyone for the hospitality.

Maj. Gen. Randy Fullhart spoke at the Virginia Tech president's reception held before the 2014 Military Bowl in Annapolis, Maryland. The Corps of Cadets Color Guard presented the colors during the reception and before the game. We are grateful to the Department of Athletics for providing a block of tickets for cadets who wanted to attend the game.

We have passed the 72 percent mark of our goal to raise \$10 million in private funding for the new Corps Leadership and Military Science Building (CLMS). Our Corps alumni have responded generously to our call, and we are well on our way to building the Corps' new headquarters, which will support our organization for the next 150 years. However, we still need your help. We have numerous naming opportunities available at \$25 thousand and higher. If you would like additional information, call either Dave Spracher or me at 800-533-1144.

When I was a freshman in the Corps, we did not have the Caldwell March. Participating with the Class of 2018 in the fall was both exhilarating and exhausting. During the fall march, 136 of our freshman cadets were sponsored, which was fantastic.

As of today, 193 cadets are sponsored for the spring march that is scheduled for

April 18. Our goal is to have a sponsor for every freshman participating in each march. If you are interested in sponsoring a cadet, you can do so through the Corps website at www.vtcc.vt.edu/give/caldwell-march.html or by calling us at 1-800-533-1144.

The future of the Corps looks bright. Friends, parents, and alumni have answered the call each and every time they have been asked. We appreciate your leadership and generosity.

I look forward to getting to know each and every one of you, and if there is anything we can do to assist you in determining how you would like to support the Corps, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Following is a list of donors who have taken advantage of **CLMS naming**

opportunities since the publication of the fall 2014 Corps Review:

- Betty Lou and Mark Childers '63
- S. Cary Gill '67
- Marilyn and Col. Frederick E. Johnston III (retired) '60
- Cary and Bob Mangum '58
- The Class of 1963

Annual Fund

by Randy Holden, director of annual giving

Thank you for supporting the efforts of the Annual Fund on behalf of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. As the Corps continues to grow, so does the need for your support. Unfortunately, contributions directed to the Corps Annual Fund so far this year are down slightly as compared to previous years.



Beautiful scenery along the route of the fall 2014 Caldwell March

With all the good news about the Corps, it is easy to believe the Corps is doing fine and does not need any financial help. In fact, nothing could be further from the truth. The resurgence of the Corps has been built on the tradition of support from alumni who have chosen to make Corps success a priority.

During a pass in review last fall, I was told by a 50th reunion class member that “this is my Corps!” This alumnus, and his classmates’ commitment and vision, helped make the Corps the vibrant, thriving program it is now. Offering this same support is exactly what you can do for today’s cadets.

The generosity of our donors—Corps alumni just like you—is what funds educational opportunities, enhances the day-to-day operations of the Corps, boosts innovative programs, and promotes cadet activities both in and outside the classroom.

Beginning April 13, current cadets will be assisting with reaching out to alumni. To borrow the phrase from the enthusiastic alumnus I met at the pass in review, if you are called, I hope that you will remember “this is my Corps!”

Major Gifts (\$25,000 and above)

Jim and Colleen Baker, the proud parents of Michael James Baker ’14, have endowed another scholarship to benefit a member of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. The **VTCC Baker Family Emerging Leader Scholarship** will support students who, for financial reasons, might not otherwise be able to attend Virginia Tech.

Warren and Larissa Bare have made an unrestricted gift to the Corps that the commandant may use for his most pressing needs.

Betty Lou and Mark A. Childers have funded the **VTCC Betty Lou and Mark A. Childers ’63 Scholarship**. Mark earned both a bachelor’s degree and a master’s degree in civil engineering from

Virginia Tech, which led him to a successful career in the oil industry.

Gus Davis has made an additional gift to the **VTCC Virginia C. and August F. Davis ’41 Scholarship**, which he started in 2008 in memory of his wife and to honor his time in the Corps. Gus, who speaks proudly of his service as the regimental adjutant during his senior year, was a test pilot in the Army Air Corps and worked as an engineer for General Electric after leaving military service.

The estate of Leonard E. Ringler ’67 has provided funds to endow the **Leonard E. Ringler ’67 Scholarship**. Len, who was the G Company commander during his senior year, had been instrumental in establishing the G Company Scholarship.

Fay Street has made another gift to the **VTCC Nicholas D. Street ’53 Endowed Scholarship**. Fay first funded the scholarship in 2004 as a surprise for her husband, Nick, and they continue to give to support more cadets.

James E. Vass ’64 has established an estate gift that will ultimately fund the **VTCC James E. Vass Jr. ’64 Endowed Scholarship** and a **Corps of Cadets Mu-**

seum Endowment. James, who earned a degree in civil engineering, retired from the Army as a lieutenant colonel and later served as the commodore of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Georgia Robair-West has made an outright gift that will fund the **VTCC Georgia West and Stewart B. West ’36 Scholarship**. Georgia endowed this fund in memory of her husband, a graduate of the electrical engineering program who was a great lover of music and a huge supporter of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.

Bob and Sandra Young have made an additional commitment to an Emerging Leader Scholarship they created in 2010. The **VTCC Sandra B. and Robert E. Young ’60 Scholarship** provides support to a cadet in good standing. Bob, who graduated with a degree in chemistry, was a member of M Company during his first three years as a cadet and was selected as the Third Battalion executive officer for his senior year.

Ut Prosim,

Scott



(From left) Deborah Tillotson ’78, Dan Tillotson, Ian Tillotson ’14, and Cadet Allison Laclede, Class of 2015, enjoying the president’s reception at the 2014 Military Bowl

To the Best Interest of the Corps

In handwritten notes accompanying his many donations, Ed Norwood '44 often designated that his gifts be used "... to the best interest of the Corps."

Norwood's charitable gifts were both generous and strategic. A member of the President's Circle, the university's highest level of donor recognition, Norwood was also a successful executive with a lifelong talent for maximizing opportunities. Some of his gifts not only benefited the Corps, but also helped him and his wife, Barbie, accomplish their own financial goals.

Norwood's gifts included two Virginia Tech charitable gift annuities from which he received lifetime income and which benefited the Corps after his death. Such gifts are sometimes called gifts that pay you back. Ed Norwood called them "a two-way street."

"It is a good business decision," Norwood said in a 2004 interview for the university's Impact newsletter. "[The gift annuity] not only provides a safe return and a way to balance a portfolio, [but also] gives me a way to support Virginia Tech."

Charitable gift annuities are designed to pay lifetime income to the donor; and after the donor's lifetime, the remaining balance becomes a charitable gift. After his death in 2014, Norwood's gift annuity balances were added to the Emerging Leader Scholarship he had already created with cash gifts.

"It's not hard to understand [the urge to fund a scholarship]," Norwood told the Corps Review in 2010. He credited financial assistance for his own opportunity to attend Virginia Tech, and he credited leadership skills learned in the Corps for his success in military service and in business.

Norwood's charitable gift annuities were indeed a two-way street. They provided payments to him during his retirement and now continue to serve "the best interest of the Corps" through scholarships that will help create similar opportunities for generations of cadets.

Many cadets benefit from Norwood's gift. See <http://bit.ly/vtimpact-w13-22> for one cadet's story.

Explore gifts that pay you. See <http://bit.ly/vtpgcalc> to calculate how a life income gift could work for you.

Learn more. Contact Dave Spracher, director of development for the Corps of Cadets, at 800-533-1144 or dlsprach@vt.edu.

In Memory

William Freeman '35
1913 – 2014



William Freeman died Oct. 17, 2014. A native of Matthews, Virginia, Freeman served as a naval aviator during World War II and was stationed at Pearl Harbor during the attack on Dec. 7, 1941.

Later, he worked as the court administrator for Broward County, Florida, until retirement. An avid traveler who enjoyed cruises and cross-country road trips, Freeman is survived by his wife, Betty, and a son and a daughter.

Joseph F. Belton '41
1920 – 2014



Joseph F. Belton died July 12, 2014. Born in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Belton graduated from Virginia Tech with a B.S. in mechanical

engineering and served in the U.S. Air Force as a fighter pilot during World War II and as an experimental test pilot during the Korean War. Upon leaving active duty, Belton worked in various engineering positions with Chrysler, General Motors, and Whirlpool and was long admired for his broad range of knowledge, subtle humor, and humility.

Clarence C. LaRue Jr. '43
1921 – 2014



Clarence C. "Buzz" LaRue died Jan. 9, 2014. LaRue was raised in Bath County, Virginia, and upon graduation from Virginia Tech served in World War II, participating

in the Normandy invasion; the Central Europe, Northern France, and Rhineland campaigns; and the Battle of the Bulge, receiving the Bronze Star for his actions in combat. After returning home, he began a career in private business and served in various leadership positions in outdoor sport organizations. Predeceased by his wife, Mary, LaRue is survived by four sons.

Dr. Richard H. Smith '49
1926 – 2014



Dr. Richard H. Smith died Nov. 6, 2014. After "ratting" with the Class of 1947 at Virginia Tech, Smith served as a hospital corpsman in the U.S.

Navy during World War II, returning to graduate in 1949. A beloved general practitioner who received his medical degree from the Medical College of Virginia, Dr. Smith helped establish one of the first halfway houses for alcoholics and addicts in Harrisonburg, Virginia, before retiring in 1992 as emergency room director at

Rockingham Memorial Hospital. Smith is survived by his wife, Mary, and four children.

Thomas Harold Bruguere '53
1930 – 2014



Thomas Harold Bruguere died Sept. 30, 2014. Born in Paterson, New Jersey, Bruguere attended Washington and Lee University before graduating

from Virginia Tech in 1953. He served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force for four years and became an active member of the Roseland, Virginia, community. Bruguere is survived by his wife, Emilie, and four sons.

James B. Johnson '54
1931 – 2014



James B. Johnson died Sept. 11, 2014. A native of Roanoke, Virginia, Johnson graduated from Virginia Tech with a bachelor of

science in 1954, and a master of architecture in 1955, and served as a missile commander in the U.S. Army. A prominent architect and CEO of Johnson, Schmidt & Associates in Pittsburgh, he retired to Clearwater, Florida. Johnson is survived by his third wife, Susan; two sons, and two daughters.

Simeon A. Burnette '57
1935 – 2014



Simeon A. Burnette died Aug. 8, 2014. A native of Sandston, Virginia, Burnette graduated from Virginia Tech with a bachelor's

degree in 1957, a master's degree in 1958, and a doctorate in 1967, all in chemical engineering. An early-career scientist, he left the laboratory to pursue an interest in technical education and for 26 years served as president of J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, earning recognition for his outstanding leadership in the community. Burnette is survived by his wife, Virginia, a daughter, and a son.

Ray Walker Lotts '60
1938 – 2014



Ray Walker Lotts died April 28, 2014. Born in Spottswood, Virginia, Lotts graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in agriculture

and served as a pilot in the U.S. Air Force for 23 years, including a year in Vietnam, and retired as a lieutenant colonel. He enjoyed sports immensely, from playing to watching to coaching, and worked as an usher for the Texas Rangers, the Dallas Mavericks, and the Dallas Stars. Lotts is survived by his wife, Shirley, and three children.

Frank Gordon Goldenberg '62
1940 – 2014



Frank Gordon Goldenberg died Oct. 28, 2014. At Virginia Tech, Goldenberg was a major on the Corps' regimental staff and a

member of the Association of the U.S. Army, Scabbard and Blade, the Society of American Military Engineers, the Pershing Rifles, the National Honor Society, and the Honor Court and the chairman of the Sash and Sabre Committee. Upon graduation, he served in the U.S. Army, including a tour in Vietnam, where he earned the Bronze Star. Leaving the military, he worked in the steel industry and retired from Lynchburg Steel. Goldenberg is survived by his wife, Donna, a son, and two daughters.

Gary L. Poff '62
1941 – 2014



Gary L. Poff died Sept. 1, 2014. A native of Salem, Virginia, Poff graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in mechanical

engineering and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He served more than 26 years, including two tours in Vietnam and two tours in Europe, in addition to many other assignments. Predeceased by his wife, Sheila, Poff is survived by a daughter and a son.

Sidney G. Oaksmith '77
1955 – 2014



Sidney G. Oaksmith died Oct. 9, 2014. Born in Annapolis, Maryland, Oaksmith graduated from Virginia Tech with a

degree in forestry and served in the U.S. Army as a field artillery officer for more than 26 years, including operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He dearly loved his alma mater and his band of brothers in the German Club. Oaksmith is survived by his wife, Rebecca, and two daughters.

Robert Alan Patterson '78
1955 – 2014



Robert Alan Patterson of Linwood, New Jersey, died Oct. 31, 2014. After graduating from Virginia Tech, Patterson was a

front desk manager for several casinos, as well as a hotel, in Ocean City, New Jersey. He was an avid Civil War reenactor and served as captain of the 6th Wisconsin Company K. Predeceased by his father, Patterson is survived by his mother.

Irwin Hugh “Jeff” Jaffe ’42



Irwin Hugh “Jeff” Jaffe died July 27, 2014.

Jaffe received a degree in architectural engineering from Virginia Tech in 1942. As a freshman, he was selected to be a member of his company’s rifle drill team, which subsequently won the Corps of Cadets’ annual drill competition. Fittingly, his name endures in the Corps as the namesake for the regi-

ment’s most dedicated drilled line unit: the Jaffe Eager Squad.

In 2004, Jaffe provided the funding to create the Jaffe Eager Squad trophy and provided cash awards to the members of the winning team each year since. His estate will create an endowment to fund future Jaffe awards.

Following graduation from Virginia Tech, Jaffe went on to become the chairman and president of The Chunky Corp. and the president and CEO of Ward Foods Candy, Ward Foods Branded Foods Group, Schrafft Candy Co., and Bernan Foods. In 1971, he was named “Candy Man of the Year” by Candy Industry Magazine, which recognized him for his “endless efforts on behalf of his industry and his community.”

In his book “How Sweet It Is,” Jaffe wrote, “At Virginia Tech, the leadership training I received in the Corps of Cadets provided a most solid base for what was so important in all of my future activities.”

Jaffe is survived by his wife, Natalie; two daughters, four grandsons, and three great-grandsons.

Shep Crow ’54



Marvin Shepard “Shep” Crow died Oct. 11, 2014.

Over the past decade, Crow was the driving force behind his class’s large showings at Old Guard reunions, and his regular monthly updates helped keep his class connected. By all accounts, Crow was the Corps’ original Class Champion.

Upon his graduation from Virginia Tech in 1954 with a degree in business administration, Crow was commissioned into the U.S. Army. During his 20-year career, he served in air defense artillery, the ordnance corps, and field artillery and was stationed in Germany, Korea, and Vietnam, where he served as a field artillery battalion commander.

Following his retirement as a lieutenant colonel in 1974, Crow held several positions with civilian contractors and retired in 1999 as the chief operating officer for Artel Inc.

Highly devoted to his family and friends, Crow took great pride in his community, receiving a Fairfax County, Virginia, Volunteer Service Award in 2013. He was a founding member of the South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce in 2008, was dedicated to promoting the Lorton community, and was a member of Pohick Church, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, the Lorton Heritage Society, and the Nike Historical Society.

Crow is survived by his wife, Louise; a son, two daughters, and two grandchildren.

LEST WE FORGET

Winfred P. Minter ’38, Davidson, North Carolina, 11/5/14.

Charles W. Reeves ’38, Laurel, Maryland, 11/6/14.

Melvin S. Barr ’45, Norfolk, Virginia, 11/12/14.

William Cardella ’45, Burlington, North Carolina, 10/22/14.

A. Claude Griffin Jr. ’45, Hot Springs Village, Arkansas, 10/30/14.

Joseph J. Tokarz ’45, Richmond, Virginia, 11/4/14.

John W. Rosenberger ’46, New Market, Virginia, 8/27/14.

Robert D. Winqvist ’46, Florham Park, New Jersey, 10/9/14.

George C. Lowry ’48, Glen Allen, Virginia, 9/25/14.

Garland H. Sharp Jr. ’49, Richmond, Virginia, 11/3/14.

George W. Bryant Jr. ’51, Richmond, Virginia, 8/15/14.

John A. Umlauf Jr. ’51, Richmond, Virginia 9/1/14.

William T. Sutton ’52, Fayetteville, Georgia 9/5/14.

Aubrey E. Sadler II ’54, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 8/21/14.

Frederick A. Diehlmann Jr. ’56, Dunkirk, Maryland, 8/9/14.

Norman V. Sprung ’56, York, Pennsylvania, 9/24/14.

Joe Ford ’57, Ellicott City, Maryland, 8/6/14.

Cody O. Horne ’59, Ocala, Florida, 9/15/14.

Louis A. Voigt Jr. ’59, Gastonia, North Carolina, 8/17/14.

Ronald L. Thacker ’60, Westerville, Ohio 8/14/14.

George D. Witt ’60, Richmond, Virginia, 9/20/14.

Carter W. Kellas ’61, Winchester, Virginia, 8/18/14.

James M. Williams ’61, West Columbia, South Carolina, 11/11/14.

Jon W. Yowell ’66, Rixeyville, Virginia, 8/20/14.

Rulon S. Gibb ’68, Ocean View, Delaware, 4/11/14.

John E. Booth ’75, Sturbridge, Massachusetts, 9/2/14.



Corps Homecoming • Sept. 11-12, 2015 Virginia Tech vs. Furman University



Come to Corps Homecoming 2015 and Reunite with Old Buds and Classmates!

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.

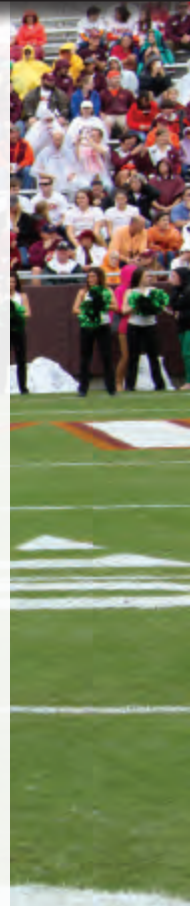
Saturday will feature a post-game homecoming meal at The Inn at Virginia Tech after the Hokies' victory. This casual-dress event will include the opportunity to hear from the Commandant of Cadets Maj. Gen. Randy Fullhart—who will present an update on facilities upgrades and continuing improvements to the leader development program—as well as an alumnus guest speaker.

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. The registration site should go live in early to mid-April. You can choose the specific events you want to participate in, as well as order Corps alumni hats and polo shirts to be worn during the march-on. Prices for all events and merchandise can be found on the registration site.

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

Corps Homecoming Registration Website
www.alumni.vt.edu/reunion/vtcc/index.html



Cancellation:

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

Game Tickets (when applicable):

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

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

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

Confirmation:

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



Announcing a New Painting of Lane Hall by the Artist and Philanthropist P. Buckley Moss

In commemoration of Lane Hall's addition to the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service, P. Buckley Moss has created a beautiful rendering of the traditional home of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.

Built in 1888 and formed from five unconnected townhouses on the Upper Quad, Lane Hall originally served as barracks for the Corps, housing 130 students until it was converted into academic offices in 1967. Hundreds of former cadets' signatures, some dating back more than a century, are scratched into the building's bricks and mortar. Moss believes that "the devotion to Lane Hall by alumni who have lived in the building or held formations in its shadows is wonderful."

A self-described "God-bless-America" person, Moss has "painted a lot of military pieces and spoken at a lot of military bases all over the country and overseas." Indeed, this patriotism is distinctly evident in her Blacksburg gallery, which features her renderings of military service personnel in uniform, as well as distinguished military buildings, including the Pentagon and the service academies.

Moss devotes a great amount of time to helping others, and donations of her art have raised millions of dollars for worthy charities. Her Foundation for Children's Education is dedicated to promoting the use of art in the classroom, especially as a means to teach children with learning difficulties.

In fall 2013, Virginia Tech named its newly constructed arts building the Moss Arts Center in tribute to Moss, whose donation supporting the center was one of the largest gifts ever received by the university.

For more information or to order a print of Moss' Lane Hall painting, contact:

P. Buckley Moss Gallery

223 Gilbert St.
Blacksburg, VA 24060
540-522-6446
mossblacksburg@verizon.net
www.pbuckleymoss.com

The following print sizes are available:

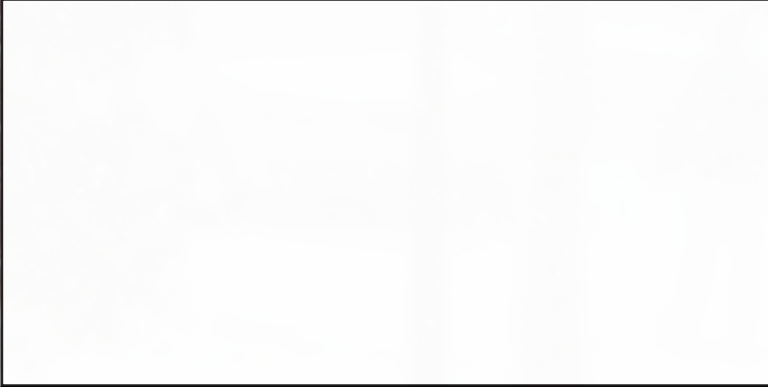
Small (6 1/2" x 17 3/4") – \$95
Medium (8" x 21 13/16") – \$150
Large (12 7/8" x 34 3/4") – \$375



VTCC Alumni Inc.

VTCC Alumni Office (0213)
143 Brodie Hall, Virginia Tech
310 Alumni Mall
Blacksburg, VA 24061

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ROANOKE VA
PERMIT NO. 78



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

