

Vol. 24 No. 3 Summer 2014

CorpsReview

The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Magazine





In May, Lt. Col. Tom Whitlock '95 wore his Virginia Tech Air Force ROTC Detachment 875 T-shirt proudly as he sped by a Mountaineer in the National Police Week 5K run at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia.

Nine Corps alumni gathered in the old Russian control tower at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, earlier this spring: (from left) Lt. Devan Thompson '10, Capt. Dane Morgan '05, Capt. Brendan Graham '07, Capt. Ben Michael '09, Capt. Nate Kane '08, Capt. Chris Horsefall '06, Lt. Tavia Carlson '09, Capt. Justin Klawitter '08, and Lt. Col. Greg Lowe '97.



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FEATURES

Summer 2014, Vol. 24, No. 3

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, Michael Kiernan, Randal Fullhart, Kathy Fullhart, Bradley Larkin, Ivan Morozov, Logan Wallace, *Photography*

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

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

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

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Front cover: In May, Timothy Sands, the university's new president, greeted cadet leaders after his first time observing the Corps' morning formation. Photo by H. Pat Artis VT '71.

Back cover: Photo by Michael Diersing

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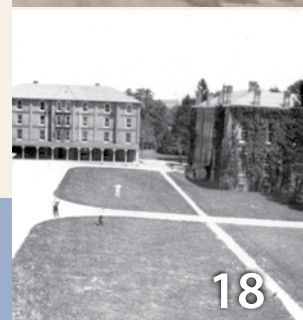
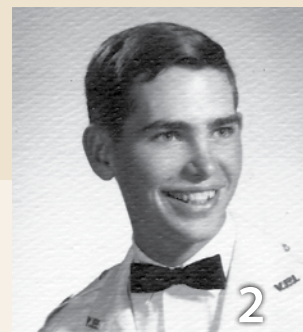
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How the Corps of Cadets Set My Life's Path

by Alan Stager '71



Cadet Alan Stager, regimental commander, with his staff, fall 1970



Alan and Linda Stager

Whoa, rat! First call to growley, sirs! Go, Big Mike!!
These three phrases I had never heard before the fall of 1967. And these three phrases I have never heard since graduation.

Integrity, honor, loyalty, teamwork, discipline, and service were terms I had used in the past, but I didn't come to know their full meaning until I became a cadet. During my four years in the Corps, these moral values became a fixture in my life that would never leave me.

As a teenager, I had planned to attend an Ivy League school in Pennsylvania, not far from my home in Wilmington, Delaware. But the campuses I visited didn't leave me with a passion to attend, so I decided to look elsewhere.

In the fall of 1966, a friend of mine was a freshman cadet at Virginia Tech. He came home at Christmas and managed to pique my interest enough to visit campus. The rest is history.

Looking back on the past 47 years, I have often wondered what would be different in my life without my experience in the Corps of Cadets. Other than my marriage, I can't imagine any bigger decision that changed the course of my future.

My freshman year was extremely difficult, replete with many visits to upperclassmen's rooms. As with most of my fellow "rats," we had initial problems adjusting to the rigors of cadet life and the demands of the Corps, not to mention the academic environment.

After the fall quarter, however, my fellow "rats" in M Company began to come together as a team. Whether piecing upperclassmen in the middle of the night or helping each other with studies or spit-shines, we grew and matured that year.

The structure that was in place to schedule time for studies, in addition to Corps training, was invaluable and has remained with me to this day. I am never late for meetings. I am well organized—

too much so for my wife. I have an aptitude for multitasking, a distinct managerial style, and an ability to analyze almost any situation in order to develop a plan to ensure success.

and to be one of two individuals named Virginia Tech's Man of the Year.

When I graduated in June 1971, I decided to continue my education at Virginia Tech and received an M.B.A. in

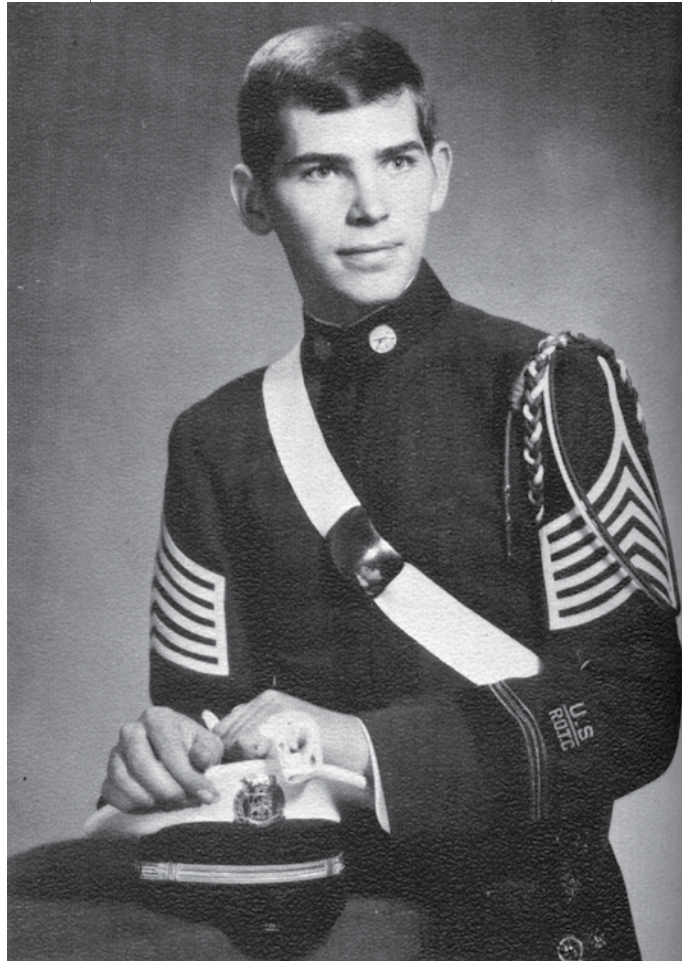
December 1972. At that time, I entered the Army, but decided not to make the military a career. With the ending of the Vietnam War, I was able to participate only in active duty for training (ADT) and then spent approximately six years in the Army Reserve.

After ADT, I began a career in banking that would last the next 40 years. I started at a local bank in Blacksburg, dealing in mortgages, and then moved to Roanoke a few years later. Following the death of my father in late 1979, I moved to Miami to be closer to my family.

In Miami, I was fortunate to land a position in the investment division at Southeast Bank. Entering into an entirely new learning experience, I relied on many lessons learned in the Corps to set up measurable standards:

plan ahead—and backwards—from due dates, always strive to learn more, and achieve success.

My years at Southeast allowed me to grow into more-responsible positions that culminated in my promotion to head the bank's asset/liability management division. Those same years also

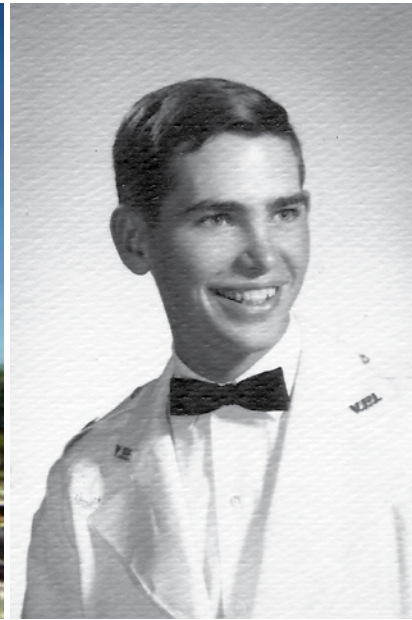


Ready to begin, fall 1970

Life after my freshman year got better, as it usually does. I was extremely fortunate to be a part of Eager Squad and to be selected for the color guard during my junior year. As a senior, I had the undeniable honor of serving as regimental commander and was privileged to receive the Cincinnatus Medal



Class of 1970 celebrating "change of rank"



Freshman Cadet Stager at fall formals



The new regimental staff, May 1970

enabled me to find and marry the love of my life, Linda, in 1983. We have two children and seven grandchildren!

As with any position in life, the better the people you surround yourself with, the greater the likelihood of success. This axiom followed me throughout my career and enabled me, as I advanced, to in turn help advance the careers of many others.

I would be remiss if I did not take a brief moment now and also reflect upon the people with whom I surrounded myself on regimental staff during my senior year, 1970-71: Bruce Hric, regimental executive officer; Thomas "Vic" Mukai, regimental adjutant; Robert Boidock, regimental public affairs officer; Keith Slicer, regimental operations and planning officer; Cary Pao, regimental supply and finance officer; and David Vice, special services officer. I had the pleasure of serving with these outstanding individuals who enabled the Corps to make great strides during our senior year. The moral values I mentioned earlier were all epitomized by these special people.

There was another group of individuals who were tremendous mentors during my time in the Corps. They included Rick Keeler '68, my company commander during my freshman year; Maj. Gen. F. T. Pachler, commandant of cadets; and

Maj. Spann, both of whom counseled me throughout my senior year.

In the early 1990s, the Southeast Bank was sold, and we found ourselves moving to Washington, D.C., where I helped to turn around a similar division. With the job complete after three years, we returned to Florida, in part because Linda is originally from Florida and wished to be closer to her family.

In moving to Orlando, I made a mid-career change and became a chief financial officer (CFO). While we were en route to my new position, however, the board terminated the president for embezzlement. I learned this news in a visit from the chairman of the board upon my arrival.

Two days later, the chairman introduced me to the bank's staff, whom I had never met, and informed the current CFO that I was to replace her. She had had no prior knowledge of the change. To say the least, this new position presented an unusual and trying set of circumstances.

In that situation, I came to utilize the values instilled in me by the Corps to resolve personnel conflicts, form a team that could work together, assist outside federal agencies, set new objectives, overcome the distrust of the board of

directors, and achieve a good measure of financial success.

As can be discerned, I have had myriad opportunities over the years to utilize the skills I learned while a member of the Corps. These skills have continued to serve me well, and I attribute my success both to God and to the love and support of my wife, parents, brother, sister, and friends.

Integrity, honor, loyalty, teamwork, discipline, and service: These six words have significant meaning for those who live by the ideals expressed. And these ideals have always defined the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.

The Corps of Cadets was then, and continues to be, the finest organization of young men and women in the country. The Corps provided me with a framework and foundation for the balance of my life. The Corps challenged me to always succeed, no matter what the task. And most of all, the Corps provided me with the ability to face any challenge head on.

I will forever take extreme pride in the fact that I was once, and will always be, a member of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.

Ut Prosim.



Cadet Col. Stager marching in downtown Blacksburg



A member of the Corps' color guard, Cadet Stager carrying the Virginia flag



The Corps in review on the Drillfield, May 1970



Cadet Stager and friends on the Upper Quad



Time-out from the Corps:

Guarding an American soldier known but to God

by Lt. Col. Brad Lawing '92, U.S. Army

In 1980, my family spent our summer vacation touring Washington, D.C. We visited Arlington National Cemetery, and for the first time, I witnessed the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. I was in awe of the guards' precision and how they seemed to glide along as they marched in front of the tomb. I had no idea that just a few years later, I would be one of them.

In 1985, I started my “rat year” with the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets as a proud new cadet in Company A, 1st Battalion. I had always wanted to be in the military, so joining the Corps seemed like the logical first step.

Cadet 1st Sgt. Gary Canter '87 and Cadet 1st Lt. Buzz Caldwell '86 did their best to train my buds and me and guide us into becoming the future leaders of the Corps and beyond. My plan was to do my four years as an Air Force ROTC cadet, get commissioned, and become a pilot.

My dad served in the U.S. Air Force for 28 years, and all I ever wanted to be was a fighter pilot. During a physical exam, however, it was determined that the sight in my left eye would keep my dream from happening. If I couldn't fly, I didn't want to be in the Air Force.

I realize that issue alone wasn't the complete cause, but my grades suffered. During the spring semester of my sophomore year, I was notified that I could not return to Tech in the fall because of my

grades. I wasn't exactly sure how I was going to tell my dad that I had failed out of school.



Lawing deployed to southern Afghanistan in 2010.

What happened next was a blur. I got out of class one day, walked down to the U.S. Army recruiter, and enlisted that

day. I left Virginia Tech feeling that I had let down a lot of people.

During basic training at Fort Benning, Georgia, when the Old Guard recruiter gave his pitch to the recruits, I remembered my visit to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The recruiter showed a film about the Old Guard, the U.S. Army's Honor Guard. He said to let him know if we were interested. I quickly passed my information to the front. Two weeks before graduation, I was notified that I was being assigned to the Old Guard.

In February 1988, I arrived at Fort Myer, Virginia, and was assigned to Company B, 3rd Infantry Regiment. Training began immediately to get us “ceremonially qualified” so that we could take part in missions honoring our fallen comrades, along with other ceremonies and events that represent the U.S. Army to our nation and the rest of the world.

Right away, I tried to get assigned to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. I was told that I would have to be in the Old Guard for at least a year before I could even interview. Most nights after work, I would go down to the tomb to sit and watch the guard marching.

After four months, I got a break. My roommate was interviewed to be the command sergeant major's (CSM) driver,

and he mentioned to him that I wanted to be at to the tomb. The CSM must have listened to him. The next day, I was notified to report to the tomb to interview and to begin temporary duty (TDY) training.

TDY training was an intense two weeks of memorizing information, meticulous uniform inspections, shining shoes, working on the special manual of arms, and practicing that

smooth, gliding walk that had impressed me many years before. There was a specific way to shine the brass on our uniforms, shine our shoes, and press our uniforms. The Corps of Cadets had taught me to shine shoes and brass, but my new assignment took the process to a whole new level.

The first thing—and by far the most important—on the TDY list to memorize was the Sentinel’s Creed:

*My dedication to this sacred duty
is total and whole-hearted.
In the responsibility bestowed on me
never will I falter.
And with dignity and perseverance
my standard will remain perfection.
Through the years of diligence and praise
and the discomfort of the elements,
I will walk my tour in humble reverence
to the best of my ability.
It is he who commands the respect I protect,
his bravery that made us so proud.
Surrounded by well-meaning crowds by day,
alone in the thoughtful peace of night,
this soldier will in honored glory rest
under my eternal vigilance.*



Lawing's last walk at the tomb in September 1989



Kabul International Airport, 2003

These words describe the true meaning of the duty at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier: to serve those who could serve no more, who gave everything they had, including their identities, for our nation. This concept was highlighted during training and each day of my assignment at the tomb.

The sixth line of the creed, “my standard will remain perfection,” is burned into my brain, and I try my best to remember it in everything I do. These words also remind me of the motto I learned in the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets: *Ut Prosim* (That I

May Serve). Both prepared me well for the path I have taken to serve my country.

Since 1937, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier has been guarded 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, no matter what the circumstances. I was assigned to 2nd Relief, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, in June 1988.

I have so many incredible memories from my time as a guard. I remember the first time I moved onto the plaza, surrounded by more than 800 people just inches away from me.



Best friends (from left) Brad Lawing '92, Noel Smart '92, Geoff Stewart '92, and Jeff Martin '92



Lawing and his wife, Rebekah, at Fort Knox, Kentucky, in 2002



Guard of Honor, Sentinel, 2nd Relief

Little kids asked my name and why I couldn't talk. Veterans placed wreaths in honor of their fallen comrades. With the help of a friend, a wheelchair-bound veteran stood, saluted me, and thanked me for what I was doing.

I had the opportunity to meet President Ronald Reagan, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, and other dignitaries. It is difficult to describe in words how my service at the tomb shaped my life and my career.

I took my final walk in September 1989. I was as nervous that day as I had been the first time I had entered the plaza for my first walk, 16 months earlier.

In the summer of 1990, I returned to Virginia Tech and, with line six burned into my brain, was determined to make

up for what I had let occur a few short years before. I managed to make the Dean's List several times. In December 1992, I was commissioned as an armor officer in the U.S. Army.

Currently, I serve as the operations officer for the Live Training Directorate at Fort Eustis, Virginia. My beautiful wife, Rebekah, and I have three kids, Sam (12), Roman (8), and Eva (3 months). I look forward to the day when I take our kids to visit the tomb.

I have served in many positions and locations around the world, including Haiti, Bosnia, Kuwait, Afghanistan, and Iraq, but my time at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier will always be foremost in my mind.

Ut Prosim!



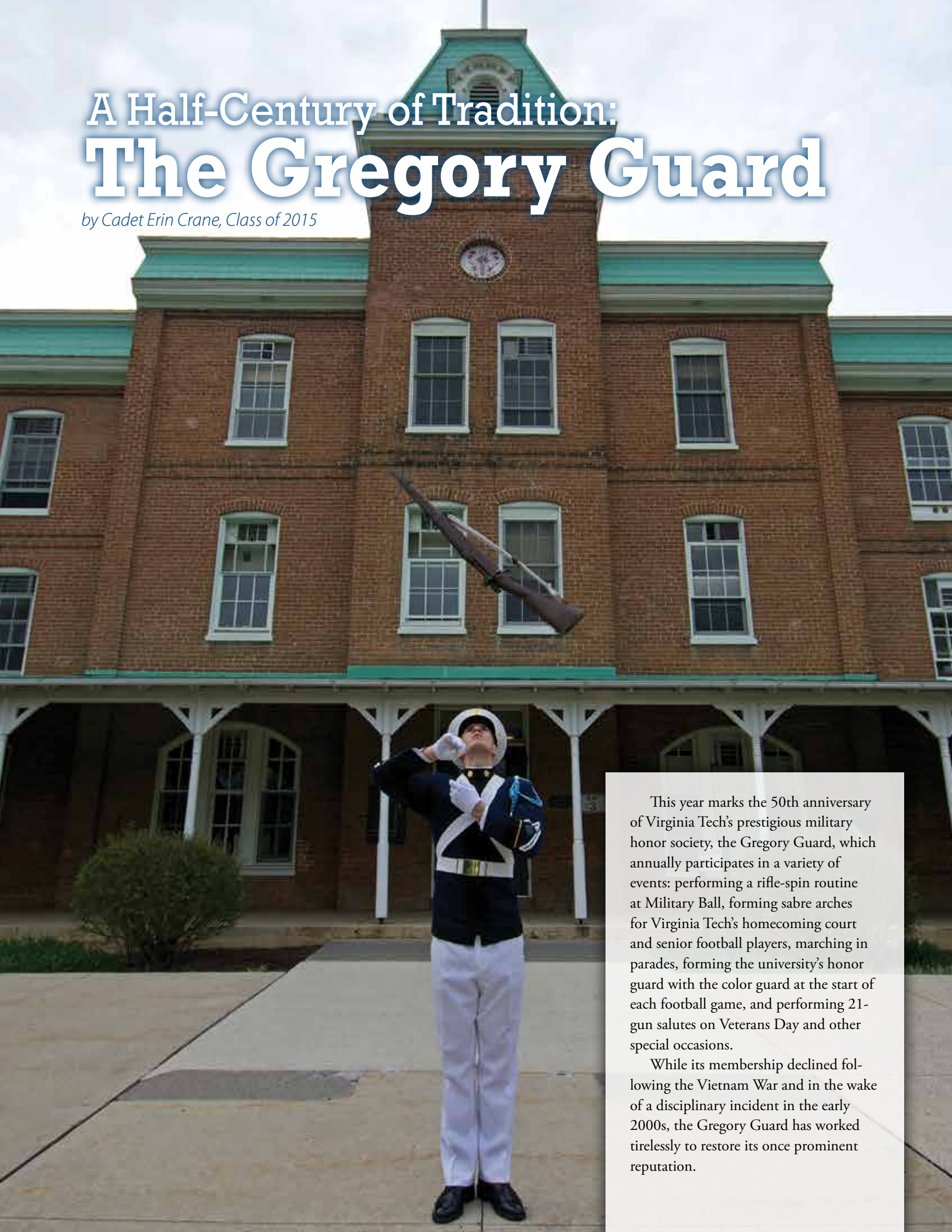
Running into Noel Smart '92 (right) in the Kuwaiti desert in 1998

Awarded the Tomb Guard Identification Badge, 1989



A Half-Century of Tradition: The Gregory Guard

by Cadet Erin Crane, Class of 2015



This year marks the 50th anniversary of Virginia Tech's prestigious military honor society, the Gregory Guard, which annually participates in a variety of events: performing a rifle-spin routine at Military Ball, forming sabre arches for Virginia Tech's homecoming court and senior football players, marching in parades, forming the university's honor guard with the color guard at the start of each football game, and performing 21-gun salutes on Veterans Day and other special occasions.

While its membership declined following the Vietnam War and in the wake of a disciplinary incident in the early 2000s, the Gregory Guard has worked tirelessly to restore its once prominent reputation.



The Gregory Guard performed a spin routine at Military Ball in February.



The predecessor to the Gregory Guard, the Corps' Pershing Rifles marched in the January 1957 Inauguration Parade for President Eisenhower's second term.

The guard bears the surname of Earle Davis Gregory '23, one of Virginia Tech's seven Medal of Honor recipients, who was recognized for his actions during the Meuse-Argonne offensive in France. Separating from his regiment and armed only with a rifle and a mortar shell used as a hand grenade, Gregory single-handedly captured a machine gun and 19 enemy soldiers. Because Gregory received the medal before enrolling at Virginia Tech, his commanding officers in the Corps of Cadets were required to salute him.

Prior to 1963, the Gregory Guard was known as the Pershing Rifles and belonged to a national organization consisting of drill teams that participated in annual competitions. The group was created at the University of Nebraska in 1891, when Lt. Pershing, hoping to increase the morale and discipline in his battalion and gain more support for the cadet corps, handpicked several young men to participate in his premier drill unit. Its widespread influence reached Virginia Tech, whose Pershing Rifles unit marched in Washington, D.C., during President Eisenhower's inauguration, as well as performed intricate drill routines at Tech football games.

In 1962, several members of Virginia Tech's Pershing Rifles discussed renaming the organization. Although Virginia Tech had honored several of the Medal of Honor recipients among its alumni, Gregory Guard alumnus Dick Commander '65 realized that Gregory and a few others had not been recognized.

Commander and others petitioned to rename the organization after Gregory, and upon Gregory's consent, the organization was renamed.

A former guardsman and current guard advisor, Col. Patience Larkin '87 vividly remembers her time in the Gregory Guard. "In the '80s, guard was one of the elite organizations to be selected for in the Corps," Larkin said. "Guardsmen had immaculate uniforms. Their shoes and brass were always highly shined. They wore taps on their shoes. They always stood out." During Larkin's time, although 30 freshmen taps were considered for the team, only a small percentage made it.

Only five cadets tapped the Gregory Guard in fall 2013. The 2013-14 guard commander, Cadet Capt. Jeremy Rohn '14 worked alongside Larkin to recruit new members.

"We want to attract more top-notch cadets, so we've been working on selling ourselves within the Corps every chance we get. We start by making sure we have the sharpest uniforms and the most professional demeanor," Rohn said. "We conduct as many visible events as possible so that everyone knows our name. When they see we are not only part of some really exciting events—like going on the football field in front of 66,000 people—but also a sharp unit, then hopefully they want to join."

In order to achieve national attention at the competitive level, the Gregory Guard is looking into hosting its first drill competition at Virginia Tech next

year. Because such a competition would be the guard's first attempt at hosting, only a handful of high schools in the Southeast will be invited.

The guard also hopes to gain more attention by reviving a famous marching routine called "Get Lost." Performed during the halftime shows at football games in the '50s and '60s, the routine was greatly admired by the Virginia Tech and Blacksburg communities.

In April, at the guard's 50th anniversary dinner attended by former guardsmen from every decade since the '50s, Roger Moore '64 instructed current guardsmen on how to perform the difficult "Get Lost" routine, adjusting it for a group much smaller than in the past. "The plan as of right now is to practice [the routine] and see how it looks with a smaller unit than we had in the '60s," said 2014-15 Executive Officer Cassie Quick, Class of 2015. "The highest priority concerning 'Get Lost' is to first make sure we have it down absolutely perfectly."

Among its other plans for the fall, the guard hopes to participate in the Mountain State Apple Harvest Festival held in Martinsburg, West Virginia, in October. In addition, the guard will again participate in the Veterans Day Parade in Roanoke, Virginia, and the Christmas parade in Chase City, Virginia, Earle D. Gregory's hometown.

"People are definitely going to see even bigger things coming from guard starting next year," said Quick.

Class of 2017 new cadets (in tan shirts) in Training Company 1-1 practicing for the New Cadet Parade



The Year of a New Cadet

by H. Pat Artis VT '71

A two-part series

Photos by H. Pat Artis VT '71

New Cadet Week

For potential cadets and their families, perhaps their greatest questions focus on New Cadet Week. To answer these questions, the author spent New Cadet Week 2013 embedded with Training Company 1-1 (TC 1-1, Alpha Company), sharing the cadets' experiences and photographing their activities.

TC 1-1 was comprised of 22 young men and 4 young women with educational objectives far more concentrated on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) majors than their civilian counterparts. While many of these new cadets plan on commissioning as Army, Navy, Marine, or Air Force officers, some selected the Citizen-Leader Track to gain experience that will distinguish them in their future careers.

Arriving as strangers, they will soon become lifelong buds.

The new cadets' experience is led and shaped by the cadre sergeants, as well as the company, battalion, and regimental staffs. The junior and senior cadets comprising these staffs are responsible for training new cadets under the direction of the commandant's staff. Based on prior performance and interviews with Corps leadership, the cadre and cadet leaders were selected during the spring semester.

Meet the cadre

In reality, New Cadet Week starts a week before the cadets arrive. During this week, called Cadre Week, the Corps' command structure is trained by the commandant's staff and other guest

speakers to prepare these young leaders for the responsibility of training the new cadets. Senior non-commissioned officers share decades of knowledge and experience with the cadre members, revealing how to train, motivate, lead, and deal effectively with the new cadets.



During New Cadet Week, cadre members can be identified by the color of their T-shirts. Red, green, and blue T-shirts denote the juniors and seniors



(Clockwise, from top) Black shirts assist with Brodie Hall move-in; the cadre introduces themselves to the new cadets; Cadet Jillian Parker, Class of 2015, teaches new cadets how to shine their shoes.



who are members of the three battalions; brown T-shirts denote regimental staff; and black t-shirts denote sophomores who volunteer to assist the cadre. Cadre members work harder and sleep less than any of the new cadets. Every minute of the week is carefully planned, and the schedule is continually adapted to weather and other events.

The week

Saturday morning, the long-planned and practiced ballet begins. During the next 10 hours, new cadets and their families arrive on campus, move into the barracks, and are in-processed. Tables are arranged with Guidons and name

badges, computers are set for initial surveys, ROTC departments are at the ready, barbers wait, and the tailor shop is prepared to measure and distribute uniforms.

During in-processing, the families move the new cadets into the barracks. After the move-in, the parents are briefed while the new cadets return to the barracks to surrender their personal belongings and find the line in their unit area (UA).

The most memorable moment of the day is the shock and awe that occurs when each company first sergeant introduces the new cadets to the rest of their cadre. Over the next hour, new

cadets who excelled and were selected as individuals begin their training to act and work as a team. Success is shared by all, and the failure of one cadet impacts the TC as a whole.

After this brief hour of initial training, the cadets assemble for retreat under the watchful eyes of their parents. As the TCs march toward dinner, parents catch their final glances of their sons and daughters. While eating dinner, the new cadets realize the magnitude of their commitment and the challenges that await them.

One misconception about New Cadet Week is that it is a physically grueling experience. In fact, the week is primarily a



(Clockwise, from top) New cadets meet their buds; new cadet Dyer descends from the rappelling tower; new cadets, from right, Skidmore and Christmas study their Guidon.



mentally challenging experience in which physical activities are far less stressful than twice-a-day football practices or summer sports camps.

Sunday is a day of learning and briefings. The highlight of Sunday is a private half-hour during which the members of the TC introduce themselves and learn about their new buds. Then, the cadets assemble for yet another briefing before returning to the barracks for lights out at 11 p.m.

Rising at 6 a.m., the cadets begin almost every day with physical training (PT). The regiment marches to the Drillfield for stretching exercises and calisthenics. PT ends with a run around the Drillfield, led by the commandant.

The majority of the week is dedicated to training blocks. The ROTC units and the staff of the Citizen-Leader Track, as well as alumni who brief the history and traditions of the Corps, conduct these sessions. Cadets are taken on campus tours to learn the names of buildings and the locations of their classes. During the evenings, the cadre trains the new cadets in essential skills such as how to polish their shoes and brass. Any idle time is spent studying cadet knowledge in the Guidon.

Two of the most fun events during the week are the rappelling tower and the obstacle course. While some of the cadets approach these challenges with apprehension, everyone departs with a big

smile. Intense competition among the TCs at the obstacle course helps develop unit camaraderie.

In preparation for the formal pass in review held at the end of the week, the new cadets are trained to march and are prepared to take the cadet oath. Hours are spent learning the manual of arms and how to respond properly to drill commands. Increasingly, everything is focused on Saturday and the end of New Cadet Week.

The highlight of Friday is cadet games. The TCs compete in both physical and mental challenges, including tug-of-war, traversing complex obstacles, cadet-carry races, cadet knowledge, and drill competitions. Cadets' cheering on

their buds is music to the ears of the cadre members who are watching their new cadets become cohesive units.

As Saturday dawns, the regiment prepares for the new cadet parade. New cadets in white shirt and cadre members in dress uniform march onto the Drillfield as the Highty-Tighties play for the parade. Parents strain for that first glimpse of their sons and daughters as the regiment passes in review and assembles before family and dignitaries. After the commandant administers the cadet oath, the Corps marches off the Drillfield and assembles on the Upper Quad to be dismissed.

Parents are invited into the barracks, cadets change into Hokie Bag, and the new cadets prepare for leave with their families. While their surprise

is usually unspoken, parents marvel at the changes that occurred in their sons and daughters in just one week.

As the cadets leave the UA, they sign out in the company log, another acknowledgement of their commitment to a regimented life. The barracks fall silent, the cadre goes to sleep, and the new cadets eagerly relate their experiences to their families.

Late Sunday afternoon, they return to the UA to resume their lives as new cadets. On Monday morning, they are students first and cadets second. Despite the many demands on cadets, their academic performance will exceed that of their civilian counterparts. These new cadets have taken their first step to becoming global, ethical leaders.

H. Pat Artis VT'71 (below), who earned a master's degree in computer science from Rutgers University and a Ph.D. in computer performance from the University of Pretoria, is a staunch supporter of the Corps of Cadets. He is the Corps' Emerging Leader Scholarship coordinator for the western United States.



(Clockwise, from above left) New cadets are perplexed by the challenge of navigating a rope web; buds give their all in the tug-of-war; Cadet Dyer signs out for a weekend with her family; Training Company 1-1 takes the cadet oath.



New Members of the Corps Alumni Board

Incorporated in 1992, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Inc. supports the Corps of Cadets. Three new members joined the board this past academic year.

Lt. Col. Tom Beam '73, U.S. Air Force (retired) entered the Corps of Cadets in fall 1969 in R Squadron, which was combined with S Squadron in 1970 to become H Squadron. He served as a color corporal his junior year



and as regimental intelligence officer his senior year. After commissioning into the Air Force in 1973, Beam attended pilot training at Craig Air Force Base, Alabama, and earned his wings in 1975. He went on to fly the RF-4C at Zweibrucken Air Base, Germany, and then the F4-E at Seymour-Johnson Air Force Base, North Carolina.

Upon leaving active duty in 1982, Beam returned to Staunton, Virginia, to work in the family business, Staunton Steam Laundry Inc., a textile rental and commercial laundry company. He also was hired by the Virginia Air National Guard (VaANG) as an A-7D pilot, which he flew until 1987. A command pilot with more than 2,600 hours in the T-37, T-38, RF-4C, F-4E, and A-7D, Beam completed his military career with the VaANG as chief, operations plans, and retired from the military in 1993. He currently resides in Staunton, where he serves as the vice-president and trea-

surer of the family business, which just celebrated its 102nd anniversary.

Gary Boward '86 graduated from Virginia Tech in 1986 with a degree in history. After completing several Army courses, including Ranger School, he served overseas tours in Korea, Alaska, and Panama in various



command and staff positions in light infantry, airborne infantry, and special operations assignments. Returning to Washington, D.C., in 1994, Boward served at Fort McNair and the Pentagon; his last two positions before leaving the military in 1998 were on the personal staffs of two secretaries of defense and the chairman and vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

After serving as chief of staff of The Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank in Washington, D.C., Boward entered the contracting world and worked with various companies in the Department of Defense health field. Currently a vice president with Skyline Ultd. Inc., he oversees 600 employees in the company's largest program. Boward continued to serve in the Virginia Army

National Guard and the District of Columbia Army National Guard, retiring in 2012 after 26 years of service. He resides in Woodbridge, Virginia, with his wife, Jill Johnson '87, '91.

First Lt. Peter Laclede '10 graduated from Virginia Tech in May 2010 as a



proud member of Foxtrot Company and commissioned into the Air Force as a distinguished graduate. He attended the Aerospace Basic Course before attend-

ing the Intelligence Officer Course, from which he arrived at his first duty assignment with the 4th Operations Support Squadron, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, North Carolina.

Lt. Laclede first served as deputy chief of intelligence operations and chief of wing targets intelligence. In October 2012, he deployed to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, serving as the night chief of intelligence for the 4th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron. Laclede now serves as the chief of intelligence for the 336th Fighter Squadron at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base.



Command Sgt. Maj. Willey walks alongside his 1st Battalion cadets on Blacksburg's Main Street.

Leadership by Design

by Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Willey, U.S. Army (retired), senior non-commissioned officer for 1st Battalion

My beautiful wife, Sandra, and I had the privilege of serving our country as an Army family for more than three decades. My choosing to serve as a non-commissioned officer (NCO) was by design, not default. The officer corps and the NCO corps have a common purpose with a common mission along “separate, but parallel” tracks. We know these tracks as the chain of command and the NCO support channel. Developing enlisted soldiers and commissioned officers are very similar. Watching both groups of great Americans grow and achieve is extremely rewarding.

Leaving the active military component was a very challenging decision. The question was not, “How will we survive or make a living?” The question was, “How will we ever find something that will continue to reward our efforts with more than simply money?”

I truly believe that leaders are not born; they are built. Starting with quality stock is important, but the fundamental

truth is that building leaders of character is an art that requires passion—a passion that is driven by caring for those who will stand their watch for the next 30 years.

There is no doubt that the world is now, and will be for the foreseeable future, in a state of persistent conflict. Serving the needs of the United States in both industry and the ranks of our military will require leaders of character. Helping to shape the next generation of leaders is an honor.

Leader development has been in my blood for a very long time. Seeing the path to success from the high ground of the finish line is awesome. Looking back at my successes, as well as my failures, provides a perspective that needs to be passed along to those starting their journey. Immersing ourselves in a career like the home we have found here within the Corps of Cadets allows Sandra and me to keep this life’s journey in perspective.

New Cadet Week, preceded by Cadre Week, followed by 10 six-day workweeks,

got my attention. I was hired to work a 40-hour, five-day-a-week job that had somehow morphed into a leadership commitment that looked a whole lot like the active duty life I had just left. What in the world had I gotten myself into?

The rewards of the job were immediate. Watching cadets of all classes grow into their leadership rolls has been rewarding in its own right. Sitting at the end of a bunk and discussing a concern with a cadet or having cadets seek and accept advice on issues of all types and sizes is something you can’t put a price on.

My first year with the Corps has come and gone. Serving alongside young American warriors and their families is what kept Sandra and me in the Army for so long. The same is true in terms of our decision to join the commandant’s team here at Virginia Tech. It’s all about the cadets.

Thank you for allowing us to become a part of your family.

A Foundation for the Future:

A look back at Rasche Hall

by Cadet Dylan Boyle '14, historian staff member



Barracks No. 2, circa 1931



Rasche Hall, 1968, in its final form after expansion

Opened in time for the 1894 session of Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College, Barracks No. 2 was the first in a series of expansions around the Upper Quad that produced five barracks and four academic buildings. This expansion was brought about by the great vigor and energy of President John McBryde, who served the college from 1891 to 1907, and would come to be hailed as the “father of modern VPI.”

The modern Rasche Hall was comprised of the original Barracks No. 2, easily distinguished by its fifth floor—which cadets referred to as “old Rasche”—and a newer addition constructed in the 1950s. This new addition, built on ground originally occupied by the First Academic Building, was completed in time for the 1957 session, thus bringing the hall to the form it would retain for its final 55 years of occupancy by the Corps of Cadets.



Barracks No. 2 (left) and First Academic Building, circa 1927



Construction of the "new" addition in 1957

Upon completion of its expansion, the new building had been named for a recently deceased professor who had served the university for more than 50 years: William Henry "Bosco" Rasche, a professor of mechanism and descriptive geometry from 1895 to 1951.

Professor Rasche had acquired his distinctive nickname from an incident that had occurred in the early 1920s, during an especially rowdy sophomore night. After cadets had painted his horse black and white to resemble a zebra, Rasche had become so angry that he was said to have resembled "Bosco," the wild man in a traveling circus that had recently been in town, greatly impressing the cadets.

One of the more infamous "stories" relating to Rasche Hall comes from the Prohibition era. It has been claimed that cadets from Golf Company operated an illegal still in the bottom level of the dorm and were at times in danger of being late to formation—for reasons unspecified, but not difficult to imagine.

As the story goes, the still exploded one day because it hadn't been properly attended to, though by exactly whom has been a matter of some debate. The story, however, appears to have limited factual basis and seems to be a case of cadets embellishing a tale for one reason or another over the years. In fact, Col. Harry D. Temple '34, in his detailed account of the early history of VPI and the day-to-

day-life of the Corps, "The Bugle's Echo," makes no mention of such an incident.

An incident of note during the Prohibition might have served as a basis for the story, though. In the spring of 1923, a large jug of moonshine and several smaller bottles were discovered in a janitor's closet in Rasche Hall. When confronted, the janitor claimed he had found the bottles in the steam tunnels and was merely securing them until he could contact the police. He was promptly arrested for possession and attempting to distribute illegal booze.

A bottle of moonshine currently on display in the Corps museum is supposedly from the 1930's. While its date is too late for the story, its presence does attest to the strong culture of moonshine and bootleg liquor in the region.

While Rasche Hall certainly played host to many memorable events over the years, it is unlikely that a still was ever within her walls. As has been the nature of cadets since 1872, it seems more likely that a collection of stories combined to become a tale with which cadets in the last few decades are familiar.

For most of its history, Rasche Hall was home to the units that currently comprise the 2nd Battalion, before expansion allowed additional units to move in. The regimental band occupied the building for many years, and the band director's office was in Rasche Hall until

fall 2012, when it was moved to Thomas Hall. Similarly, the Rice Center for Leader Development moved from Rasche to Thomas Hall in fall 2012.

Also residing within Rasche Hall was the Corps' museum, which since the mid-1980s has helped preserve valuable artifacts and present the story of the Corps and its place in the larger history of Virginia Tech. The museum is presently located on the fourth floor of Newman Library and will be given a dedicated space in the future Corps Leadership and Military Science Building.

The Skipper cannon has also been moved from its old shed behind Rasche and is in a temporary storage space until its new home in the military science building is ready. The original Skipper remains on display in the Holtzman Alumni Center.

While Rasche Hall will certainly be missed, its history will live on in the memories of the thousands of cadets whose lives were shaped and futures molded by the time they spent within its walls.

With the construction of a new barracks, the best environment possible will be provided for the instruction of the nation's future leaders, fulfilling the same mission as Barracks No. 2 was designed for—and accomplished—120 years ago.

Spring Events

After an extremely busy fall and a long winter break, spring semester came in like a lamb, but went out like a lion with a jam-packed slate of activities and events: numerous speakers and panels, Military Ball, Ring Dance, and the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Savannah, Georgia, to name but a few.



In February, Fred Belen '69 spoke to VPI Battalion cadets about civilian leadership and related topics.



In January, the commandant presented an update on the Corps to a packed house at the annual winter dinner of the TideNeck Chapter of the Virginia Tech Alumni Association in Tappahannock, Virginia.



Several members of the Gregory Guard performed solos during the unit's outstanding routine at Military Ball in February.



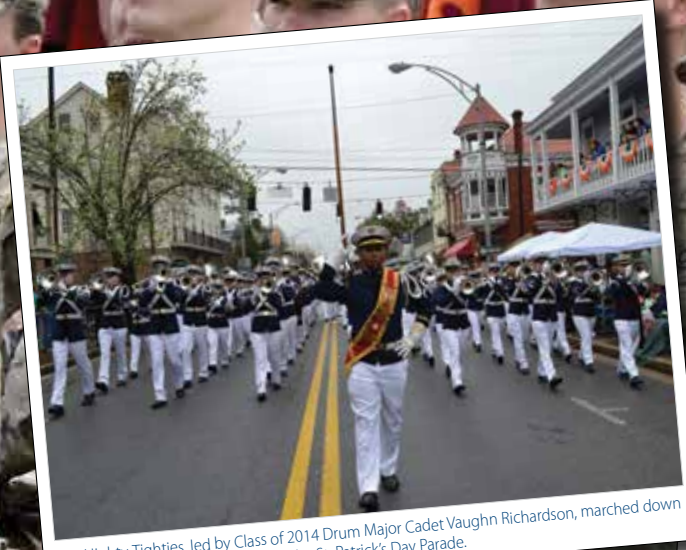
Gregory Guard Commander Cadet Jeremy Rohn '14 saluted the commandant at the conclusion of the unit's performance.



Senior cadets and their dates enjoyed the Class of 2014's banquet prior to Military Ball.



The keynote speaker for the Women of the VTCC breakfast, Debbie Cheslow '87 (second from right), a former guardsman, gathered with former and current female members of the Gregory Guard.



The Highy-Tighties, led by Class of 2014 Drum Major Cadet Vaughn Richardson, marched down the streets of Savannah, Georgia, in the St. Patrick's Day Parade.



A squad reads a map to get to the next location during the squad tactical challenge, a competition that tests cadets' physical and mental skills in various events.



Class of 2015 cadets practice making the numbers "1" and "5" in anticipation of forming the ring figure for their Ring Dance in March.



At the Class of 2015's Ring Dance, dates waited patiently for the moment to present the cadets with their rings.



Cadets from Virginia Tech and other military colleges, academies, and high schools met with William J. Bennett, former U.S. Secretary of Education, during the Leadership Conference in March.



At an April panel for their former unit, VPI Battalion alumni (from left) Ashley Smith '08, Justin Hunts '11, and Jordan McCauley '12 spoke about their career experiences.



Rising Up

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

We are just a few weeks away from graduation as I write this article. There is a quickening of pace as seniors prepare for what lies beyond Blacksburg: new assignments, job opportunities, and, for some, a last year to complete an engineering degree or begin graduate studies.

The juniors, excited about their upcoming turn as the top leaders in the Corps, are busily planning to assume their new roles. Sophomores are leaning forward into new roles as senior sergeants, eager to lead as juniors in the day-to-day operations of the regiment. And the first-year cadets, soon to be upperclassmen, are looking forward to new opportunities at the beginning of fall semester to make a difference in the lives of those who are following in their footsteps.

The incoming Class of 2018 is beginning to form. By all early indications, the new cadets are arriving full of enthusiasm, energy, and a strong desire to begin their leader-development journey and transition into collegiate academics.

Everyone is rising.

On the Upper Quad, the walls of the first of the Corps' two new residence halls are starting to rise. The contractor helped collect a number of bricks from Rasche Hall that will be part of future fundraising efforts, so stay tuned.

This summer, six new obstacles are rising on the Corps' obstacle course to further test the mettle of our cadets. In addition, an Obstacle Course Committee, which will serve as the professional cadre for the course's use, is being raised.

As we make way for the future construction of Brodie Hall's replacement, some members of the commandant's staff will take up residence in Lane Hall. That's a not a foreign idea to many of our alumni! We will use all three floors of the right half of Lane Hall for just a few years until we move into the new Corps Leadership and Military Science Building that will rise at the back of Shank's Plain.

I am happy to report that the academic performance of the Corps is also rising. The Corps set a new record with a 3.09 average GPA in the fall and spring with all classes averaging greater than a 3.0. That average tracks with a rising retention rate, too.

Also rising is the interest of significant businesses and organizations in forming relationships with our cadets. The first meeting of the Rice Center Board

of Advisors was held this spring and has already resulted in an increased number of internships. All this is happening in the wake of the rising number of cadets who are enrolled in our Citizen-Leader track program—nearly 25 percent of the Corps.

Our Parents Club program is similarly growing. In addition to the clubs in Northern Virginia, Maryland-Baltimore, New Jersey-New York, Greater Richmond, and the Hampton Roads-Norfolk area, a new club is being established in the Raleigh, North Carolina, area. These clubs offer a great opportunity for parents of current and future cadets, as well as alumni, to meet and enjoy the camaraderie that is an extension of what their cadets are experiencing in the Corps.

You, our alumni, are instrumental in helping achieve these successes. Your



The walls of the Corps' new dorm on the Upper Quad are rising.

help in spreading the word about the Corps, engaging local high school guidance counselors, presenting Emerging Leader scholarships, and being present at high school college fairs is an essential component in maintaining a strong and vibrant Corps.

Likewise, your support of our Emerging Leadership scholarships and the Commandant's Priorities Fund by way of the Annual Campaign helps make possible our support of the young men and women in the Corps. Thank you! Your help is essential.

The level of our cadets' engagement across campus continues to rise. From club sports, service organizations, and specialty clubs to sororities and fraternities, our cadets are taking the values of the Corps and their growing leadership skills and putting them to work to raise the level of excellence broadly. Many of those same cadets also have significant

roles in the Corps and the ROTC units, making our promise of "the best of both worlds" a reality.

Another rising star is our new Coast Guard Auxiliary unit. Cadets have taken the lead and have established a fast-growing unit that provides them with Coast Guard training and certification and yet another pathway to national service. The training and certification that cadets receive in this program make them very attractive to the Coast Guard upon their graduation.

We were very pleased that the university's new president, Timothy Sands, and his wife, Laura Sands, devoted a morning to meeting and learning about the Corps. We engaged with the entire Corps at morning formation and then attended meetings and briefings with our staff and our ROTC detachment commanders.

Our time concluded with a guided tour of the Upper Quad and surrounding

buildings. President Sands came away with a solid understanding of the need for and importance of the Corps Leadership and Military Science Building that is soon to be constructed. He commented that "the Corps embodies the meaning of *Ut Prosim* and helps instill it across all elements of the university."

Until the next edition, we look forward to rising numbers of you, our alumni, making plans to attend reunions, football games, homecomings, alumni chapter meetings, parades, Gunfighter Panel presentations, Leaders in Action series presentations, and—fingers crossed—a bowl game at a great location.

Don't forget to stay connected on our websites and Facebook pages, but most importantly, stay connected to each other.

In the spirit of *Ut Prosim*.



As the temperatures in Blacksburg rise, so do six new obstacles expanding the Corps' obstacle course.



JOBEX 2014 “winners” (front row, from left) Melanie Otte, William Colborn, Brandon Ward, Fiona Rolfes, Katie Mazzola, (back row, from left) Kenneth Eye, Nathan Rosa, Alex Johnson, Aaron Johnson, and Ben Williams.

JOBEX 2014 Prepares Cadets

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

Cadets and staff continually raise the bar in the Citizen-Leader Track. Ask any stakeholder, and he or she will describe an evolution occurring across all aspects of this unique leader development program. One example of this progression is the effort to present relevant and engaging academic experiences that contribute to VPI Battalion’s vision: “highly sought citizen-leaders with the character and confidence to lead successful lives in service to others.” To that end, this spring, VPI Battalion executed a new initiative known as JOBEX 2014, a six-week-long job search exercise.

In VPI Battalion’s academics, résumé and interview techniques receive heavy emphasis, as does an appreciation for the competitive nature of today’s undergraduate job market. While classroom

presentations from experts on these topics are certainly necessary, practical application and practice were needed to strengthen the lessons. Accordingly, JOBEX integrated those lectures into a participative exercise with an objective to give VPI cadets at all levels relevant, realistic experience seeking out an internship opportunity.

Here’s how the process worked. Senior VPI cadets, weeks from graduating and entering the workforce, formed into five notional companies of seven to eight cadets each. Within their company, the seniors assumed roles such as chief operating officer (COO), hiring manager, or human resources (HR) staff.

After determining their company’s mission, cadets researched and created two summer internship job descriptions.

For example, a fictional construction firm might create one position for an engineer intern and one position common to nearly all businesses, such as accounting, project management, or marketing. The job descriptions included detailed application instructions and the contact information for the HR manager for that position. All 10 positions were then listed online, presenting an array of opportunities for the next phase of the exercise.

Once the listings were posted, VPI Battalion’s freshmen and sophomore cadets reviewed the descriptions and applied for at least one internship, preparing a targeted cover letter and résumé. The activity needed to be accomplished according to the description and by the application deadline, which was about one week.

Junior VPI cadets were encouraged to act as mentors and offer constructive feedback, and many freshmen and sophomores enlisted their VPI squad leaders and platoon sergeants for this review. Several juniors even wrote letters of recommendation for inclusion in the application package, allowing the cadets to learn the intricacies of a standout letter.

During the next phase, each company reviewed its applicants and divided up the candidates for telephone screening interviews, much like a real-world hiring committee might do. All applicants were interviewed by phone, and all learned the importance of preparation and determining the right time and place to conduct these conversations.

Based on the applications and screening interviews, the seniors were able to narrow a large field of candidates down to a manageable “top 3” for each of the 10 positions. These 30 most-competitive cadets went forward to the mock interview round.

Interview panels were set up during class time, and prepared candidates were called in one-by-one for 15-minute panel interviews. Those not selected to advance to this round sat in as observers, offering

post-interview feedback and reflecting on what they could personally do to be more competitive. After the panel interviews, the companies privately discussed the merits of the candidates, weighed all the factors, and made their selections for the internship offer.

The following week, the final phase of JOBEX was held in the form of a lessons-learned discussion. The COO of each company gave a presentation to the entire battalion on the processes, observations, and takeaways from the exercise. Open dialogue during the discussions enabled true learning as the seniors shared what trends, both good and bad, they had identified in the cover letters, résumés, and interviews. Cadets also discussed the significance of timeliness, attention to detail, professional polish, preparation, accountability, confidence, and, most importantly, attitude.

At the end of the presentations, the 10 candidates who were offered internships were publicly recognized to rounds of applause; in addition, they each received extra credit towards their overall course grade. Having observed this final session, Catherine Copeland, senior assistant director at Virginia Tech’s Career

Services, noted, “When the students are the ones in turn doing the teaching, you know you’ve achieved a level of success.”

The seniors regrouped and generated a team report that summarized their company’s execution, an activity that contributed to their experiences in project management, business communication, and meeting deadlines. In hindsight, VPI Battalion Commander Cadet Brian Hagerty said, “I think JOBEX was one of the most useful and beneficial experiences I have had in VPI.” Cadet Sarah Farace agreed, adding, “Because we are seniors entering the job market, this experience has given us the priceless opportunity to sit on the other side of the table, giving us a better understanding of what employers expect.”

Several recommendations emerged from this inaugural exercise that will raise the bar in the future, such as possibly integrating corporate sponsorship and participation. Staff and cadets look forward to improving JOBEX, a unique Citizen-Leader Track offering for 2015 and beyond.

Ut Prosim.



(From left) Ashley Smith '08, Justin Hunts '11, and Jordan McCauley '12 spoke to VPI Battalion cadets during an alumni panel Q-and-A as part of VPI Pro Lab this past spring.



Corps alumnae at the Women of the VTCC event in February: (from left) keynote speaker Deb Cheslow '87, Emily Davis '77, Ashley Smith '08, Dorothy Beasley '78, Vickie Mouras '78, Deb Tillotson '78, Kelly Martin '92, Denise Greenfield '88, Susan Hernandez '84, and Patience Larkin '87

A Squadron of Their Own

by Chelsea Giles, lifestyles editor, *Collegiate Times/collegiatetimes.com*

In 1976, Emily Pillsbury Davis was a junior and the commander of L Squadron, the female unit of the Corps of Cadets at Virginia Tech. She remembers leading her unit onto the football field before a game and having to turn on one foot because the heel of her shoe would get stuck in the ground. She would manage to wobble off the field, barely holding onto her shoe and—like the women who surrounded her and those who followed—would continue to lead the Corps into history.

Much like the change in uniform from high heels to flat shoes, the Corps has continuously evolved to integrate its female cadets. In the spring semester, women of the Corps' past mingled with current female cadets to share their stories.

On Feb. 15, nearly 200 women gathered at The Inn at Virginia Tech for the fourth annual Women of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets breakfast, an event that aims to enable current female cadets to network with alumnae and offers an opportunity for the young women to learn how to excel.

Four years ago, Maj. Carrie Cox, the executive officer of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets, brainstormed with cadets how to relieve tension between female members and to better their experience in the Corps. Cox said one of the most important aspects of the annual breakfast is to show the women how many of them there actually are.

Sure enough, the conference room at The Inn was packed with the more than 130 current female cadets and 12 alum-

nae of the Corps. This was also the first year that two visiting female cadets from Virginia Military Institute and 20 cadets from the Virginia Women's Institute for Leadership at Mary Baldwin College attended.

Wendy Zehner, a junior meteorology major in the Corps, said that all the female cadets' coming together helps her appreciate the Corps, as well as her role in it. "It makes me feel impressed about the fact that there are so many of us now," Zehner said. "It makes me impressed and proud that I'm a part of it."

Cox said the value of having alumnae join is to highlight how recent the history of women in the Corps actually is. It's still possible for current cadets to meet and learn from the very first ones.

Zehner was sitting at a table where one of the first 25 female cadets was also sitting and sharing her memories. It was Davis.

The Corps opened its doors to women in 1973, making it one of the country's first military college programs to admit women, three years prior to the federal service academies.

Davis, who lived in Monteith Hall with the rest of L Squadron, said they would have daily hall meetings to discuss how things were changing or what needed to be different. She added that representatives from other military academies were asking them for guidance on how to integrate women in their own programs since Virginia Tech was the first to do so. "It was not seamless for us," Davis said. "It was a moving target."

At the breakfast, the current cadets were engaged and eager to hear Davis' stories of what life in the Corps used to be like, but Davis was more excited to hear about the female cadets' present activities and goals. "I'm so glad women

are taking leadership positions; whether they go in the military or not, the things they learn in this corps and through this experience will take them far in any job they get or any endeavor they do," Davis said.

One of the core messages for this year was to not limit oneself by saying "I can't because I'm a woman."

Deb Cheslow '87, CEO of Deb Cheslow Consulting and Virginia Tech's first female Air Force pilot, was the keynote speaker. She said it's critical to stop using an identifier to set limits and to focus instead on making an unrealistic dream happen.

Paola Tandoc, a senior psychology major and cadet, said that Cheslow's advice is an important realization to have because most of the pressure actually comes from the female members themselves, not from the male cadets. "A lot of people make a big deal out of our gender, but nowadays, these guys see us equally, honestly," Tandoc said.

Cheslow covered a lot of ground,

talking about everything from her personal life to her professional success to her advice for the cadets on how they can be leaders. "Nothing is impossible; anything is possible," Cheslow said. "You can't sit around saying 'I can't because,' and you can't let anyone else steal your dream."

Cheslow's system to success includes discipline, standards, accountability, systems, and taking risks. "I really enjoyed hearing Deb Cheslow speak ... because recently I've been struggling with figuring out what I want to do with my career in the Air Force, so it was really nice to hear someone give what steps to take to figure that stuff out and see what's important," said Carla Stefaniak, a junior international studies major and cadet.

The event brought the history of women in the Corps to life as each cadet, past and present, shared her story, ensuring its preservation as each woman carries her honorable bond with her after graduating, commissioning and beyond.



Deb Cheslow '87 spoke to the cadets about taking their lives and careers to the highest levels.



The Cadet Bond

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

This past spring, we had the opportunity to participate in our first Class Champion dinner. The purpose of the event, which we plan to hold annually, is to introduce the junior class of cadets—in this case, the rising seniors of the Class of 2015—to what it means to be alumni of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.

The cadets, many of whom are recipients of an Emerging Leader Scholarship, were reminded that these scholarships are made possible by the generosity of Corps alumni. We also reminded the cadets that the time would come for them to “pay it forward” and help provide for future generations of cadets.

Rock Roszak '71 introduced the cadets to the Class Champion program, which will enable them, after graduation,

to keep in touch with classmates, other Corps alumni, and current cadets at Virginia Tech.

In my experience with cadets, I am always amazed by how much they enjoy being with us alumni and how they want to hear our stories. I personally look forward to these events and being able to spend time with the cadets.

Fellow alumni who participate in these dinners, as well as other opportunities, share the respect that we have for today's cadets. A special bond exists among cadets, regardless of class year, although the strongest bond is certainly with one's “buds.”

A strong and relevant Corps of Cadets depends upon these bonds. We need to maintain friendships forged during

the challenges of our days in the Corps, and we need to expand our links and bonds to all who have worn our unique uniform. These bonds will enable us to fund Corps needs, recruit future cadets, and use our network to find career opportunities for recent graduates, as well as alumni throughout their careers.

The specific request is to be active in your class network, stay informed about today's Corps, and serve your fellow alumni—in summary, be good stewards of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.

In the spirit of *Ut Prosim*, until next time.

Gary



Enjoying the Class Champion dinner in April: (from left) Vice President for Alumni Relations Tom Tillar VT'69; Cadet Richard Credicott '14, 2014 Class Champion; and Rock Roszak '71, the Corps alumni board's lead for the Class Champion program



Scott Leonard '90 presented an Emerging Leader Scholarship to two deserving King George High School, Virginia, students (from left) Kathryn Strauss and Rebecca Leonard.



Cindy Adler, Baltimore Cadet Parents Club member and mother of Max Adler '14, staffed four college fair sites in Maryland.

Volunteers Keep our Corps Strong

by Bill Swan '66, Recruiting Task Force leader

By the time this column is being read, we will be well on our way to presenting an Emerging Leader Scholarship (ELS) to all incoming cadets of the Corps' Class of 2018. Yes, you read that correctly!

This effort represents a substantial increase from our previous awards and is the result of a minor reduction—\$1,000—in the first-year payout to a cadet, which ultimately will be offset by a similar increase in the fourth year. In-state awards remain at \$8,000 total, while an out-of-state ELS is still worth \$12,000 over the course of a cadet's four years in the Corps.

The additional scholarships created quite a bit more work for Regional and Area Team Leaders who coordinated presentations with school officials and arranged for alumni volunteers to attend the award ceremonies. I extend my sincere appreciation to all Corps alumni who helped with this year's ELS presentations.

Our spring college fair season was very

successful: 24 sessions at 12 different fairs in seven states, plus three separate Academy Day events sponsored by congressional members in Virginia.

Along with our Corps alumni volunteers, Cindy Adler of the Baltimore Cadet Parents Club provided considerable help. Adler, who worked four fairs in Maryland, demonstrated the significant potential for collaboration between our alumni group and the Parents Clubs to advance future support activities for the Corps.

On campus, New River Valley alumni deserve special thanks for helping meet and greet potential cadets and their families during "Spend the Night" sessions conducted during spring break.

Special thanks is also extended to the Highty-Tighty alumni group for sharing its recent reunion rosters. The new contacts added more than 200 potential volunteers to our resource pool and are expected to enable better representation at future recruiting events.

I would be remiss not to mention Len Ringler '67, who for years has provided superior support in the Tidewater, Virginia, area to our Corps, but is now sidelined with health issues. We wish him well, and thank him for his service.

Finally, it was my honor and privilege to participate in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial near Omaha Beach in Normandy, France, that was held in conjunction with the 70th commemoration of D-Day. While I was at this beautiful monument, I also visited the grave of Medal of Honor recipient Jimmie W. Monteith, one of seven Corps alumni so honored.

Thanks for your continued help with recruiting for our Corps. Feel free to let me know what's on your mind. Call me at 912-265-7530, or email me at two-swans911@comcast.net.



The Eager Competitions

by Maj. Carrie Cox, executive officer

The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets held its annual Jaffe Eager Squad and Eager Individual drill competitions on March 29. Cadets had begun practicing months in advance for this highlight event, one of the Corps' most intense competitions of the year.

Conducted in accordance with FM 22-5—the Army's Field Manual on Drill and Ceremonies—the competition determines the best-drilled squad and individual in the Corps' freshman and sophomore classes.

Each cadet company fielded a squad comprising a junior class cadet commander, two sophomore class cadets serving as squad leaders, and eight freshman cadet squad members. Each cadet's uniform and rifle were inspected, and then the team conducted the marching

portion of the competition.

In addition to the squad-level competition, every company was also represented by a freshman and a sophomore cadet in the Eager Individual competition. This event determines the most knowledgeable and best-drilled freshman and sophomore in the Corps of Cadets.

The Jaffe Eager Squad trophy, presented to the winner of the annual competition, is named in honor of Jeff Jaffe '42. In his freshmen year at Virginia Tech, Jaffe was chosen to be a member of his company's rifle drill team, which won the Corps' drill competition that year.

Between 1945 and 1990, Jaffe was the president, chairman, and/or CEO of multiple candy companies, including the Chunky Corporation and the Schrafft Candy Company. Believing that good

managers must possess common sense, creativity, and dedication, he single-handedly brought several companies on the verge of bankruptcy back into the black and recast them into thriving businesses.

In his book "How Sweet It Is," Jaffe says, "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." Fittingly, Jaffe's name endures in the Corps as the namesake for the most dedicated drilled unit in the regiment: the Jaffe Eager Squad.

Jaffe, who generously sponsors the Jaffe Eager Squad competition and presents cash prizes to each of the 11 cadets on the winning company's drill team, has helped ensure that the strong tradition of

the competition thrives. Cadets on the winning squad and the two individual winners wear a special patch on their uniforms to commemorate their accomplishment for the remainder of their cadet careers.

This year's Jaffe winners were announced at the annual Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Military Awards Ceremony on April 24. Because of the value that cadets place on the competition, the winners are kept secret, and the awards are among the last presented at the ceremony.

The 2014 Jaffe Eager Squad trophy was awarded to Delta Company. The winning squad was led by Cadet Cory Mitchell of Catawba, Va., a junior cadet majoring in political science who is a member of Army ROTC. Members of the squad were cadets Alex Bisi, Nicholas Carroll, Dillon Faust, Andrew Greenwood, John Hawley, Christopher Jimenez, Aaron Reed, Fiona Rolfes, Nicholas Trettel, and Charles Zadd.

Cadet Mitchell shared the story of how Delta Company developed this year's winning team. His presentation is titled "Learning through Fun: Delta Company's Eager Squad Team."

At the beginning of the Spring 2014 semester, I was blessed with the opportunity to serve as the leader of Delta Company's Eager Squad drill team. I knew that it would be a lot of hard work, but I was motivated by the thought of showing the regiment what great things my company was capable of.

My drill squad began training in January, roughly three months before the actual competition. In our first training sessions, the squad and I took a football-practice-like mentality. What I mean by this is we focused on the pure fundamentals of drill, marching without rifles and stationary drill, so that we could perfect the little things that are important to mastering this necessary skill set.

I believe there were multiple factors that led to our success in the competition. For example, the sophomores on the drill squad took the initiative to hold practice sessions when I could not be there, allowing the freshmen to have extra practice time. Also, rather than focusing so much on the importance of the competition and living up to expectations, the sophomores and I made sure that the squad always had fun during our training. Our practices would be filled with jokes and games to break up the monotony of drill practice, and I believe that helped us both gel together as a team and gain the confidence we needed to perform in front of the regiment.

When I read about Mr. Jaffe, sponsor of the Eager Squad competition, and his generous support of the event, it was not

until the day of the competition that I truly understood what his support meant to us. On that day, after three months of rigorous, but fun training, seeing my freshmen and sophomores confidently perform their drill without a mistake was rewarding in a way that can most likely never be replicated.

I believe that my squad mastered what Mr. Jaffe intended for this competition: to have fun, to represent your company well, and, above all, to gain confidence in high-pressure environments. Eager Squad is more than just a drill competition; it is a training environment to help prepare you for those high-pressure situations in life. The Delta Company drill squad is extremely fortunate to have been able to learn that lesson in our Eager Squad experience.



Jeff Jaffe '42, sponsor of the Jaffe Eager Squad Competition



Cadets benefit from the curriculum review undertaken by the board of advisors.

Board of Advisors Begins Service

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

As the Corps' leader development program continues to grow, we realized a need for help in developing two areas: first, to ensure we are producing world-class leaders; and second, to ensure potential employers recognize that fact and actively seek out our graduates.

Forming a board of advisors was the logical solution to meet these objectives, so we began the process last fall. We needed key businesses and individuals with the knowledge and experience to serve in advisory roles, and we wanted to work with people who understand the importance of developing leaders.

Throughout the fall and winter, we invited selected business executives to campus for a briefing on the Corps, a tour of the Upper Quad, and a first-rate presentation on our mission and vision by Maj. Gen. Fullhart. By February, 18 board members representing a diverse set of business sectors were on board.

In the wake of these efforts, our first annual board of advisors meeting was held at Virginia Tech on March

28. During our day-long session, board members received a recap of our mission, an overview of the Citizen-Leader Track program, and a briefing on the Rice Center. We then reviewed the board charter and discussed the board's organization.

At lunch, the board members heard from 10 cadets: one from each year group, one from each of the four ROTC programs and VPI Battalion, and the regimental commander. The cadets spoke about why they had come to Virginia Tech and what the Corps means to them. The board members were very appreciative to hear firsthand accounts of the program's importance to the cadets.

After lunch, we began the business of reviewing the academic curriculum. Our goal was to ensure that what we are teaching through the academic and experiential components of the leader development program is what prospective employers value. After a comprehensive review of each semester's offerings, we identified some areas to 'tweak' and other areas in which cadets could benefit from

some additional knowledge.

Another important topic of discussion was the development of an employee pipeline. The concept of this initiative is to identify corporate needs with cadet career goals in order to facilitate internships and post-graduation placements. Our goal is to match a cadet with a future employer one or two years before graduation so the cadet can take advantage of developmental opportunities that directly benefit both the employer and the cadet. The consensus of the board members was that this concept holds promise, and we will continue to develop it in the coming months.

The purpose of any board of advisors is to develop a synergy of ideas and lend individual expertise to find ways to bring those ideas to life. Based on our initial meeting, I believe our board is more than equipped for the task.

I am looking forward to working with these selfless leaders and am grateful for their willingness to serve. *Ut Prosim.*



(From left) Prospective cadet Claire Andrew and her host, Cadet Melissa Jacob, Class of 2016, were all smiles at the end of a successful "Spend the Night" session.



Cadre members have new cadets marching in formation within hours of their arrival on campus in August.

Admissions Update 2014

by Lt. Col. Gary N. Jackson '78, U.S. Army (retired), senior assistant director, Office of Undergraduate Admissions

Writing this column as another remarkable, competitive year in admissions approaches completion, I am happy to report that more than 1,400 students applied for entry into the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.

This fall, we expect to welcome more than 325 new cadets, marking the fifth consecutive year that more than 325 new cadets have entered the Corps.

All told, Virginia Tech received more than 20,700 applications, offering admission to more than 14,200 students. Admission to the university remains moderately competitive, but the past few years have proven to be especially competitive for applicants to the College of Engineering.

Among all students offered admission, the average GPA was 4.03, and the average SAT score was 1,256, which includes math and critical reading. Among cadet applicants offered admission, the average GPA was 3.94, and the average SAT score was 1,242. The SAT's writing portion is not assessed in the admissions process, but is used for placement purposes.

In order for prospective students to be competitive in the admissions process, they should take a strong curriculum throughout their high school careers. Their course work—the most important criterion for admission—should include a solid mix of advanced courses, such as honors, Advanced Placement, dual enrollment, or International Baccalaureate, when these classes are available at their schools.

Although advanced courses are looked upon favorably, students need to present a strong combination of A's and B's in all of their core academic classes. Seniors should not have any C's on their mid-year grade reports.

Regarding tests, scores should exceed 1,160 between the math and critical reading sections of the SAT. An equivalent ACT score is approximately 25. Because an applicant's strength of curriculum and grades is given more weight than his or her SAT/ACT scores, 25 percent of the students offered admission had lower scores.

Extracurricular activities that demonstrate an applicant's leadership potential

can play an important role in the evaluation process and bolster any additional consideration that cadet applicants may receive. It should be emphasized, however, that extracurricular involvement does not compensate for academics. Moreover, applicants to the university's engineering, architecture, industrial design, and interior design programs must meet additional requirements.

It is worth noting that the transfer option is available for cadets. More information is available in the transfer guide, available online at www.tranguide.registrar.vt.edu.

My sincere thanks are extended to Corps alumni and others who have spoken to a high school student—whether at a college fair, a social event, a sporting event, or at the dinner table—about the Corps and its vast opportunities. Your efforts do not go unnoticed, and I frequently hear about them from prospects.

Keep up the outstanding work—and let's maintain a 1,000-cadet Corps!

More Spring Events

Cadets and Corps alumni alike were busy throughout the spring months as a number of special or first-time events took place, including the Gregory Guard's 50th anniversary dinner and the first annual Class Champion dinner to introduce cadets to the Corps' alumni program.



The spring Gunfighter Panel featured U.S. Army officers (from left, in battle dress uniform) Col. Frank Huber '85, Col. Chip Daniels '93, 1st Lt. Tracy Porter '10, and 1st Lt. Jim Tenney '10.



New cadets crossed a brook and endured other obstacles during the spring Caldwell March in April.



The spring Caldwell March culminated with the freshman class, in battle dress uniform, "turning" into upperclassmen and being congratulated by their new colleagues.



At the Gregory Guard's 50th anniversary celebration in April, U.S. Rep. Rob Wittman '81 (third from left), congressman for Virginia's 1st District and a former guardsman, was joined by Gen. Randy Fullhart (second from left) and the 2014-15 Gregory Guard Commander Cadet Jeremy Rohn (far left) and Public Information Officer Cadet Cassie Quick (far right).



In April, Easley Smith '45 joined senior cadets for the first Class Champion dinner, during which the cadets learned about the Corps' new Class Champion network and overall alumni programs.



Cadet Richard Credicott '14, the Class of 2014's Class Champion, spoke to fellow seniors at the Class Champion dinner held at The Inn at Virginia Tech. More than 25 Corps alumni were in attendance.



Atop the War Memorial Chapel, a Highy-Tighties bugler waits to play "Echo Taps" for the April 16th remembrance ceremony.



Following his talk in April, Commandant of Cadets Gen. Fullhart gathered with officers of the National Capitol Region Chapter of the Virginia Tech Alumni Association.



Maj. George McNeill (center), director of the Highy-Tighties, oversees the transfer of the drum major roll from (left) Cadet Vaughan Richardson '14, to (right) Cadet Alex Granata, Class of 2015.



Members of the Corps' alumni board listen intently to a speaker at the May board meeting in Blacksburg.



In May, the Highy-Tighties' Southern Colonels performed an incredible concert on the lawn adjacent to College Avenue.



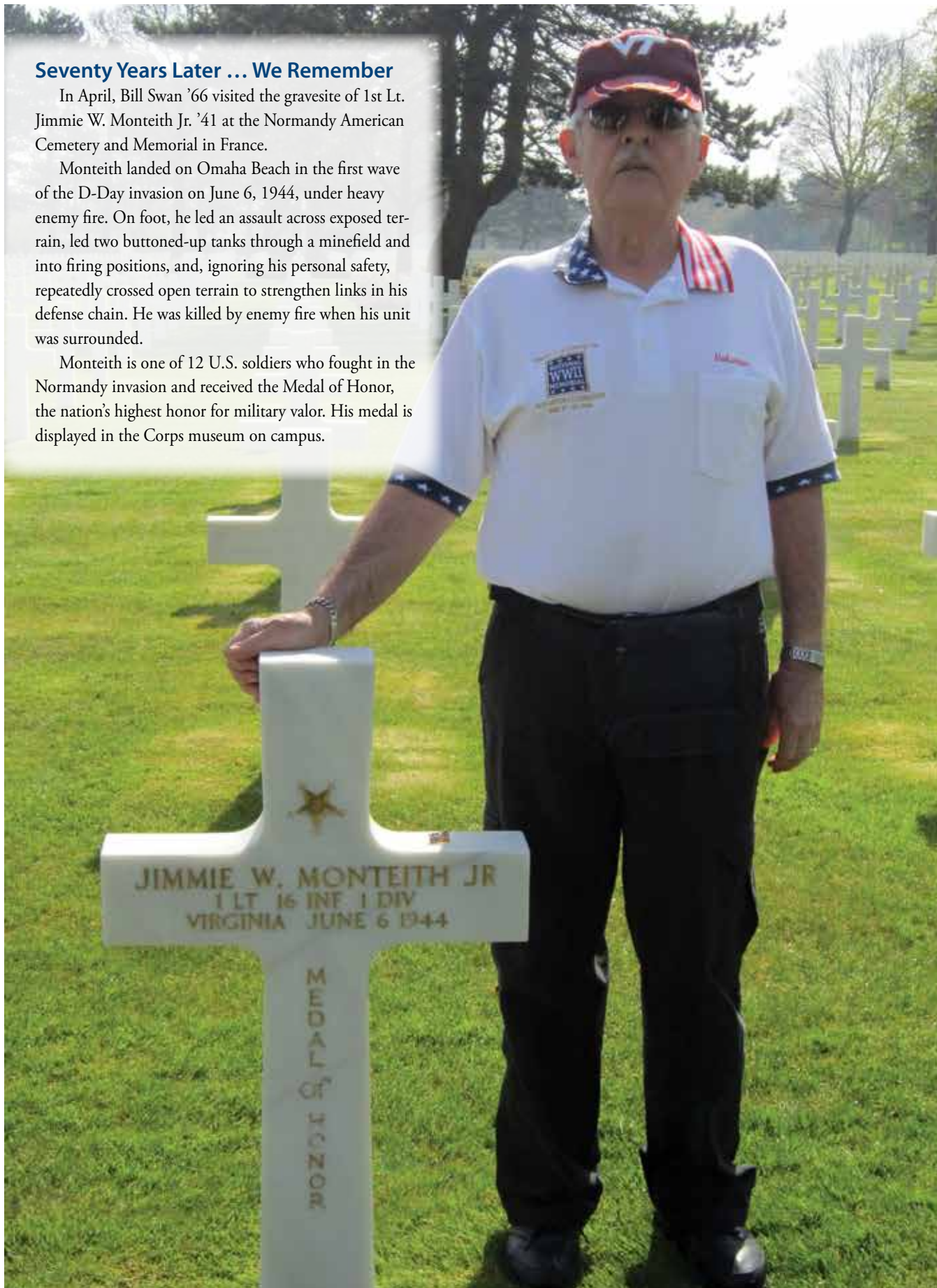
Gen. Fullhart (right) speaks with Marvin "Shep" Crowe '54 at the Old Guard reunion in May. Crowe was the driving force behind the Class of 1954's having more attendees than any other Old Guard class at the event.

Seventy Years Later ... We Remember

In April, Bill Swan '66 visited the gravesite of 1st Lt. Jimmie W. Monteith Jr. '41 at the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial in France.

Monteith landed on Omaha Beach in the first wave of the D-Day invasion on June 6, 1944, under heavy enemy fire. On foot, he led an assault across exposed terrain, led two buttoned-up tanks through a minefield and into firing positions, and, ignoring his personal safety, repeatedly crossed open terrain to strengthen links in his defense chain. He was killed by enemy fire when his unit was surrounded.

Monteith is one of 12 U.S. soldiers who fought in the Normandy invasion and received the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest honor for military valor. His medal is displayed in the Corps museum on campus.



ALUMNI ANNOUNCEMENTS

Corps alumnus presented French Legion of Honor



On Feb. 11, World War II veteran Arthur W. Ordell Jr. '44, of Keswick, Virginia, was presented the Knight of the French Legion of Honor by French President François Hollande in gratitude for helping to liberate France from Nazi German occupation. First Lt. Ordell demonstrated the true meaning of *Ut Prosim* when he left college to volunteer for the Army Air Corps. A bombardier, he flew multiple missions, including 35 combat missions, from

England over Germany and enemy-held territory in France.

At a February reception in Keswick, Jim Kennan '59 presented Ordell with a certificate recognizing him as a distinguished alumnus of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.

Send us your favorite traditions!

The VTCC Spirit and Traditions Committee is collecting accounts of Corps' past traditions, both for inclusion in a "VTCC Traditions Book" and to reintroduce former traditions into the Corps. This fall, for instance, we hope to reinstate the tradition of new cadets wearing "sails" during mealtimes.

Because very few responses were received following the request in the Corps Review's spring edition, the committee is again asking Corps alumni to send an explanation of the tradition, the years it was active, and the participants (e.g., freshmen, a specific company, or ROTC unit).

Please email submissions to Cadet Joseph Wileman, Class of 2015, at wjoe113@vt.edu, or mail them to Col. Larkin at 143 Brodie Hall, Blacksburg, VA 24060. The committee will greatly appreciate any and all submissions.

Hokie Heroes wanted

If you or any Corps alumni you know will be deployed during the upcoming fall football season, please contact Col. Larkin at patience@vt.edu. Each year, we take great pride in honoring our deployed alumni as Hokie Heroes during the games.



Saber search

Due to the high costs of college, many of our current cadets forego purchasing a saber due to financial constraints. To remedy this situation, we are looking for Corps alumni willing to donate or lend their sabers to our senior cadets to carry in parades, pass-in-reviews, and so on. If interested, please contact Col. Larkin at patience@vt.edu.



HOKIE GOLD

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

Reminder: Hokie Gold Program

The Hokie Gold Program is underway! The most recent melt occurred on Sept. 27, 2013, with members of the Class of 2015 Ring Design Committee in attendance. The "special addition" gold was included in the 2015 rings.

In order to continue this tradition, the program is accepting donations of class rings for inclusion in melts for future Virginia Tech rings. For more details, including the necessary forms for donating a ring, go to www.alumni.vt.edu/classrings/hokiegold.

CALLING ALL CORPS ALUMNI!

Register now to return to Blacksburg for Corps Homecoming on Sept. 12-13, when the Hokies take on East Carolina University. Don't miss the fun with your buds! See page 48 for details.

Correction

On page 22 of the Corps Review's spring edition, Lonnie Brooks '67 was mistakenly labeled as a member of the Class of 1976. Other than Bill Swan '66, no one else noticed that Lonnie had somehow gained nine years on us.



The Corps of Cadets Class of 2014's newly commissioned U.S. Army second lieutenants (in black jackets and black skirts or blue pants)

Army ROTC News

Army ROTC Continues to Go Strong!

Army ROTC at Virginia Tech had another banner year.

Virginia Tech was again recognized as the Army's top Senior Military College (SMC) when our cadets outperformed cadets from every other SMC during the required Leader Development and Assessment Course (LDAC) over the summer. This recognition is strong evidence of the quality of our program and the quality of our cadets!

Our ROTC battalion continues to grow, with 317 Virginia Tech cadets and an additional 98 at Radford University. We had a full training year, including weekly classes and labs, two field-training exercises, a combat water survival test, weapons familiarization, and a dining-in.

We are proud that two of our cadets, Cadet Peter Nettekoven and Cadet Jordan Disney, were selected to serve as the Corps' regimental commander during the past school year, and we look forward to another Army cadet, Cadet Andrew George, filling the position in the fall.

The commissioning Class of 2014 was the last class to attend LDAC at Fort Lewis-McChord, Washington. Beginning this summer, the Leader's Training Course and LDAC will be held at Fort Knox, Kentucky. Cadet Command consolidated the two courses at Fort Knox to economize resources and improve the effectiveness and quality of the Cadet Leader Development Program.

Ranger Company leads the way

by Cadet Daniel Deardorff, Class of 2015

This past year, Ranger Company cadets significantly enhanced their reputation as exemplary leaders within Army ROTC and the Corps of Cadets and across the university. Rangers participated in the Bold Leader Challenge, the pursuit of the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge, the Squad Tactical Challenge, the 3.2-Mile Run in Remembrance, seat installation and sales in Lane Stadium, the Game Ball Run for homecoming, and the Big Event.



Ranger Company cadets (from left) Christopher Butler '14, Danny Deardorff, Class of 2015, and Brandon Torres '14 run the game ball into Lane Stadium.

In the spring semester, the Rangers conducted a seven-week assessment process of Army cadets wishing to join the Ranger team. The assessment focused on physical fitness, mental fortitude, and teamwork. Of the 40 cadets who began the process, 10 completed the assessment and became Rangers.

Under the guidance of Sgt. 1st Class William Twine and the leadership of cadets Chris Butler, Brandon Torres, and Danny Deardorff, Ranger Company redefined its mission, purpose, and function to serve as a Ranger School Preparation Team, to provide additional training for cadets preparing for cadet summer training, and to raise the standards for all cadets of the New River Battalion. The dedication, motivation, and can-do attitude within the unit impel the cadets to grow both as soldiers and as leaders preparing to serve the nation as Army officers.

During summer 2013, 26 Virginia Tech Army cadets received Cadet Troop Leadership Training (CTLT) slots stateside, in Alaska and Hawaii, and in Korea and Germany.

CTLT: Renegades! Go hard, or go home!

by Cadet Evan Baker '14

In summer 2013, I was given the opportunity to shadow 1st Lt. Marina Codraro of the 550th Area Support Medical Company, the Renegades at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Watching a lieutenant run the day-to-day operations was an eye-opener for me. I learned very much about what being an effective officer means.

Not only did I accompany some of the platoon's medics to an M9 pistol range where they provided standby medical

support, I also observed medical coverage for a large airborne drop: Apache helicopters buzzing the drop zone, followed by Chinook helicopters flying high, and countless paratroopers jumping out the rear ramps. The experience definitely helped solidify my desire to join an airborne unit upon graduating from the Basic Officer Leaders Course.

In addition to being exposed to the workings of a medical company, I was fortunate to speak with and observe officers in other types of units. I spent a day in the field with a transportation company running convoy operations. I spoke with a special operations officer, an aviation logistics officer, and a host of others.

The highlight of my experience was the day I spent attending classes at the Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School. It is my ambition to join the civil affairs branch, and getting the chance to sit in on one of its schoolhouse classrooms was an absolute blast.

The three weeks I spent at Fort Bragg reaffirmed that I was right to choose the U.S. Army, as I cannot imagine a more engaging job.

CTLT: Fort Richardson, Alaska

by Cadet Aaron Barragan '14

Looking back on my time at Virginia Tech, I can say that I have been truly blessed. I experienced countless lessons and events in the Army ROTC program that helped me develop my leadership skills. In addition, I recently experienced a tremendous learning curve when I attended Cadet Troop Leadership Training at Fort Richardson, Alaska, with the 2-377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment (PFAR).

I have aspirations of becoming a Medevac pilot, and training with the PFAR was one of the most amazing experiences I have had in Army ROTC. I learned and commanded a platoon, jumped from C-17 and Sherpa airplanes, conducted field training with a heavy drop, and witnessed Alaska's amazing wilderness.

I followed Lt. Brown, who helped me understand the responsibilities of a new officer. He showed me not only how to run platoon events, but also the consequences of not fulfilling tasks. Through Lt. Brown's and the platoon sergeant's guidance, I was able to perform the basic duties of a PFAR lieutenant and saw firsthand the importance of a good relationship between the lieutenant and the platoon sergeant and how that leads to the success of the platoon.

Capt. Banks, the company commander, also participated in my learning experience. He taught me the importance of accountability and training and, most importantly, the need to maintain a tight relationship with all soldiers, from the lieutenants to the privates. Doing so shows the troops that you care for their well-being; the upshot is that they respect you and will work harder for the success of the company.

One of the most vivid memories I have of the training is the heavy drop of a 105mm Howitzer from a C-17. Immediately following the drop, the platoon and I parachuted out of the aircraft, set up the guns upon landing, and fired them. Already airborne-qualified, I was able to jump with the unit, a one-of-a-kind opportunity.

Alaska itself was spectacular. I was able to explore Anchorage and Denali National Park with other members of the platoon, and we undertook 26-mile bike rides and went hiking, kayaking, water rafting, and rock climbing. The experience, connections and friendships I made during my time there were unlike any other. I am truly thankful and humbled by the leadership opportunities I received.

George C. Marshall ROTC Award Seminar

by Cadet Cody Wendelin '14



Cadet Cody Wendelin '14 (right) with Gen. Odierno at the George C. Marshall ROTC Award Seminar

I was fortunate to attend the George C. Marshall ROTC Award Seminar with top cadets from ROTC battalions nationwide. The seminar consisted of several roundtable discussions on topics ranging from nuclear Iran to rising China, as well as presentations from several of the Army's top leaders.

This year's guest speakers included Gen. Odierno, the Army's chief of staff; Brigadier Gen. Combs, the commanding general for Cadet Command;

Gen. Perkins, the commanding general for the Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC); and Lt. Gen. Horoho, the Army's surgeon general. In addition to learning more about relevant world events and the roles that the United States plays in them, I learned many leadership lessons from these outstanding leaders.

From Lt. Gen. Horoho, I learned about the performance triad, a triangle of the most important parts of a soldier's life:

activity, sleep, and nutrition. To take care of our troops, we need to ensure that the three parts of the performance triad are met.

From Brig. Gen. Combs, I learned that a leader is responsible for creating a climate of respect and trust and for inspiring and motivating subordinates.

From Col. Bessler, a former Ranger who now works with TRADOC, I learned that "the standard is what 'happens' ... what you make happen or allow to happen."

I personally grew more in the seminar's three days than I have in a year of regular life. Being surrounded by the top cadets from ROTC programs across the country solidified that this army is in good hands, and we are all fighting for something bigger than ourselves.

During summer 2013, 18 Virginia Tech Army ROTC cadets participated in Cultural Understanding and Linguistic Program (CULP) missions in countries across the globe. The cadets received cultural awareness training through humanitarian assistance missions and military-to-military cooperation training or as English-language training teams.

CULP: Military-to-military training at the Georgian Basic Mountain School

by Cadet Andrew George, Class of 2015

As part of a CULP mission in June 2013, I traveled with 40 Army ROTC cadets and four cadre to the Republic of Georgia. Our mission for 29 days was to attend the Basic Mountain School in the northwest Caucasus Mountains on the border of Georgia and Russia.

The course was held at a Georgian national military school that also hosts classes of exchange soldiers and cadets. We were completely immersed in the culture, living on a small, remote "base"—which more resembled an outpost—eating Georgian food, and training in the mountains, while taking weekend trips to nearby cities and monuments.

The training focused on mountain survival during long marches at high altitudes, and climbing techniques concentrated on creating paths with ropes to get a military detachment over a mountain range quickly and efficiently.

Although we were only the second class of American military personnel to graduate from the school, the culture of hospitality that the Georgian people displayed made us feel like we had been going there for years. The locals were wonderful, and we all appreciated being a part of their lives for a time.



Cadet George, Class of 2015, and other Army ROTC cadets on top of the world in the Republic of Georgia

English-language training team, Senegal

by Cadet Daniel Deardorff, Class of 2015

In summer 2013, I participated in a three-week CULP trip to Senegal, Africa, with a group of 10 cadets from around the U.S. and an Army captain as cadre. Our primary mission was to teach English and immerse ourselves in Senegalese culture.

Each day, we traveled across the capital, Dakar, to a central military compound where we taught English to a class of high-ranking enlisted personnel and officers. We also spent time learning about the culture, eating out, and attending local markets and other cultural events, including wrestling matches and trips to Gorée Island, Pink Lake, the U.S. Embassy, and local orphanages. The highlight of the trip was getting to meet Lewis Lukens, the U.S. ambassador to Senegal.



Cadet Deardorff, Class of 2015, with four of his Senegalese students



Be, know, do: Learning from the Army's Skill Schools

by Cadet Zachary Stilwell, Class of 2015

I am extremely grateful for the experiences that the Army has provided me as a cadet. Over the past two summers, the Army sent me to the U.S. Army Airborne School at Fort Benning, Georgia, and to the U.S. Army Air Assault School at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Those experiences taught me the professionalism with which the Army operates, that keeping a calm mind and my wits about me will serve me well in the Army, and that there's great value in attention to detail.

At airborne school, I spent three weeks in the sweltering Georgia heat. While the training was not physically demanding, the high humidity, heat, and constant running drained my body daily. My training was eye-opening as I witnessed the experience and professionalism of the non-commissioned officers in the 1/507th Parachute Infantry Regiment. They were dedicated to their jobs and spent longer hours awake than we did. I came to understand why non-commissioned officers are the backbone of the Army.

My first jump forced me to keep my mind sharp and focused. After sitting in the harness shed for eight hours, we were loaded into a C-130 aircraft to jump into Fryar Drop Zone. I was extremely nervous before the jump, but as a future leader, I knew I could not allow myself to outwardly reveal my anxiety.

When we finally jumped, the process was simply a matter of keeping calm, following my training to the letter, and stepping out of the door. After four seconds of what felt like a roller coaster tossing my body around, I experienced the shock of my chute opening and saw the world below me, a serene landscape of fields and trees, the sky filled with a trail of descending

olive-drab parachutes. My fifth and final jump was a night jump in combat gear on June 6, 2012—the 68th anniversary of D-Day—a fitting way to remember those who had served.

At the 101st Airborne Division's Air Assault School, I learned the value of attention to detail. I realized that if I was not 100 percent locked on, failure would be all too real. While training with the Screaming Eagles, I again witnessed the professionalism of the non-commissioned officers, as well as the officers.

Throughout the training, I was given the exhilarating opportunity to both fast-rope out of a UH-60M Black Hawk helicopter and hook up a cargo bag. During these operations, the attention to detail, which had been earlier stressed, became reality. If I didn't pay attention to detail, if the static electricity was not grounded before the hook up, or if I moved out of turn to the rope, then someone could die.

While I did pick up a couple pairs of silver wings, I found that the wings were simply the recognition of achievement. The important part is not what one has already accomplished, but what one intends to accomplish with one's given abilities.



Newly commissioned 2nd Lt. Susanna Bradley '14 with her family

Commissioning

Army ROTC commissioned a record number of lieutenants this year! Congratulations to the following new second lieutenants:

Dominik Allen, Armor
 Steven Apsley, Military Police
 Evan Baker, Field Artillery
 Michael Baker, Infantry
 LeMar Baliwag, Transportation
 John Barbato, Chemical
 Aaron Barragan, Medical Service
 Joseph Bell, National Guard
 Matthew Bertram, Chemical
 Kristina Biron, Signal
 Timothy Black, Ordnance

Shawn Bottoms, Engineer
 Susanna Bradley, Military Intelligence
 Jacob Brooks, Transportation
 Andreas Brown, Engineer
 Christopher Burtner, Quartermaster
 Christopher Butler, Armor
 Dustin Caranci, Engineer
 Joshua Daniels, Field Artillery
 Jordan Disney, Field Artillery
 Evan Faughnan, Transportation
 Daniel Gaines, Armor
 David Gardner, Field Artillery
 Haydn Giannoni, Signal
 Meghan Gilliam, Military Intelligence
 Thomas Grabaskas, Aviation
 Catherine Grizzle, Field Artillery
 Steven Hamilton, Armor
 Patrick Harton, Field Artillery
 Brian Keith, Engineer
 Zachery Lloyd, Military Police
 Paul Marinelli, Infantry
 Whitney Marrs, Aviation
 Benjamin Matthews, Medical Service
 Rebecca McAfee, Field Artillery
 Kevin McCann, Ordnance
 Louis Mense, Transportation
 Jason Micucci, Armor
 Peter Nettekoven, Infantry
 Sean Oshea, National Guard
 Landon Perez, Field Artillery
 Darrin Pillman, Armor
 Sean Plunkett, Military Police
 Andrew Powers, Armor
 Dustin Rhoads, Quartermaster
 Alexander Rives, Transportation
 Timothy Roseland, Quartermaster
 Samantha Rowe, Transportation
 Forrest Rush, Armor
 Andrew Sahol, TBD
 Thomas Schillo, Transportation
 Hee Shin, Field Artillery
 Richard Smullen, Infantry
 Samuel Tripp, Field Artillery
 Alejandro Valdez, Field Artillery
 Larry Walker, Infantry
 Lyndsey Washington, Military Intelligence
 Cody Wendelin, Military Police
 Grayson Williams, Field Artillery
 Zachary Williams, Field Artillery



News from the Development Office

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

We are in the initial stages of our effort to raise funds for the new Corps Leadership and Military Science Building for the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets (VTCC).

A steering committee has been formed under the leadership of J. Pearson '87, which will advise Gen. Fullhart, Scott Lyman '84, and me as we set out to raise the necessary private funds to go along with state funding for this much-needed facility for the Corps and ROTC staffs.

The building will provide classroom and lab space commensurate with our

high standing among senior military colleges, as well as a museum of more than 1,700 square feet to showcase the Corps and its history. The new building will also provide improved facilities for the Rice Center for Leader Development, an important educational arm of the Corps.

On March 27, the committee (pictured below) met on campus to tour the proposed site for the new building and to review the floor plans as currently envisioned. Committee members include the following alumni:

J. Pearson '87, chairman
Bob Archer '69

Pat Artis '71
Mack Halsey '62
Leon Harris '64
Staley Hester '64
Gary Lerch '72
David Lowe '63
Vickie Mouras '78
Greg Porter '62
Bob Quisenberry '62
Reed Schweickert '63
Fay Street '77
Nick Street '53
Debbie Tillotson '78
Ray Yount '68



Gen. and Mrs. Fullhart (center) with the Corps Leadership and Military Science Building steering committee in front of the projected construction site

A variety of naming opportunities, ranging from \$25,000 to \$2 million, exist within the building, and we understand that many of our alumni and friends will be excited by the chance to support this Hokie-Stone-and-mortar project. In the meantime, we will continue to rely on your generosity through the Annual Fund to support Corps operations. We also very much need your continuing gifts to the endowment that supports our Emerging Leader Scholarship program.

Annual Fund

by Randy Holden, director of Annual Giving

As contributors to the Corps of Cadets Annual Fund, our donors play a vital role in the Corps' ability to fulfill its mission: graduating leaders of exemplary character who are instilled with the values and skills essential for leadership success in service to our nation.

We offer many opportunities for donors to contribute to the VTCC. Some ways to support cadets include the following:

- **Unrestricted Giving** – This path creates the greatest flexibility for the commandant, allowing him to focus the resources you provide on any operational opportunity or need for improvement that arises.
- **Directed Giving** – This puts you in control of where you want your contributions to go, whether it's to one of our scholarship funds or a building fund.
- **Planned Giving** – This presents an excellent opportunity to make a contribution to the Corps from your estate (see page 45).

Alumni participation rates and total giving are key factors in determining a university's position in various college rankings. Far more important, your contributions help improve many facets of the Corps. Gifts to the Commandant's Priorities Account are unrestricted funds

used to support the day-to-day operations of the Corps, cadet activities, and scholarship programs. Donors of \$500 or more to this account are recognized as sponsors of a first-year cadet on the fall or spring Caldwell March.

The best tool for recruiting outstanding cadets is the quality of the program and then the availability of scholarships. Corps scholarship funds provide financial support for cadets enrolled in every college across the university.

Your help will enable the VTCC to offer more incoming cadets an Emerging Leader Scholarship (ELS) and increase the scholarship amount to more adequately meet ever-increasing needs. You may support the ELS program by donating to a class scholarship, a specific company or squadron scholarship, or by creating your own named scholarship, which requires \$50,000 minimum.

Major Gifts (\$25,000 and above)

The names of **Mary Jean and John L. Brown '62** have appeared several times in these pages. The couple has once again made a generous gift to Virginia Tech, this time in the form of a charitable remainder unitrust. The trust will benefit the Browns by providing an

initial tax deduction and a steady income stream throughout their lives. After their lifetimes, the remainder will benefit their VTCC scholarship.

Liz and Jack Donehower '69, who served as the 2nd Battalion S-1/S-2 his senior year and graduated with a degree in industrial engineering, recently attended a Corps event in Naples, Florida. After Gen. Fullhart's remarks, they commented on the strength of our leader development program and our success in rebuilding the Corps; they also were impressed by the commandant. The Donehowers are creating the **VTCC Elizabeth C. and John W. Donehower '69 Scholarship**.

Pete Kurzhals has made an additional gift to benefit the Corps. The **VTCC Trina L. and Peter R. Kurzhals '60** scholarship will benefit cadets enrolled in Air Force ROTC.

In future editions, we will announce major gifts to the Corps Leadership and Military Science Building.

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

Ut Prosim,
Dave



During the spring Caldwell March, more than 200 first-year cadets wore a nametag designating their donor.

How to Change a Life

by Judith Davis, Office of Gift Planning

I enjoy conversations with Corps alumni. Each has a unique story of what the cadet experience has meant in his or her life, and those stories are inspiring.

Cadets have come to Virginia Tech—and formerly to VPI—from all over. From farms, cities, coal towns, and shorelines, some were the first in their family to attend college. Many received financial help from someone who believed in them. They graduated during different decades—even different centuries. They earned different degrees and pursued different careers.

Amid all that variety, their stories share a common thread. Over and over I hear, “The Corps changed my life.”

The Corps is still changing lives. In recent years, it is often an Emerging Leader Scholarship (ELS) that makes the Corps experience possible. This year, ELS awards assisted 632 students, a number well over halfway to the Corps’ goal of scholarship assistance for every cadet.

If you would like to help the Corps meet that goal, consider choosing a gift that not only endows your scholarship in perpetuity, but also helps you meet your personal goals.

Want to keep your assets during your lifetime? You may favor an estate gift that comes to the Corps after your lifetime. Such gifts include bequests in a will or revocable trust, retirement account beneficiary designations, and certain life insurance gifts. Read more at <http://bit.ly/vtgpqbq>.

Want to make a gift that pays you back? You can choose from a number of life-income gift plans designed to provide lifetime payments for you and/or someone you name and then a gift for the Corps when the plan ends. These popular gifts include charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts. Read more at <http://bit.ly/vtgplig>.

Want to see your gift at work today—and tomorrow? A current gift of cash or other assets can endow a scholarship that will begin assisting cadets immediately and will continue that support for years to come.

Have appreciated assets you have owned for a year or more? Many donors enjoy significant income and capital gains tax advantages when they donate appreciated securities or real estate directly to the Virginia Tech Foundation Inc. to fund current support or a life-income gift plan.

Want to change a life? Whatever gift plan works for you, creating an Emerging Leader Scholarship will make a real difference. Your gift will help make possible generations of future cadet stories—the ones that begin, “The Corps changed my life.”

To learn more, contact Dave Spracher, director of development for the Corps of Cadets, at 1-800-533-1144 or dlsprach@vt.edu.

In Memory

Neil A. Finn '35
1915 – 2014



Neil A. Finn died Jan. 11. Born in Russia, Finn immigrated to the United States in 1920 and received his degree from Virginia Tech in 1935.

After retiring as president and CEO of Finn Machinery Co., he began building and developing warehouses and industrial parks. Finn is survived by his wife, Celia; two sons, four grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

Elbert S. Maloney '40
1920 – 2014



Col. Elbert "Mac" Maloney died Jan. 5. Born in Richmond, Virginia, Maloney graduated from Virginia Tech in 1940

with a degree in electrical engineering and served in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II, working in various programs, including U.S. Navy missile research and development. After retiring from the Marine Corps, he served as president of the Capitol Institute of Technology and wrote several books. Predeceased by his first wife, Mary, and his second wife, Florine, Maloney is survived by a son, a stepson, three grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

William O. Crandall '41
1919 – 2014



William O. Crandall died Jan. 24. Born in Gauley Bridge, West Virginia, he graduated from Virginia Tech in 1941 with a degree in business

administration. Upon commissioning in the U.S. Army, Crandall served as an officer in the Coastal Artillery during World War II. After leaving the military, he established a building renovation and insulation company. Predeceased by his wife, Ethel, Crandall is survived by his second wife, Carol; five children, and 10 grandchildren.

Wilson K. Decker '43
1920 – 2013



Wilson K. Decker died Jan. 8. Born in South Orange, New Jersey, Decker graduated from Virginia Tech in 1943 with a degree in business

administration and served in the U.S. Army during World War II and the Korean War. He then worked for and retired from the Minnesota Rubber Co. Predeceased by his wife, Jean, Decker is survived by two children, five grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

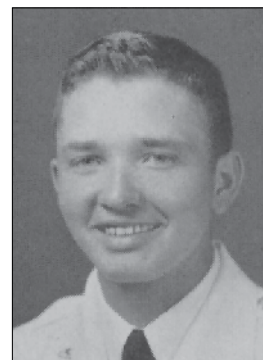
Charles M. Hall '43
1922 – 2013

Charles M. Hall died June 18, 2013. Born in Buckingham County, Virginia, he graduated from Virginia Tech in 1943 with a degree in agricultural economics. Hall raised tobacco and cattle and worked as an insurance broker/agent. In addition, he served, along with his twin brother, as magistrate for Buckingham County. Predeceased by his wife, Virginia, Hall is survived by two children, seven grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Robert L. Yocum '50
1922 – 2014

Robert L. Yocum died Mar. 25. Born in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, Yocum graduated from Virginia Tech in 1950 with a degree in civil engineering. He worked as town engineer for New Canaan, Connecticut, and volunteered as a math tutor at Norwalk Community College. Yocum is survived by his wife, Josephine; three children, and five grandchildren.

Rufus D. Hubbard '51
1930 – 2014

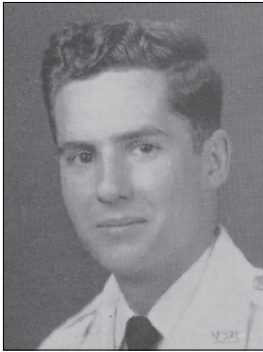


Rufus D. Hubbard died Mar. 3. Born in Floyd County, Virginia, he graduated from Virginia Tech in 1951 with a degree in

horticulture. Hubbard served in the U.S. Army and then worked as a salesman for

Ortho Chemical and as a schoolteacher. He also owned and operated Corey Lake Orchards in Three Rivers, Michigan. Predeceased by his wife, Allene, Hubbard is survived by four children and eight grandchildren.

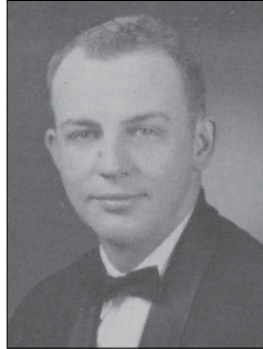
Herman S. Barr Jr. '54
1932 – 2014



Herman S. "Pat" Barr Jr. died Feb. 27. Born in Winchester, Virginia, Barr served as company officer in Virginia Tech's Army ROTC and

was a member of the freshman football team, graduating in 1954 with a degree in business administration. As a first lieutenant., he served in the U.S. Army and commanded an aircraft artillery battery. Barr is survived by his wife, Peggy; three children, eight grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

James T. Camper Sr. '57
1935 – 2013

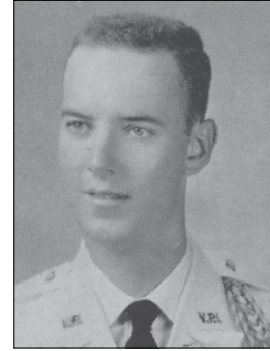


James T. Camper Sr. died Dec. 2, 2013. Born in Rockbridge County, Virginia, he graduated from Virginia Tech in 1957 with a degree

in business administration. Camper was a long-time employee of Reeves Brothers Inc. and a realtor for Odean Kever Real Estate. He also owned and operated Ruth Farm and Garden Supply and raised beef cattle. Camper is survived by his wife, Linda; four children, and five grandchildren.

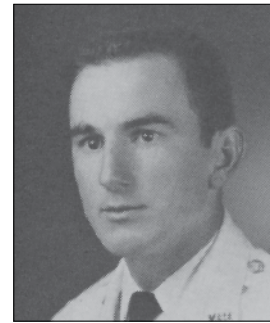
Ernest L. Fulford '57
1935 – 2014

Ernest L. Fulford died Jan. 1. Born in Norfolk, Virginia, he graduated from Virginia Tech in 1957 with a degree in civil engineering. A member of the U.S. Navy, he retired as chief of design at



Naval Station Norfolk. Predeceased by his first wife, Shirley, Fulford is survived by his wife, Elizabeth; a daughter, and stepchildren.

Edward T. Diehl '59
1938 – 2014



Edward T. Diehl died Mar. 9. Born in Petersburg, Virginia, Diehl graduated from Virginia Tech in 1959 with a degree

in electrical engineering. He retired from Virginia Power with 36 years of service. Diehl is survived by his second wife, Mary Ann; two children, and one stepson.

LEST WE FORGET

William T. Robins III '37, Birmingham, Alabama, 3/21/14.

Henry E. Holzbach '42, Newport News, Virginia, 11/5/14.

George G. Hays '44, Scottsdale, Arizona, 3/25/14.

Carl M. Lindner Jr. '46, Richmond, Virginia, 4/4/14.

Richard Southworth '47, Santa Maria, California, 2/26/14.

Henry A. Allison Jr. '47, Warrenton, Virginia, 3/15/14.

Thaddeus C. Slugocki '51, Tampa, Florida, 2/26/14.

Odell A. Morris '51, New Smyrna Beach, Florida, 3/21/14.

Douglas C. Landrum '51, Richmond, Virginia, 12/6/13.

James C. Wilkinson '54, Chilhowie, Virginia, 3/26/14.

Horace J. Towler '60, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, 4/6/14.

Malcolm L. Hughes Jr. '63, Raleigh, North Carolina, 3/25/14.

Joseph L. Mauck Jr. '66, Lincoln, Virginia, 3/13/14.

Michael. H. Fariss '68, Roanoke, Virginia, 12/10/13.

George H. Sheetz '72, Edinburg, Virginia, 3/15/14.



Corps Homecoming • September 12-13, 2014 Virginia Tech vs. East Carolina University



Come to Corps Homecoming 2014 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 our guest speaker, Lt. Gen. Thomas W. Travis '76, M.D., surgeon general of the U.S. Air Force. In addition, Commandant of Cadets Maj. Gen. Randy Fullhart will present an update on facilities upgrades and continuing improvements to the leader development program.

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

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

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. Game tickets are \$50 each and 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.



Earlier this year, 1st Lt. Mike Crockett '11, a KC-135 pilot, supported Operation Enduring Freedom as a member of the 340th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron at Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar.

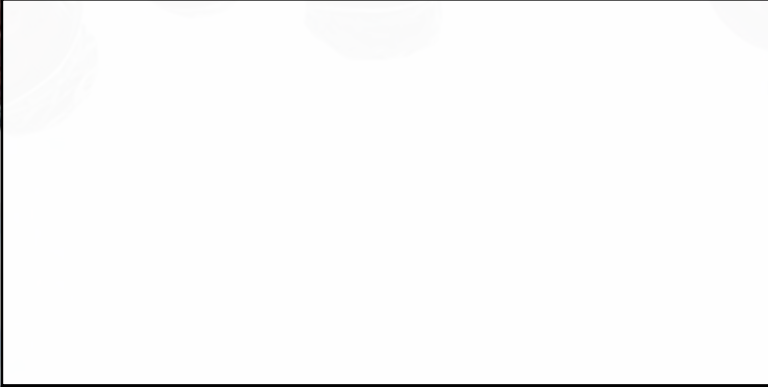
Capt. Steve Robinson '03 deployed to Mazar-i-Sharif, Afghanistan, earlier this year with 2nd Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division.



VTCC Alumni Inc.

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

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