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CorpsReview

The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Magazine





Top Left: Forward deployed to Camp Lemonnier in Djibouti, Africa, U.S. Navy Cmdr. Nikki Phelps '98 (right) serves as the Targeting Division director for the Combined Joint Task Force–Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA), and Brooke Wright, a fellow Hokie, supports the CJTF as an employee of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency.

Top Right: Capt. Andrew "Dojo" Olson '10 (left), a U.S. Air Force F-15E pilot, and his weapons system officer proudly display the "VT" flag somewhere in the Middle East after a nine-hour combat sortie. Olson has flown 61 combat missions over Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, and the Horn of Africa.

Bottom: U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Cate Todd (formerly Kathy Wattendorf) '97 and Tim Foster '97 showing their Hokie spirit in the desert



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Front cover: Photo by Col. Patience Larkin '87.

Back cover: Upperclassmen lined up to welcome freshman cadets who had just completed the last 13 miles of the Caldwell March. The freshmen were "turned" during this ceremony, becoming full-fledged members of the Corps of Cadets. Photo by Michael Diersing.

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The Spirit of Service

The mighty C-5 Galaxy



by Lt. Col. Tim Tippet '85, U.S. Air Force (retired)

During my senior year of high school, I had applied to and been accepted to both Virginia Tech and Georgia Tech to major in computer science. Georgia was a bit too far from my hometown of Timonium, Maryland, so off to Blacksburg I went with my father for my first and only college road trip.

I don't remember it as the typical college visit or orientation as is offered today (and as a father of three, I have now been on plenty of college visits). When my father saw members of the Corps of Cadets on campus, his response was "that's for you." I disagreed 100 percent. After all, the U.S. Air Force was just above the U.S. Army, U.S. Marine Corps, and U.S. Navy, in no particular order, as my expected career. And yet here I am, still serving the Air Force after 30 years.

Although my choice of Tech may seem almost accidental, the experience yielded great rewards. Besides eventually changing my major from computer science to Russian and Soviet-area studies, those rewards included the camaraderie of my Delta Company classmates, the leadership experiences within the Corps of Cadets, and, best of all, meeting my future wife, Diana. For more than 28 years, she has been my partner in the adventure known as life.

After commissioning in 1985, I entered undergraduate navigator training in early 1986, followed by combat crew training school to qualify as a navigator on the KC-135 aerial refueler. Aerial refueling requires flying two aircraft 20 feet apart at 400 mph and 25,000 feet in the air, a capability that the Air Force demonstrates nearly every hour of every day somewhere around the globe.

Following my training and Diana's graduation in 1987, we journeyed to our first assignment with the 19th Air Refueling Wing at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia. Separate six-week tanker task force deployments to England and Guam during the next four years gave me a sense of how truly global the Air Force's operations are.

As I was preparing to deploy for Operation Desert Storm in late 1990, I was selected to attend pilot training in the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training Program (ENJJPT) at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas. I trained side-by-side



Tippet visiting Chernobyl in 2002



Tippett (fifth from right) was present for the delivery of the Turkish Air Force Advanced F-16 Block 50+.

with student pilots from the Netherlands, Germany, and Norway, including Norway's first female fighter pilot.

And if pilot training was not difficult enough, our first daughter was born midway through the training. At about the same time, my class was informed that the Air Force was about to dramatically reduce its number of fighter pilots. While graduates of ENJJPT historically fly only fighter aircraft after graduation, we began to receive options to fly other types of aircraft, which is how I ended up at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, where I flew the C-21 Learjet VIP transport.

The C-21 is an exceptional and fun aircraft to fly. Primarily flying VIPs around the country, missions took us from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; to Kennedy International Airport in New York

City; to Opa-Locka Executive Airport, Florida, transporting the director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to South Florida in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Andrew.

Then it was time to fly big aircraft: our first of two assignments to Dover Air Force Base, Delaware, to fly the C-5 Galaxy. The C-5 is an amazing aircraft. Every time I walked up to it before a flight, I was amazed at its size, but had full confidence that the beast would fly.

During this assignment at Dover, our family expanded as both our second and third daughters were born. Also, I qualified as an air refueling aircraft commander, so I had undertaken aerial refueling from both ends.

In 1998, I began looking at career-broadening assignments, and one opening was the assistant air attaché in Kyiv,



During their daughter's college visit in February, Diana '87 and Tim met the Hokie Bird.

Ukraine. Our lengthy training schedule allowed Diana to get comfortable with the Russian language. Then, in mid-2000, we packed up for the experience of a lifetime. (I could probably write a separate article just on those three years—just kidding, Col. Larkin.)

I had the opportunity to travel across Ukraine, visiting most major air bases and meeting senior Ukrainian Air Force commanders.

One of my first trips was a visit to the Antonov Design Bureau on the outskirts of Kyiv, where they showed us the ongoing refurbishment of the An-225 Mriya (Ukrainian for “dream”) that was built during Soviet times to ferry the Soviet space shuttle. Although the C-5 is a very large aircraft, the An-225 is approximately 50 feet longer than the C-5, with six gigantic engines. The An-225 had not flown for several years, but the repairs were completed in early 2001, and the An-225 continues to fly unique airlift missions of oversized and heavy-weight cargo.

During each school break, we tried to visit a new area of Ukraine or a different country and were fortunate to travel to Yalta in Crimea; Paris; Budapest, Hungary; Zakopane, Poland; Garmisch, Germany; Hurgada, Egypt, and others. We were in Ukraine at the time of the September 2001 terrorist attacks, and

living overseas provided a very different perspective on that life-changing event. Over the past 18 months, it has been hard to watch the current news from Ukraine as it is not the same country we left in 2003.

Leaving Kyiv in 2003, we returned to Dover Air Force Base, and I resumed flying the C-5. At Dover, I crossed paths with another Hokie, Glen Joerger ’83, who was serving as the 436th Airlift Wing vice commander. His advice, “everyone has a passion for something—find it,” sticks with me to this day.

From 2003-05, that passion was the mission of the Dover Air Force Base Command Post, where I was assigned as chief. The 24-hour operations at Dover support our global airlift mobility mission and at that time directly supported surge operations in Iraq and the ongoing mission in Afghanistan.

Since elementary school, I have always had another passion, though: current events and international affairs. Joerger was instrumental in finalizing my assignment to the Pentagon to work in SAF/IA, U.S. Air Force International Affairs.

For many years, I served as the Eastern Europe branch chief, working with the air forces of Poland, Turkey, Bulgaria, and Romania to provide interoperable air capabilities. In 2007, I served for

six months at the headquarters of the International Security Assistance Force in Kabul, Afghanistan. In 2008, upon my final promotion to “Mister,” I was able to remain in SAF/IA, where I now serve as Western Europe branch chief and country director for the United Kingdom, overseeing most issues between the U.S. Air Force and the Royal Air Force.

During the past 10 years, we have had the chance to return to Virginia Tech on several occasions, including college visits for each of our daughters, most recently in February. The spirit of service is evident and emphasized through major activities such as the Relay For Life and The Big Event. While our two older daughters have continued on to East Carolina University and the University of Kentucky, there is still a chance that one will enroll at Tech.

Music is a huge part of our lives, and Tech’s visible investment in the arts, manifest most recently in the construction of the Moss Arts Center, should continue to keep the university on the minds of all fine arts students. It would be quite ironic if our daughter were to spend four years performing in the Moss Center, the same location where Diana and I spent four of our formative years, albeit eating meals in the old Schultz Dining Hall.

Go, Hokies!



Tippett (right) at the Antonov Design Bureau, 2001



Road trip in northern Afghanistan, 2007



Capt. Howell flying the "VT" flag over the Arghandab River Valley in Afghanistan



Fueling up in Zhari, Afghanistan

Armed with the Right Tools

by Capt. Andrew S. Howell '07, U.S. Army

I found my way to the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets in 2004 by complete chance. Having been born and raised in football-loving western Pennsylvania, I grew up knowing that my place was to play football at the University of Pittsburgh (Pitt).

My parents were hard-working, blue-collar Americans, and I knew that my only real shot at attending college without racking up a mountain of loans was a scholarship. Unfortunately, my skills on the field never quite caught up with my dreams of college football, and all I managed to land were a few partial offers to small schools.



Howell with his Troop D, 3-17 Cavalry at the National Training Center



Ready for a training flight in the TH-67 during flight school at Fort Rucker, Alabama

Then 9/11 happened, and I realized that there were more important things than playing football. I wanted to do my part to serve my country. I figured I should forget football and instead work on getting an Army ROTC scholarship to Pitt.

As I filled out the application, I marked Pitt as my first choice and another Pittsburgh school as my second choice. After all, I was obviously going to be attending college in Pittsburgh. Trying to come up with a third school, I sat there wracking my brain and then remembered that my cousin who had started college the year before had gone to a place called Virginia Tech, so I put that down as my third choice. After completing phone interviews with all three schools, I patiently waited for my award letter from Pitt's ROTC program.

As you can surmise, I didn't receive that letter. What I did receive was a phone call from Virginia Tech's Army ROTC department congratulating me on being selected to attend its program, fol-

lowed shortly by a letter from the Corps of Cadets asking if I wanted to "stay the night" to experience what freshman year would be like.

That spring, I made the trip to Blacksburg and spent two days with then-freshman Derrek Anderson '06, who helped convince me that Virginia Tech really was pretty awesome. And the rest is history.

The experience was one of the first instances in my life where I learned that everything happens for a reason. Now, I'm incredibly grateful that I was never accepted to the University of Pittsburgh. I loved Virginia Tech from the moment I first stepped foot in Blacksburg, and I would not trade my experience in the Corps for a hundred football scholarships to any other school.

I "ratted" in Kilo Battery (Six Pack '07) and forged lifelong friendships during extended stays with my buds in the call room and during late-night "rat" parties studying our guidons and polishing our low quarters. Eleven years later, we

continue to call each other regularly to tell stories about that year that still keep us doubled over with laughter.

During freshman year, I woke up one morning to find that one of our cadre members, Fred Jackson '05, had written with black shoe polish on our mirror: "Exceed the Standard." This stuck with me and my buds from that day forward. Whether it was shining our shoes or polishing the doorknobs in the hallway with Brasso, we were determined to do it better than everyone else.

After getting through our "rat" year, we discovered, to our enjoyment, that there was indeed life outside of Rasche Hall. Virginia Tech provided the unique experience of a senior military college combined with the ability to utilize all of the programs and activities of a major university. I took full advantage of the situation and packed my four years at Tech with as many activities as I could.

In spring 2007, I commissioned into the U.S. Army as an aviation officer. When I arrived at the basic officer



Hanging out with Pi Kappa Phi fraternity brother Nick Marchio (left) on the field before a football game



2nd Battalion staff in Rasche Hall



Six Pack '07 buds (from left) Nathan Boone, Howell, and Steve Smith after getting their class rings

leadership course, I discovered that the leadership foundation built by the Corps of Cadets had put me well ahead of my peers.

The next year and a half were a whirlwind in the Army's aviation training pipeline. When the time came at flight school to select my aircraft, I chose the OH-58D Kiowa Warrior. I was thrilled to join the ranks of pilots who had flown this little reconnaissance helicopter back in Vietnam. It was the least modernized airframe in the Army's fleet, but had a reputation for the audacity and ability of its pilots to always get the mission done.

When I arrived at my first duty station, the feeling can only be described as intimidating. I was sent to the 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, which had just deployed to Iraq and had already lost a crew. This combat-hardened unit had recently returned from a 15-month deployment to the same area where it had served only a year prior.

I learned very quickly in the cavalry that if you have thin skin, you will not survive. The first few weeks were brutal, but I slowly earned the respect of my platoon by proving that I had prepared for the deployment by studying the area's

history and the enemy's tactics. I took an interest in really getting to know the soldiers and learning about their families. Soon, they were opening up to me and training me on how to conduct our mission of reconnaissance and close-combat attack.

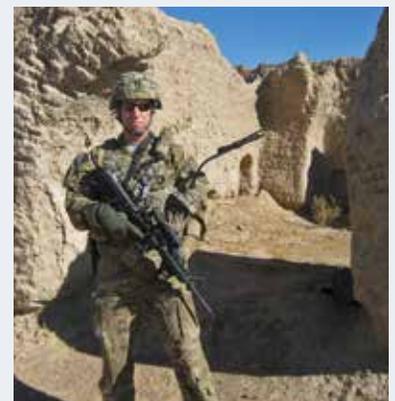
I discovered that the key to success in my first assignment was realizing that although I was in charge and needed to use sound judgement to make decisions on the battlefield, my warrant officers who had been doing this for five, 10, or 20 years were the tactical and technical experts, and I needed to soak in every



Taking a break from high-altitude training, Howell with his wife, Hayden, in Hawaii



Class of 2007 buds Garrett Land (left) and Matt Schempp (right) before a Hokie win



Conducting training in southern Afghanistan



On top of Sperwan Ghar, Afghanistan, conducting air-ground integration classes

little bit of wisdom they could give me. Compassion and empathy also go a long way in earning the respect of your soldiers. Once they know that you truly care about them and their families, they will go to any length to ensure you succeed.

Since then, I have flown more than 1,200 combat hours in the OH-58D in both Iraq and Afghanistan. I married my beautiful wife Hayden in 2011, and I continue to be inspired by her hard work and dedication as a UH-60 MEDEVAC pilot. I have had the privilege of serving in many challenging positions with some of the best cavalry soldiers the Army has to offer. I have seen firsthand the extreme sacrifices that our soldiers make on a daily basis and their resiliency after they answer the call to deploy again and again.

I am writing this article only days after relinquishing command of Delta Troop, 3rd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, as the Army implements its plan to divest the fleet of my beloved Kiowa Warriors. Although the future is uncertain for the air cavalry community, I am confident that I am prepared to meet any challenges because of the sound foundation created during my time in the Corps and the experiences I have gained during my time in the Army thus far.

For all of those just beginning their military career, I will share this: I never

thought that I would be an air mission commander making life-or-death decisions in Iraq only a few short months after finishing my initial training. Today, after 15 years of war, our military has high expectations for our young leaders' ability to use sound judgment and autonomously execute the commander's intent. Lieutenants fresh out of school are empowered to make split-second decisions on the battlefield that have strategic ramifications.

Although it is difficult to train someone for these situations, the harder you prepare in your chosen profession, the more tools you will be armed with when it comes time. You are already ahead of the game by choosing to be a member of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.

And if you apply the motto of my Kilo Battery cadre—"Exceed the Standard"—to all aspects of your life, you are sure to succeed.



Before a mission in Kandahar, Afghanistan, Howell with Hayden



Flight school graduation day with Hayden



Conducting a pre-mission test fire near Kirkuk, Iraq

Challenge, Change, and Commitment

by Col. Doug Hall '92,
U.S. Air Force



On the day he took command of the 6th Airlift Squadron, Col. Hall '92 (center) with his father, Col. Bill Hall, U.S. Air Force (retired), and stepmother, Col. Lynda Mann, U.S. Army (retired).



Homer Hickam '64 spoke at Hall's graduation from the Air Force Institute of Technology.



Hall (second from left) with fellow squadron commanders of the 305th Operations Group

I've wanted to fly airplanes for as long as I can remember wanting to do anything. As the son of a career Air Force officer, I grew up watching airplanes on bases throughout the world. I remember my grandfather giving my brother and me savings bonds for our birthdays and saying that he wanted me to save money so I could buy him a 727 aircraft and fly him around the world. With that goal of becoming an Air Force pilot in mind, I enrolled at Virginia Tech in the Corps of Cadets and Air Force ROTC in the fall of 1988.

The world was a rapidly changing place during my time in college. The Cold War ended during my second year at Virginia Tech and was no longer the subject of our military lectures. Change was the constant theme as our national leaders tried to understand what a peace dividend might look like and what the role of our military would be following the dissolution of the Soviet Union. Russia looked as if she would become a friendly nation that the U.S. could have a productive relationship with, instead of being an adversary. Desert Storm quickly came and went; and with the coalition's victory over Saddam Hussein, the na-

tional debate on the size and scope of our nation's military continued.

The Corps helped me focus on being a good student, and I was able to earn a full Air Force scholarship, categorized as a navigator candidate. Although the categorization was not exactly what I'd hoped for, I accepted the challenge and committed myself to performing well academically. With my Corps of Cadets and Air Force ROTC training, I was hopeful I would be rewarded with pilot training upon graduation and commissioning, as was routinely the case.

At the same time, the Air Force began to downsize, and pilot training was scaled

back significantly. Pilots were offered incentives to leave the Air Force early, making my goal of becoming a pilot an even bigger challenge. The Corps of Cadets showed me the value of setting goals and that those goals could be achieved—with persistence and leadership.

As commissioning and graduation drew near, the Air Force changed my plans again. Navigator training was scheduled to move from California to Texas, and that transition would halt new training classes for at least a year. When asked what I wanted to do after commissioning, I reiterated my goal of becoming a pilot. At that time, however, pilot production was so small that there would be no chance for me to attend training.

After I graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in political science in 1992, the Air Force determined that I would train to become an intelligence officer. Following four months working for the Corps' then-Commandant of Cadets



Hall got doused after his fini-flight with the 6th Airlift Squadron.



Hall preparing for takeoff at a 2012 airshow



Hall at Pago Pago Airport, American Samoa



Hall (center) relinquishing command of the 6th Airlift Squadron in 2012

Maj. Gen. Musser, I entered active duty at Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas.

Entering active duty as a second lieutenant was an incredible experience, and over the next seven years, the theme of change continued through my life. I completed intelligence training, worked as an intelligence analyst at Headquarters Air Combat Command, and deployed to Saudi Arabia.

When navigator training opened in Texas, I completed eight months there with the Air Force before moving to Florida to complete my training with the Navy. I started my navigator time at Hurlburt Field, Florida, as an electronic warfare officer in the MC-130H Combat Talon II.

When I met with the squadron commander for my initial interview, he asked me about my future goals and of course I told him I wanted to attend pilot training. He told me that the Air Force was struggling with pilot manning, having underestimated how many pilots would leave and, at the same time, not producing enough pilots to meet mission requirements. He told me to strive to be the best I could be in the MC-130H mission and that he would support me wherever he could.

I did my best in our special operations mission, and deployed to Italy to support the war in the Balkans. Two

years after arriving at Hurlburt, I was able to apply for pilot training, and with backing from my wing leadership, I was selected! All of my focus, persistence, and hard work had finally paid off, and after seven years in the Air Force, I entered pilot training in Texas.

Pilot training was amazing, and my experiences as a navigator suited me well with flying. Many of my classmates were also former navigators who had commissioned at the same time as I and had dealt with the same Air Force pilot-production challenges.

An intense, yearlong performance-based syllabus, pilot training is full of competition with your fellow students. In many ways, it's like being a new cadet in the Corps. The strong bonds we formed at pilot training are exactly the same as those formed with my buds in E-92. Eight years after commissioning, I earned my pilot wings and started my new career as an Air Force pilot in the C-141B Starlifter at McChord Air Force Base, Washington.

Flying was everything I had imagined it would be—and much more in Air Mobility Command. Our mission was global airlift operations, and within a year of flying, I saw almost every corner of the world. The missions were long, but the destinations were amazing. And even though the world was still changing, the

pace of the missions was enough for me to upgrade to aircraft commander in just two years.

One rewarding aspect of Air Mobility Command's mission is that the wartime mission and the peacetime mission are one in the same: safe delivery of cargo all over the world. Disaster-relief operations were frequent, as we delivered cargo to countries after earthquakes and hurricanes. Thankfully, during that time, we did not fly any combat missions other than cargo deliveries to Saudi Arabia to support no-fly operations in Iraq.

During one mission as we crossed the ocean, I recall talking with another pilot about our extensive training to fly into combat, but wondered if we might be a generation of pilots never to fly into harm's way. We knew we'd be ready if the call ever came, but based on the predominately peaceful world we were flying around, we wondered if we'd ever do anything other than train for war. That sortie was on Sept. 1, 2001, just 10 days prior to the terrorist attacks that would dramatically change our mission—and the world.

Combat and combat-support missions all over the world dominated the rest of my time at McChord. In late 2001, I was selected to transition to the C-17A Globemaster III, and my first mission in the new airplane was to



Hall at Iguazu Falls, Brazil, during a congressional delegation visit



Hall in American Samoa

Afghanistan. During multiple deployments over the next three years, I flew to every airfield in Afghanistan and Iraq and to our forward operating bases in the Middle East. The flying was challenging and dangerous, but also extremely rewarding, especially during those deliveries to forward operating bases in both countries. I spent five years at McChord and flew missions to every continent except Antarctica.

I spent the next six years teaching at the C-17A schoolhouse in Oklahoma, attending the Air Force Institute of Technology for graduate school, and working two staff assignments at Headquarters Air Force in the Pentagon. Five years without flying was frustrating for me because I had worked so hard to become a pilot and had spent almost half of my pilot career in school and on the staff.

Deciding it was time to work on a new goal, I focused on getting back to flying, but this time as a squadron commander. I had tremendous mentors in the Pentagon who helped me not only successfully complete my assignments there but also compete well when Air Mobility Command formed a selection board to pick squadron commander candidates. I met the board and was selected to command the 6th Airlift Squadron following my Pentagon assignment.

Squadron command was the most rewarding experience of my career so far. The 6th Airlift Squadron is the oldest airlift squadron in the Air Force, and I was honored to have the opportunity to serve with so many amazing pilots and loadmasters as we executed the squadron's global mobility mission in the C-17A. Combat airlift operations in Afghanistan and Iraq were our primary missions, though we continued with supporting missions on almost every continent. Although executing our mission was important, helping people was the most rewarding part of my command experience. Almost every experience in command was firmly grounded in leadership lessons I learned in the Corps of Cadets. In fact, I base all my success as a commander on the solid leadership foundations I experienced as a cadet at Virginia Tech.

My most recent assignment was as an exchange officer at the National Defence College in New Delhi. I spent a year learning national security policy and global issues from a prospective very different from that of the United States. My time in India was an incredible experience, and I am grateful not only for what I learned there, but also for the friends I made among the Indian and other foreign officers.

I hope to one day use my experiences to help shape international policy and engagements with India, as well as other nations in South Asia. I am currently assigned to Dover Air Force Base, Delaware, where I will take command of the 436th Operations Group responsible for C-5M Super Galaxy and C-17A Globemaster III operations worldwide.

My Air Force story is one of challenge and change, very much like Dr. Seuss' "Oh, The Places You'll Go!" It is also a story of creating a goal and sticking to it, no matter the obstacles faced. With commitment and determination to achieve your goals through a record of outstanding performance, you can achieve anything you set out to achieve.



Cadet Hall at home for Christmas break, 1988



Our Values Remain Unchanged

by J. Pearson '87, chairman, Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Inc.

During the 1990s, we almost lost the Corps due to low enrollment and waning support. If not for the hard work of a handful of fantastic leaders and the Corps alumni boards, our regiment would not be here today. We are ever grateful to those individuals for leading us in the program improvements and financial support that produced the strong and vibrant Corps we know today. Certainly, there is no longer talk at Virginia Tech of dissolving the Corps.

I am thankful to Gary Lerch '72 for providing superb leadership to the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadet Alumni (VTCCA) board for the past six years and for passing along a strong team of alumni who, already hard at work supporting your Corps, is ready for more! Thank you, Gary.

This column is my first contribution to the Corps Review as chairman of your VTCCA board. On May 1, I humbly, yet proudly, accepted this position, and I look forward to getting to work.

During the mid-1980s, I was a member of 2nd Battalion's K Company, and I commissioned into the U.S. Army in 1987. Since then, so much in the Corps has changed, but much for the better. Gone are the dragging parties, and "in" is a top-notch leader development program. Gone is Shultz Dining Hall, but "in" are the No. 1 collegiate dining facilities in the country. Gone is chewing on your leather belt as a "rat," and "in" are multiple leadership/rank opportunities for cadets each year. The Corps has changed and adapted for the better, and

we alumni must embrace and support these changes.

In horse racing, the difference between first place and second place is around 1 percent. The winnings, however, are 10 times more. I credit the successes in my life to the Corps and Virginia Tech. The Corps gave me that 1 percent edge needed to win, teaching me to be a leader and to focus on the small details.

When I started my trailer manufacturing business in 1996, I had only a small savings. When I sold the business in 2010, it had grown to over 1,000 employees and seven manufacturing plants in six states.

When I told my uncle '50 that I had gotten my foot in the door at Lowes because the buyer there had been a

member of the Gregory Guard, he told me, "You need to give back." My wife, Renae '90, and I agreed. Through hard work and that winning edge I received in the Corps, we were able to give back and contribute significantly to the private funding needed to build the new Corps Leadership and Military Science Building.

Looking at the long-term vision for the Corps, Commandant of Cadets Gen. Fullhart addresses the updated strategic plan in his column on page 22. I believe a few key goals from that plan are important for us as alumni to consider:

- 1) Completing the construction of the Corps' second new dormitory and the Corps Leadership and Military Science Building;



(From left) Kathy and Gen. Randal Fullhart with J. '87 and Renae '90 Pearson at the President's Circle dinner

- 2) Providing scholarships to every cadet, which may eventually pay for the total cost of attendance;
- 3) Placing 90 percent of Citizen-Leader Track cadets in a job or in an advanced degree program following graduation;
- 4) Offering a major, instead of only a minor, in leadership from the Rice Center; and
- 5) Offering a study abroad program.

How do we assist the commandant to accomplish this aggressive plan? We must have a great team with a strong leader and many others willing to execute the ideas. Gen. Fullhart is the right man at the right time. He has personally over-

seen the construction of Pearson Hall and will continue to oversee the construction of the next two buildings. Who else would have thought to put a wash rack in the dorm so that cadets can clean their field equipment? Certainly not the design firm. In my day, we clogged the showers with dirt from the field all the time.

Only a military team like Gen. Fullhart and his staff can understand these needs. This great team he has assembled is advising our cadets, who are responding by producing the highest GPA in Corps history. The Corps continues to out-commission peer institutions by graduating “global, ethical leaders” who go out to do the right thing. As a result,

I feel that our mission as alumni is to support the Corps by doing the following: communicating, participating, and donating.

Today, the Corps stands at 1,000 strong and is on sound footing; however, we cannot sit back. Lee Iacocca once said, “You either lead, follow, or get out of the way.” I plan to lead our alumni in support of the commandant and his staff to take the Corps to the next level.

Please join me in celebrating our Corps by giving back in any way you can. I look forward to working with each of you in the coming years as your chairman, and I promise to utilize that 1 percent winning edge.

Ut Prosim. Go, Hokies!



J. Pearson '87 (left) and Gary Lerch '72 exchanging the chairmanship after the Corps alumni board's executive committee meeting.

Corps Alumni Board's Newest Members

Incorporated in 1992, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Inc. (VTCCA) supports the Corps of Cadets in various ways. The VTCCA Board of Directors meets twice a year to offer alumni insights to the commandant of cadets and to support him and his staff in a range of opportunities. Three new members joined the board this past year.

Lonnie Brooks '67, who joined the Corps in fall 1963, was a Highty-Tighty and lived in Lane Hall, where he created relationships that have lasted a lifetime. Having marched at the 1964 World's Fair in New York City



and in the 1965 Presidential Inaugural Parade, to name a few, Brooks also participated in the Pep and Concert bands, the Tijuana Tighties, and the Southern Colonels. The regimental bugler and a member of the Cotillion Club, Brooks also served as production editor for the 1965 Highty-Tighty yearbook and as the band's public information officer.

As a Corps-only cadet, Brooks was drafted upon graduation and married Barbara Hay '69 before leaving for basic training, after which he completed Officer Candidate School and was assigned to the U.S. Army Military District of Washington. The Brookses spent three years in the Washington area, where his last assignment was as the aide-de-camp for the commanding general.

After leaving the Army in 1972, Brooks began a financial services career in Richmond, Virginia, then moved to Dallas, where he hired and trained financial planners for 26 years. Now semi-retired and living in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, he has two children and three grandchildren.

Dee Dodson Morris '76, an original member of L Squadron, graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in clothing, textiles, and related arts, and minors in chemistry, business, and mathematics. Commissioned into



the Women's Army Corps, she began a 22-plus-year career in the Chemical Corps and was assigned worldwide to escort and dispose of chemical weapons, advise Army Reserve and National Guard soldiers, develop collective protection and detection equipment, conduct arms-control inspections, and investigate the causes of illnesses among service members after the first Gulf War.

Upon her retirement in 1998, Morris entered civil service and continued to investigate service members' toxic occupational exposures. She spearheaded the Department of Defense's declassification of records to support the filing of veterans' disability claims. Along the way, she earned a law degree, specializing in taxation, and masters of public health and laws in health care policy and law.

Following her 11-year detour into occupational medicine, she became the chief of staff of the Joint Requirements Office for Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defense on the joint staff. Her son, Seth, graduated from Virginia Tech in 2006, and Morris currently resides in Alexandria, Virginia, with Hiawatha, an energetic Australian Shepard.

Gary W. "Obie" Obermeyer '86, a member of Delta Company and Air Force ROTC, served on cadre during his sophomore, junior, and senior years; was company executive officer as a senior; and was a member of Ranger



Company, graduating with a degree in secondary education (mathematics).

Upon commissioning into the U.S. Air Force, Obermeyer served as a special agent with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations. He held three commands and worked on counterintelligence and counterterrorism matters much of his career. His last assignment was as the counterintelligence staff officer to the commander, U.S. Strategic Command.

After retiring in 2007, Obermeyer worked as a defense contractor as a senior counterterrorism analyst and also a senior cyber analyst for Strategic Command, as well as a senior human factors analyst at Strategic Command's Joint Functional Component Command for Global Strike. In September 2011, he transitioned to employment as a government civilian with the Defense Intelligence Agency in the Counterintelligence and Human Intelligence Division at Headquarters Strategic Command. In June, he was reassigned to Headquarters European Command.

Obermeyer enjoys watching, playing, and following all sports, especially golf, as well as traveling and spending time with his wife and family.

Commandant's Staff Welcomes New Members

Musician Senior Chief Petty Officer James Bean, U.S. Navy (retired)

A native of Beverly, Massachusetts, and a graduate of the University of New



Hampshire, Musician Senior Chief Petty Officer James Bean is the new director of the Highty-Tighties.

Bean, who joined the U.S.

Naval Academy Band in 1985 and was named principal trumpeter three years later, performed with the academy's jazz ensemble, led the brass quintet, and was featured as soloist with the concert band on numerous occasions during his 22-year career. Achieving the rank of senior chief musician, he was one of the band's ceremonial leaders and conducted countless ceremonies for many national and foreign dignitaries.

In addition to playing professionally with the Navy, Bean has performed with Leonard Slatkin, Marvin Hamlisch, Phil Wilson, and a host of others, most recently with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra Pops in a series featuring the music of John Williams. A founding member of the Annapolis-based Bayfield Brass Quintet, Bean began a second career as a music educator after retiring from the Navy in 2007, and is completing a Master of Music in Performance at Towson University.

Capt. Allie G. Oberoi '10, U.S. Army National Guard

Capt. Allie Oberoi, who graduated from Virginia Tech and the Corps of



Cadets in 2010, is the Corps' enrollment officer.

While on active duty, Capt. Oberoi served as a military police officer in the 42nd Military

Police Brigade at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington. Shortly after reporting in, she was deployed to join the 54th Military Police Company and led a platoon in Wardak Province, Afghanistan, as part of an Afghan uniformed police mentorship mission. She continued as a platoon leader after redeploying until February 2013, when she was assigned as the logistics officer for the 504th Military Police Battalion.

Transitioning to the civilian workforce in 2014, Oberoi spent six months as a warehouse supervisor for Pepsi Beverage Company in Baltimore. Now a military police officer in the Virginia National Guard, Oberoi, who earned a B.S. in sociology from Virginia Tech and a master's degree in human resources from Brandman University, is married to fellow Corps alumnus Jason Oberoi '09.

Jessica Taylor VT'03

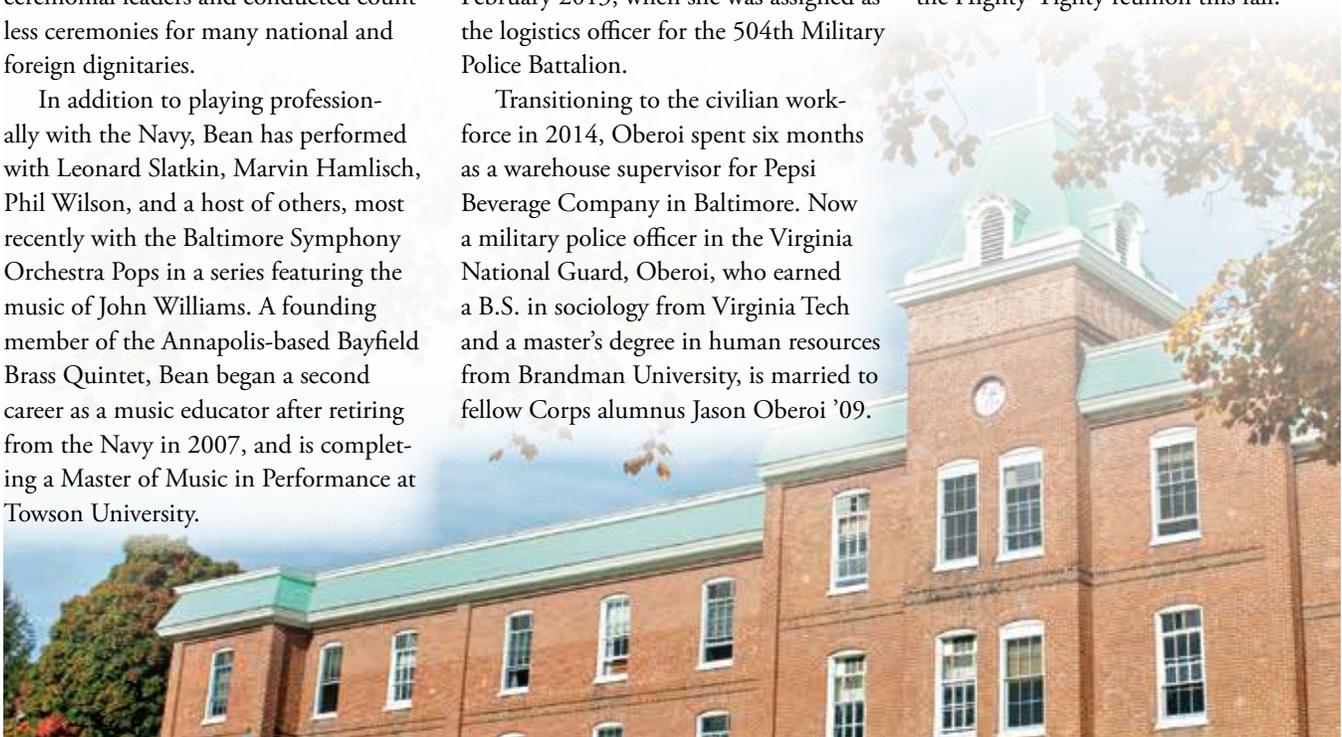
In November 2014, the Corps welcomed Jessica Taylor as the Alumni Director's new assistant.



Taylor, who graduated from Virginia Tech in 2003 with a degree in business information technology and a minor in marketing, most recently worked

as an event planner for several major events in Southwest Virginia. She and her Great Dane, Lola, currently live in beautiful Floyd, Virginia.

We are delighted that Jessica has joined the Corps family, and she looks forward to meeting all our alumni, especially during Corps Homecoming and the Highty-Tighty reunion this fall.





Virginia's 51st District Del. Rich Anderson '78 presented an Emerging Leader Scholarship to incoming cadet Daewon Soh.



Scott Pearl '84 ensures that his son, David, a rising high school senior, is checked in for a "Spend the Night" session.

The Recruiting-Support Mission

by Bill Swan '66

On behalf of the Corps recruiting office, I want to thank the Corps alumni who stepped up this winter and spring to represent Virginia Tech and our Corps at Academy Day events, college fairs, "Spend the Night" sessions, Boys and Girls State, and Emerging Leader Scholarship (ELS) presentations.

Each of these activities helped spread the word about our world-class university and its Corps of Cadets, and the volunteers' time and efforts are greatly appreciated. We participated in three Academy Day sessions in Virginia; 20 college fairs in Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, and Virginia; four "Spend the Night" sessions; and Boys and Girls State in Delaware.

To minimize the confusion encoun-

tered in previous years because of the release of multiple preliminary ELS lists, the Corps recruiting office waited until the May 1 acceptance deadline to notify school officials and volunteers in the field. While this delay undoubtedly resulted in a few ELS winners not being recognized at late-April and early-May award ceremonies, it avoided potential embarrassment both to students who would not be attending Virginia Tech and to their school counselors. In the end, at least 90 percent of the 335 to 350 ELS awardees received some type of personal recognition.

We welcome several new Area Team Leaders and younger alumni volunteers, but we continue to need help in South Florida, central North Carolina, and Virginia's Tidewater area. Please show your *Ut Prosim* spirit when asked

to assist with future college fairs, ELS awards, or similar activities.

Lastly, as I reach the end of my term as Recruiting Task Force leader, I wish to convey my heartfelt appreciation to every alumni board Recruiting Task Force member, Regional and Area Team Leaders, and volunteers who helped us meet the recruiting-support mission for the past four years.

Effective July 1, Lt. Col. David Williams '79 will replace me. Dave is no stranger to Corps alumni activities: He has been on the Corps alumni board of directors since 2004, and has been actively involved in recruiting even longer. He also serves as an Area Team Leader for Virginia Upper Valley. I hope you will give Dave the same support you've given me over the past four years.

Making the Grade: Corps Academics

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



Col. Dave Miller (far right) with students from various military institutions during this year's Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Leadership Conference.

The 2014-15 academic year is now history, and I am pleased to report that our cadets continue to do very well academically. The regiment's combined grade point average (GPA) for the spring semester was 3.10, which improves the record to seven consecutive semesters of achieving our goal of the average individual GPA being above a 3.0.

I began tracking GPAs as a performance metric when I became director in 2007. Plotting the data on a chart illustrates two significant factors. The obvious one is that academic performance has exhibited a steady upward trend over the past eight years. The less obvious one—but equally important—is that the fluctuation between the fall and spring semesters decreased in the past three years, remaining relatively flat since fall 2012.

This stability is significant because it indicates that our Academic Success programs are having a positive effect in the fall semester, a difficult period for first-year cadets who are not only undergoing freshman cadet training, but also learning how to be successful college students (as I

am sure many of you remember).

Other noteworthy academic achievements during the year included the acceptance of seven freshmen into University Honors based on their fall semester academic performance. As a result, 52 cadets are now in the Honors program.

Because of an effort led by Cadet James Flanagan '15, University Honors now recognizes specific Corps experiences as an additional way to graduate with an Honors diploma. This development will help dispel the falsehood that a student cannot be in both the Corps and the Honors program.

This year, 19 cadets and two staff members, Cdr. Mike Weaver and Lt. Col. Chuck Payne, were inducted into the Alpha Omicron Circle of Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK), the national leadership honor society, in recognition of their achievements in scholarship, athletics, service, communications,

or the arts. Cadet Flanagan '15 served as president of Tech's ODK Circle and was instrumental in reinvigorating the organization.

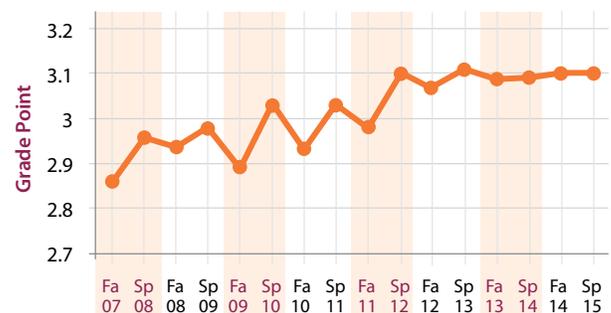
Similarly, two of our cadets, Andres Morano, Class of 2016, and Nicholas Shields, Class of 2016, served as co-presidents of the Virginia Tech chapter of the Golden Key International Honour Society, performing their duties in an exemplary manner. Tech's chapter of Golden Key also saw a significant increase in membership under the cadets' guidance.

Among our graduating seniors, 165 received a minor in leadership studies at our combined graduation ceremony on May 15. Of the Class of 2015, 203 commissioned into one of our armed services, and 45 graduated into the ranks of the public and private sectors. Almost 70 percent of our cadets in the Citizen-Leader Track secured post-graduation employment or were accepted into graduate school. We extend our thanks to our alumni who helped these cadets pursue their careers.

This was a good year for academics in the regiment, and you have every right to be proud of your Corps of Cadets.

Ut Prosim.

VTCC Average GPA



Spring Events

Spring semester saw rapid progress in the construction of Pearson Hall, and the cadets' activities were in full swing: Platoon Tactical Challenge, the Class of 2016's Ring Dance, a drill competition sponsored by the Gregory Guard, April 16 remembrances, and Jaffe Eager Squad competition.



Rick Monroe '66 participated in a "topping off" event—which marked reaching the highest point in the construction of the Corps' new dorm, Pearson Hall—signing one of the metal beams to be used in the structure's roof.



During the "topping off" for the Corps' new dorm, Joe Dempsey '68 represented the family's legacy in the Corps, signing beams for himself, his brother, Dave '76; and his father, J.P. '39.



One of the seven stations in the Platoon Tactical Challenge (PTC) involved simulating the movement of injured personnel and heavy equipment over/across an obstacle. The "injured" weighed in at 150 pounds.



In the War Memorial Gym's pool, another station of the PTC required each platoon to move all members across the deep end, along with equipment that could not get wet, which required creating a raft using a waterproof poncho.



Excited members of the Class of 2016 gathered for a photo after receiving their coveted Virginia Tech class rings.



Junior-year cadets, wearing the Corps' redesigned female paletot, show off their class rings.



A member of the Gregory Guard evaluates a junior ROTC unit during the inspection phase of a drill competition held in Cassell Coliseum for units from Virginia and North Carolina high schools.



During the Day of Remembrance ceremony on April 16, President Timothy D. Sands and Dr. Laura P. Sands pause at Cadet Matthew LaPorte's memorial Hokie Stone in the April 16 Memorial in front of Burruss Hall.



Cadets at the April 16 Memorial salute as silver taps is played in honor of the 32 Hokies lost in 2007.



Held on a bitterly cold March day, the Corps' annual Jaffe Eager Squad competition required that a squad from each company accomplish a prescribed set of drill maneuvers within a specified area. For the second consecutive year, Delta Company won the competition.



Following their spring meeting, members of the Corps of Cadets Alumni board toured Pearson Hall.



The Army team pulls against an opponent during the Joint Military Athletic Competition among military ROTC and VPI Battalion cadets. The Army squad won the competition, which featured a series of events.



No Resting on Our Laurels

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

As this edition of the Corps Review mails, we will be moving new furniture into the first of our two new residence halls, Pearson Hall, and Brodie Hall's successor will be well underway. Our efforts toward the new Corps Leadership and Military Science building are moving forward, and we await the arrival of the Class of 2019, which will make our fourth consecutive year of more than 1,000 cadets in the Corps!

It was a great spring semester filled with record-breaking activities by the cadets, which included hosting hugely successful blood drives, winning six awards in the university's Hall Council competitions, and hosting the annual leadership conference.

The Highty-Tighties performed in a Mardi Gras parade in New Orleans and became the first collegiate-level military band invited to perform in the Virginia International Tattoo in Norfolk. Not only did they perform with other military bands from around the world, but they also marched in a NATO parade, performed at an evening baseball game, and shared their talents with students at a local elementary school.

Our Citizen-Leader Track partnerships through the Rice Center for Leader Development's advisory board continue to grow. Six cadets were awarded substantial scholarships from Northrop Grumman that included tailored, paid internships that are currently underway. The same is true for cadets who have been selected for special internships with the FBI. Lt. Col. Don Russell, who leads

our citizen-leader program, provides more details on page 24 in this edition.

In the fall, we'll welcome retired U.S. Navy Chief Jim Bean as our new band director. We extend our thanks to Lt. Col. George McNeil for his steadfast leadership and long-time service to the Corps. Lt. Col. McNeil will stick around to help Chief Bean get off to a great start.

Academically, the Corps continues its upward momentum. The cadets achieved a collective 3.10 grade point average, and this year's graduating class included 164 cadets earning minors in leadership studies, our largest number to date. We commissioned 203 officers, and of the 45 Citizen-Leader Track cadets who graduated, more than two-thirds had secured career-starting jobs or have been accepted to graduate school.

In keeping with our vision of global, ethical leaders, we already have a good number of cadets who are heading overseas for international programs, including our Olmstead Scholarship cadets who traveled to Panama.

As any good organization should do, we are looking well down the road and updating our strategic plan for the coming 10 years. As we complete this task, your Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Inc., as well as the Highty-Tighty Alumni board, will be updating their plans in support.

Following are some highlights of the plan:

- Maintain a diverse and inclusive Corps between 1,050 and 1,100 cadets—full occupancy of new residence halls;



Gen. Fullhart with some of the Class of 2016 cadet leaders last year

- Complete the Corps Leadership and Military Science Building;
- As part of the upcoming university campaign, grow Emerging Leader Scholarship funding sources to provide all eligible cadets with a scholarship, and grow the funding sources sufficient to cover 50 percent of room fees over four years;
- Substantially increase the annual campaign participation rate of classes graduating in the most recent 20 years;
- Endow a second faculty position in the Rice Center for Leader Development;
- In partnership with the Pamplin College of Business, establish a major in leadership;
- Work to help 90 percent of each year's graduates of the Citizen-Leader Track to achieve career starts or graduate education starts within

- six months of graduation;
- Establish and conduct annual overseas travel for cadets as part of an independent-study program for graduation credit;
- Enhance and deepen cadets' understanding and commitment to honor and ethics;
- Maintain and financially support a musically well-balanced marching band capable of fielding 144 pieces at home football games, along with sufficient additional members to cover a variety of venues to include a jazz band, string ensemble, and brass quintet;
- Maintain and cultivate a professional staff to carry out the mission of the Corps.

As you can see, these are not “rest on your laurels” kinds of goals, but goals that this Corps, with strong support from all of you, can achieve.

I want to close by first saying how excited I am to be working with the new chairman of our alumni board, J. Pearson. He, along with the board's members, is energized to help with our efforts going forward.

I also want to urge as many of you as possible to return to campus for Corps Homecoming so that you can witness the progress of your Corps and the future coming to life on the Upper Quad. I have been highly gratified by the support shown by the university's new president, Timothy D. Sands, and his wife, Dr. Laura P. Sands, and, even more importantly, their deep understanding of how the Corps represents the origins and underpinnings of the ethos of *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve).



President Timothy D. Sands and Gen. Fullhart at the Corps' graduation and commissioning ceremony in May.



The six Northrop Grumman Scholarship Program in Military Leadership recipients were recognized at a luncheon during the spring meeting of the Rice Center's board of advisors: (from left) Lt. Col. Don Russell, cadets Melanie Otte, Class of 2016; Alex Mundy, Class of 2018; Madeline Guillen, Class of 2016; Walter Gonsiewski, Class of 2016; Anthony Clifton, Class of 2017; and Anthony Carella, Class of 2016; Northrop Grumman Corp. Director of Talent Acquisition Jeanie Wade, and Maj. Gen. Fullhart.

A Model for the Future: Corporate Partnerships

by Deputy Commandant of Cadets Lt. Col Don Russell, U.S. Air Force (retired)

It has long been a vision to establish win-win partnerships between the Corps and various corporations and agencies, whereby employers offer cadets competitive scholarships that are tied to summer internships and, hopefully, post-graduation employment. The structures of such partnerships could be tailored depending on circumstances.

Clearly, these types of partnerships would be a win for the Corps and the cadet, but also a win for the partner organizations as they would acquire highly sought-after, high-caliber leaders of character—Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets (VTCC) graduates—into their ranks.

This spring, expanded relationships materialized with a handful of organiza-

tions representing a variety of sectors. No company better exemplifies this than the Northrop Grumman Corp., which also recently joined the Maj. Gen. W. Thomas Rice Center for Leader Development Board of Advisors.

Brokered by the University Development office, a mutually beneficial agreement was struck between Northrop Grumman and Virginia Tech for a \$750,000 sponsorship commitment to support the College of Engineering, the Ted and Karyn Hume Center for National Security and Technology, and the Corps of Cadets.

For the Corps, this support established the Northrop Grumman Scholarship Program in Military Leadership.

For the next four years, this program will award generous annual scholarships to six cadets enrolled in the College of Engineering who are focused on fields emphasizing aerospace, cybersecurity, and C4ISR (command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance). Tied to the scholarship is the offer of at least one paid internship with the company.

The Corps held a competitive announcement, application, interview, and selection process to determine the scholarship program's first six recipients. Representatives from Northrop Grumman and the Hume Center also participated in the selection. Academic merit and financial need were significant

factors, as were Corps and extracurricular performance. The competition was intense. The following cadets are the deserving recipients:

- Cadet Anthony Carella (Class of 2016), of Mercerville, New Jersey, an aerospace engineering major and member of Air Force ROTC and the Highty-Tighties, will serve as Band Company commander in the fall semester.
- Cadet Walter Gonsiewski (Class of 2016), of Lebanon Township, New Jersey, a mechanical engineering major and member of Air Force ROTC, will serve as Air Force ROTC cadet wing commander in the fall semester.
- Cadet Madeline Guillen (Class of 2016), of Chantilly, Virginia, an electrical engineering major and member of the Citizen-Leader Track, will serve as VPI Battalion commander in the fall semester.

- Cadet Melanie Otte (Class of 2016), of Red Lion, Pennsylvania, an industrial systems engineering major and member of the Citizen-Leader Track, will serve as VPI Company commander in the fall semester.
- Cadet Anthony Clifton (Class of 2017), of Poquoson, Virginia, a computer science major and member of the Citizen-Leader Track, will serve as Conrad Cavalry first sergeant in the fall semester.
- Cadet Alex Mundy (Class of 2018), of Omaha, Nebraska, a computer science major and member of Air Force ROTC and the Highty-Tighties, will serve as a Fire Team leader in the fall semester. This summer, Cadet Mundy is interning with Northrop Grumman in Herndon, Virginia.

Said Northrop Grumman Corp. Chairman, CEO, and President Wes

Bush: “We’re counting on schools like Virginia Tech to produce the next wave of innovators and leaders in the aerospace and defense industry. We expect that this initiative will contribute to national security through a focus on C4ISR and unmanned systems.”

Adding that the partnership with Northrop Grumman is a win-win for the Corps, Commandant of Cadets Maj. Gen. Randy Fullhart said, “It is a validation that our leader development program is producing the kinds of leaders that top-tier organizations like Northrop Grumman value. We look forward to a long-term partnership.”

Indeed, Northrop Grumman’s generous gift and demonstrated commitment comprise a model for the future on which other companies and organizations can build.

Ut Prosim.



An artist's rendition of the Northrop Grumman RQ-4 Global Hawk (courtesy of Northrop Grumman)



A Northrop Grumman scholarship recipient, Cadet Madeline Guillen, Class of 2016, addressed VPI Battalion following her assumption of command at the end of the spring semester.



Five newly commissioned Army second lieutenants from the Corps' Class of 2015: (from left) William Chung, Michael Aldykiewicz, Daniel Pcsolyar, Matthew Gimenez, and Katherine Sheaffer.

Army ROTC News

Changes in Army ROTC

U.S. Army Cadet Command recently implemented many changes to improve the current ROTC leader development program by enhancing the on-campus curriculum and upgrading the summer training programs.

The new curriculum will include an increased concentration on academic learning, communication, and critical thinking, while cadet summer training (CST) will now consist of two phases: cadet initial entry training (CIET) after freshman or sophomore year and the cadet leader course (CLC) after junior year.

CST will focus on providing opportunities for cadets to put the new curriculum's lessons to test in a field environment. These exercises will push cadets mentally, physically, and socially so that they learn valuable lessons before being commissioned.

CIET will teach cadets select, basic military skills from individual to squad-level tasks and will continue to build a

foundation to establish the critical-thinking skills necessary to become an Army officer.

CLC, which is replacing the Leader Development and Assessment Course, will be Cadet Command's capstone training event and will focus on solving complex problems at the company level. This summer event builds on work accomplished on campus and develops the cadet's small-unit leadership ability in a tactical environment.

Both CIET and CLC will be conducted exclusively at Fort Knox, Kentucky. During the month-long cycles, cadets will be instructed in land navigation, physical readiness, cross-cultural competencies, marksmanship, first aid, confidence course, and tactics.

In addition to changes in curriculum and summer training, Cadet Command also decided to conduct testing to validate cadets' academic accomplishments and evaluate cadets' ability to analyze and communicate. Some of this testing will occur during CLC, some on campus.

In order to support the increasingly technological nature of future military challenges, Cadet Command is refocusing its recruiting efforts to increase the number of cadets who plan to major in STEM disciplines.

Cadet Command also developed a new, objective National Order of Merit model for assessing cadet performance by focusing on activities that measure talent, knowledge, skill, character, and potential. Along with the new Order of Merit List model, the Army has developed a talent management system to better align commissioning cadets' actual talents with talent requirements identified by Army branch proponents.

Lastly, ongoing reductions in the Army's force structure will result in a reduction of lieutenant commissions over the next few years. Thus, Cadet Command will be putting an added emphasis on cadet quality through both academic and leadership evaluations.

Leadership roles matter

Throughout the year, juniors and seniors were given leadership roles, ranging from platoon sergeant to battalion commander to staff officer, in the Army ROTC battalion. These cadet leaders were responsible for the planning and execution of weekly ROTC labs, a leadership development exercise (LDX), basic rifle marksmanship training, combat water-survival training, and more. Although mentored by ROTC cadre, the cadets were given much autonomy in order to develop their leadership skills and learn through firsthand experience.

Cadet 1st Sgt. Nancy Bateman noted the importance of practicing what you preach: "If you are going to emphasize physical training [PT]," she said, "you better max your own PT test."

Cadet Platoon Sgt. Joshua Levin learned firsthand that leadership is a 24/7 job, not just a part-time role that occurs during PT or labs. He also noted that actions reflect on your personal character: "If you are inconsistent in how you behave in front of or away from members of the platoon," he said, "you will have difficulty earning their trust and respect."

Cadet Cory Mitchell, a company executive officer, said that he "learned the importance of the battalion training meetings in ensuring your unit is properly prepared for upcoming tasks. That meeting is where the planning, coordination, and conflicts are resolved."

Cadet Andres Morana, a platoon sergeant, discovered that he had to quickly grasp the notion, "when in charge, be in charge." He admitted that he assumed his leadership position

without much knowledge of what was expected of him, but his quick action in taking the reins of the role helped him succeed.

Many of the cadets in leadership roles shared that they had learned the significance of communication and critical thinking. Others talked about the importance of knowing their troops, leading by example, and remaining positive and enthusiastic, even in the face of adversity, to motivate their subordinates.

Through his leadership role, Cadet Timothy Teh, a platoon leader, realized the influence he had on others. "The amount of effort I put into the development of these individuals had a direct correlation with their success," he said. Platoon Sgt. Cadet Ryan Barney learned that "hard work and a genuine interest in developing the people under you dramatically helps the unit succeed and obtain a high morale."

Cadets in staff roles also learned a great deal. Battalion S-1 (personnel officer) Cadet Tice Myers learned that accountability can be difficult. Battalion S-3 (operations officer) Cadet Zachary Stilwell learned that an S-3 plays a crucial role in making or breaking a battalion's operations: "I learned very quickly to delegate work, to be thorough in reviewing plans, and to ensure that time hacks are realistic and allow for errors," he said. Battalion S-4 (supply officer) Cadet Hunter Wilson said that he realized to "always make sure your people are getting the information and resources they need. Supply is overlooked many times, and it should be a priority in any operation."

Although at times it was challenging to combine leadership roles with academics, the cadets took their jobs seriously and gained new perspectives and an appreciation for the demands on a leader. Cadet Daniel Stevens, a company executive officer, said that his leadership role was "one of the best opportunities and experiences I've had with the Army ROTC battalion."

Cadet Tyler Dick, who served as a platoon leader, noted that the amount of knowledge, experience, and professional development he acquired while being a cadet in the Corps and in Army ROTC is "unsurpassed" by anything he has ever done before. According to Cadet Ryan Barney, his leadership role as platoon sergeant was "one of the most rewarding and valuable experiences" he has had as an Army ROTC cadet.

Our cadets clearly show why Army ROTC remains one of the best leadership development programs in the country!

The Army Ten-Miler team



Virginia Tech's 2014 Army Ten-Miler team in Washington, D.C.

From the first day of fall semester classes until race day on Oct. 10, 2014, the Army Ten-Miler team trained five days per week on tempo runs, hill sprints, and distance runs. The team did an outstanding job representing Virginia Tech and the Army ROTC battalion at the race, placing fourth out of all participating ROTC units. Seniors on the team included Class of 2015 cadets Joseph Defilippo, Lucas O'Keeffe, Eric Schneider, Brenden Sweeney, and Marie Yacone.

Combat water-survival training



Cadets had to swim 25 meters and keep their rifle out of the water.

In February, cadets participated in Army combat water-survival training to ensure they have the fundamental water-survival skills necessary to survive. The event, which fosters swimming techniques that save lives and bolsters personal courage, included a 10-minute swim, 25-meter rifle swim, don and ditch, treading water, and a five-meter drop.

Dining-out

On Feb. 28, Army ROTC's New River Battalion conducted its annual Army dining-out. Presiding over the festivities were the Virginia Tech ROTC Professor of Military Science Col. Kevin Milton; the evening's guest speaker, Col. Patrick



Fourth-year Army cadets repented in good humor at the grog bowl.

Stevens, a founding member of the Ranger Battalion; Cadet Conor Cosgrove, the New River Battalion's cadet commander; and the year's Mr. Vice, Cadet Andrew George.

One of the highlights of the evening was the grog ceremony. The grog bowl served as the sentence for cadets whose outlandish actions during their time at Virginia Tech had left a lasting impression on their peers. So many cadets were called forward throughout the evening to take a drink from the grog that the entire bowl had been consumed before the meal had been completed.

At the end of the meal, Col. Stevens' speech challenged cadets to rise to the high standard of leadership that would be expected of them as Army officers. At the conclusion of the night's formal elements, the dance floor opened, and the cadre kicked things off by jumping right into the chicken dance. The event proved to be a highly enjoyable night of tradition.

Joint Military Athletic Competition



Army cadets pulled out a win during the JMAC tug of war.

In April, Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine-option, and VPI Battalion cadets participated in the Joint Military Athletic Competition (JMAC), with cadets facing off in a series of individual and team sports to bring home the trophy. Events included an Ironman, obstacle-course relay, CrossFit, basic

rifle marksmanship, football, soccer, ultimate Frisbee, volleyball, Dizzy-Izzy, track sprints, and tug-of-war. It was an Army victory!

3.2-Mile Run in Remembrance



The Army ROTC Battalion: Hokie strong!

The New River Battalion showed its support and Hokie spirit in April by participating in the 3.2-Mile Run in Remembrance to honor and remember the 32 members of the Virginia Tech family who lost their lives on April 16, 2007.

Cadet's spring leadership development exercise includes cultural component

by Libby Howe, news staff writer, *Collegiate Times*



The cadets practice a scenario in which they are required to approach a family in a foreign country.

To test skills that cadets have learned during the semester, the Virginia Tech Army ROTC Battalion conducted an LDX on April 24-26. Comprising real-life simulations applicable to the cadets' future careers, the exercises focused on developing leadership in the junior cadets, specifically because they will complete the cadet leadership course (CLC) over the summer.

Lucas Forand, one of the cadets overseeing the LDX, explained how the exercises aim to equip the cadets with the skills necessary to be successful at CLC. "A lot of the training

will be platoon-level training that will hopefully put the cadets in different environments where they can express leadership. ... None of them knows what's going to happen," Forand said. "They'll only know where they need to be at what time and then get follow-up orders periodically when they have a new mission." Forand, a team of five assistants, and all the fourth-year Army cadets planned and executed all aspects of the exercise.

The weekend kicked off on Friday afternoon with an eight-mile ruck march on the Huckleberry Trail, with each cadet carrying roughly 35 pounds. The fastest platoon finished in just under two hours, and the last completed the march in just over two hours.

On Saturday, the first platoon started the exercise at 5:30 a.m. at the engagement skills trainer (EST), a virtual shooting range. Cadets ran roughly 25-yard repeats, which were broken up with pushups, in order to increase heart rates before entering the EST. This situation simulated the high-stress environments cadets may one day face and tested marksmanship with elevated heart rates.

Other exercises included a comprehensive knowledge test on everything cadets have learned in the classroom and in the field, as well as an endurance course, reconnaissance and raid simulation, and key leader engagement (KLE), which placed cadets in simulated situations that involve strategies to communicate and interact with different cultures.

Senior Brianna Jahn elaborated on KLE: "You're not going in with guns ready; it's more like all of a sudden you have a village elder approach you. It's more of a talking negotiation. The cadets are graded on performance and reaction to contact. They were briefed on the culture of the simulation so they would be able to respect cultural and religious rules."

Senior Steve McKnight explained the importance of KLEs to the cadets' future careers. "Most cadets aren't used to interacting with people of other cultures," McKnight said. "The Army is trying to make us as culturally aware as possible because a lot of situations will involve being able to communicate with other cultures."

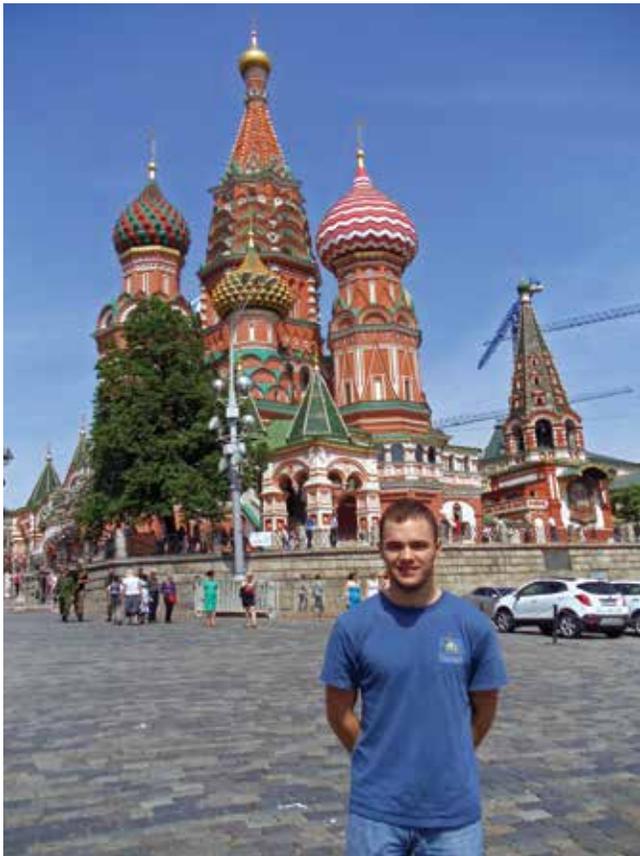
The cadets successfully completed the exercise due in large part to weeks of planning and the participation of the senior cadets as both opposing forces and graders for the exercise.

Summer training opportunities

In addition to mandatory CST, many optional summer training opportunities are available and are often the highlight of cadets' ROTC experience.

Last summer, 38 Army ROTC cadets participated in optional three- to four-week training events, including cadet troop-leadership training (CTLT), during which cadets serve in lieutenant-level leadership positions in active-duty units; airborne or air assault school; engineering, medical, or research internships; and third-year Army cadet leader-training at CST.

Another 20 cadets were chosen for the Cultural Understanding Language Proficiency (CULP) program and sent to 16 different countries, including Romania, Thailand, Poland, Tanzania, and Cape Verde. These cadets were immersed in a foreign culture in the realm of humanitarian service or host nation military-to-military contact. The cadets received education on the social, cultural, and historical aspects of their host country.



Cadet Joel Graham, Class of 2016, visited Russia on a CULP deployment.

Several cadets also participated in Project Global Officer, a Department of Defense program to promote the study of strategic languages.

CTLT in South Korea

by Cadet Kevin Heald '15



(From left) Cadets Couture, Yang, and Heald before climbing South Korea's Mount Soyoosan during CTLT

I attended CTLT in South Korea and shadowed a second lieutenant in charge of a maintenance platoon. The most interesting aspect of this training was learning firsthand how an army actually works.

ROTC often talks about a platoon leader's relationship with the platoon sergeant (PSG), but this experience solidified for me how that relationship works. I saw how the first sergeant and PSG were incredibly locked on, and everything they did was to improve the company. They really embodied the Army value of selfless service.

All cadets attending CTLT in Korea had a chance to visit the demilitarized zone to learn about the history of the conflict and what is still occurring today. There was much information that I hadn't known, and being able to learn about it from a Korean viewpoint was a very cool experience.

I most enjoyed attending a baseball game. Because South Koreans love baseball, the environment reminded me of a Hokie football game!

CTLT in South Carolina

by Cadet Cory Mitchell '15

I was sent to Fort Jackson, South Carolina, to join a basic training company where I was attached to a platoon of recruits and worked with three drill sergeants. Along with two other cadets in the company, we attended training during the day, which started with physical training in the morning. We served as safeties on firing ranges and helped coach the privates on their shooting mechanics; at other times, we served as assistants for the land-navigation courses.

The most interesting part of the CTLT was taking part in the night infiltration course. In this training event, you must low-crawl through a large area of sand and bunkers at night while .50-caliber machine guns fire tracer rounds overhead. I enjoyed seeing how the new recruits reacted to the stress, and I enjoyed the unique training experience.

The most challenging part of the training was when my fellow cadets and I were put in charge of setting up and running the firing range for the training day. None of us had experience running a range, but with advice from our drill sergeants, we were able to effectively plan and resource the training for the privates to execute.

A fantastic mentor during our time at Fort Jackson, our company first sergeant stressed the importance of taking individual initiative to complete your tasks in life and stated that skill was crucial to doing well as a lieutenant, advice I really took to heart.

Project Global Officer in Estonia

by Cadet Lindsey Hobbs, Class of 2016



Cadet Hobbs and other Project Global Officer participants wore headscarves while visiting a convent in Estonia.

I attended Project Global Officer in Narva, Estonia, for eight weeks to study Russian. The immersion classes were quite challenging, but they were well worth the hard work.

The event that I found most interesting was the song festival in Tallinn, during which Estonians come together from all around the world and unite through traditional songs. Because the festival is held every five years, we were extremely fortunate to be in the country at the right time. The festival has for decades served as Estonian's main form of protest before and during Soviet occupation.

While there, we met U.S. Ambassador Jeff Levine and learned about his career and how he was handling the rising tensions between Russia and the United States. The population of Narva is composed of 97 percent ethnic Russians, a

challenging situation when trying to promote good relations between ethnic Estonians, ethnic Russians, and Americans.

As a future officer, I found it beneficial to witness how the ambassador handled the presence of American soldiers in Estonia and promoted the United States through the soldiers' interactions with the people.

My experience in Estonia was very beneficial to my study of the Russian language, my understanding of international relationships, and my own personal development and exposure to other cultures.

Airborne School at Fort Benning, Georgia

by Cadet Samuel Meaux, Class of 2017



Second Lt. Andrew George '15 taking the commissioning oath in May

Attending U.S. Army Airborne School in Fort Benning, Georgia, was an amazing experience, even though the weather was hot and miserable for most of the time. Over the course of three weeks, we learned such key tasks as parachute-landing falls, exiting the aircraft, maneuvering the parachute, and responding to a parachute malfunction.

Nothing compares to the feeling of waiting for your turn to jump out of the aircraft. People start moving in front of you, and the next thing you know, you're out. I don't remember much of my first jump, but on my second jump, the drop felt much slower, and I was able to take everything in.

The experience I found most beneficial was interacting with the junior enlisted, which we cadets don't really get to do in our ROTC environment. Just talking to the soldiers and hearing their stories helped me gain a better picture of what the Army is really like.

Although I left home just hoping I would earn my wings, I received the distinction of cadet honor graduate for Class 31-14 and gained some real experience in leadership development.

Another record year of Army commissions!

Last year, Virginia Tech Army ROTC commissioned 68 cadets onto the active component and eight into the U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) or National Guard (NG), the largest Army commissioning class for Virginia Tech Army ROTC to date.

Congratulations to the following new lieutenants:

Infantry

Ryan Carter
Jason Conder
Kasey Crumpton
Jordan Goodwin
Lucas Forand
Kevin Heald
Oliver Hilgartner
Ji-Sung Kim
Matthew Lee
Stephen McKnight
Austin Myers
Quang Nguyenlu
James Oliva
Reece Prothero
Aaron Serra
Brenden Sweeney

Armor

Ali Ahmed
Jordan Berning
Tyler Coffin
Daniel Gimenez
Cory Mitchell
Steven Nagy
Brandon Torres

Military Intelligence

Nhat Dao (NG)
Matthew Herron
Devin Lamb
Benjamin Post
Eric Schneider
Hunter Wilson

Chemical Corps

Saunghun Ann
Andrew Lindsay
Marie Yacone

Transportation Corps

Shane Dunlop (NG)
Matthew Ksanznack
Jacob Lovin
Shaila Morales-Ayala (USAR)
Peter Schadt
Matthew Williford
Everett Wyers

Medical Service Corps

Sean Barragan
William Chung
James Hancock

Field Artillery

Michael Aldykiewicz
Zachary Bird
Daniel Deardorff
Andrew George
Matthew Gimenez
Thadeus Johnson
Anthony Lopez
Alfonso Maher
Zachary Mancini (NG)
Richard Macgregor
Ross Miller
Daniel Pcsolyar
Timothy Teh

Military Police

Eric Cetrone
Hunter Deacon
Liam Fitzgerald
Michael Rittenhouse
Sara Stallings
Zachary Stilwell

Quartermaster Corps

Leo Kasmer
Shelby Mueller
Lucas O'Keeffe
Joseph Sievers
Ordnance
Robert Lajeunesse
Katherine Sheaffer

Corps of Engineers

Ian Cunningham (USAR)
Telemachos Manos (USAR)
Holly Nguyen (USAR)
Andrew Palmer
Michael Quigg
Michael Reilly

Finance

Joseph Defilippo

Signal Corps

Ross Holdsworth
Lucas Switts (NG)



Career Development Task Force: Helping Our Own

Scott Pearl '84 presented Patience Larkin '87, Corps alumni director, with a plaque he crafted from the door of the Rasche Hall room where she lived sophomore and junior years.

by Lt. Col. Scott M. Pearl '84, U.S. Air Force (retired), chair, VTCCA Career Development Task Force

With the drawdown in our U.S. military end strength and the increasing number of cadets in the Corps' Citizen-Leader Track, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni (VTCCA) board recently established a Career Development Task Force.

The task force continues to progress in defining its role and identifying tools to help our cadets and alumni successfully navigate the job market. We aspire to assist across the board, from identifying summer internships and post-graduation jobs for Citizen-Leader Track cadets to providing assistance to military members separating or retiring from active duty.

Some of our early challenges have been identifying existing tools and processes we can leverage, such as the university's Hokies4Hire website and its LinkedIn page. We also have contacted both Texas A&M University and Virginia Military Institute (VMI) to benchmark their career development practices. Because VMI's mantra, "If you graduate, you'll always have a job in Virginia," was

found to be lacking, the college hired a full-time career network officer to better leverage its alumni workforce. As our VTCC Class Champion network matures, we plan to use it extensively to get the word out on supply and demand—both job opportunities and job needs.

Our first use of the Class Champion network was in March, when we introduced the Career Development Task Force and requested that people send us information on their company's internships and job openings. We also received a few résumés of people looking for jobs. In hindsight, we were not quite ready for prime time, so we took a step back to work through some more details on how to best help job seekers and how to make sure we are aligned with the commandant's staff.

In the meantime, we heard from three Corps alumni searching for jobs: one is an '05 lawyer in New England who's looking to stay in the Northeast; the second is an '05 Army Special Forces logistics officer; and the third is an '07

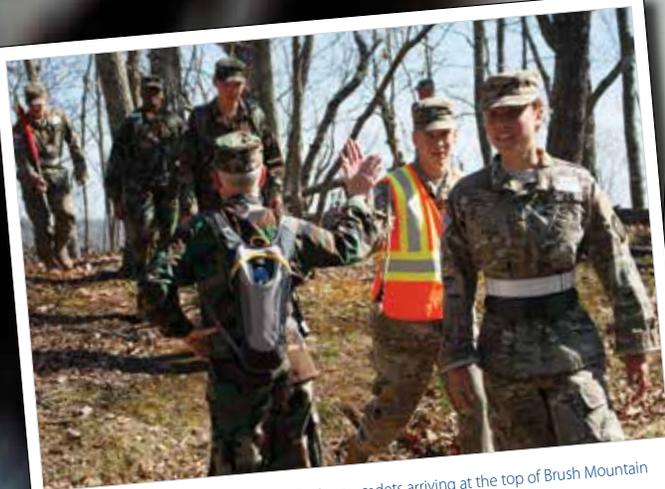
naval surface nuclear officer with a B.S. in civil engineering. Please let us know if you would like any additional information about these alumni.

The Corps' strategic plan includes the following objective: "Work to help 90 percent of each year's graduates of the Citizen-Leader Track to achieve career starts or graduate education starts within six months of graduation." Our task force wants to help VPI Battalion achieve that goal. As one industry member told us, "A graduate of Virginia Tech and the Corps of Cadets is holding a winning hand." Our job, with your help, is to help market our winning hands.

To contact our task force with suggestions, needs, desires, or questions, please email us at vtccalumnijobs@yahoo.com. Members on the task force include Jess Fowler '64, Jay Jacobsmeyer '81, Denise Schuster Greenfield '88, Tom Verbeck '73, Bob Quisenberry '62, Mack Halsey '62, Rich Carpenter '67, Greg Porter '62, Scott Pearl '84, and VTCCA Chairman Emeritus Gary Lerch '71.

Spring Events

The second half of the spring semester was filled with exciting activities for cadets and alumni alike, as well as a changing of the guard among some of our staff and alumni leaders.



The commandant showed support to freshman cadets arriving at the top of Brush Mountain during the spring Caldwell March's 13-mile route.



Freshman cadets know they are nearing the Upper Quad—and the end of the Caldwell March—when they pass the signs marking Blacksburg's corporate limits.



Blacksburg resident Easley Smith '45 enjoyed a meal and conversation with members of the Corps' Class of 2016 during their Class Champion dinner in April. The program following dinner is designed to introduce cadets to the Corps' alumni program before they graduate and to emphasize the importance of staying connected to their buds and classmates.



Speaking to junior-year cadets about the Class Champion program and the importance of keeping in touch with each other and the Corps, Rock Roszak '71 shared a picture of himself as a "rat."



For the first time, the Highty-Tighties participated in the Virginia International Tattoo held in Norfolk, Virginia, in April. The event provided an outstanding opportunity to showcase our Corps and the band, which marched in a NATO parade, performed the national anthem at a local baseball game, and shared their musical talents with students at a local elementary school.



At the alumni reception held before the military tattoo, Corps alumnus John McCloud '61 and his wife, Tina McCloud, presented a late-1800s VPI "tar bucket" cover to the commandant, as a donation to the Corps Museum.



To thank outgoing Corps alumni board chairman Gary Lerch '72 for his years of service to the university, the Corps, and the board, the commandant presented him with a signed P. Buckley Moss print of Lane Hall.



Virginia Tech President Emeritus Charles W. Steger '69 (far right) chatted with Corps alumni board members before the farewell dinner for Gary Lerch '72.



Corps alumni board members who participated as part of the reviewing party for the Corps' change of command parade included (from left) Bill Swan '66, J. Pearson '87, Drew Hodges '75, Eugene Huffman '64, Hal Schneikert '65, Deb Tillotson '78, and Dave Williams '79.



Cadet Austin Dickey '15, outgoing regimental commander, directed the regiment to present arms during the national anthem at the Corps' change of command parade in May.



For the 2014-15 academic year, Lima Company earned the Corps' most-coveted award, the Beverly S. Parrish Award, also known as the Gold Cord, presented each year to the Corps' top company. The unit members wear a gold cord on their dress uniforms throughout the next academic year.



The third annual Highty-Tighties concert, held in May in the Moss Arts Center, marked the band's final public performance under the baton of retiring band director Lt. Col. George McNeil, a man who epitomizes the spirit of *Ut Prosim!*

Matthew Joseph La Porte '09* Honored with Airman's Medal

by Maj. Carrie Cox, U.S. Air Force Reserve



Matthew Joseph La Porte was a member of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Class of 2009 and Air Force ROTC. He played tenor drum in the Highty-Tighties and was part of the cadet jazz ensemble, the Southern Colonels. La Porte was also a member of the highly competitive and physically demanding Armed Forces Special Operations Preparation Team. He was majoring in political science in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences and planned to serve his nation as an intelligence officer in the Air Force upon graduation.

CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF THE AIRMAN'S MEDAL (POSTHUMOUS)

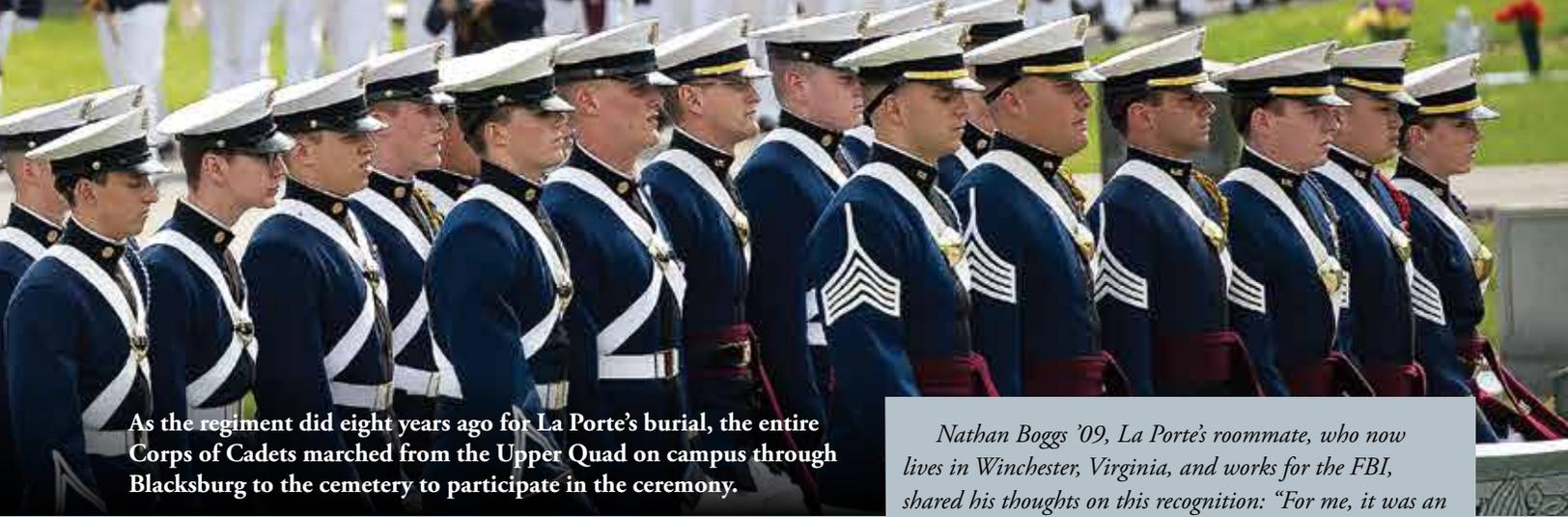
TO

MATTHEW J. LA PORTE

Cadet Matthew J. La Porte distinguished himself by heroism involving voluntary risk of life in Norris Hall on the campus of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University on 16 April 2007. On that day, gunfire erupted in the hallway outside of Room 211 and the professor told her students to get down and to move to the back of the classroom to take cover behind desks; Cadet La Porte instead moved to the front of the room and barricaded the door with a large, heavy desk in an attempt to defend the class. When the shooter subsequently forced his way into the classroom, Cadet La Porte, with complete disregard for his own safety, unhesitatingly charged the shooter in an aggressive attempt to stop him, drawing heavy fire at close range, and sustaining seven gunshot wounds. Cadet La Porte's actions helped save lives by slowing down the shooter and by taking fire that would have been directed at his classmates. He sacrificed his own life in an attempt to save others. The exemplary courage and heroism displayed by Cadet La Porte in the dedication of service to his country reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.



* Editor's note: Because the 27 Virginia Tech students lost on April 16, 2007, were awarded posthumous degrees, we honor Matthew La Porte by using his projected graduation date.



As the regiment did eight years ago for La Porte's burial, the entire Corps of Cadets marched from the Upper Quad on campus through Blacksburg to the cemetery to participate in the ceremony.

The U.S. Air Force posthumously awarded Matthew Joseph La Porte, of Dumont, New Jersey, the Airman's Medal on April 9 at his gravesite in Westview Cemetery in Blacksburg, Virginia.

La Porte, one of 32 students and faculty members who lost their lives on April 16, 2007, was recognized by the Air Force for his heroic actions that are credited with saving lives that day.

Retired Air Force Lt. Col. Keith Gay, who, in 2007, was serving as an assistant professor of aerospace studies in Detachment 875, worked for seven and a half years to navigate the process to see that La Porte was recognized for his heroic actions. The package included statements and corroborating evidence from first responders, eyewitness statements, and a thank-you letter to the La Porte family from the mother of a classmate who, shot three times, felt that La Porte's actions had saved her daughter's life. Lt. Col. Gay explained his motivation, "Matt's mother asked me what I saw in her son that made me do this, that kept me going for years. I said, 'Everything. Your son gave everything that day.'"

The Airman's Medal is awarded to any member of the Armed Forces of the United States or of a friendly nation who, while serving in any capacity with the U.S. Air Force, has distinguished himself or herself by a heroic act, usually at the voluntary risk of his or her life, but not involving actual combat.



Nathan Boggs '09, La Porte's roommate, who now lives in Winchester, Virginia, and works for the FBI, shared his thoughts on this recognition: "For me, it was an inevitable event. I know he was a hero that day, as I had the opportunity, not long after the shootings, to meet some people who were in the classroom with Matthew. After learning that I was Matthew's roommate, one young lady's mother immediately expressed her gratitude that Matthew had saved her daughter's life that day. Knowing that Matthew's family finally found a little more peace through acknowledgement of his sacrifice will forever bring me happiness. The world has come to see Matthew as those of us who knew him have seen him all along."



Commandant of Cadets Gen. Fullhart and Air Force ROTC Professor of Aerospace Studies Col. Torrens escort Matthew La Porte's family: mother, Barbara; father, Joseph; and younger sister, Priscilla.

From a letter to the La Portes, Virginia Senior Trooper Gary Chafin shared, "I want to tell you I believe that your son is a hero. ... I believe your son was on the move. I believe your son sacrificed himself so that others in that room might live. I am not the only officer in that room to reach the same conclusion. I say again I believe your son gave his all for the others in that room that awful day."

"It appeared to me as though Mr. La Porte ... made an aggressive, overt attempt to stop Mr. Cho. ... There is no doubt in my mind that Matt La Porte took it entirely upon himself ... and took direct action to neutralize [the shooter]."
A first responder on April 16, 2007



Sgt. Maj. David Combs (far left) with 3rd Battalion cadet leaders (clockwise from back) Tyler Dick '15; Troy Smith, Class of 2016; Nick Shields, Class of 2016; Sherry Kim, Class of 2016; and Emily Konoza '15.

As We Continue to Serve

by Sgt. Maj. David Combs, U.S. Army (retired), 3rd Battalion senior enlisted advisor

My family and I were truly blessed when, shortly after retiring from the Army after 27 years on active duty, we accepted the position with the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets as the 3rd Battalion's senior enlisted advisor.

We were thrilled to move to the mountains of Southwest Virginia and begin the next phase of our lives: working with and supporting young people in a military leader development program in one of the country's most beautiful and safest areas to live. We feel as if we have been put in the right place and that we have been blessed many times over with opportunities to lead, develop, and mentor young adults about to step into their future military or civilian endeavors.

I've had the great opportunity to work as a servant-leader with some very talented young people in my short time here at Virginia Tech, but not everyone whom I've been in contact with has been a cadet in the Corps. I also have had

the opportunity to work alongside our ROTC departments that work extremely hard to shape and mold our young servicemen and women every day. In addition, I've been able to interact with and learn from many different civilians and university professionals across campus. I'm thankful for all these opportunities and experiences.

Since arriving, I've seen the hard work that goes into this program. The commandant's staff is constantly working to make improvements as necessary, even if that means additional work. I've seen a common approach among everyone to make a better product, which is one of the things I'm most excited about.

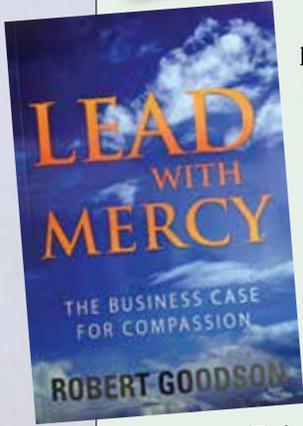
As we move closer to occupying our new barracks, as well as transitioning into a new construction phase of a second barracks facility, new challenges will present themselves to our cadets and staff members and will likely continue to do so over the next few years. The newly

named Pearson Hall towers over the Alumni Mall, and the skyline has taken on a new shape for what promises to be another 150 years of producing great leaders. Our cadets are excited!

My family and I are "all in" here at Virginia Tech in the Corps of Cadets with its leader development program and all it offers to our cadets. Academics, individual and collective discipline, all areas of training, and the development of stronger, more knowledgeable non-commissioned officers and leaders are my focus areas for cadets specifically at the company and platoon levels.

I am very appreciative of my job and the role I play to help mold young leaders. I know I share many of the same passions as my peers and fellow staff members. Thank you for allowing my family and me the opportunity to become members of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets team.

ALUMNI ANNOUNCEMENTS



A Fortune 500 company business leader and certified executive coach, Rob Goodson '93 has released a business leadership book, "Lead with Mercy," which makes the case for ethical and merciful business leadership that, in the end, is a sustainable and rewarding business model. Goodson has spent more than 20 years studying and practicing leadership in the military and in private industry.

To learn more, go to www.OutskirtsPress.com/leadwithmercy.



ACC Student Leadership Conference

Held this year at the University of Notre Dame, the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) Leadership Symposium on Feb. 27-March 1 focused on growing the bond between the ACC's 15 schools by strengthening the education of their student leaders.

To discover how other schools operate, discussions centered on inclusive groups and challenged students to bring forward how their campuses uphold inclusive environments.

Five delegates from each ACC school attended the symposium. The Virginia Tech delegation included (above, right) Cadet James Flanagan '15 and (above, second from left) Cadet Andrew Mitchell, Class of 2016.

"The conference went very well," said Cadet Maj. Flanagan, "and at the end, different groups presented their research on specific areas of inclusion. Overall, the program was inspiring to empower and inform leaders from around the ACC."



Sailing into Turner Place

This past academic year, the cadet-run Spirit and Traditions Committee revived a tradition: the wearing of sails by new cadets. A handkerchief designed by the new cadets with the unit's logo on it, the sail is worn during specific meals.

In the past, the sail was required attire until Virginia Tech beat Virginia Military Institute (VMI) in a major sport. Because Tech now rarely competes against VMI, the opponent to beat is now the University of Virginia.

In addition to promoting unity and pride among the freshmen, the sails also keep their uniforms clean.



At the Nov. 1, 2014, wedding of Lt. Will Perlik '13 and the former Eliza Bystrzycki in Charlotte, North Carolina, a saber arch was formed by Perlik's Class of 2013 buds.

Currently stationed at Hunter Army Airfield, Georgia, Perlik flies the UH-60 Blackhawk.



The first Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Ranger Company, spring 1966

Ranger Power

by Cadet Zachary Stilwell '15, now 2nd Lt. Stilwell, U.S. Army

“Drop!” The booming yell of Ranger Company 1st Sgt. Wes Russell, Class of 2016, cut through the dark, echoing across the Drillfield. Immediately, the cadets complied, hitting the dirt and knocking out pushups.

It was 5:00 a.m., the start of another day of Ranger assessment, the seven-week selection process during which Army cadets show their mental, physical, and moral prowess in order to claim a place in Virginia Tech Army ROTC’s Ranger Company.

Originally founded in 1966 and first commanded by Col. Bill Ohl ’66, U.S. Army (retired), Ranger Company, which has close ties to the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets (VTCC), was designed to prepare cadets for the hardships of the Vietnam War. Over the years, the company grew and adapted, continuing to develop cadets for roles as future officers.

Ranger Company’s current mission is to develop Army ROTC cadets as leaders and prepare them for Ranger School and the rigors of an Army career. At Virginia Tech, Ranger Company consists of some 35 members, seven of whom are newly inducted. Daniel Dearth ’15 led the company last year and passed command on to Russell.

Originally, prospective members of Ranger Company were “tapped,” or chosen, by current members. Notified by a rude awakening in the middle of the night, they were instructed to change quickly into their fatigues and were then gathered together and led through a series of physical tests, including running, low-crawling, and pushups. These first-night activities lasted several hours.

Those cadets who did not quit performed additional fitness tests, along with distance-runs and rifle maneuvers.

After the week-long process, the new members would be welcomed, having earned the privilege of wearing the black Ranger beret.

The current process is designed to resemble the Ranger assessment and selection process, known as RASP. Candidates undergo a series of rigorous challenges over seven weeks, which begins with the Army physical fitness test, followed by strenuous exercise that encourages the prospective Rangers to both understand their physical limitations and learn to overcome their self-doubts. As the physical stress continues over the first three weeks, candidates gain confidence in their abilities and learn how to function effectively while exhausted and under physical stress.

During the next three weeks, the cadet Rangers teach the candidates such skills as knot-tying, rappelling, and obstacle-course navigation. Candidates

continue to develop their ability to complete tasks while under physical and mental stress, further developing them as leaders and future officers.

Lastly, during the seventh week, the candidates undergo four tests: a knots test, a timed-obstacle course test, a physical fitness test, and a ruck march. Upon completion of the ruck march, the candidates become cadet Rangers and are given cords, ribbons, and black physical-training gear. After some recovery time, the new members undergo one last ruck march, filled with physical challenges, to earn the coveted beret.

At Virginia Tech, Ranger Company was built upon tradition, many of which continue today. One of the oldest is the wearing of the beret. Cadets in the company originally wore a black beret with a VTCC Ranger Company crest to signify their membership, much like the U.S. Army Rangers. After the Army's adoption of the black beret for general wear, Ranger Company switched to an olive-drab beret.

In a tradition that dates back to 1970, candidates make Ranger plaques and must complete individual challenges for signatures during the try-out process.

Another popular tradition is "running the game ball." Beginning in 1972, the Rangers would run the football to be used during the game against Virginia

Military Institute (VMI), along with some dirt from Roanoke's Victory Stadium—the longtime site of the game—to the stadium where the game was being played.

For the 1982 Oyster Bowl in Norfolk, Virginia, the cadets completed a 290-mile run along U.S. Route 460. In relay style, the Rangers ran all through the night, taking turns to rest in a van. A group of VMI Keydets set an ambush in attempt to steal the ball. Having suspected such an attempt, the Rangers carried a decoy ball in their hands and placed the real ball in a backpack. The Keydets stole the decoy, and the Rangers successfully carried on the tradition.

Since Tech no longer plays VMI in football, the tradition continues today by running the game ball at least 100 miles around campus the week prior to the university's Homecoming game. Every Hokie tries to touch the ball to pass on some luck to the team.

Along with maintaining the company's traditions, Ranger Company cadets have gone on to become outstanding commissioned officers and to serve in a range of roles in the Army. As cadets, many attend airborne or air assault training. As officers, many find a home in the combat arms of infantry, armor, and field artillery, and just as many gladly serve in non-combat branches.

Ranger Company members stay connected wherever they serve, helping other VTCC Ranger alumni whenever they can, even if they have never met. With alumni spread out on all bases—from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, to Fort Campbell, Kentucky, to Fort Richardson, Alaska—there is no shortage of Ranger Company connections.

To help preserve its rich history, Ranger Company collects information and memorabilia from alumni for display in the Corps Museum. If you would like to share part of the company's history or donate any items, please contact Wes Russell at wpr@vt.edu.



Bob Harrison '70, a former Corps Ranger Company commander, passed down the Randall knife to last year's commander, Danny Deardorff '15.



Corps Ranger Company cadets (from left) Tice Myers '15, Danny Deardorff '15, and Wes Russell, Class of 2016, with the game ball before Tech's 2014 homecoming game.



Corps Ranger Company's 2005 field-training exercise



News from the Development Office

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

As I write this, it's graduation time, and we are welcoming a new class into the ranks of Corps alumni. We hope, as campus and Blacksburg shrink in their rear-view mirrors, they will cherish their memories of the Corps and their bond to their fellow cadets. We need their help—and the support of all of our alumni and friends—to sustain our operations and to continue to provide improvements for future cadets.

I've fielded some questions about the financing for the construction of our new buildings on the Upper Quad. The two new residence halls are being financed with bonds approved by the Commonwealth of Virginia and issued by Virginia Tech. The bonds will be paid off with the money that students pay for room and board. In other words, no state or private money is used for the construction of our residence halls.

The new Corps Leadership and Military Science Building (CLMS), however, will be financed by a combination of state and private funds. Our CLMS fundraising committee, which established a goal of \$10 million for the new building, has achieved 98 percent of that goal.

Gen. Fullhart and J. Pearson '87, the fundraising committee's chairman, thanked the committee for its service at our final meeting in March. Don't be misled, though. We still need additional help to fully fund the private component, and Scott and I will continue to work with donors who may be interested in naming opportunities for this beauti-

ful building. Although we are not sure of the final cost, we know we will ultimately need more than \$10 million in private support for this project.

Since the last edition of the Corps Review, the following alumni have committed to CLMS naming opportunities:

- Bob Archer '69 on behalf of the Archer Family
- Libby and Rich Carpenter '67
- Pat and Karen Connors '86
- Sharon and David Lowe '63
- Bill McAllister '65
- Bob Quisenberry '62
- Dan and Deborah Tillotson '78

I also want to acknowledge the good work of the Class of '63. While four members of the class have named individual CLMS rooms, the class—under the leadership of David Lowe and Reed Schweickert—has raised additional funds to name the Class of '63 Classroom. To date, approximately 20 members of the class have committed more than \$171,000 to the class fund. They are now asking the remainder of their classmates to join in the effort to help the fund reach the \$250,000 level.

Anyone can designate a gift to the CLMS fund, but if your gift or pledge is \$25,000 or more, you need to contact Scott or me to choose a naming opportunity. Please contact us if your class, company, or squadron wants to get together on a naming opportunity, and we will help you. We will also work with you or

your class champion to help spread the word.

I hope you will also keep in mind the importance of supporting our operating account and providing scholarships, which remain ongoing priorities even as we raise money for the new building. At this exciting, crucial juncture for our Corps, we hope you will consider increasing your total support while dividing it two or three ways. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact me by phone or email.

Annual Fund

By Randy Holden, director of annual giving

During the week of Nov. 10, 2014, and again during the week of April 13, 53 cadets volunteered their evenings and made calls from the Student Calling Center to former Corps members. Although the cadet's calls were often unexpected, very supportive responses were received from the 1,263 Corps alumni who were reached.

The cadets were not directly involved in the formal fundraising solicitations, but they had an opportunity to introduce themselves and share some interesting stories, as well as learn about alumni experiences from years past. This initiative was well received, and we plan to continue it next spring.

Our 2015-16 Corps of Cadets Annual Fund Campaign is expected to begin in mid-September, so please be on the lookout for our mailing around

that time. Coming not long after the academic year has begun, it's a great time to show your support for the Corps and its mission to build leaders.

Welcoming aboard a new class of cadets is always a highlight of the fall term that we look forward to a great deal. Another highlight is our annual homecoming, so I hope you will attend your 2015 Corps Homecoming that will be held September 11-12 and the 2015 Highty-Tighty Homecoming to be held Oct. 23-24.

Major Gifts (\$25,000 and above)

John Costello '79, A Company, 1st Battalion commander his senior year, did a great job for numerous years as class chairman for the Class of 1979. He authored a newsletter to keep his classmates informed of their comings and goings, promotions, and other news of interest. He also successfully led their effort to fund the Class of '79 Emerging Leader Scholarship, becoming the second

class in the 1970s to be honored on our donor wall. John recently committed to fund the VTCC John B. Costello '79 Endowed Scholarship to create expanded opportunities for cadets.

Gene Huffman '64 notified us that he has made provisions in his estate plans to benefit the scholarship he created back in 2000. By completing a "future support" form, Gene made sure his intentions for any distribution to Virginia Tech will be clear after he's gone.

Dr. Dave Minichan used the ability to roll over assets in his individual retirement account to make a nice addition to the VTCC David P. Minichan, Jr. '51 Scholarship at the end of last year. As of this writing, Congress has not shown any indication as to whether or not similar legislation will be enacted this year.

As noted on page 24, we have entered into a partnership with Northrop Grumman to fund a scholarship program in military leadership. The program, which begins this fall, will fund six scholarships annually for cadets majoring in specific

engineering fields and will provide valuable opportunities for experience through internships with the corporation. Both ROTC and Citizen-Leader Track cadets are eligible.

James '51 and Kate Parkey have funded the VTCC Kate B. and James K. Parkey '51 Scholarship for a cadet majoring in engineering. James earned a B.S. in industrial engineering, and he and Kate wish to give back to his alma mater to expand opportunities for cadets.

Harvey Sutton '59 has been a strong supporter of the Corps and our leadership development program for years. He has completed the VTCC Harvey L. Sutton '59 Endowed Scholarship for cadets majoring in engineering, which is intended to help cadets become successful engineers and leaders.

As always, thank you for your support of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. If we can help you in any way or answer any questions, please let us know.

Ut Prosim,

Dave



Freshman cadets are greeted by upperclassmen during the "turn" ceremony following the spring Caldwell March.

Building Leaders

by Judith Davis, Office of Gift Planning

Some gifts build buildings. Some gifts fill buildings with future leaders.

When I think of the emerging new face of the Upper Quad, and the cadet faces that continue to swell the ranks of Virginia Tech's Corps, I'm reminded of a long-ago children's rhyme that ended triumphantly, "Open the doors—and see all the people!"

Open the doors ...

The generosity of Corps alumni and friends has been critical to every aspect of the Corps' success. Some of those gifts are helping build 21st-century facilities on the Upper Quad.

... and see all the people.

Other gifts from our donors are helping fill Corps buildings with future leaders.

An Emerging Leader Scholarship is often a deciding factor for a prospective cadet's ability to attend Virginia Tech or a current cadet's ability to return each semester.

You can make a gift of scholarship support that will also provide lifetime payments to you.

Charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts make payments to you during your lifetime. The gift is created when you irrevocably transfer cash, securities, real estate, or another asset to the Virginia Tech Foundation Inc. in exchange for an income stream paid to you or to someone you name.

When the plan ends, typically after your lifetime, the remaining balance becomes your gift to the Corps. It's a great way to support the Corps with a gift that also provides a stream of income for retirement or other needs.

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

To learn more about gifts that provide payments to you and about other ways to support the Corps, contact Dave Spracher, director of development for the Corps of Cadets, at 1-800-533-1144 or dlsprach@vt.edu.

In Memory

Garland J. Morris '46
1923 – 2015



Garland J. Morris died April 2. Born in Appomattox, Virginia, Morris graduated from Virginia Tech in 1946 with a B.S. in aeronautical engineering, interrupted

by his service in World War II in Gen. George S. Patton's 3rd U.S. Army. After earning an M.S. in aeronautical engineering from the University of Virginia, Morris worked for 33 years at NASA's Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia, retiring in 1980. Predeceased by his wife, Marguerite, Morris is survived by his daughters.

George Wilson Watts '48
1925 – 2015



George Wilson Watts died March 11. Born in Portsmouth, Virginia, Watts graduated from Virginia Tech in 1948 with a B.S. in aeronautical engineering. He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1948 to 1971—working on such projects as the Ramjet, the X-15, fixed-wing aircraft, and the Agena, the second stage of the Gemini rockets—and retired as a lieutenant colonel. Predeceased by his wife, Jean, and a daughter, Watts is survived by a daughter and a son.

Frank S. Whyman '48
1927 – 2015



Frank S. Whyman died April 19. Raised in South Boston, Virginia, Whyman graduated from Virginia Tech in 1948,

served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, and was recalled to the U.S. Army during the Korean War. A member of the New York Stock Exchange for over 40 years and a senior partner at Einhorn and Company, he was active in numerous Jewish charities and had a lifelong interest in women's education, serving on Mount Holyoke College's board of trustees. Whyman is survived by his wife, Susie; a daughter, and a son.

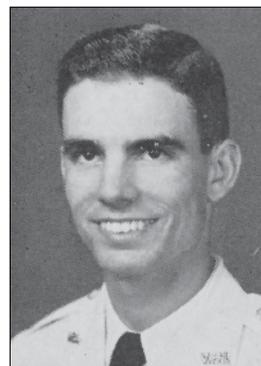
Harland Bascum Little Jr. '49
1923 – 2015



Harland Bascum Little Jr. died April 28. A native of Waynesboro, Virginia, Little graduated from Virginia Tech in 1949 with

a degree in business administration. As a B-24 bomber nose gunner in the U.S. Army Air Corps Reserves during World War II, he flew combat missions from Italy, receiving the American Campaign Medal with five battle stars. Little then became one of Blacksburg's first mail carriers and was appointed postmaster, retiring in 1984. He is survived by his wife, Nita; and sons.

Claude Kinder '50
1928 – 2015



Claude Kinder died Feb. 10. Kinder graduated in 1950 with a B.S. in engineering from Virginia Tech, where he was a Highty-Tighty.

Commissioned into the U.S. Air Force, he was a base loading officer responsible for loading nuclear weapons. After active duty, Kinder worked at James H. Call, acquiring the contract for and managing the installation of Cassell Coliseum's laminated wood arches in 1964. In 1978, he founded IPS Group, an engineering company. Kinder is survived by his wife, Elizabeth; daughter, and sons.

Carlton Everett Combs '57
1935 – 2014



Carlton Everett Combs died Oct. 3, 2014. A native of Richmond, Virginia, Combs graduated from Virginia Tech in 1957 with

a B.S. in architectural engineering and in 1961 with an M.S. in architectural engineering. During his senior year, he served as commander of the Corps. Following service in the U. S. Army, Combs worked and retired in the Washington, D.C., area.

Edwin G. Burch '60
1938 – 2015



Edwin G. Burch died April 1. Born in Martinsville, Virginia, Burch graduated from Virginia Tech in 1960 and then worked for DuPont, Boeing Aerospace, and Sperry Rand

Computers. Entering seminary at Emory University in 1977, he received a Master of Divinity in 1980 and served various United Methodist churches before his retirement in 2001. Predeceased by his first wife, Virginia Louise, Burch is survived by his wife, Barbara; daughters, and stepsons.

Otho E. Craft Jr. '60
1939 – 2015



Otho E. Craft Jr. died April 13. Born in Covington, Virginia, Craft graduated from Virginia Tech in 1960 with a B.S. in civil engineering. Upon graduation, he worked

for the General Services Administration and was called to active duty in the National Guard, serving over six years. Following active duty, he worked for various engineering firms, becoming a partner at Thompson and Litton and later part-owner, president, and chairman of the board. Craft is survived by his wife, Margaret; a son, and daughters.

Joseph F. Judkins Jr. '61
1938 – 2015



Joseph F. Judkins Jr. died March 18. Born in Surry, Virginia, Judkins graduated in 1961 from Virginia Tech, where he

was a member of the Pershing Rifles. After serving in the U.S. Air Force, he returned to Tech and earned a Ph.D. in civil engineering in 1967. Judkins was a professor of civil engineering at Auburn University from 1967 to 1981, then an executive vice president of Paul B. Krebs and Associates until 1990. Returning to Auburn as director of the Water Resources Research Institute, he then served as chair of the Department of Civil Engineering until his retirement in 2002. Judkins is survived by his wife, Elizabeth, and daughters.

Charles Stuart "Chuck" Swinney '64
1943 – 2015

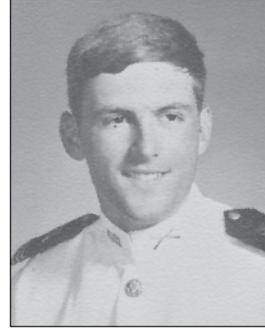


Charles Stuart "Chuck" Swinney died Jan. 4. After graduating in 1964 with a B.S. in aerospace engineering from Virginia Tech, where he was a Highty-

Tighty, Swinney worked for various U.S. Department of Energy contractors and for the National Safe Skies Alliance Inc., a leading source of security-related technology information and applied research for U.S. commercial airports. A dedicated volunteer at his church and for numerous civic organization, Swinney is survived by his wife, Pat; a daughter, and a son.

John Benjamin Black '70
1949 – 2015

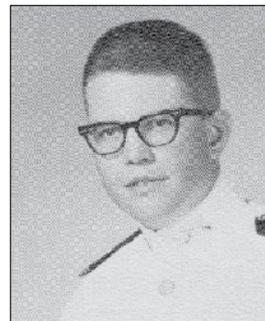
John Benjamin Black died Feb. 22. Born in Roanoke, Virginia, Black graduated



from Virginia Tech with a degree in architecture in 1970, having served on the Corps' regimental staff during his senior year.

After service in the U.S. Army, he settled in Nashville, Tennessee. A gifted architect who spent most of his 35-year career in the health care sector, Black experienced a long, valiant journey with Lou Gehrig's disease and, despite his medical condition, was truly inspirational. He is survived by his wife, Susie; two daughters, and a son.

Thomas Alan "Tom" Louthan '70
1947 – 2015



Thomas Alan "Tom" Louthan died Feb. 9. A Corps captain and chief justice of the Honor Court and president of the Alpha

Phi Omega national service fraternity, Louthan graduated from Virginia Tech in 1970 with a degree in business administration and finance. After serving in the U.S. Army in Vietnam, he later earned a J.D. from the University of Richmond School of Law and opened his own law firm, substituting as a Virginia District Court judge in Winchester, Virginia. Louthan was former president of the Shenandoah Chapter of the Virginia Tech Alumni Association and was named to the university's Order of the Gavel. He is survived by his wife, Shirley.

Horace Edward Alphin '34 1913 – 2015



Horace Edward Alphin died Jan. 21.

A faithful Virginia Tech alumnus and benefactor who funded cadet scholarships, as well as undergraduate and graduate scholarships and three professorships in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Alphin also contributed to the construction of the Alphin-Stuart Livestock Teaching Arena

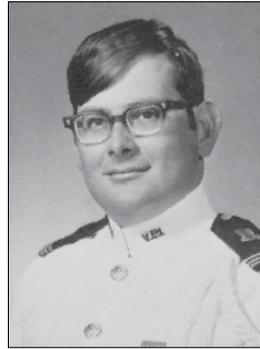
on campus.

After graduating with a B.S. in dairy science in 1934 and commissioning in the U.S. Army Reserve, Alphin earned an M.S. in dairy bacteriology in 1935. Called to serve in the Civilian Conservation Corps for one year, he then spent five years as a North Carolina Extension agent.

Upon being called to active duty, Alphin pursued a distinguished military career in personnel services, which included serving as adjutant general to Headquarters, 8th Army, and to the United Nations Command in Seoul, Korea, his last overseas assignment.

Alphin completed his military career as director of the U.S. Army's Personnel Services Support Directorate at the Pentagon, retiring as a colonel in 1967 with more than 33 years of service. He then served as director of personnel for Columbia Hospital in Washington, D.C., until retiring in 1979.

Christopher Bise '72 1950 – 2015



Christopher Bise died Feb. 13.

A native of Philadelphia, Bise graduated from Virginia Tech in 1972 with a B.S. in mining engineering. The Highty-Tighties' drum major as a cadet, Bise served as the Highty-Tighty alumni band's drum major from 1975 to 2010, when the group promoted him to drum major emeritus and performance officer.

After earning an M.S. and a Ph.D. in mining engineering in 1976 and 1980, respectively, at Penn State University, Bise taught in the mining engineering program. Promoted to professor in 1991, he chaired the mining engineering program from 1993 to 2006 and was appointed Centennial Professor in 1994 and Deike Chair in Mining Engineering in 2001.

In 2006, Bise joined West Virginia University as the Charles T. Holland Distinguished Professor of Mining Engineering and mining engineering department chair.

Along with receiving the distinguished alumni award from Virginia Tech's Department of Mining and Minerals Engineering in 2000, Bise was recognized with a host of awards for excellence in teaching, research, and service. A master teacher and a wonderful musician, he will be missed by the mining community worldwide, the Corps of Cadets, and especially the Highty-Tighty alumni.

LEST WE FORGET

Robert F. Kello '49, Courtland, Virginia, 4/10/15.

Thomas R. Macon '49, Wallkill, New York, 4/4/15.

E. Brooks Parker '50, Houston, Texas, 12/30/14.

James F. Dickenson Sr. '51, Roanoke, Virginia, 2/23/15.

John W. Barna '52, Saint Albans, West Virginia, 3/25/15.

Peter M. Finkel '52, Perham, Maine, 3/30/15.

James W. Blalock '53, Pfafftown, North Carolina, 4/19/15.

William M. Powell '53, Athens, Georgia, 4/5/15.

Charles J. Goodman '58, Greensboro, North Carolina, 4/7/15.

William R. Dean '60, Wytheville, Virginia, 2/23/15.

Richard S. Gray '60, Holly Ridge, North Carolina, 2/23/15.

William L. Whitehead Jr. '60, Courtland, Virginia, 3/17/15.

Roy D. Powers Jr. '61, Duffield, Virginia, 3/29/15.

Fairfax H. Settle '61, Tappahannock, Virginia, 3/24/15.

Ronald S. Bednarick '62, West Point, Virginia, 3/22/15.

Arthur A. Hough '65, Richmond, Virginia, 4/14/15.

Bernard C. Furman Jr. '67, Richmond, Virginia, 1/30/15.

Neil V. Raymond '67, Beaver Creek, Ohio, 3/23/2015.



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



Come to Corps Homecoming 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 pre-game homecoming meal at The Inn at Virginia Tech before the Hokies' victory. This casual-dress event will include the opportunity to hear from the Commandant of Cadets Maj. Gen. Randy Fullhart—who will present an update on facilities upgrades and continuing improvements to the leader development program—as well as guest speaker, Virginia Sen. John Watkins, Class of 1969.

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 Corps Alumni office at 540-231-7431.

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



Cancellation:

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

Game Tickets (when applicable):

- Game tickets purchased as part of event registration are for registered event participants only. The cost of a game ticket is \$45, and tickets are limited in quantity, available on a first-come, first-served basis, with 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 the event to receive a full refund.

Confirmation:

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



Top: Exiting a UH-60 helicopter in Afghanistan, U.S. Air Force Capt. Luke Lisa '06 (left) ran into U.S. Army Capt. John Shelton '10, whom Lisa identified as a fellow Corps alumnus because of the "VT" patch under Shelton's rank insignia. The two quickly reminisced and stopped for a photo before getting back to work.

Bottom: (From left) U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Michael Miller '93, a U-2 pilot; 1st Lt. Amanda McGrath '12, a maintenance officer; and Lt. Col. Cate Todd (formerly Cathy Wattendorf) '97, a RQ-4 pilot, flashed some Hokie pride in Southwest Asia.



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