

Vol. 26 No. 3 Summer 2016

CorpsReview

The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Magazine



Loyalty





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In early May, the Corps of Cadets' Class of 2016 symbolically handed command to the Class of 2017 during a pass in review on the Drillfield. The graduating seniors formed one review line to observe the rising seniors march the regiment in review.

Alumni

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

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Front cover: Cadet Maj. Naveen Gupta '16 at the Loyalty pylon. Commissioned into the U.S. Navy in May, Ensign Gupta is in training to become a naval aviator. Photo by Pat Artis VT'71.

Back cover: Following the completion of the spring Caldwell March, freshmen cadets gathered near the statue of Virginia Tech's first student and cadet, Addison Caldwell, to hear from the regimental commander. Photo by Capt. Allie G. Oberoi '10.

New Highty-Tighty initiative

Outfitting a 150-plus-member musical organization with instruments is both costly and continuous. As instruments get tired and old, replacement is necessary. Because the Highty-Tighties (HT) are in need of many new instruments, the HT Instrument Initiative has been introduced to help supplement the supply and alleviate some of the costs. Alumni interested in helping can participate in two ways.

First, you can purchase a new instrument based on our needs list, which is updated as donations are received. These instruments include piccolos, saxophones, trumpets, marching baritones, and sousaphones. It is important to note that only instruments from the

list may be sponsored. If you choose to purchase an instrument that appears on our list, your name will be engraved on that instrument as a testament to your donation.

Second, you can donate a gently used band instrument that is otherwise collecting dust. In order to be cost effective, only instruments in good repair can be accepted. For example, brass instruments should be free of noticeable dents, and woodwind instruments should have workable pads. Additionally, trumpets and trombones must be silver-plated. Your contribution of an instrument can be claimed as a tax deduction.

If you have any questions or are interested in participating in the HT Instrument Initiative, please contact Senior Chief James Bean at jbean88@vt.edu or 540-231-3296. Your support is greatly appreciated!



1994 alumnus, federal engineer top 10 finalist

Lt. Col. Patrick Hogeboom '94 (third from left), currently a Corps alumni board member, was honored as a 2016 Federal Engineer of the Year top 10 finalist. He won the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Federal Engineer of the Year for the Transatlantic Division/Afghanistan. Congratulations, Pat!

Announcements

Status of Class Champion program

The Corps alumni's Class Champion program—a network of Corps classes that allows us to pass information to our alumni about activities going on at Virginia Tech and with the Corps—is close to complete with volunteers who assist us by communicating with their Corps classmates. Volunteer Class Champions are in place for all Corps class years from

1957 through 2016, except for three classes: 1980, 1995, and 2003. Please contact Col. Larkin, the alumni director, at patience@vt.edu if you would like to volunteer. If you can send an email, you can be a Class Champion! Corps alumni who have not been contacted through this network are asked to send an email to Col. Larkin.



Ahoy, Naval ROTC alumni

A note from current midshipmen leaders

We are reaching out to our Naval ROTC alumni to establish a connection for you to relay your Navy/Marine experiences to current midshipmen. We would love to hear about your experiences and how being a member of Virginia Tech's Naval ROTC helped prepare you for the fleet. If you have a chance, please respond to the questions below either via a short video or in writing:

- What is your name, rank, Corps company, major, and graduation year?
- What did you learn at Virginia Tech that you are able to apply on a daily basis?
- What is your current job in the Navy or the Marine Corps?
- Do you have any advice or sea stories you would like to share with us?
- If you are comfortable doing so, share your email address so that midshipmen may contact you.

Please email your video or written information to vtrotcalumni@gmail.com. Thank you for your service. Ut Prosim!

Keep us in the loop!

Corps alumni, as you move or change duty stations throughout your career, we want to make sure you continue to receive the Corps Review and other updated university and Corps information. You can help us by updating your mailing/email address, phone number, or name change by visiting www.alumni.vt.edu/gateway/index.html or by emailing alumnidata@vt.edu. If you have any questions, please contact the Corps' alumni office at phosner@vt.edu.

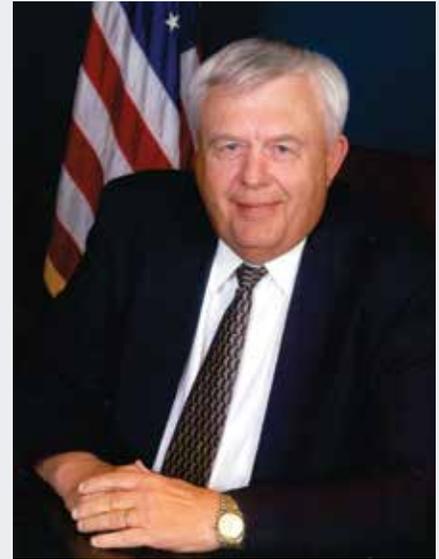
Col. Fox honored

Medal of Honor recipient and former deputy commandant of the Corps, Col. Wesley Fox, U.S. Marine Corps (retired), was honored in late February with a center-aisle presentation in the Virginia Senate. Over the course of his 43-year career that included two tours of duty in the Korean War, Col. Fox also earned a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star.



Col. Wes Fox (center)

honed in late February with a center-aisle presentation in the Virginia Senate. Over the course of his 43-year career that included two tours of duty in the Korean War, Col. Fox also earned a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star.



Dick "R.B." Thomas '64

1964 Corps alumnus, International Senior Softball trailblazer

As manager of his engineering firm's senior softball team, L Company alumnus Dick "R.B." Thomas '64—who formed the International Senior Softball Association (ISSA) in 1994 and organized the first ISSA World Championships, held in Manassas, Virginia, in 1995—has led the team to 40 national champions.

An inductee into the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame and the Amateur Softball Association National Softball Hall of Fame as a manager and the International Softball Federation Hall of Fame as an administrator (only the 16th American to be inducted), Thomas was recognized last year as the Sports Event Organizer of the Year by the National Association of Sports Commissions.

Great job, R.B.!



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Shelton serving as operations liaison for an Air Force One presidential visit to Birmingham, Alabama

Change of Station

by Lt. Col. Bob Shelton '96, U.S. Air Force

This past May marked 20 years since my graduation from Virginia Tech and the Corps of Cadets and my commissioning into the U.S. Air Force. While it's hard to believe that so much time has passed, it's easy to look back and see how the lessons I learned during five years as a cadet have served me so well. To this day, I still reflect on the principles inscribed on the eight pylons, and I continue to utilize the foundational lessons I learned in the Corps.

In early April, spring break allowed for a brief visit to the campus and a firsthand view of the tremendous changes that have occurred over the past two decades. The energy on campus was palpable, and the passing tide of people was accentuated by the cadets in their dress A's.

With our five kids in tow, my wife, Jill '95, and I fielded rapid-fire questions about campus life and how we'd met. At the same time, we caught a glimpse of the superb caliber of the next generation

of young men and women who will lead our military and civilian corporations into the future.

As we circled the Upper Quad and the Drillfield, many memories returned: lessons, challenges, spirit missions, and leaders that shaped the officer I would become. I'm thankful for such mentors as Maj. Gen. Stan Musser, Col. Wesley Fox, Col. "Dutch" Vander Pyl, Col. Rock Roszak '71, Col. Ed Schwabe, and Sgt. Maj. Frank Longrie, who believed in me. I'm equally thankful for the remarkable

organization that gave me the opportunity and the tools to chase a dream to fulfill the desire to serve and lead.

Upon my graduation from Virginia Tech, I departed for initial flight screening at Hondo, Texas, followed by specialized undergraduate pilot training at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, while Jill served as an air force transportation officer at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, North Carolina. In both endeavors, the perseverance I'd learned in the Corps aided me in successfully completing pilot training and receiving my initial operational assignment to Grand Forks Air Force Base, North Dakota, as a KC-135 Stratotanker pilot.

For the next five years—or "winters," as Grand Forks survivors tout—Jill and I laid the foundations for a career in the Air Force and the beginnings of our family together. To this day, we consider



Military Ball, 1994: Shelton with future wife, Jill Hayden '95



Shelton (right) at change of command, 99th Air Refueling Squadron

“The Forks” and the 912th Air Refueling Squadron as one of our best assignments. The tight-knit community was incredibly supportive as the operations tempo ramped up in the late 90s, not slowing down since.

While part of the 319th Air Refueling Wing, I progressed from copilot to instructor pilot and held positions from chief of squadron safety to operations group executive officer. As a copilot, I participated in combat operations around the world, from enforcing Iraqi no-fly zones in operations Northern Watch and Southern Watch to NATO air operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo.

As an aircraft commander, I led aircrews around the world in the wake of

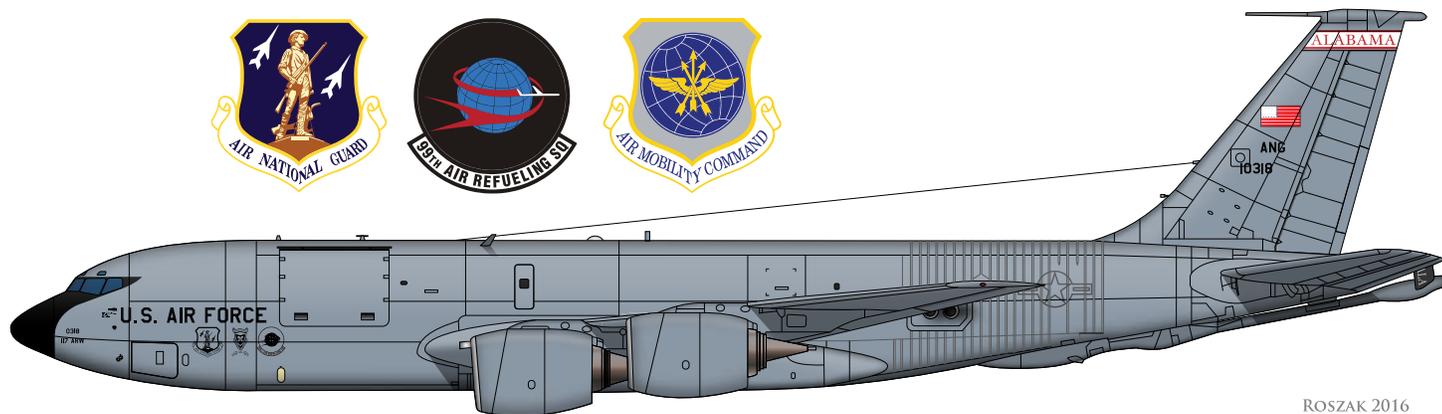
the terrorist attacks on 9/11. That fateful day, on which we’d planned a celebration of our daughter’s first birthday, will never lose its clarity. Having flown the night prior, I had awoken to news of a plane crash. As I entered the room, I watched as the second tower was struck and immediately realized that the world had forever changed. Later that night, I would lead a crew in a 10-hour Noble Eagle mission in the empty skies above Chicago, which was soon followed by combat operations over Afghanistan and Iraq in support of operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Leaving Grand Forks, I was one of 13 selected to participate in Air Mobility Command’s (AMC) four-star Phoenix Hawk leadership development program

at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. For the next two years, I received general officer mentorship while serving in select billets in the 618th Air Operations Center (Tanker Airlift Control Center) and on the headquarters staff.

As a junior captain, I served as branch chief of Special Assignment Airlift Mission Planning, leading the division’s largest branch. In this role, our team planned global presidential-support missions and humanitarian support following a devastating earthquake in Homs, Iran; and led mission-planning efforts for the National Science Foundation’s mission in Antarctica.

For my second year in the program, I transferred into the Directorate of Plans and Programs to fill the role as the chief



ROSZAK 2016

*Boeing KC-135R Stratotanker flown by Lieutenant Colonel Bob Shelton, USAF
Commander, 99th Air Refueling Squadron, 117th Air Refueling Wing
Alabama Air National Guard, Birmingham Air National Guard Base, AL
Last Flight -- 10 June 2015
Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Class of 1996*



The family gathered for Shelton's KC-135 fini-flight, June 10, 2015.



New cadet Shelton with his mother, Cadre Week, 1991



Shelton under the cover of darkness in the C-5 Galaxy in Iraq, 2007

of KC-135 requirements. I managed the modernization of more than 400 aircraft and over \$2 billion in weapon system upgrades. While on the headquarters AMC staff, I received notification of promotion to major and the opportunity to cross-flow airframes and mission sets.

In my next assignment, I would learn the strategic airlift business in the C-5 Galaxy. As a brand-new field-grade officer, I again relied on early leadership lessons from the Corps of Cadets to apply to my duties as squadron chief pilot and chief of wing plans and programs. While assigned to the 9th Airlift Squadron and the 436th Airlift Wing at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware, I gained a great appreciation for the awesome capabilities of the C-5 and being a receiver-qualified pilot. Every time I climbed the crew ladder, the enormous cargo load boggled my mind. Nonetheless, my most memorable and humbling missions came in returning our fallen warriors to America and their families; these noble men and women had given their all in the finest sense of *Ut Prosim*.

Leaving Dover Air Force Base, our family spent the next year at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, where I attended intermediate service school at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. We then returned to Scott Air Force Base, where I was assigned to headquarters AMC, directorate of operations.

Over the next three years, I was the branch chief and functional manager

for Global Command and Control and subsequently served as the A3 director's strategy and integration officer. In 2011, I pinned on lieutenant colonel. After a challenging year working for the two-star director, I received notification of selection for duty as an operations officer in the 911th Air Refueling Squadron at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, North Carolina, an assignment that presented the challenge of total force integration and seamlessly integrating 260 active duty airmen within an Air Force Reserve wing.

Jill and I returned to where our married life had begun almost 18 years earlier. Being close to home was a blessing, and I looked forward to the busy leadership opportunity and the possibility of four years in one spot. Just two months later, however, we received

notification that another move was on the horizon. We had been chosen for squadron command, but a headquarters, aircrew standardization and evaluation visit, and a nuclear operational readiness inspection would occur before the move could be made. Those eight months sped by, and our airmen performed superbly.

In the summer of 2013, we loaded up again and moved to Birmingham, Alabama, to command the 99th Air Refueling Squadron, integrated as a part of the Air National Guard's 117th Air Refueling Wing. The opportunity to learn another service-component culture again presented itself, and the command proved to be awesome. There is no greater honor than to lead the world's finest airmen and to be humbled with the responsibility of sending America's sons and daughters into combat.



Shelton preparing for approach and landing in the KC-135

The 130 Black Knights—aviators, maintenance, and operations support professionals—on our team amazed me every day. The lessons in hard work, the value of training, the need to trust one’s training, and the ability to motivate and empower subordinates initially learned in the Corps as a cadet first sergeant and company commander, coupled with hours of Eager Squad practice and years of pregame drills for march-ons, all proved fruitful.

After command, I was selected for joint senior service school. While attending the Joint Forces Staff College—National Defense University as a student in the Joint Advanced Warfighting School, the 10-month master’s degree program has continued to prepare me for future senior-leadership opportunities.

The past year, like this chance to write for the Corps Review, has been an exercise in reflection about my career, leadership, 2,700-plus flying hours of global mobility operations, and life in

general. The bottom line, I’ve decided, is that I’m blessed: with an amazing family, with the opportunity to serve our great country, and with the responsibility to lead and serve in the greatest Air Force in the world. And it all started 25 years ago in the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.

As I write this, I am looking forward to a trip to France and walking the hallowed grounds at Normandy—where so many of the Greatest Generation gave the ultimate sacrifice—and visiting the final resting place of Medal of Honor recipient Jimmie W. Monteith Jr. ’41.

After graduation, it’s that time again: another permanent change of station and a third assignment to Scott Air Force Base for the hat trick! This time, I’ll be serving on the U.S. Transportation Command J-3 staff.

I will be forever grateful for the foundation and life-long friends the Corps provided, and it will always be an honor to serve as an alumnus of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. *Ut Prosim!*



An office with a view: refueling the F-22



Shelton with then-Commander of Air Mobility Command Gen. Darren McDew, a 1982 graduate of Virginia Military Institute



Shelton as commander, 99th Air Refueling Squadron Black Knights



Team Shelton, 2016



To the Future

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

Greetings to our alumni, family, friends, and cadets!

It's hard to believe that we are just a few weeks away from the Class of 2020's arrival. At present, we are expecting nearly 380 new cadets joining our ranks. We will welcome the cadre back in August as they prepare to conduct New Cadet Week, and the rest of the Corps won't be far behind.

As construction continues on the second new Corps residence hall, the year will start with living arrangements in the same configuration as last year: 3rd Battalion will reside in Monteith and Thomas halls, 1st Battalion and most of 2nd Battalion will reside in Pearson Hall, and one company and a few cadets will reside in Main Eggleston Hall. We anticipate that the new residence hall will be ready in spring 2017.

I am happy to report that we are finishing up the preliminary design for the new Corps Leadership and Military Science Building. Early next year, the report will be sent first to the Board of Visitors for approval, which will be followed by submission to the state for financial support.

Our fundraising activities continue, and there remain naming opportunities in the building. As always, a desire and a need to continue to grow our endowments for our Emerging Leader scholarships are strong. Because our next goal must be to offer all cadets an Emerging Leader Scholarship, your help is needed!

We are making some exciting adjustments to the schedule for the coming year. Expect to see an increase in experiential learning that engages companies and battalions in group-level activities outdoors instead of just in the classroom. We are also making adjustments to New Cadet Week to provide more preparation for the first week of academics and to put even more emphasis on the development of the the cadets' basic skill set, which will be expected at the beginning of the year.

Many of the cadets can look forward to an exciting season supporting football and other Hokie sports. We will carry on the age-old tradition of taking the Corps on the road—literally—as the entire

regiment will be headed to Bristol Motor Speedway for Virginia Tech's football game versus the University of Tennessee on Sept. 10. This event is expected to set the world record for the largest attendance at a collegiate football game!

In the next edition of the Corps Review, you can anticipate an after-action report on our inaugural Corps Global Scholars trip to France, which will highlight the cadets' experiences at the site of the D-Day invasion and in meetings with current military and political leaders.

On the personnel front, we are pleased to welcome Shay Barnhart as our new communications director for the Corps! We are also pleased to welcome



Cadets in the 2016 Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets (VTCC) Global Scholars Program gathered before the Richard D. Winters Leadership Monument near Sainte-Marie-du-Mont in Normandy, France. During the D-Day landings, Lt. Winters' leadership of paratroopers from Company E, 2nd Battalion, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, went on to inspire generations of leaders. The heroic story of Easy Company was told by author Stephen Ambrose and became a popular television miniseries, "Band of Brothers."

Jason Oberoi '09 as assistant director of our Citizen-Leader Track, and Samantha Riggin as the curator of the Corps museum. Look for more exciting information on that front in future editions.

Lastly, I'd like to thank all of you who make possible our Corps and the important work of developing leaders of character. Everywhere you look in our program, there is tangible evidence of how your generosity and support are manifested.

Looking to the future, we will need all Corps graduates to consider how they can strengthen their support on an annual basis. In whatever way—volunteering at our events, serving as mentors, and helping financially at the level you feel comfortable—your support is critical and will be appreciated. The latter can be accomplished by way of the annual campaign, which allows donations to be made online, or by talking with a member of our development team about

establishing scholarships, endowments, and the like.

You have only to look at the young men and women in these pages to know

that yours is a true and worthy investment in the future, an investment that pays big dividends.



The 2016 VTCC Global Scholars cohort, representing the classes of 2017 and 2018, at Lt. Jimmie Monteith's gravesite at the Normandy American Cemetery, Colleville-sur-Mer, France. A Corps alumnus, Monteith was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for gallantry above and beyond the call of duty during the initial assault on Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944.

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VIRGINIA TECH RECEIVES GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR HIRING MOST VETERANS

As the commonwealth's most comprehensive university and its leading research institution, Virginia Tech strives to employ a diverse workforce of individuals who work in a wide range of positions.

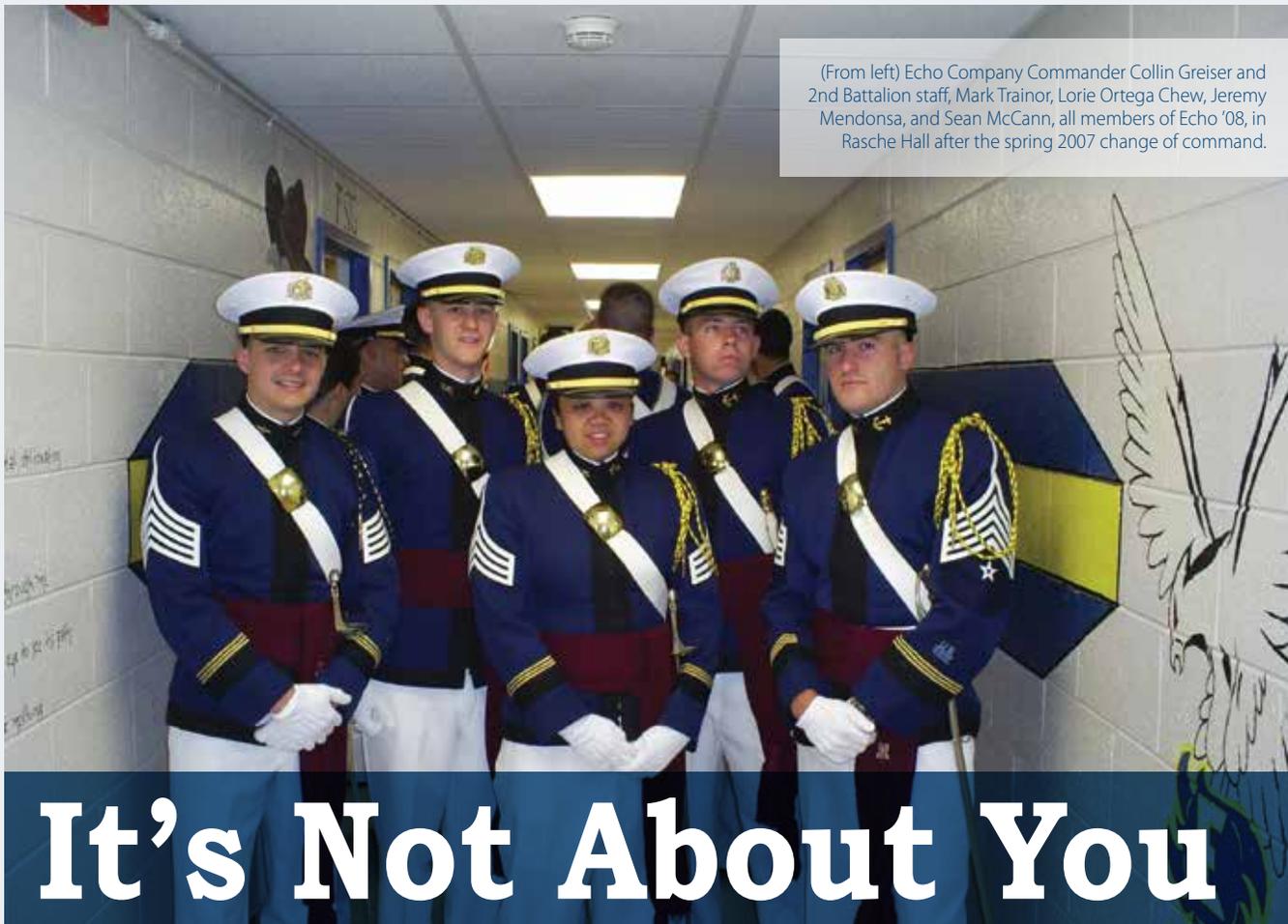
Virginia Tech is committed to hiring United States veterans and has expanded its efforts to help veterans find employment at the university. In recognition of this commitment, Virginia Tech was awarded a statewide Virginia Values Veterans Governor's Award for hiring more veterans than any other state agency in the commonwealth.

The university currently **employs more than 300 veterans**, but with approximately 250 job openings every day, opportunities for veterans are abundant.

To discover how you can live, learn, and work at Virginia Tech, visit www.jobs.vt.edu.



LIVE ◀ LEARN ▶ WORK



(From left) Echo Company Commander Collin Greiser and 2nd Battalion staff, Mark Trainor, Lorie Ortega Chew, Jeremy Mendonsa, and Sean McCann, all members of Echo '08, in Rasche Hall after the spring 2007 change of command.

It's Not About You

by Capt. Mark A. Trainor '08, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve

I still remember the first time I set foot on the Virginia Tech campus. On a rainy, foggy day in March 2002, I accompanied my older brother, Joe Trainor '06, then a high school senior, and our parents on a college visit. I'd never heard of Tech before, but something about the neo-Gothic architecture of the iconic buildings—bearing our beloved Hokie Stone—and the crisp professionalism, confidence, and pride of our cadet guide resonated with me. The experience both welcomed and challenged me.

Growing up, I had idealized life as a member of our nation's military. My parents, Tom and Kathy, had cultivated a deep respect for our men and women in uniform, and a family history speckled with proud service in both war and peacetime did nothing to stifle my aspirations of wearing the cloth of the nation. In addition, my mother and father had taught me that hard work and perseverance always triumph over adversity.

Processing the events of 9/11 as a high school sophomore surely amplified these sentiments and reinforced them with a newfound understanding of patriotism. I think, however, that it took the trips I made with my family in preparation for my brother's college and military life that led me to grasp just how real and attainable my dream of serving in the military was. When my time came to review college acceptance letters, the decision was easy.

In August 2004, I stood in a formation at the bottom of the "VT" in front of Lane Hall. My fellow cadets and I read our copies of the Guidon as we awaited our first haircut and uniform issue. As much as I wondered what the next four years had in store for me, I was confident in my decision to attend Virginia Tech as a cadet. Attendance at a senior military college to earn my commission was my calling and dream. Getting to be in the same Corps of Cadets as my older brother made it that much more special.

Sweating in the summer sun, I could not imagine all the things that lie ahead of me, and I certainly wasn't sure what I'd gotten myself into. During New Cadet Week, I absorbed the words from the likes of my cadre first sergeant and such leaders as Col. Rock Roszak '71 and Medal of Honor recipient Col. Wes Fox.

They highlighted that success from this point forward would require teamwork and selflessness, concepts that continue to guide me.

My “rat” year was spent as part of Alpha Company living on the second deck of Brodie Hall. My buds and I experienced both great memories and significant challenges, most of which resulted from an environment and lifestyle that we were encountering for the first time. Like all cadet classes, we had to learn that if one of us failed, we all failed. The discipline was tight, but it was building a foundation of defining characteristics that would guide us in our future professional and personal roles.

I formed concrete friendships with many of my classmates, both in my training company and in the Class of 2008. My buds and I had plenty of quality time together, including such enlightening experiences as our daily on-lines and hell nights, deep intellectual conversations in the call room, or countless hours shining low-quarters and brass and studying and shooting the breeze during our evening call to quarters.

Because of the numerous tasks we were expected to accomplish as a class as part of our training, we learned a lot about each other and were there to help each other out. We all came to understand the true value of teamwork and looking out for one another. The events of that year make for some good laughs when we get to catch up at the various



First Lt. Trainor and his then-fiancée, Amanda Valori '09, at the 8th Communication Battalion's celebration of the 235th Marine Corps birthday in November 2010, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

events that continue to bring us back together over the years. It really is a small world, and we are bound to run into fellow Corps alumni wherever we go.

In my remaining three years as a cadet, I dedicated myself to developing the skills, characteristics, and traits needed to be the leader I knew the Marines would expect once I got out to the fleet. I took on leadership roles as a Marine-option midshipman assigned to the Naval ROTC battalion's Raider Company and as a cadet member of Echo Company, with both billets inside the company and on the battalion staff.

These opportunities furnished me with priceless leadership lessons I could

lean upon in my time as a Marine officer. I learned just as much, if not more, from my failures as I did from my successes, and I knew I was lucky to have the training of both the Corps of Cadets and ROTC in my back pocket as I prepared to commission. The knowledge and character I worked to build during my time at Virginia Tech would serve as the bulwark for my development into a confident and mature officer.

Commissioning as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps in May 2008 was one of the proudest moments of my life. I was opening a new and exciting chapter in my life, but I acknowledged that it would be much different from the one I had just closed. This new chapter would present me with daily challenges and with decisions whose repercussions would positively or negatively affect the lives and well-being of my Marines, not just myself. Selflessness and sacrifice were to become a lifestyle.

My first year in the Marine Corps was filled with training focused on combining the leadership lessons from my time in the Corps of Cadets and Naval ROTC with technical and tactical proficiency. Six months at The Basic School (TBS) in Quantico, Virginia, trained me in the planning and execution of fundamental rifle-platoon tactics, such as assaults, static defenses, mounted and convoy operations, and military operations in urban terrain. These skills provide the Marine Corps with unparalleled cohe-



Trainor (second from right) with his Marines of Communication Detachment, Combined Joint Task Force—Horn of Africa, overlooking the town of Ali Sabieh, Djibouti, June 2011.



Leading the Corps of Cadets' Class of 2011 on its first 13 miles of the Caldwell March: (from left) Anthony LaVopa '08, Ben Bond '09, Trainor, Bryan Glock '10, Collin Brady '09, and Anthony Rose '08.



(From left) 1st Lt. Trainor, Sgt. Steve Harris, and Gunnery Sgt. Brandon Raccio on Harris' completion of the Non-Commissioned Officers' Course aboard Camp Johnson, North Carolina, in 2010.

sion and effectiveness across all military occupational specialties.

After TBS, I moved on to Communications School. Another six months there gave me the basic knowledge I needed to lead Marines in the planning, installation, operation, and maintenance of tactical communications networks comprising everything from tactical satellite terminals to data-networking equipment and single-channel radio. My job was to employ Marines to enable units to communicate efficiently on the battlefield.

In June 2009, I was assigned to 8th Communication Battalion at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. I had been waiting to hit the fleet and was ready to get my feet wet in leading marines. After a short two months on deck, I was deployed to Iraq from September 2009 to February 2010 as a platoon commander in B Company (reinforced) to assist in supporting communications throughout Anbar Province.

Dropped into a company that had spent months in workups and pre-deployment training together, I confronted an incredibly steep learning curve as a second lieutenant with zero experience. I made myself busy building relationships

with the company's experienced lieutenants and gleaned any information that I could. I also figured out that listening is a skill that will save one's life, both literally and figuratively.

Due to shortfalls in staffing, I didn't have the benefit of working with a staff non-commissioned officer to help me run the platoon for a few months. Because I knew that such a presence would be a critical tool for my learning the best practices for accomplishing a given mission and for taking care of my Marines, I compensated by building relationships with other senior non-commissioned officers (SNCOs) in the company, whom I trusted as mentors. That effort was one of the smartest things I ever did, and I gained an immeasurable amount of knowledge and experience from their guidance and counsel.

Upon returning from Iraq, I spent about a year back home serving as a platoon commander for a radio platoon, which gave me the first opportunity to employ my own commander's intent and vision in training and shaping Marines. The experience remains one of my favorite in the Marine Corps. Additionally, I served for several months as the battal-

ion's assistant operations officer, allowing me to try my hand at understanding operations planning and leadership in ensuring the preparedness and proficiency of 1,300 Marines. I learned how to ask hard questions of senior leaders in both battalion- and regimental-level positions and learned that consummate professionalism can trump rank when taking care of your Marines and ensuring that they have the tools and training needed to succeed.

Most notably during my year at home, I married my wife, Amanda Valori Trainor '09, whom I'd met in the fall semester of my junior year at Tech. The honeymoon was short-lived, however, as I was slated to deploy within weeks of the wedding.

I spent May through December 2011 deployed as part of the communications directorate for Combined Joint Task Force–Horn of Africa. Our base of operations was Camp Lemonnier in Djibouti, but we covered the entire region, including Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, and Burundi. As the communication detachment commander, I was charged with leading 80 joint service troops in running a communications



Arthur Bond '08 and Trainor after the main ascent leading the Class of 2011 on the first half of the Caldwell March.



Amanda and Mark Trainor with their daughter, Lucia, at their niece's baptism in February 2016.



Second lieutenants Mark Trainor and Nick Eisenbeiser '08 by the Pylons immediately following their commissioning into the U.S. Marine Corps, May 2008.



Buds Arthur Bond '08, Trainor, and Tripp Usry '08 show off their rings at the Class of 2008's Ring Dance.



In May 2010, after Trainor's return from Operation Iraqi Freedom, Amanda was commissioned at the Pylons as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force.

architecture for the entire region, roughly the size of the continental U.S. I learned an incredible amount from working with SNCOs, officers, and junior troops from all services, and the experience was easily one of my most memorable periods in the Marine Corps.

Since leaving active duty in May 2012, my life has provided many busy and exciting experiences. I am employed as a program manager for Comcast Business, working to steer product development and deployment focused on enterprise customers. In June 2015, my daughter, Lucia, was born, and she fills Amanda's and my life with so much joy. Being a parent is more rewarding and fulfilling than all else—it is the ultimate leadership role.

Although my career may have changed, the leadership lessons which started in the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets continue to carry me in every endeavor.



Capt. Trainor was awarded the Joint Service Commendation Medal by Col. Patricia McGinnis, U.S. Air Force, for his efforts in leading the Combined Joint Task Force—Horn of Africa Communication Detachment from May to December 2011.



Progress

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

The spring board meeting of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni (VTCCA) was held on April 29 with great enthusiasm.

A new member was inducted to our board, Jesse Counihan '08, and Gen. Fullhart briefed us on the progress on the Upper Quad, the new Corps residence hall, and the Corps Leadership and Military Science Building (CLMS). Gen. Fullhart also explained that we need to do a better job connecting with our younger alumni after graduation, an area on which we all need to focus.

During our sessions, we learned that a Gallup poll commissioned last year by Virginia Tech showed that 52 percent of Corps alumni polled think that the Corps and the university prepared them

for success later in life; however, only 9 percent of these alumni give back.

Charlie Phlegar, the university's Vice President for Advancement, echoed the urgent need to increase this low rate. Phlegar also discussed the need to improve our brand through awareness. He noted that the top three items that a non-Tech graduate thinks of when talking about our school are the tragedy of 2007, football, and engineering.

Phlegar, who knows that Virginia Tech has so much more to offer, is developing a plan to explain just how great our university is, but he has asked for our help. All members who sit on a campus advisory board like the VTCCA or the Highty-Tighty Alumni will be asked to donate to the university. At this point,

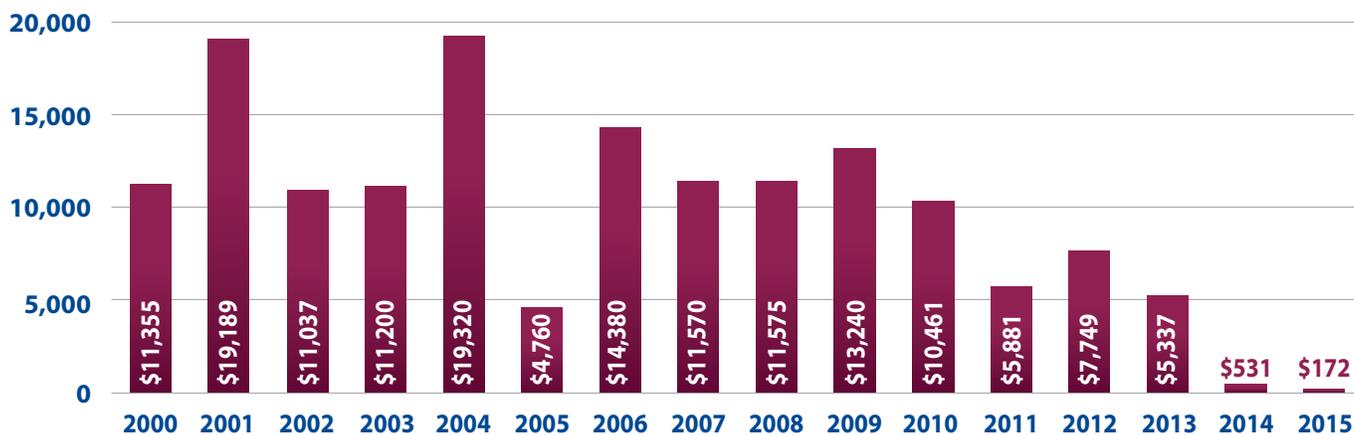
the VTCCA board already has one of the highest rates of financial support on campus.

John Torget, assistant vice president for leadership gifts and annual giving, also spoke to the board and provided a more detailed description of the purpose of the advancement model, which includes synergizing University Relations, Alumni Relations, and Development under one roof.

John Dooley, the CEO of the Virginia Tech Foundation, provided an update on the foundation's performance. Although Tech's endowment sits in the upper third in the Atlantic Coast Conference, we need to do better. The markets are very challenging, and steps are being taken to lower the risk.

Classes 2000-2015 Giving Since Graduation

■ Class Giving (2000-2015)



These numbers represent only those donations received from our younger Corps alumni.

Overall, only 9 percent of all graduates give back to Virginia Tech.



We want the Highty-Tighties to march in the 2017 presidential inaugural parade as they did for President Nixon in 1969 (above). Please help us achieve this goal!

Dave Spracher reviewed the Corps' financial position and stated that our books are sound. Nonetheless, we are currently unable to provide an Emerging Leader Scholarship to each incoming freshman—a critical reason we all need to pull together and help.

Col. Kevin Milton, professor of military science, presented an overview of the Army ROTC program. Virginia Tech's Army ROTC cadets perform better and commission at a higher rate than the other senior military schools. He explained that his commissioning goals set by the Army continue to increase due to the high quality of his commissionees and believes that the future CLMS Building is critical to the required expansion. Milton also mentioned that his department provides more than \$4 million in scholarships to the university each year.

All five of the board's task forces met, and the leads presented reports on their goals and progress. The addition of a task force to focus on the Corps Museum was approved, and Danny Mills '64 will serve as its chair. He and his team will assist our new curator by providing subject matter expertise to ensure authenticity.

We hope you'll reach out with your ideas.

The following day, the Corps conducted its change of command ceremony on the Drillfield, and President Tim Sands and Gen. Fullhart each spoke to the Corps' future and congratulated the outstanding global leaders graduating. During the pass in review, the general shared with the president our desire for the Highty-Tighties to march in the next presidential inaugural parade, and Sands indicated his strong support. In-state alumni, please help us accomplish this goal by writing to your Virginia senator and encouraging his or her support.

The Ut Prosim Society also held its annual gala during the weekend. Members of the society participated in many activities, and one session discussed the university's living-learning communities. It's worth noting that the Corps—the original living-learning community on campus—is a model for others.

Members also learned of an important new initiative that the university is working on, Beyond Boundaries. Within this concept are goals to position Virginia Tech as a world leader in specific areas: resilient earth systems, adaptive brain and behavior across the life span,

data and decision sciences, and integrated security.

Not only is the Corps uniquely qualified and active in all of these areas, our newly redesigned Upper Quad stands ready to embrace this new direction and to play a leading role, particularly in integrated security. The administration has never been more engaged with our Corps because of its positive affect on everyday life at Virginia Tech.

We learned from President Sands that he wants to move forward as quickly as possible on the construction of the CLMS Building, and the integrated security piece of the Beyond Boundaries initiatives is a driving force.

We can all be proud of the opportunities that our Corps has in front of it. We will honor and preserve our past while boldly approaching the future. The university realizes that the Corps is the foundation and living symbol of *Ut Prosim*.

As alumni, please remember that we must communicate, participate, and donate.

Go, Hokies!



Brothers of the Corps!

by David Lawson '65

From the Shenandoah and the Piedmont
Some of us came

Others from Big Stone Gap and Leesburg
Petersburg and Richmond

The Chesapeake shore and the green valleys of Pennsylvania

The soft-spoken and the gregarious

Tall and short, slight and stout

All different but soon to become the same

Brothers of the Corps!

The Upper Quad became our new home

Lane and Rasche

Brodie and Monteith

To morning and evening meals we marched

Divided by Companies and Squadrons

But united nevertheless as

Brothers of the Corps!

Bonded to each other as Rats at First Call

“All Right! All Right! All Right!”

And in the dark cold after Retreat

“Sir, fire engines are red because ...”

Stress-filled lessons about gig lines and spit shines

How to brace and drag right

Difficult for some, a little easier for others

But through these trials we became ...

Brothers of the Corps!

On the Drillfield, “Pass in Review!”

“Dress Right! Cover Down!”

Guidons fluttering in the warm autumn breeze

“Right shoulder Arms!” “Right Turn, March!”

“Eyes, Right!” “Ready, Front!”

Shoulder to shoulder, rank on rank

Brothers of the Corps!

With awe and pride, we watched the Gregory Guard pass

Precise at the manual of arms

White gloves snapping polished Springfields

In slow cadence

Queen Anne’s Salute by ranks and Get Lost, in synchrony as one

Brothers of the Corps!

Marching from the train to a stadium named Victory

A Thanksgiving tradition long since past

White chevrons gleaming on blue overcoats, red-blazed

The corps from Lexington our opponents for the day

“Solarex, Solarah”

“Polytech, Virginia”

Brothers of the Corps!

Maroon sashes on starched mess whites

Young ladies, beautifully gowned, on our arms

The smell of lilacs in the warm spring air

An arch of polished sabers and a pose in the “ring”

Seems so long ago now when we were

Brothers of the Corps!

Then came the time for silver and gold hat bands

It was our turn ...

To be carried to shower and Duck Pond

And to pass the traditions to those who followed

For they too were ...

Brothers (and sisters) of the Corps!

A half century has passed and now we join the Old Guard

Over the years our youth has slipped away to memories

Some are missing from our ranks

And we hold them in our hearts

Our hair lines have receded, our waist lines expanded

Our step is not as quick or measured now

But even with the passing of time we remain

Brothers of the Corps!

This poem was read aloud by David Lawson, G Company '65, during the Class of 1965's 50th reunion weekend in October 2015.



VTCC Leadership Conference attendees participated in a Corps' formal retreat.



Cadets discussed Medal of Honor recipients during the leadership conference.

A Great Story to Tell

by Elaine Humphrey, Ph.D., director, Maj. Gen. W. Thomas Rice Center for Leader Development

The semester rushing to a close is the perfect time to share news on what the Rice Center has been up to since the first of the year. With new programs and new collaborations in support of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets (VTCC), it's a great story to tell.

To build on the strong foundation of the Rice Center's programs and services, the focus on facilitating our freshmen's academic success was continued by way of a pilot program, FAST (Freshmen Academic Success Teams). For the first five weeks of the semester, freshmen met in small groups led by sophomores to report on their previous week's accomplishments and challenges and to make a plan for the upcoming week to properly prepare for their classes. The feedback was very helpful, and the plan moving forward is to make FAST part of the fall's Monday Corps Lab for new cadets.

Regarding Corps Lab, the commandant's staff is working closely with me to

review the current curriculum and minor in leadership studies to determine how we might move the program forward. Because my approach has always been to look at what I do professionally as a continuous work in progress, we are considering a more experienced-based Corps Lab and examining the rigor of the requirements for earning the minor—and everything in between. I continue to be sincerely grateful for the degree of commitment and knowledge that the staff brings to this endeavor.

A number of events made for an interesting spring semester. The Gunfighters Panel on Feb. 11 provided cadets the opportunity to hear from recent Corps alumni about life after graduation, and the Cutchins Lecture on March 24 featured David Brooks, a political and cultural commentator. In addition, the Rice Center's board of advisors met to discuss a number of issues, which included identifying internship oppor-

tunities for our cadets to gain real-world experience.

In April, we hosted our annual VTCC Leadership Conference—this year's theme was “Citizenship and Commitment: Cornerstones of Honorable Leadership”—for our cadets and students from other military colleges and programs. Cory Etchberger, a regional trainer for the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation and the son of a Medal of Honor recipient, was instrumental in leading discussions and activities. All of the feedback was extremely positive!

I want to close with an invitation to all members of the VTCC family to visit the Rice Center when you are on campus or to contact me at elaineh@vt.edu with your suggestions and questions. I look forward to hearing from and working with you all.

Ut Prosim!



Enriching Lives

International Cadet Spotlight

Cadet Daniel Tsay, Class of 2017

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

People choose to attend Virginia Tech and join the Corps of Cadets for countless reasons, but there's an appealing uniqueness when an international student takes the road less traveled. Meet Cadet Daniel Tsay, Class of 2017.

A South African citizen of Taiwanese descent, Tsay is a rising senior planning to graduate from the Corps in May 2017, and to complete an additional semester of coursework to earn a mechanical engineering degree from the university.

In 1993, Tsay's parents married and moved from Taiwan to South Africa, during the waning months of apartheid, to go into business and to begin a family in a diverse, economically developing country. The next year, Daniel was born and experienced an ordinary childhood. He remembers that race differences were not issues for the younger generation.

South African culture, Tsay says, is very relaxed, with little regard for urgency, an outlook on life he adopted as he grew up. His father, however,

wanted his son to possess a keener sense of self-discipline.

Having attended graduate school in the U.S., Daniel's father was familiar with the country's stricter culture and strong education system, and he learned of the opportunities available at various military colleges.

In keeping with his father's wishes, Tsay applied to five of the six senior military colleges in the U.S. It was decided that Virginia Tech would be the best fit because of the Corps, the campus climate, and the large Asian and international student community.

Arriving in Blacksburg in August 2013, Tsay was excited to start college and to become a cadet. Although the military-style rigor was like nothing he would have experienced in his home country, he adapted extremely well and found an avenue to excel in within the Citizen-Leader Track.

In the past year in VPI Battalion, Tsay served as first sergeant in his company and as the battalion's service officer, responsible for organizing and

executing the unit's various community service events.

Tsay, who thoroughly enjoys mechanical engineering, the teamwork, the critical thinking, and the design projects, has distinguished himself as a leader and has enriched the lives of all with whom he has come in contact. Not surprisingly, his future direction will depend upon whether he remains in the U.S. or returns to South Africa to help manage the family business.

As he approaches his senior year and graduation, Tsay plans to apply to several MBA programs and is also considering opportunities in the U.S. Army and the potential path to U.S. citizenship.

Cadet Tsay embodies both the Corps' vision—"Global, Ethical Leaders, Now More than Ever"—and the university's motto, *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve). "I have come a long way," he said, "and have much left to go. Thanks to this program, I am confident in my abilities moving forward."

Thank You, Corps Alumni

On behalf of all parents of cadets in the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets (VTCC), we would like to express our deepest and most sincere gratitude to Corps alumni for their incredibly generous support of our cadets through the Emerging Leader Scholarship (ELS).

The meaning of each ELS scholarship evolves and deepens as a cadet progresses through his or her time at Virginia Tech. We would like to share just a few parents' sentiments with you.

"When our son was awarded the scholarship during his high school's awards night, we could see he felt the pride of all his hard work culminating with the presentation of the ELS. Little did we know that the ELS was just the start of the support and incredible life examples he would receive from the VTCC alumni. Our eternal thanks to you all."

– Parent of a freshman

"As a parent of an out-of-state sophomore Air Force cadet, we were so grateful to VTCC alumni when we learned our son was awarded an Emerging Leader Scholarship. Just as important, though, is knowing that the alumni feel so strongly about the program that they have made generous contributions to ensure that the Corps continues to graduate future leaders in both the military and the civilian world. It truly represents the spirit of *Ut Prosim*. We couldn't be more proud to say our son is a part of the VTCC."

– Parent of a sophomore



Parents of cadets gathered for a group photo to thank VTCC alumni for their many contributions that help support current cadets. *Ut Prosim!*

"Through the generosity of VTCC alumni, my son, who is now a junior, has enjoyed the amazing support system that Corps alumni offer to make this journey easier. Sometimes, thank you just isn't enough; we are eternally grateful! Looking forward to carrying on the tradition."

– Parent of a junior

"The Emerging Leader scholarships have had a particularly impressive impact on our family. Four of our five sons have received this generous scholarship during their participation in the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. This amazing program and these critical scholarships have made all the difference in their life choices and who they are as men. My first two sons have commissioned, my middle son enlisted, and my two youngest are a junior and a freshman currently in the VTCC—all of them in the Air Force! Thank you from both my husband and myself for your generous contributions."

– Mother of multiple cadets

"Thank you, VTCC alumni! Our family has been so blessed by your donation to the ELS. I remember beaming with pride when our son was notified. I could never have imagined all that was in store for him. Now that he is a senior, I see how the VTCC is shaping my son into a man, but more importantly, a leader. Thank you so much for your part in the process!"

– Parent of a senior

* Thanks to Judi Buttala, mother of 2nd Lt. Mitchell Buttala '16, for providing this content

Roaring into Spring

Spring semester came in like a lion, roaring with such events as the Platoon Tactical Challenge, Jaffe Eager Squad competition, the Class of 2017's Ring Dance, a Corps-sponsored leadership conference, Class Champion events, and the Caldwell March, among many others.



Platoons took on a number of difficult stations across campus for the Platoon Tactical Challenge, including a team-based effort to get their "Five-cadets-in-a-bag" across the finish line first.



These two freshmen cadets looked sharp as their squad competed in the Jaffe Eager Squad competition, won this year by Band Company.



Cadet Zach Sever '17 (with clipboard) led E Company's Eager Squad in competition. Fellow company members were on hand to cheer on and congratulate the squads that had worked hard to prepare for the competition and represent their units well.



Members of the Class of 2017 march in Squires' Commonwealth Ballroom to form the ring figure before receiving their class rings.



All Corps alumni remember that special moment when they received and saw their Virginia Tech class ring for the very first time!



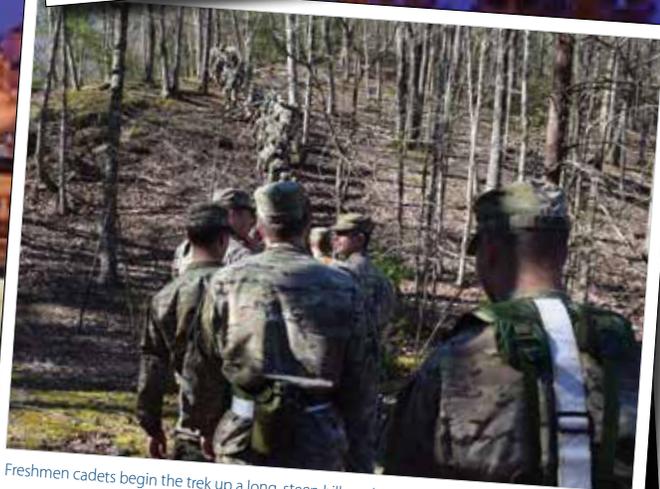
Excited members of the Class of 2017 proudly show off their new class rings.



Virginia Tech cadets with students from Texas A&M University, the University of Virginia, and Marion Military Institute at the Corps-hosted leadership conference attended by guests from military schools around the country.



Randy Gardner '62 represented Corps alumni by hosting a table at the Class of 2017's Class Champion dinner held in Owens Hall. This event—the first formal engagement of cadets by alumni—provides cadets with information about the program to encourage future participation.



Freshmen cadets begin the trek up a long, steep hill on the second half of the Caldwell March.



During the spring Caldwell March, Gen. Fullhart led from the front with Lt. Col. Payne and Senior Chief Bean by his side. The 300-plus new cadets followed behind in single file, a line that snaked far back into the distance.



Col. Cam Torrens, commander of Virginia Tech's Air Force ROTC detachment and professor of aerospace studies, occupied the dunk tank for a good purpose: raising money during Tech's Relay For Life.



Highly-Tighty alumnus Rufus Honeycutt '70 flew his airplane in from North Carolina to the Virginia Tech Airport to donate his saber back to the Corps. *Ut Prosim!*

Helping Global Water Issues

During early-January's winter break, Cadet Michael Sherburne, Class of 2017, traveled to Colombo, Sri Lanka, to present at the Eighth International Perspective on Water Resources and the Environment conference, a program of the American Society of Civil Engineers' Environmental Water Resources Institute. The conference hosted delegates from 24 countries.

Sherburne's paper, "Solving the Global Water Crisis through a Holistic Methodology in Sri Lanka," discusses the need to combine anthropological data with scientific data to best help those affected by the water crisis. The paper's development and formation can

be attributed to the 21st Century Studies (C21S) program that Sherburne attended in summer 2014. C21S was funded with the help of donors to greatly reduce costs for more than a dozen students to travel to multiple countries, including Sri Lanka. Sherburne also interned with the Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement and investigated current water issues.

The conference trip would not have been possible without the generosity of the Corps of Cadets and the University Honors program. Sherburne returned to Virginia Tech with significant information to continue to contribute to efforts to solve global water issues.



Cadet Michael Sherburne, Class of 2017

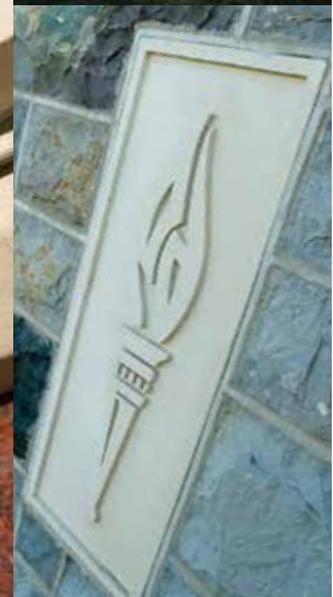
Virginia Tech Columbarium

The Virginia Tech Columbarium, built and managed by the Alumni Association, is located in view of the Duck Pond just beyond the terrace of the Holtzman Alumni Center. The structure has 120 individual niches that can accommodate up to two urns each. Each niche has a maroon granite cover, which can be engraved much like a traditional gravestone with individual names, class year, and birth and death years.

- Each niche will accept two urns.
- Cover engraving is included in price.
- Virginia Tech alumni, faculty, staff, current students, family, and friends of the university are eligible for interment.
- \$5,000 per niche

For more information, please contact Jay Whitlow by email at JOWHITL4@vt.edu or by phone at 540-231-6285.

Learn more at www.alumni.vt.edu/columbarium.



New Corps Support

Jesse Counihan '08

Jesse Counihan '08, who graduated from the Corps and was commissioned in the the U.S. Army as an armor officer in 2008, spent four years stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, with the 82nd Airborne Division, 4th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment. He deployed twice to Afghanistan, first in 2009 as a platoon leader and then in 2012 as the 4th Brigade Combat Team Headquarters Company executive officer.



Following his military service, Counihan joined International Paper, initially working in a supply chain role and now serving as a procurement manager in the company's global sourcing division. He is also pursuing an MBA through the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Kenan-Flagler Business School and will graduate in December.

Counihan is married to Stacy Counihan VT'08, and they reside in Charleston, South Carolina, with their newborn son, Logan Patrick Counihan.

Patsy Hosner

Patsy Hosner joined the Corps' alumni office in February as the alumni director's assistant providing support to the office, meetings, and events. A lifelong resident of the New River Valley, she is an avid fan of the Hokies and brings much enthusiasm to her position.



Before joining the commandant's staff, Hosner served as a senior consultant with The Wardlaw Group Inc. and Vantage Human Resource Services Inc., where she performed a variety of key functions, including community outreach, meeting logistics, and project management. She previously held positions at WPI Inc. and the Radford Army Ammunition Plant.

Hosner earned a B.A. in mass communications from Emory & Henry College. She and her husband, David, reside in Blacksburg.





Alece Alderson (far right, tan shirt) with fall 2014 cadet commanders, who also served as resident advisors

A Civilian Among Us

by Alece Alderson, Corps housing and residential learning coordinator

My Virginia Tech story began in 2005, when I came to Blacksburg for a conference. I remember driving around the Drillfield and seeing the Highty-Tighties practicing and the cadets in their uniforms. It did not take long to fall in love, and I knew I would be back.

After graduate school, I was thankful to be offered a position in Virginia Tech's Housing and Residence Life. During my second year, I was given the opportunity to work with the Corps of Cadets as the residential learning coordinator (RLC). My first thought was, "What on earth did I get myself into?" Besides the fact that my dad is a proud Marine, I don't have much experience with the military.

In my first year, I took on the full experience of New Cadet Week to help immerse myself in the cadet experience. I woke up at 5:30 a.m. for physical training on the Drillfield, I participated on the obstacle course, and Lt. Col. Payne had me out on the rappelling tower. If

I was going to be a part of the Corps community, I knew I had to experience some of what cadets experience in order to relate.

I have marched twice in the Caldwell March, both in rain and in shine, and I enjoyed every step of the way. The more time I spend with cadets, the bigger appreciation I have for this organization. The Corps community is so much more than a living-learning community: We eat, breathe, live, learn, and do it all on the Upper Quad.

Because many do not know what an RLC is, they assume the position entails being a "dorm mom" since I live in the residence hall. The position is so much more! First-year cadets thought I lived in a single dorm room, but they soon realized that a fully furnished, two-bedroom/one bath apartment was amongst them, including my dog, cat, and fiancé who works for the Virginia Tech Police Department. The cadets love the pets—

Cody and Deebo—and parents who discover that a police officer lives in the halls think it's a bonus.

Living in the halls with the cadets has been a unique experience. It was not uncommon with Echo Company to be in the unit area talking with cadets late at night. They soon realized my role, and first-year cadets even sounded off to "Mr. Cody," my dog. Some cadets even jokingly asked his name and rank.

This year, I reside in Pearson Hall in one of the newest, biggest, and most modern apartments on campus, which at times feels like a downtown apartment in San Francisco, my hometown. But when I hear the cadets during morning formation or look out my kitchen window facing the physical-training pit, I know I am in Blacksburg.

Although it can be challenging to describe my job, the simple answer is that I support, supervise, and advise cadets. As an RLC, I am the liaison between Hous-

ing and Residence Life and the Corps, and I assist in crisis management, guest lecture in some of the VPI Battalion classes, serve as a conduct officer for the university, and advise both VTCC Hall Council and HERO, the cadets' LGBT educational group, in addition to my core work with the cadet commanders whom I supervise as resident advisors. Luckily, Corps life begins in the early morning hours, so I have more time to be productive!

Though my primary responsibility is working with cadet commanders, I saw potential to grow the Corps community. On the civilian side of campus, there are hall councils that serve as community- and morale-boosting organizations, and my challenge was to show cadets that creating a hall council would be beneficial, a different experience, though equally important to other positions in the Corps.

The first year, six cadets managed a small budget and sponsored morale-boosting events. Some outsiders assume that cadets are all business all the time, but they truly do enjoy flap jacks or taco in a bag and even the occasional breakfast for dinner. At night, cadets can unwind, and I can catch up on their day over a stack of pancakes.

It was also interesting that hall councils across campus didn't think that the Corps would be fighting it out in Battle of the Halls, in which each community competes to sponsor the most events. Last year, I was very pleased that the VTCC Hall Council won Program of the Year by collecting over 5,000 cans for food banks. The council was also named Hall Council of the Year and received an award for Executive Council Member of the Year. This year, the VTCC Hall Council won Battle of the Halls and grew from six to 16 council members. A year ago, many cadets didn't know that the council existed, but now most look forward to the next event.

Working on the commandant's staff, surrounded by colleagues who consistently support, mentor, and lead, has been one of my highlights at Virginia Tech. At times, working with them doesn't feel like work at all because our job is a shared passion. I am truly blessed to be in an environment where each day matters and the cadets surprise me with something new. I can't help but be excited for the next group of incoming commanders and what next year will bring. *Ut Prosim.*



Alderson taking a break with two Virginia Tech Police Officers during the Caldwell March



Alderson's first attempt on the Corps' obstacle course



Alderson on an early-morning run with Hotel Company during Cadre Week



Alderson and Corps graduate practicum student Kayla St. Clair VT'12 walking between events during Platoon Tactical Challenge



The Corps' Hall Council has evolved in the past two years and won Hall Council of the Year in 2015, along with several other awards.



At the 2015 Topping Out ceremony for Pearson Hall, Alderson signed one of the roof beams that would be used in the dorm's attic.

Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Willey (right) taking the first salute from newly commissioned U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Christopher Biehl '16 following his commissioning at the Pylons.



Change Is Good, and Time Waits for No One

by Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Willey, U.S. Army (retired), senior enlisted advisor for 1st Battalion

Has it been three years already? It's said that time passes quickly when you're having fun, and these past three years with the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets (VTCC) have been remarkably rewarding in many ways.

I want to personally thank everyone who had a part in bringing the three senior enlisted advisors to campus to join this amazing team of professionals. When Simon Sinek, author of "Start with Why," spoke to the regiment in 2013, his presentation helped me more clearly understand the reason I came to and have stayed with the Corps of Cadets. This opportunity to give back fits my "why" perfectly. We are clearly in the people business, and helping to build leaders of character is our product.

This fall, the arrival of the Class of 2020 will close out a full four-year cycle of cadet leader development for the Corps' three senior enlisted advisors. My two colleagues—Sgt. Maj. Combs, U.S. Army (retired), senior enlisted advisor

for 3rd Battalion; and Master Gunnery Sgt. Jones, U.S. Marine Corps (retired), senior enlisted advisor for 2nd Battalion—and I hit the ground running in fall 2013. We quickly learned the customs and traditions of the Corps and discovered numerous areas where the critical eye of a seasoned non-commissioned officer was needed. As the commandant said, "We all needed a good shakedown cruise that first year."

Since those first days, I can see how we have helped to fundamentally change the leader development curriculum for our cadets. Though the three of us have very different experiences we bring from our active-duty service, all seem to have rewarding impact on our cadets. We have each found the best ways to offer our individual and collective expertise in many areas of cadet life.

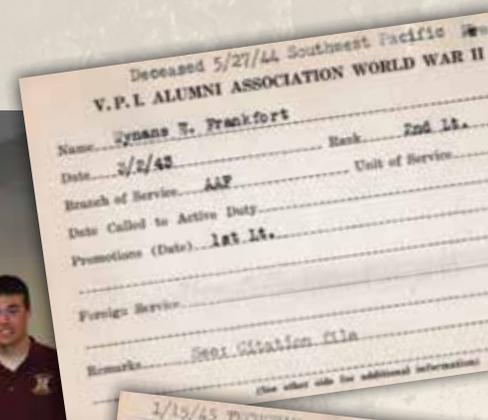
In addition, we have been able to lighten the deputy commandants' workload, thereby allowing all of us to have more one-on-one time with cadets

while focusing on developing all four classes simultaneously. Command Sgt. Maj. Bainbridge, the first sergeant major of the U.S. Army, stated, "It is the duty of the non-commissioned officers to run the day-to-day business of the Army so that the officers have the time to command it." Our mission is to make the next class better than the last.

I am very encouraged by the cadet leaders and where they are taking the Corps, and I am also excited about having a role to play in that evolution. The commandant has built a great team to help coach, teach, and mentor these young leaders. I find it very rewarding to have personal interaction with both current and former cadets, including our alumni. Their success is truly our reward.

Virginia Tech and specifically the VTCC continue to be a wonderful place to invest my time.

Ut Prosim!



(Left) During spring semester, Rock Roszak '71 (back row, fifth from left), the Corps' former alumni director, briefed the robust cadet historian staff on the Corps' history. Cadet historians provide tours of the Corps museum, Upper Quad, and Pearson Hall, as well as assist the museum staff with projects. (Right) The front and back of an old index card bearing information about a Virginia Tech alumnus whose name is on a pylon.

History: Past, Present, and Future

by Cadet Dixon Johnson '16, regimental historian

Established in 2008, the regimental historian staff is a relatively young organization; however, this past semester, we made great strides, growing from nine to 25 members, each of whom is committed to preserving the history of the Corps.

At the beginning of the semester, we set out as a group to accomplish a great deal; and despite the challenge of balancing school work and historian staff duties, we managed to do just that.

The responsibilities of historian staff members include knowing information about items displayed in the Corps Museum and providing museum tours to interested alumni and visitors. We were fortunate this semester to have Col. Rock Roszak '71 present a comprehensive briefing on Corps history, which allowed us to fill in gaps and expand our knowledge.

In addition, we took on a significant project that we called the “Pylon scan-

ning project.” After years of sitting in a box collecting dust, a set of very old index cards bearing details about some of our fallen alumni whose names are etched on the Pylons came to the attention of our advisor, Col. Patience Larkin '87. Col. Larkin challenged the staff to help make the information on these cards accessible to the public.

Although the cards don't include information about each name on the Pylons, they do provide details of how alumni gave their lives in service to our country. Needless to say, the cards helped us relate a more human aspect to those names.

The historian staff digitally scanned hundreds of notecards, representing 190 fallen alumni, which will ensure that these cards will be not only a resource for historical research, but also an educational resource for cadets. With the eventual creation of the Corps museum and its

corresponding website, this information can then be made available online for public use.

To prepare for the permanent Corps museum, we also assisted in labeling artifacts currently located in storage in Newman library. We were asked to date old hard-copy Corps photos that were unmarked. We used all sorts of clues and resources to help us determine the general timeframe in which each photo was taken. Of particular help was the book, “Donning the Blue and Grey,” by Col. Harry Downing Temple '34, as well as dated campus maps and Bugle yearbooks. We completed the task and were able to assign a decade to each photograph that can now be framed and displayed.

The staff has been busy growing and working, and we don't plan to stop. Corps history is made every day, and it is our job to make sure that it isn't forgotten.

Proud parents Andrew and Rebecca Bassford with their incoming Class of 2020 cadet, Thomas, after an Emerging Leader Scholarship presentation by Drew Hodges '76 at Salem High School in Salem, Virginia.



First Call to Young Alums, 1-2-1-2

by Lt. Col. Dave Williams '79, U.S. Army (retired)

I don't know about you, but one of the finer points of instruction that Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets (VTCC) upperclassmen imparted to me—after how to “brace up” and “drag”—was how to conduct first call to “growley.”

If you are a young alumnus—a graduate of Virginia Tech and the Corps within the last 15 years or so (classes of 2001 to today)—think of this as a first call to becoming engaged again with the VTCC. The Corps needs you to tell its story to rising high school seniors because, as successful as today's Corps is, the next class, the future, has to be recruited every year.

Alumni recruiters routinely attend one or two college fairs in the fall and spring and then present an Emerging Leader Scholarship at one or two high school award ceremonies in late May and

early June. While most of the alumni recruiting force hails from the classes of the 1960s through 1990s, whose graying hair assures a degree of credibility among the parents of prospective cadets, young alumni recruiters would certainly connect better with high school seniors.

I can tell you that there is no other volunteer work in my life that is more fun than attending a fall college fair with representatives from Tech's Office of Undergraduate Admissions. It is the one time of the year when serious high school students seek out Virginia Tech and hang on every word you have to say about the university, the Corps, or the regimental band.

Last year, with almost no notice, I called an alumnus friend in Northern Virginia and asked him to attend a fair

in Baltimore. He was most gracious and went well out of his way to support our recruiting efforts. He had such a good time that he is still talking about the event, wants to attend college fairs this fall, and is actively recruiting alumni to join our team of volunteer recruiters.

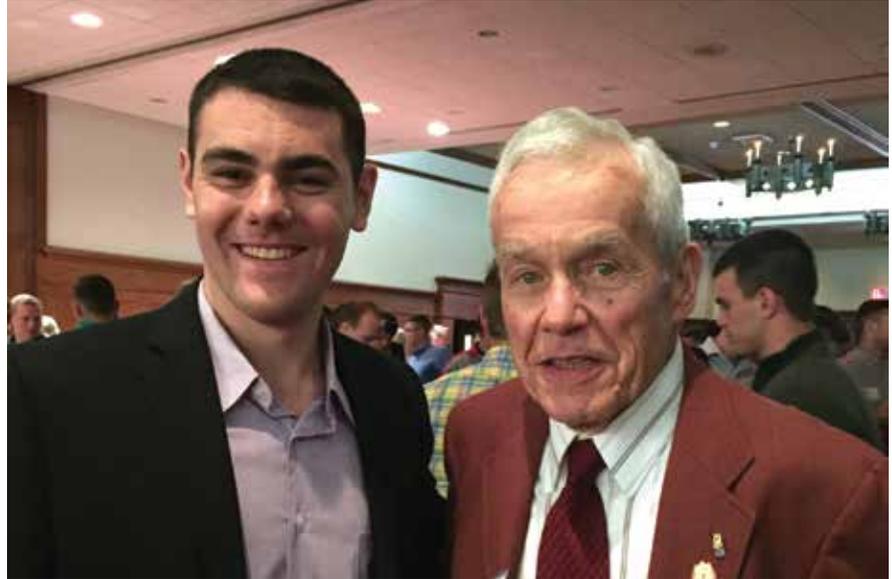
The college fair season will be in full swing by mid-September. If you have an interest in telling the Corps' success story from your point of view, I invite you to contact either Lt. Col. Mariger, the Corps' recruiting officer, at corpsof-cadets@vt.edu or me, Dave Williams, at daveandliz.williams@gmail.com.

Please consider this invitation to join with us, and remember ... we'll talk again at five-minute call.

Ut Prosim!



Joseph and Barbara LaPorte, parents of late Cadet Matthew LaPorte '09, accepted a section of Matt's Brodie Hall door, framed by Corps alumni board member, Scott Pearl '84, and delivered by Matt's roommate, Nathan Boggs '09. The U.S. Air Force posthumously awarded the Airman's Medal to Cadet LaPorte for his heroic actions credited with saving lives during the April 16, 2007, tragedy on campus.



Cadet Michael Crain '16 and Easley Smith '45 were all smiles during the Class Champion social held in April for the Corps' senior class. The event is a great way to welcome young alumni into our ranks and give them a chance to meet alumni heroes like Easley.



Bill Swan '66 and Mike Franklin VT'69 proudly represented Hokies globally by sporting Virginia Tech hats in the Galapagos Islands.



U.S. Army Reserve Col. Jim Driscoll '81, who currently serves on the staff of the Army Chief of Chaplains at the Pentagon, offered the invocation at the Tampa Bay Buccaneers/USO Central Florida awards ceremony to honor families receiving the General H. Norman Schwarzkopf Military Family of the Year Award.



Corps alumni board member Casey M. Roberts '06 (front, center), the principal of Smithfield High School in Smithfield, Virginia, gathered with students during Breast Cancer Awareness Month. *Ut Prosim!*



Using Riverine assault craft, U.S. Navy Riverine Squadron sailors conducted training on North Carolina rivers with the U.S. Marine Corps.

Honorable Service and Loyalty

by Lt. Cmdr. Stephen C. Gray '02, U.S. Navy



Lt. j.g. Stephen Gray '02 and 1st Lt. Darcy Mosocco '04 were married on Oct. 21, 2006, in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

My journey to pursue a commission in the U.S. Navy started in 1992, when I was in the seventh grade. Like many in my generation, I saw the movie “Top Gun” and determined that I was destined to become a naval aviator. Of course, I was as blind as a bat and soon discovered that such a path was not going to be possible for me. That development did not temper my desire to join the Navy, though, and I was very active in our Naval Junior ROTC unit throughout high school.

Fortunate enough to receive a scholarship out of high school, I decided upon Virginia Tech. My first experience at the university was at summer orientation, which included a life-changing experience upon meeting Lt. Col. George McNeil. Largely because of my marching and drill experience, Lt. Col. McNeil recruited me into the Highty-Tighties, handed me a set of marching cymbals, and there I was, part of the Highty-Tighty Class of 2002. Looking back, I wouldn't have it any other way.



In 1998, Gray was awarded a four-year Naval ROTC scholarship by his Naval Junior ROTC unit's senior naval science instructor, Lt. Cmdr. Art Wittig.

My time in the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets was memorable. Our bud class started with 45 cadets, but quickly dwindled, with fewer than a dozen graduating and even fewer completing all four years in the Highty-Tighties. Those who remained have stayed close, and we now find ourselves with lifelong friends whom we can depend on for anything. This closeness is one of those benefits of our Corps experience that is hard to explain to new cadets who are considering following the same path.

I will never forget my experiences as part of Band Company. We expanded our performance schedule—adding the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City; the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Savannah, Georgia; and New Orleans' Mardi Gras Parade—and recorded an album. I won the Eager Individual Award, was a member and later a commander

of winning Eager Squad platoons, and served as the Highty-Tighties' performance officer, writing and teaching drill for multiple performances.

These activities, however, along with the many others I was involved in within the Corps, were at a cost to my academic performance. Of all my time at Virginia Tech, my only regret is not focusing as much on academics as I did on my Corps and Highty-Tighty activities. My inattention to academics almost cost me everything I had worked for, and I ended up having to stay an extra year at Virginia Tech to graduate and commission. I hope current cadets reading this won't make the same mistake!

I graduated from Virginia Tech in 2003, and my future wife, Darcy Mosocco '04, commissioned into the U.S. Air Force a year later. I reported to USS Tortuga soon after commissioning. Like most first tours, this command was challenging for me because of the rapid learning required to get up to speed to active duty military life. Unfortunately, instead of offering the six-month school that had previously existed for surface warfare officers, the Navy had just transitioned to giving new ensigns a set of 13 CDs with computer-based training as indoctrination. This self-guided learning, combined with the ship being in dry-dock for the first six months, made for a daunting first experience.

Becoming operational made these challenges drift into the background, however. We completed two international exercises and the quintessential test, short of combat, for an amphibious unit: a humanitarian and disaster relief mission in New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Eight days after the hurricane, the Tortuga—the first ship to arrive—moored in the Mississippi River across from the broken levee and the devastated Ninth Ward. I drew the first watch and looked on as SEALs and sailors went ashore to begin searching for those in need after the disaster. It was unlike any other watch I had ever experienced in my two years onboard. When my four-hour watch had ended, I felt that I couldn't leave; I had to continue to work as hard as I possibly could to ensure our mission of rescuing fellow citizens in dire need.

Immediately after that watch, I turned to the ship's commanding officer and volunteered to go ashore to the lower Ninth Ward to continue the operation and liaison back to the bridge to ensure that the new watch-standers thoroughly understood the conditions on the ground. Another officer and I left immediately to do so; for the next eight days, we went ashore every day at daybreak.

That first day, we rescued 45 people. The crew of the Tortuga ultimately rescued more than 330 people and cared



The Highty-Tighties' spring 1999 Eager Squad platoon formed up before winning the competition.



In November 2015, the USS Theodore Roosevelt pulled into Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, passing the USS Missouri and honoring the USS Arizona.



Onboard the Theodore Roosevelt, Gray and his family in front of "Bully the Moose," the ship's mascot



In October 2007, the Grays traveled to Hawaii for Darcy to serve as maid of honor in the wedding of fellow High-Tighty Joy McCluskey Goodrich '04.

for many more. During my time on the ground, I learned more about myself and the value of the training I had received in the Corps of Cadets and the U.S. Navy than during any other period in my life. We effectively coordinated and persevered through logistical challenges, working with the other military services and various organizations, developing complex plans on the fly, telling the story of our efforts through national media, and much more.

I tell this story to all personnel who work for me so they understand that what we do every day is fundamental—the blocking and tackling of military operations—and that the organizational, structural, and fundamental skills we strive to excel in daily will prove to be invaluable and will make all the difference in combat and other operations.

After my experience as part of Joint Task Force Katrina, I knew that I needed to be in a place where I could make a difference. By this time, Operation Iraqi Freedom had been waging for nearly three years, and I realized that I needed to be there. I volunteered to join Riverine Squadron One and was the first officer to report. We had no boats, no weapons, no gear, no commanding officer, and no

training, but we had a building that was “not really THAT condemned.”

Amazingly enough, in 13 months, we were on the Euphrates River in Al Anbar Province, Iraq, well trained and ready to operate in support of Regimental Combat Team Two. While the surge was taking place, we executed combat missions through 2007, conducting security patrols, providing quick-reaction force capability, destroying many weapon caches being used by insurgents, and providing safe transportation for other combat units, which allowed them to avoid dangerous improvised explosive devices that riddled the roads.

Although I learned a lot during that tour, the most important lesson involved risk management. During my first time leading a combat mission, I made a decision to make camp on the side of the river, too late in the evening and without the appropriate amount of overwatch from armored units. While no one got hurt or was ever in any real danger, I scared my fellow Riverines and let my overconfidence in our capabilities and my assessment of the tactical situation cloud my judgment. Although this happened almost a decade ago, I remember the situation vividly and pass it on to fel-

low sailors and officers as a lesson about properly assessing risk and taking an objective view of complex situations.

While with the Riverine Squadron, I decided to take my career in a new direction, transitioning to the information professional community, which focuses on communications, network operations, and cybersecurity. This new community closely aligned with my interests and studies at Virginia Tech. I was sent to study information technology management at the Naval Postgraduate School, where I applied the lessons I had learned from my poor academic performance at Tech, finishing my coursework as a distinguished graduate. More importantly, my wife and I welcomed the first of our two children there.

Still feeling the pull of service in combat, I again volunteered to go to the frontlines, this time to Afghanistan. Throughout 2010, I built computer networks for the Afghanistan National Police and acted as a mentor for the Ministry of Interior Affairs in an effort to improve the staffing, training, and equipping of their communication police forces throughout the country.

After two shore tours at Naval Network Warfare Command and Naval



Officers and chiefs of Riverine Squadron One, Detachment 3, "The Hellfish," just prior to a 2007 deployment to Iraq

Submarine School—and the birth of our third child—I reported to the USS Theodore Roosevelt as the combat systems information officer in 2014.

On the Theodore Roosevelt, I've again put my leadership and technical skills to the test in combat. In 2015, we deployed as part of a carrier strike group to conduct maritime security operations in the Arabian Sea and combat operations in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. My team enabled all the communications and intelligence functions required to support more than 1,800 sorties and more than 1,000 munitions expended during combat operations.

One of the hallmarks of leading more than 60 sailors is the occasion to impart some long-term wisdom upon them. Now, as with all my tours, I've leaned on what I learned at Virginia Tech, especially the lessons built on the eight pylons. Those eight ideals provide the core of what makes every military unit operate effectively.

I tell my sailors that their sacrifices make the difference and make this country great—and that their honorable service and loyalty will provide leadership and life lessons that will serve them

and their sons and daughters far into the future. I would pass on this same message to today's cadets, who have made the same honorable decision many of my buds and I made almost two decades ago.

Stephen and Darcy Gray reside in San Diego with their three children, Dominic, Lauren, and Danielle.



The Gray family visited the White House in 2015.



Gray with his ever-supportive parents, James and Barbara Carrough



Riverine Squadron One junior officers taking a break from combat training with the U.S. Marine Corps at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, in Summer 2006

Spring Happenings

The second half of the spring semester was filled with events recognizing both alumni and cadets, the regiment's change of command, bidding farewell and congratulations to our seniors, and honoring those who have gone before us.



Jim Flynn Jr. '64 (right) presented Military Officers Association of America leadership awards to seniors Mark Mercier '16 and Brittany Slaughter '16.



Commandant Gen. Fullhart and Recruiting Officer Lt. Col. Mariger recognized Bob Manning '66 for his hard work and many years of service to the Corps alumni board.



(From left) As president of the Association of Military College and Schools of the United States, Gen. Fullhart presented Legacy Impact awards to J. Pearson '87 and Bert Kinzey '67, chairs of the Corps and Highy-Tighty alumni organizations, respectively. The awards recognize each organization's exceptional support in accomplishing Virginia Tech's mission.



The spring semester regimental staff, under the command of Cadet Anthony Carella '16, led the Corps onto the Drillfield for the regiment's change of command.



Members of the Corps alumni board (in the second and third rows) joined the reviewing party to observe the change of command.



Retired football coach Frank Beamer VT '69 joined Gregory Guardsmen before their special drill routine during the athletic department's annual awards ceremony—the Gobblers—onstage at the Moss Arts Center.



The newly commissioned second lieutenants of Virginia Tech's Air Force ROTC Detachment 875



Gen. Carlton Everhart '83, commander of Air Mobility Command, spoke at the Air Force commissioning ceremony before speaking later that evening to the entire senior class at the Corps' joint graduation and commissioning ceremony. Gen. Everhart will be the guest speaker at this fall's Corps Homecoming.



The Southern Colonels wowed the audience with a superb end-of-year performance.



Commandant Gen. Fullhart chatted with Old Guard Reunion attendees Rindy Lionberger (left, wife of Sam Lionberger Jr. '62) and Bert Kinzey Jr. '42 before presenting a Corps update.



Larry Ayers Jr. '54 graciously stopped by Lane Hall to drop off his saber to Col. Larkin '87 for cadet use. Thank you, Larry!



Class of 2017 cadets Laura Palombella and Taylor Basset laid a Corps-sponsored wreath at the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond, Virginia, on Memorial Day. Gratitude is extended to Bob Chandler '61, who arranges this event each year. *Ut Prosim!*



Members of Alpha Company negotiate the Duck Pond in a Zodiac inflatable boat during the semester's LDX.

Army ROTC News

Virginia Tech's Army ROTC department completed another demanding and successful semester of leader development and looks forward to the continued success of its cadets.

The department is also saddened by the loss of one of its own, Cadet Joseph DeWitt '16, who died of natural causes on April 15.

Occupational Physical Assessment Test

by Cadet Robert Hoffman '16, physical training officer

As the Army evolves, the need for a new fitness assessment tool resulted in the Occupational Physical Assessment Test (OPAT), a four-event test—standing long jump, seated power throw, strength deadlift, and interval aerobic run—that measures both potential and current fitness. A comprehensive examination of various strengths, the OPAT is critical to the Army's plans moving forward because it better assesses functional requirements and is central to the Army's program to open combat positions to women.

Every day for a week, Army cadre and cadets worked tirelessly to administer this test to more than 150 cadets, preparing

them to handle the challenges they will face both in summer training and in their Army careers.

Zodiac training

by Cadet Michael Bolls '16, Mission Set 2017, Zodiac officer in charge

During the spring semester, Army ROTC conducted Zodiac boat training (an inflatable boat used by the military).

First, at the pool in War Memorial Hall, cadets were introduced to the rubberized boat platform and the proper procedures for carrying, loading, and maneuvering the boat. After the hands-on experience, cadets were tested at the Duck Pond during the Leadership Development Exercise (LDX)—the battalion's culminating event—by way of a team-building activity to gauge how quickly they could maneuver the Zodiac across the pond using the skills they had been taught.

Not only did the event provide opportunities for team-building and practicing leadership skills, the cadets were able to utilize the Zodiac platform before attending Ranger school.



Cadet Thomas Cashman, Class of 2017, speaks with the village elder—Cadet Andres Moranan '16—through his interpreter, Cadet J.P. Cook '16, during a KLE as part of the LDX.

Leadership development exercise

by Cadet Mitchell Lester '16, deputy commander

On April 23 and 24, the New River Battalion Army ROTC conducted its spring leadership development exercise (LDX), Operation Twin Serpents. The exercise was a physically and mentally demanding experience designed both to prepare cadets for future Army operations and to develop them into competent leaders.

The exercise was divided into three phases. The first phase consisted of Zodiac boat training, an Ironman competition, and an obstacle course. The objective of the first phase was to test the cadets' physical fitness and endurance. Fatigued by the first phase, the cadets moved on from exercising their bodies to using their minds.

The second phase of Operation Twin Serpents focused on cultural competency. First, cadets conducted a key leader engagement (KLE), building trust and establishing a relationship with a local elder. Arabic and Russian language speakers played the roles of elders and translators to better simulate situations that Army officers might encounter.

Taking the crawl, walk, run approach, cadets conducted a platoon-level village assessment in which an entire platoon moved into the village to assess local affairs, build rapport, and understand the operating environment. Cadets had the opportunity to interact with villagers and host-nation security forces and were graded on their ability to build rapport and gather information.

The LDX's third and final phase involved tactics, whose difficulty were affected by the cadets' performance during the cultural phase. Cadets were given limited time to accomplish their objectives, forcing them to think critically on their feet. In one instance, cadets were rotated into a new leadership position

and allowed only twenty minutes to control the situation and set up a hasty ambush. The exercise culminated with a company operation to take out a high-value target, requiring separate platoons to collaborate and connect the dots received in separate pieces of intelligence in order to locate the target.

Overall, Operation Twin Serpents tested cadets for more than eight hours of continuous operations and was designed to push cadets physically and mentally, demanding them to make decisions out of their comfort zones. Whether or not these cadets choose to branch combat arms, these future leaders will need to make decisions under pressure. Additionally, because the Army operates in a joint environment, cultural and tactical competencies are germane to mission success in our complex world.



Cadet Mitchell Buttala '16 describes his unit's approach to the cornfield during the staff ride to Antietam National Battlefield.

Staff ride

by Cadet Brett Romig '16, public affairs officer

As part of their senior-level curriculum for the spring semester, senior Army cadets visited Antietam National Battlefield on a staff ride. Prior to the trip, cadets researched the involvement of specific Civil War units during the battle of Antietam.

Virginia Tech Army ROTC Executive Officer Lt. Col. Minter Jackson guided the cadets' discussion throughout the staff ride. As cadets moved through the battlefield, each group presented at the location where their respective units fought, modeling the style of a military rehearsal and after-action review.

The purpose of the staff ride is to enhance the professional development of future Army leaders by allowing them to critically analyze actions and decision-making based on the tactics, conditions, and capabilities of the time on the exact terrain in order to extract more meaning from lessons learned.



Raider midshipmen work as a team to overcome the 10-foot wall obstacle during their spring FEX.

Naval ROTC News

Midshipmen attend Naval Leadership Weekend

Five VPI midshipmen attended this year's Naval ROTC (NROTC) Naval Leadership weekend at the University of Notre Dame. Held annually since 1995, the conference brings together NROTC midshipmen from around the country and features professional development panels of military and civilian leaders.

Speakers at this year's conference included U.S. Navy Adm. Phillip Davidson, commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command; U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Gen. James Lukeman, commanding general, Training and Education Command; U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Peter Gumataotao, deputy chief of staff, Strategic Plans and Policy; and Rear Adm. John Kirby, U.S. Navy (retired), spokesperson for the U.S. Department of State.

Raider midshipmen complete spring field exercise

Raider Company's spring field exercise (FEX) was conducted March 8-9 to prepare Marine-option midshipmen for the crucible that is Officer Candidate School (OCS).

Participating in classes and exercises that mimicked the graded events they will face at OCS, the midshipmen learned how to better prepare for OCS and to become more aware of their strengths and weaknesses and the career they are about to enter.

Additionally, the senior midshipmen and officer candidates who will soon commission learned valuable lessons from leading and organizing the exercises that comprised the FEX.

Midshipmen compete at Military Excellence Competition

The Naval ROTC battalion sent 30 midshipmen to the Villanova University campus to participate in the Military Excellence Competition (MEC) held the weekend of April 23. In attendance were ROTC and service academy members from more than 16 universities nationwide.

Midshipmen participated in events that included a basketball tournament in the practice facilities of the reigning NCAA national champions, followed by swimming in three different team relays, with the VPI midshipmen taking second place in



Midshipman 3rd Class McGuire nears the finish line of the MEC's 5k run at Villanova University.

two of the events. Several midshipmen also participated in running events, including a 4x400 relay and a 5K race across the Villanova campus.

For the remainder of the day, the midshipmen participated in tactical events, such as a rope-climb relay, a corpsman challenge, and a buddy-team run. The day's last event was the Mogadishu Mile, in which six midshipmen each carried a 30-pound assault pack and collectively carried a 180-pound stretcher for a mile.

After the drive back to Blacksburg, the midshipmen were already discussing preparations for the next MEC and how they plan to improve.

Raider mess night

In conjunction with the local chapter of the Semper Fidelis Society, the Naval ROTC battalion's Marine-option midshipmen, along with Platoon Leader Course candidates, celebrated their annual mess night on Feb. 26 at the River Company restaurant in Radford, Virginia.



Raider midshipmen and unit staff with Maj. Gen. Bolden

Guests included parents of the senior midshipmen, officers and non-commissioned officers within the unit, and local veterans. In addition, the mess was privileged to host guest of honor Maj. Gen. Charles F. Bolden, U.S. Marine Corps (retired), currently the 12th administrator of NASA. The wisdom that Maj. Gen. Bolden shared in his remarks was appreciated by all in attendance.

The evening featured all the tradition and ceremony of a Marine mess night: from the tasting of the beef and the offering of toasts to the levying of fines and drinking from the grog. Once the smoking lamp was lit, cigars were passed around, and the guests shared stories and experiences.

Calling all Virginia Tech NROTC alumni!

The NROTC unit plans to create and maintain a communication database to keep NROTC alumni informed about alumni outreach efforts and activities. We request your help in spreading word of our efforts among your NROTC classmates, especially those more senior to you. Please send an email to NROTCalumni@vt.edu with your name, class year, and service assignment so that we can add you information to our database. We thank you and look forward to hearing from you.

Fair winds and following seas

U.S. Navy Capt. Robert V. James III, professor of naval science and NROTC commanding officer since January 2014, is retiring from active service after a distinguished 30-year naval career.

A 1986 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Capt. James is a submarine officer who commanded both the USS Alaska (SSBN-732) Blue Crew and the USS Michigan (SSBN-727) Gold Crew. He plans to relocate to the Pacific Northwest with his wife, Kimberlie, and their two German shepherds.

Air Force ROTC cadets battled with the elements at their Air Force Training Exercise in April. Although the temperatures were cold, nothing could stop our cadets.



Air Force ROTC News

by Cadet Fallon Fulgenzi, Class of 2018; Cadet Josh Resenbeck, Class of 2017; and Cadet Chris Bartlett, Class of 2018

Virginia Tech's Air Force ROTC Detachment (Det) 875 had a fantastic spring semester full of many fun and exciting activities. From our Air Force Training Exercise (AFTX) to VMI Day to GAMA Cup and more, the cadets of Det 875 performed above and beyond to make the most out of their training and to prove that they are, in fact, the best alive.

Cadets hit the ground running at the start of the semester. Many cadets helped volunteer—quite a few for double-shifts—at the Atlantic Coast Conference track meet held on campus, giving up valuable time to ensure that events ran smoothly.

Shortly after, the senior class attended a banquet held in its honor. It was an elaborate event and a wonderful celebration of the accomplishments and achievements of those about to commission.

As the semester continued, 20 cadets travelled to the University of Tennessee to participate in GAMA Cup, a southeast regional competition, allowing 11 detachments to get together to prove who can dominate in sports. In events such as basketball, soccer, football, a 5K run, and a warrior challenge, cadets were pushed hard and were determined to succeed. Morale



As part of the new tier system for physical training, Air Force cadets participated in the “beep test” to test cardiovascular endurance.

stayed high throughout, and the cadets had a unique chance to bond in a competitive environment. Despite being a little outnumbered, Det 875 managed to finish in third place overall.

Field training preparation (FTP) was ramped up during the semester by our very own dedicated upperclassmen who volunteered their time to run it. FTP sessions occur weekly throughout the year to prepare cadets for field training. To wrap up training, FTP staff also helped run VMI Day, a day-long training exercise at Virginia Military Institute allowing sophomore cadets to experience a day of field training to properly prepare for the coming summer, and an opportunity to test everything they’ve learned thus far while meeting many other cadets from other detachments.

This yearlong effort by our cadets ended well as every cadet from our detachment who applied to field training obtained an enrollment allocation slot, which means they all will attend training this summer. Our 100 percent selection rate is something we are very proud of, and we look forward to achieving a 100 percent graduation rate from field training. These cadets will spend approximately 22 days undergoing in-barracks training, as well as training in a simulated deployed environment. We congratulate them on their dedication to Air Force ROTC and wish them the best.

For additional training, our detachment’s most-senior cadets organized and ran a two-day training exercise dubbed AFTX for the entire wing. Despite taking place during the last snow of the winter, AFTX was a great success. Morale in the flights stayed high through the cold, and flexibility truly was the key to airpower in this year’s exercise. The cold and, at times, blizzard-like conditions caused many stations to alter their original plans to accommodate the weather.

The initial exercise began with an instructional period during which cadets learned self-aid buddy care, small-unit tactics, and basic survival skills. Afterwards, cadets constructed camps where they slept overnight. After waking up to high winds and snow, cadets put their training to the test in order to demonstrate their survival proficiency and their leadership under fire. Our fourth and fifth year seniors ran AFTX smoothly while the rest of our cadets pushed it out to get the most they could from the training weekend.

Another amazing activity that took place over the course of this semester was our Air Force Employment Exercise, which tested our cadets’ ability to accomplish a difficult mission with limited time and resources. Our junior and senior cadets were tasked to develop an overall plan for success and present it to the fifth-year cadets. Once the plan was presented, they then informed the freshmen and sophomores how to proceed.

The program, which was run on cadets’ computers, allowed five different groups with specific aerial missions to carry out their tasks in the simulation. Everything from bombers, fighters, air refuelers, ISR, and special operations forces were at the disposal of our cadets. Even though it was a complex training tool usually given to officers with several years of experience, many cadets enjoyed themselves and received important lessons in communication, time management, and resource allocation.

The semester’s physical training was a blast—and a change from the past. Our physical fitness officers, charged with planning and running our workouts, implemented a tiered reward system based upon the results of a calisthenics and cardiovascular physical fitness assessment. The reward workouts incentivized cadets to push themselves to their limits so they could achieve better results and have more reward opportunities. Future workouts were also tailored to fit the tiered system, meaning that cadets at a higher tier would receive more challenging workouts. The system ensured that, instead of a standardized workout that wasn’t challenging enough for some, cadets could perform a workout to match their level of fitness, so all could improve. The success of this new tiered workout plan is reflected in our wing’s average Physical Fitness Assessment score, which rose from fall semester and is one of the highest in the country.

Thanks to the hard work of the cadets, cadet leadership, and cadre staff, Det 875 had another successful semester at Virginia Tech. Everyone is excited for our commissioning cadets, and we wish them the best of luck in the Air Force. We know they all are equipped with the right tools to do great things—learned from our detachment—and as such, they are the best alive.



News from the Development Office

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

Another spring semester has passed, and another Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets (VTCC) Change of Command Parade has taken place. We said goodbye to the Class of 2016 and will soon welcome our new freshmen, the Class of 2020.

Although our current cadets have achieved much, we must never forget the Corps alumni who preceded them—they are the ones who have ensured that the VTCC lives on. Through

their hard work, sacrifice, and philanthropy, these alumni have provided the means to ensure the Corps' prosperity.

Days after the announcement of the death of Charles Cornelison '67, John Cahoon '59 sent us an email about Charles. His email so inspired me that, with John's permission, I am sharing it here.

You are the new Corps



Lifelong Corps supporter and alumni board member John L. Cahoon '59

With the passing of Charles Cornelison, the Corps has lost a great leader and advocate. There is another powerful message, however, in his story as it relates to today's Corps and to all Corps alumni. You should by now understand that the

drop-off in old Corps alumni numbers is looming. So, the question is: Will this new Corps and its alumni be able to hold? Since we all share a common military heritage, let me use that to illustrate a point.

On that freezing cold night of Dec. 25, 1776, when Washington crossed the Delaware, the American Army was down to 2,000 men. You could follow the soldiers' trail by the bloody footprints in the snow. Yet, at dawn, the soldiers attacked and won.

In April 1942, when the carrier Hornet turned into the wind, 80 young men in 16 Army Air Corps Mitchell B-25s began

pulling up to the takeoff line. Without enough fuel to reach friendly airfields, they each locked brakes, revved engines to full throttle, and rolled down the carrier deck on their way to Tokyo. In America's darkest hour, they gave us hope.

On Oct. 25, 1944, at the Battle of Leyte Gulf, three U.S. Navy destroyers and four small destroyer escorts, after laying smoke to protect their aircraft carriers, armed their torpedoes and turned toward the attacking Japanese fleet of four battle-ships, eight cruisers, and 11 destroyers bearing down on them. The carriers escaped, and the ferocious air attacks turned back the Japanese fleet.

In other times and places, such as Thermopylae, the Alamo, Rorke's Drift, and the Battle of Britain, small groups of determined men and women have made the difference. Returning gunfighters will tell you their own stories of victory over impossible odds.

What does all this rhetoric have to do with you as Corps alumni? Well, Charles Cornelison and a handful of old cadets like him found themselves at a critical juncture

in history that required action to save the Corps. When they asked, "Why me? Why me?" the response came back to them: "Because you're here. There is nobody else, just you."

Charles Cornelison and that band of Corps brothers held the high ground for us until we could react. Although many of us were not here then, we and our recent sisters in the Corps followed the leadership of that small band of brothers, and we reached for our checkbooks. You now have benefited from what a lot of us sacrificed to give you.

To all of you recent Corps grads, you are the new Corps. You are a better Corps. But very soon, it will all be up to you because we will be gone. You will be left, and there will be "nobody else, just you." Many alumni from the "Old Corps" are attending their final pass in review as did Charles.

So the question to you is this: Did you experience something of value here in the Corps? Did it change your life? Is any of this worth saving?

In our day, we said yes! We rallied around the likes of Charles Cornelison, Henry Dekker, Harold Hoback, and others.

And against everyone's expectations, we prevailed and saved the Corps.

Will you do the same? Will you hold the line? Will you pay this forward to future generations as we did? Will you abandon your post, or will you look down at that

class ring and remember how it got there? Will you step up to keep your promise?

Are those eight words on the Pylons just something you recited back to the upper-classmen, or are they the values by which you live your life? Did you really mean it

when you said the word "sacrifice"?

The spirit of Ut Prosim and thousands of ghosts in blue blouses will be awaiting your answer.

Ut Prosim,

John L. Cahoon '59

Naming opportunities: Corps Leadership and Military Science Building

The following donors have taken advantage of Corps Leadership and Military Science Building (CLMS) naming opportunities since the publication of the spring edition of the Corps Review:

- Michael Francisco, Class of 1974
- Patty Love, in memory of Joseph C. Love Jr. '63

Annual Fund

by Randy Holden, director of annual giving

The beginning of the fall semester is an exciting time for the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. Senior Corps members are tackling their new leadership responsibilities, while every cadet is shaking off the stiffness that comes with rigorous early-morning physical training. A sense of trust and camaraderie is growing among the cadets, as is an intense feeling of pride in the Corps.

Whether you are an alumnus, parent, or friend, you are both a partner for the Corps and a champion for our cadets. You are a dedicated advocate for their future. Cadets are aware and appreciative of your generosity and the ways in which your support enables them to follow their path. You are making a difference in their lives.

At the most recent reunion, a Corps alumnus handed me an envelope and

said, "Virginia Tech provided me with an education that taught me how to live a productive life. The Corps is special; I consider it a privilege to be able to give something back to the Corps. This is my endorsement." He is endorsing a program in which bright and determined students develop leadership qualities, gain the ability to innovate, and realize their full potential. These are skills that will benefit them for the rest of their lives.

Your annual contribution is your endorsement of the Corps of Cadets. Thank you for your support.

Major Gifts (\$25,000 and above)

Lawrence Ayers '54 made a gift to fund the **VTCC Lawrence F. '54 and Margaret Cox Ayers '55 Scholarship**. While a student, Larry was captain of L Company and a member of the Pershing Rifles, Scabbard and Blade, and the Honor Society. As an alumnus, he has served the university as a member of Hokies for Higher Education, the Engineering Committee of 100, and the Department of Civil Engineering Advisory Board. The Ayerses created this endowment to provide expanded opportunities for members of the Corps of Cadets.

Sandra and Joseph '71 Greene named the Corps a beneficiary of a life insurance policy that will add additional funds to the **VTCC Madeline Vines Greene and Joseph Milton Greene '32 Scholarship**. The Greens named this scholarship in

honor of the parents of Rebecca Greene Porter and Joseph Milton Greene Jr.

Robert Irving '72 made a gift to fund the **Mi Cha Irving Memorial Scholarship** in memory of his wife who recently died. In addition, Irving established an estate gift that will add additional support to his wife's scholarship, establish a scholarship in his name, and support the Commandant's Priority Fund.

James '74 and Ellen Moore made a gift to fund the **VTCC Ellen M. and James C. Moore '74 Scholarship**. While a student, Jim was a member of the Corps and the Corps' regimental band, the Highty-Tighties. The Moores have been strong supporters of and advocates for the Corps of Cadets and its leadership programs.

Every Corps alumnus must evaluate his or her experience at Virginia Tech and then pay it forward, as so many alumni have done before us. Your contributions to Virginia Tech and our Corps of Cadets will ensure future students have the opportunity to attend this outstanding university and be a part of the Corps of Cadets.

I look forward to another exciting year getting to know each and every one of you. If there is anything I can do to assist you in determining how you would like to support the Corps, please do not hesitate to call me.

Ut Prosim,

Scott

Gifts that Fit Your Life

by Judith Davis, Office of Gift Planning

An email written by John Cahoon '59, which appears in Scott Lyman's column on page 42, is sure to inspire Corps alumni and friends to consider their own contributions to the Corps' continuing success at Virginia Tech.

Here are a few of the most popular ways you can make a meaningful gift that not only fits your life, but also allows you to join the many fine men and women who help assure the future of Virginia Tech's Corps of Cadets.

Make a gift that pays you.

A life income gift plan provides payments to you during your lifetime and a gift for the Corps when the plan ends, typically after your lifetime. Such gifts include charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts. With a life income gift, you can arrange payments for yourself, a surviving spouse, aging parents, or someone else you name.

Make a gift that doesn't affect your lifetime finances.

A will bequest or retirement account beneficiary designation comes to the Corps only after your lifetime. You retain control of your assets and can change your gift if you wish.

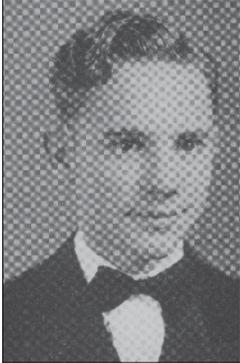
Make a gift other than cash.

You can donate non-cash assets, such as securities or real estate, either as an outright gift that goes to work immediately or by creating one of the life income or estate gifts above. Depending upon individual circumstances, non-cash gifts may provide exceptional tax advantages, help balance your portfolio, or help maximize your family's inheritance.

To discover a gift that fits your life, contact Scott Lyman at 540-231-2085 or email rlyman@vt.edu. Join the honored list of those who are helping assure the future of Virginia Tech's Corps of Cadets.

In Memory

Roscoe Allen '38
1917 – 2016



Roscoe “Bob” Allen died Feb. 19. A Virginia native who earned a degree in engineering from Virginia Tech in 1938, Allen was a U.S. Army Air Corps P-51 pilot during

World War II and earned the status of “ace,” reportedly shooting down five, possibly seven, German fighters over France. After the war, he worked as a research engineer at Caterpillar Tractor Co. Allen was preceded in death by his wife of 61 years, Phyllis Frye, and is survived by his daughters and a son.

Hugh L. Garnett '41
1917 – 2015



Hugh L. Garnett died Dec. 15, 2015. A native of Pittsylvania County, Virginia, Garnett graduated from Virginia Tech in 1941 with a degree in agronomy. While in the

Corps, he was a member of A Company, serving as executive officer during his senior year. Commissioned into the U.S. Army, Garnett served in the Air Corps as a B-24 command pilot and earned the Air Medal and Distinguished Flying Cross. Following the war, he worked for American Overseas Airlines and volunteered for Air Force service during the Korean War, flying the RB-36. In 1953, he returned to flying with Pan Ameri-

can airlines, retiring in 1977. Garnett is survived by his son, Steve '70.

Richard H. Hardesty III '42
1920 – 2015



Richard H. Hardesty III died Aug. 3, 2015. Born in Richmond, Virginia, Hardesty graduated from Virginia Tech in 1942 with a degree in chemistry. He was

commissioned into the U.S. Army, serving in the Coast Artillery Reserves until reassignment to the Air Corps, where he served on Saipan as a B-24 “Liberator” co-pilot, later moving to Guam as a pilot. After completing 40 combat missions, he returned to Richmond in 1946 and joined the DuPont Co. as a chemist. Hardesty is survived by his wife of 70 years, Jane; and their daughters and a son.

Benjamin E. Ames '46
1925 – 2016



Benjamin E. Ames died Jan. 20. A year after arriving at Virginia Tech, Ames was drafted into the U.S. Army to fight in World War II. Five days after D-Day, he

crossed the English Channel into France, where he guarded supply trains against black-market raiders. Returning to school in 1946 as a civilian student, Ames, who served as vice president of the German Club and as president of the student body during his senior year, graduated

with a degree in business administration. He then worked for Thalhimers department store in Richmond, Virginia, and became vice president for personnel. He retired in 1987, as vice chair of Cohoes Specialty Stores. Ames is survived by his sons.

Ronald A. Pruitt '51
1929 – 2015

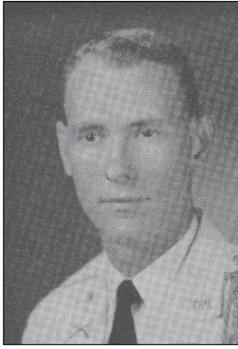


Dr. Ronald A. Pruitt died Aug. 1, 2015. A battalion commander in the Corps and president of the German Club at Virginia Tech, Pruitt was a distinguished

graduate in industrial engineering and commissioned into the U.S. Army in the ordnance corps. He then worked for Eastman Kodak before earning an M.D. from the Medical College of Virginia in 1959. An orthopedic surgeon, Pruitt was a diplomat of the American Board of Orthopedic Surgery, the last chief of staff of Alamance County Hospital, and a member and president of Alamance-Caswell Medical Society. He also remained a clinical instructor at Duke University Medical Center until 2011. Pruitt is survived by his wife, Eugenia; a daughter and sons.

Richard T. Sale III '57
1935 – 2015

Richard T. Sale III died Dec. 19, 2015. A native of Richmond, Virginia, Sale was a member of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets and served as captain of I Company before graduating in 1957 with a degree in mechanical engineering. Earning an MBA from the University of Colorado in 1970, Sale worked for 33



years in research and development support at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, where he was appointed to the Senior Executive Service. He received several meritorious awards while director of the Logistics Equipment Directorate. Sale is survived by his sons and a daughter.

Franklin M. "Mack" Halsey '62
1939 – 2016



Franklin M. "Mack" Halsey died April 14. A native of Jonesville, Virginia, Halsey was a lifelong Hokie who provided two cadet scholarships to the Virginia

Tech Corps of Cadets (VTCC), served on the VTCC Alumni board, and was a member the Ut Prosim Society. He was co-owner of Commonwealth Properties LLC In Charlottesville, Virginia, where he was involved with First Presbyterian Church as a deacon, elder, and chair of the finance and endowment committees. He also served on the board of Virginia Public Television and as chairman of the board of Westminster-Canterbury of the Blue Ridge and was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation. Halsey is survived by his wife, Robin; a son and a daughter.

Emmett B. "Jay" Kitchen Jr. '67
1945 – 2015



Emmet B. "Jay" Kitchen Jr. died Dec. 13, 2015. A member of E Company, Kitchen graduated from Virginia Tech in 1967 with a degree in electrical engineering.

He began his career at the Federal Communications Commission, serving as a wireless telecom policy adviser, and went on to serve as president and CEO of the National Association of Business and Educational Radio and as president and CEO of the Personal Communications Industry Association. A Fellow of the Radio Club of America and a past member of its board, he retired from the wireless industry after 36 years and was inducted into the the Wireless History Foundation Hall of Fame in 2007. Kitchen is survived by his wife, Kim; and two sons.

W. Kevin Ickes '95
1970 – 2016



W. Kevin Ickes Jr. died March 9. A native of Asheboro, North Carolina, Ickes was a 1995 graduate of Virginia Tech, where he was a member of the Corps' F-Troop

and the German Club.

As a lieutenant junior grade, he received an honorable discharge from the

Navy in 1998, and went on to earn an MBA from Indiana Wesleyan University and a Juris Doctor from the University of Kentucky College of Law. He was employed at Kentucky Employers' Mutual Insurance as an associate general counsel and director of legal services. Ickes is survived by his wife, Franka; a daughter and a son.

Joseph L. DeWitt '16
1993 – 2016



Joseph L. DeWitt died April 15. Raised in Oak Hill, Virginia, DeWitt graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in aerospace engineering and

minors in leadership studies and math. He was a distinguished member of the Civil Air Patrol and thrived in a variety of leadership positions in the Corps of Cadets, culminating as the commander of Charlie Company for fall 2014 semester. Additionally, he served on the College of Engineering Dean's Team.

A graduate of the U.S. Army Airborne School at Fort Benning, Georgia, and a Distinguished Military Graduate in Army ROTC, DeWitt was posthumously commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Selected to serve in the military intelligence branch, with an infantry branch detail, he was scheduled to attend the Infantry Basic Officer Leader Course at Fort Benning, Georgia, in the fall. DeWitt is survived by his parents, siblings, and fiancée.

LEST WE FORGET

Byrd L. Rawlings II '40, Waynesboro, Virginia, 12/27/15.
Leslie C. Hurt '41, Appomattox, Virginia, 2/25/16.
Clyde H. Mast '41, Gainesville, Florida, 2/24/16.
John A. Yowell '42, Beaverdam, Virginia, 2/25/16.
Edward C. Etz '43, Norfolk, Virginia, 1/19/16.
Joe E. Lucas '43, Holdenville, Oklahoma, 2/18/16.
Raymond Unser '43, Cartersville, Georgia, 2/13/16.
J. Randolph Wilson '43, Washington, D.C., 12/9/15.
Walter E. Haynes '44, Washington, D.C., 12/28/15.
William F. McGuire '45, Pulaski, Virginia, 1/20/16.
William C. Morey '45, Leesburg, Florida, 12/9/15.
William G. Sale Jr. '45, Norfolk, Virginia, 12/19/15.
John G. Ironmonger '48, Annapolis, Maryland, 1/13/16.
James E. Cozart '49, Abingdon, Virginia, 3/1/16.
Calvin T. Davis '49, Suffolk, Virginia, 2/24/16.
James W. Michael Jr. '50, Roanoke, Virginia, 2/9/16.
Lyman C. Daughtrey Jr. '51, Greenville, North Carolina, 2/18/16.
Arthur J. Gustafson Jr. '51, Williamsburg, Virginia, 1/18/16.
Claude W. Nicholson '51, Fort Myers, Florida, 2/15/16.

Henry A. Williamson Jr. '51, Norfolk, Virginia, 1/17/16.
Charles W. Flippo '52, Cocoa Beach, Florida, 2/29/16.
Lester H. Kyle Jr. '52, Gaffney, South Carolina, 1/14/16.
Thomas W. Reed '52, Perry, Florida, 2/28/16.
Charles F. Hurt '53, Lynchburg, Virginia, 1/30/16.
John P. Feratt '54, Abingdon, Virginia, 1/5/16.
Chester Z. Gates '55, Birmingham, Alabama, 2/20/16.
Charles A. Marks III '55, Waynesboro, Virginia, 2/20/16.
Gerald S. Williams '56, Yale, Virginia, 12/27/15.
Bill Pardue '57, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, 2/1/16.
Burton J. Gwinn Jr. '59, Melbourne, Florida, 12/23/15.
Lucius M. Brown '60, Midlothian, Virginia, 1/4/16.
Frederick M. Donica '60, Jessup, Georgia, 2/17/16.
Julius E. Harris '60, Hampton, Virginia, 2/8/16.
James R. Holdren '60, Bedford, Virginia, 1/13/16.
Lawrence Phipps '60, Richmond, Virginia, 2/9/16.
Lawrence T. Stanley '64, Beverly Hills, Florida, 2/23/16.
Joel M. Amos '65, Chatham, Virginia, 1/9/16.
Arthur McClinton Jr. '65, Lanham, Maryland, 12/19/15.



As the DeWitt family looked on, Virginia Tech Professor of Military Science Col. Kevin Milton posthumously commissioned 2nd Lt. Joseph L. DeWitt '16.



Corps Homecoming • Sept. 16-17, 2016 Virginia Tech vs. Boston College



Come to Corps Homecoming 2016 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. 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 homecoming meal at The Inn at Virginia Tech at noon. 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 a special alumnus guest speaker, Gen. Carlton D. Everhart II '83.

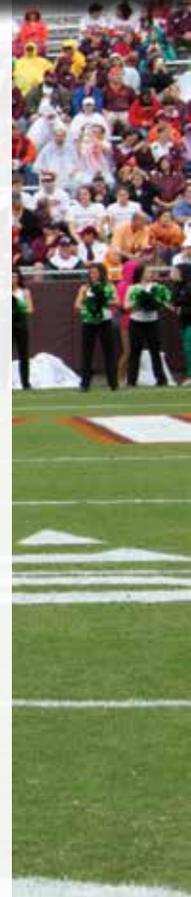
Plan to participate in a special annual tradition, the alumni regiment march-on to Worsham Field at Lane Stadium before kickoff. Join your classmates for this unique experience, and rally to your unit guidons!**

** Please register online for Corps Homecoming. The registration site is live. 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



Gen Everhart '83 (left), this year's guest speaker!

Cancellation:

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

Game Tickets (when applicable):

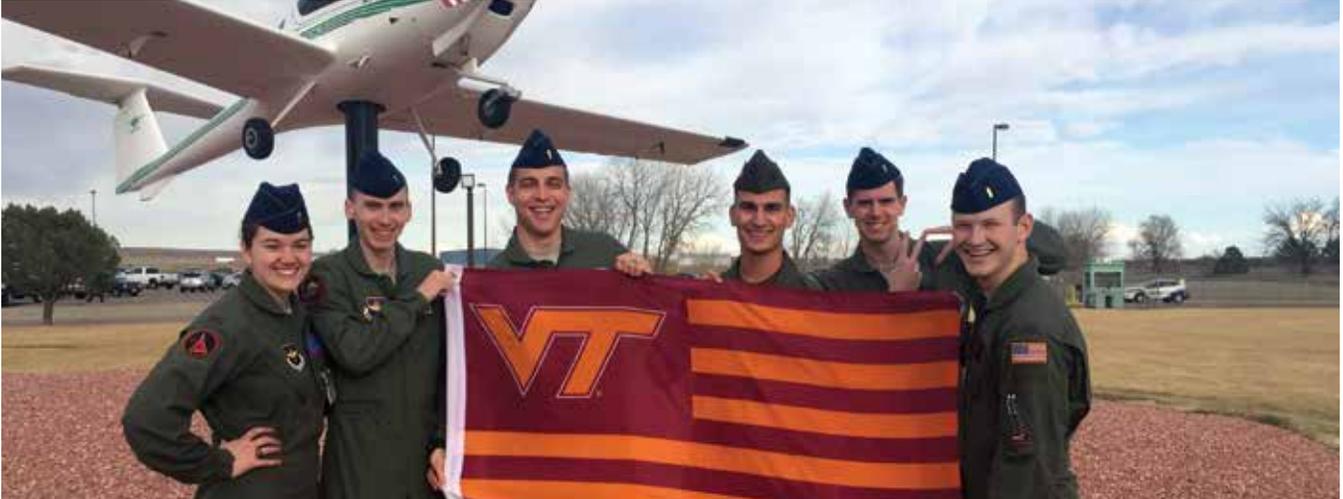
- Game tickets purchased as part of event registration are for registered event participants only. The cost of game tickets is \$60, and they are limited in quantity, available on a first-come, first-served basis, and a maximum of four game tickets per registration form. Game tickets will not be mailed. They will be available for pickup with a photo ID at the event registration. Everyone who enters Lane Stadium must have a game ticket, including infants.

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

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

Confirmation:

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



Corps alumni attending Doss Aviation initial flight training proudly display our Hokie colors (from left): 2nd Lt. Savannah Bailey '15, U.S. Air Force; 2nd Lt. Alex Grant '14, U.S. Air Force; 2nd Lt. John Turbyfill '14, U.S. Air Force; 2nd Lt. Brian Burgos '14, U.S. Marine Corps; 2nd Lt. Tyler Knickerbocker '15, U.S. Air Force; and 2nd Lt. Josh Appleton '15, U.S. Air Force.



Lt. Sarah H. Childs VT'06, who serves as a surgeon onboard the USS Harry S. Truman, stands before the Virginia Tech banner on display in the ship's main wardroom. Designed by the Alumni Association, the banner was signed by Hokies at last season's Independence Bowl and sent to the aircraft carrier during its deployment.



After receiving his Ranger Tab on his 24th birthday, U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Brenden Sweeney '15 proudly saluted his father, Army Col. T. Bruce Sweeney.

VTCC Alumni Inc.

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Blacksburg, VA 24061

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