

THE VIRGINIA TECH CORPS OF CADETS ALUMNI MAGAZINE

# CORPS REVIEW

VOL. 30 NO. 1 FALL 2019





The U.S. Marine Corps sent four MV-22B Ospreys to fly over Virginia Tech's homecoming football game against North Carolina. The aircraft represented Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadrons 264 and 263 at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, North Carolina and the crew included four Corps of Cadets alumni: U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Col. Eric "Chewy" Keith '99, U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Col. Timothy "Elvis" Costello '00, U.S. Marine Corps Capt. Jason "Yummy" Schnitker '13, and U.S. Navy Lt. T.J. "Cletus" '11. Before the game, the crew held a static display for cadets at Virginia Tech's airport.



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# READY. SET. GO.

This fall, we saw the largest regiment in over a half-century. Our total enrollment was 1,154 cadets, and we welcomed about 400 new cadets to our ranks. While space was tight in our two residence halls, we were able to accommodate everyone on the Upper Quad as we began a very exciting era for our Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.

It's exciting for a number of reasons.

First, Virginia Tech's leadership and the Board of Visitors recognize the value that the Corps brings to this university as the embodiment of what service and leadership are all about. They have thrown support behind an initiative to offer our leader development program to a larger group of young men and women. Specifically, we are embarking on a multi-year effort to add an additional battalion to the Corps and grow our ranks to 1,400 cadets.

Because of the value of having all the cadet activities centered on the historic Upper Quad, the university approved the construction of a third Corps residence hall that will replace Femoyer Hall, built in 1949.

This third residence hall will be in good company as the university approved a plan that allows us also to start construction on the Corps Leadership and Military Science Building behind Lane Hall. There are still a few naming opportunities left, so if you are interested in being part of this exciting and legacy-supporting effort, please contact our advancement team.

You can read more about our growth plans on Page 6.

We are advancing on many other fronts, as well as the university kicks off a multi-year effort to strengthen participation and to financially underpin the breadth, depth, and outreach of its programs. Learn about our goals for Boundless Impact: The Campaign for Virginia Tech on Page 16.

Supplementing the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Inc. and the Highty-Tighties Alumni Inc., a group of alumni and friends of the Corps have formed a Commandant's Ad-

visory Group to help me and my staff achieve success in a number of areas vital to the future of our Corps during the university campaign.

With the anticipated growth of the Corps, we want to ensure all cadets have the opportunity to receive an Emerging Leader Scholarship and have a personal connection with those that make them possible.

The success of our Global Scholars program, helping cadets learn from history and to travel outside the United States to continue their leader development, has caught fire, and more and more cadets hope to take advantage of these opportunities.

Likewise, the Rice Center for Leader Development is poised to take our leadership development efforts to a whole new level if we can raise the necessary resources to continue to enrich the learning opportunities both here on campus and around the country.

We are preparing to open our new, expanded Corps Museum and need to underwrite the efforts to grow, curate, and maintain our collection and to share the rich history of the Corps and its graduates.

So, as you can tell, we are coming out of the gates fast this semester and the more tailwind we can get from great alumni and friends of the Corps, the more exciting it will be to be part of the Corps family in the years ahead.

We hope that each of you will look for ways to help engage with us in this effort. We'll be keeping you informed on this and many other aspects of your outstanding Corps in the months and years ahead.

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

# TODAY'S CORPS

## PERCENTAGE OF SENIORS WHO COMMISSIONED, BY YEAR

**2018-19 78%**



**2017-16 76%**



**2016-18 79%**



**2015-16 64%**



**2014-15 68%**



## OF THE 1,154 CADETS THIS FALL

**ARMY 37%**



**AIR FORCE 24%**



**NAVY 21%**



**MARINES 5%**



**CITIZEN-LEADER TRACK 13%**



The Corps Review is published two times a year by the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Inc. (VTCCA).

J. Pearson '87, Chairman, VTCCA

Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart, Commandant of Cadets

Col. Patience Larkin '87, Alumni Director

Shay Barnhart, Communications Director and Editor

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Corps Review can be accessed online at [www.vtcc.vt.edu/corpsreview](http://www.vtcc.vt.edu/corpsreview)

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Front cover: Cadets (from left) Makenna Moore '23, Kyle Scott '23, and Jacob Osborn '23 receive the flags at the start of the Duke football game. Photo by Shay Barnhart.

Back cover: The fall regimental staff is made up of (from left) Cyrus Unvala '20, Mason Fitzsimmons '20, Charlie Young '20, Executive Officer Meredith Oakes '20, Regimental Commander Justin Clipson '20, Lauren Zuchowski '20, Joseph LaBianca '20, and Mame Ngom '21. Photo by H. Pat Artis VT'71.

Corrections: The USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) was misidentified in a photo in the Navy ROTC News article in the spring 2019 edition.

Cadet Lauren Zuchowski '20 was misidentified in a photo in the Air Force ROTC News article in the spring 2019 edition.

# ALUMNI ANNOUNCEMENTS

## FROM THE ALUMNI DIRECTOR

A big thanks to all our Corps of Cadets alumni and family members who joined us for Corps and Highty-Tighty Reunion this fall. We had a great showing, and from what I could tell, everyone had a great time! After last year's washout due to a hurricane, we were excited to have everyone back in town.

On another note, if you are at a place in your career or life where you are retiring from the military or changing careers, keep an eye open for potential openings on the commandant's staff in 2020. We will pass information out via our Class Champion network, so if you do not know who your class champion is or if you have never heard from that person, drop us a line.

Please check out the Corps activities coming up in 2020 and plan a trip back "home" to Blacksburg! Dates for the 2020 Corps Reunion and Highty-Tighty Reunion will be determined in early spring, after the fall football schedule is released.

Also, if you will be assigned to a military flying unit during the 2020 football season and are interested in performing a flyover during a home game, please send me a note. We love to have our alumni doing the flyovers!

Thank you again for being THE BEST Virginia Tech alumni.

*Ut Prosim,*

Col. Patience Larkin (retired) E'87,  
patience@vt.edu



## VOLUNTEER TO SHARE YOUR CORPS EXPERIENCES

For the second year, we will host a panel of diverse alumni to speak to the regiment on March 23, 2020. The panel will focus on "Diverse Perspectives of the VTCC Experience and Beyond." We are in search of alumni participants who experienced life in the Corps from any diverse perspective — race, religion, culture, gender, age, sexual preference, disability.

Under the umbrella of global leader development, we know that all our cadets, no matter if they enter the military or the civilian sector after graduation, will interact daily with people of all backgrounds. When alumni share their experiences both as a cadet and post-graduation, it enriches and expands the thinking of our young cadets.

If you are interested in speaking, please email [patience@vt.edu](mailto:patience@vt.edu) by Jan. 13, 2020, with details on how you can contribute to the panel or the greater conversation.

## VT TARTAN FUNDRAISER

Collegiate Tartan Apparel has generously offered to donate \$20 to the Corps for each purchase of its lambswool scarf, tie, and heritage blanket. Orders must be placed by Jan. 1, 2020, at [collegiatetartan.com](http://collegiatetartan.com).



## SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATIONS NOW

We are accepting nomination packages for the 2020 Distinguished Alumni Award until Jan. 13, 2020. The award recipient(s) will be notified the beginning of February.

The selection committee includes the commandant, the alumni board chairman and the senior associate vice president for Alumni Relations. Information concerning criteria, selection process and package information can be found online at [vtcc.vt.edu/alumni/distinguished-alumni.html](http://vtcc.vt.edu/alumni/distinguished-alumni.html). There, you can also read about past recipients. Please note that nominees must be living.

## DEPLOYED ON THE USS KEARSARGE

Hokie alumni on the flight deck aboard the USS Kearsarge on the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit deployment to 5th and 6th fleets, from left, Lt. Dominic Bagley '06, Lt. Col. Lawrence Lowman '99, Cmdr. Jacob Braun '00, Lt. Col. Eric Keith '99, Lt. Thomas Hendricks '11, Capt. Bryan Fraizer '12, and Ens. Stephanie Morales '17.



## SPRING 2020 EVENTS

- Jan. 13: Nominations due for the 2020 Distinguished Alumni Award. Details are online at [vtcc.vt.edu/alumni/distinguished-alumni.html](http://vtcc.vt.edu/alumni/distinguished-alumni.html).
- Feb. 1: Distinguished Alumni Award recipient(s) announced
- Feb. 13: Spring Gunfighter Panel, featuring Christy Nolta '86, Jill Boward '87, and Jeannine James '88, 3:30 p.m. in Burruss Hall auditorium.
- March 18-19: Virginia Tech Giving Day. Please participate if you can. A \$5 contribution helps.
- March 23: Diverse Perspectives of the VTCC Experience and Beyond. If you identified as a minority in the Corps in any way — race, religion, sexual orientation, etc — and are willing to share your experience with current cadets, email [patience@vt.edu](mailto:patience@vt.edu).
- May 1: Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Inc. board meeting
- May 2: Spring Change of Command Ceremony, 10 a.m. on the Drillfield.
- May 2: Highty-Tighty Alumni board meeting



## STAY IN TOUCH

Please update your contact information and send it in to us. We will update it in the university's alumni database.

Full name (include maiden name, if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Military rank (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Are any changes needed to your mailing address? \_\_\_\_\_

Clip and mail to:  
Corps of Cadets Alumni office  
141 Lane Hall  
280 Alumni Mall  
Blacksburg, VA 24061

If you are not getting email from your class champion but would like to, please check this box:

If you would like to learn more about giving to the Corps, please check this box:



Cadets salute as the flag is lowered during a formal retreat ceremony.

# CORPS TO GROW TO 1,400 CADETS

By Albert Raboteau, director of development communications, University Advancement

When Cadet Matt Mabutas '22 puts on his Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets uniform, he thinks of all those who did the same before him.

"I feel extremely humbled," said the sophomore in Air Force ROTC. "The people who put this uniform on before I did, they were amazing. They built the Corps into what it is now."

This summer, Mabutas was among those cadets working orientation to explain the Corps experience to the families of more than 400 first-year students, whose arrival boosted the program's enrollment to 1,156 cadets.

It's a far cry from the mid-1990s when, with enrollment below 500 overall, the program's very future seemed in question. The Corps' inspiring resurgence is a credit to the perseverance and

generosity of alumni who, decades ago, recognized the tenuous position the program was in and decided to do all they could to help.

Together, they have raised tens of millions toward cadet scholarships and served as volunteers to help ensure the program's future. Today, roughly 80 percent of cadets receive Emerging Leader Scholarships, and ongoing fundraising may one day raise that to 100 percent.

Meanwhile, philanthropy is making possible a new Corps Leadership and Military Science Building near Lane Hall, on the Upper Quad of Virginia Tech's Blacksburg campus. Approved by the Board of Visitors in June, the \$52 million, 75,500-square-foot building will bring together Corps and ROTC programs.

At the same meeting, the board also approved construction of a new residence hall for cadets, the third since 2015, which will allow the program's enrollment to reach 1,400.

"The support of the university president, university leadership, and the Board of Visitors for these two initiatives is a strong reaffirmation for the mission of the Corps and its relationship to a university that was built on the foundation of service to others," said Commandant of Cadets Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart.

David Lowe '63, a retired telecommunications executive who serves on the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Board, agreed. "I think it's wonderful to see the administration recognizing the value of the Corps and affirming that



through their decisions,” he said. “Every day, every person who visits campus, they see young men and women in uniform and understand the sacrifices they are making or are prepared to make. It is the ever-present personification of our university motto *Ut Prosim*,” (That I May Serve).

## THE ORIGINAL LIVING-LEARNING COMMUNITY

Recent years have seen a dramatic expansion in the number of living-learning communities Virginia Tech offers its undergraduates. First-year students in living-learning communities have higher GPAs, fewer conduct referrals, and higher rates of mentorship by faculty.

The oldest one offered, by far, is the Corps, which dates back to the university’s founding in 1872.

“The Corps of Cadets exemplifies Virginia Tech’s foundational traditions and values, especially the spirit of service, something appreciated by all Hokies,” said Virginia Tech President Tim Sands. “Alumni tell us their participation in the Corps is one of the defining experiences of their lives. Robust living-learning communities, like the Corps, contribute a great deal to the unique Virginia Tech experience. Our students are more likely to thrive on campus, and the benefits continue in their personal and professional lives long after graduation.”

## DEDICATED ALUMNI MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Denny Cochrane ’70 served 30 years in the military and from 1996 to 2000 commanded Virginia Tech’s Army ROTC. During that time, he was part of the effort to put the Corps on a more solid footing by engaging alumni to support the program to a greater degree.



Lima Company commander Thomas Shanahan ’20 marches his cadets onto Worsham Field during football pregame ceremonies.



Members of the fall’s regimental staff gather over breakfast during New Cadet Week.

He’s stayed deeply involved, and is a member of the executive committee of the Corps’ alumni board.

“Alumni said, ‘We’re not going to let the Corps die,’” Cochrane said, thinking back to the mid-1990s. “We launched a campaign to engage alumni to support the Emerging Leaders Scholarship program. Once we got that going, the goal was growing the Corps to 1,000 cadets.”

That effort clearly made a difference. Cochrane said the corps experience has always had a great deal to offer aspiring leaders, and the program’s resurgence has been extremely fulfilling to see.

“The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets is special,” he said. “It is an academic

multiplier. We get a great education here, but we also get the leadership training through the Corps, ROTC, and all the other experiences on and off campus. It makes the academic credentials even more powerful, and we have a national reputation for producing outstanding leaders.”

Lowe is equally gratified to see the strong position of today’s Corps.

“I think the initiatives and involvement of the Corps have even more meaning and value today than they did in my day as a cadet,” he said. “As I get to know the young men and women who are in the Corps, it reaffirms my confidence in the future of this country.”

# MAKING HISTORY

By Lt. Col. Drew Hodges '75, U.S. Air Force (retired)

**IT WAS AN INCREDIBLE HONOR. A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME EXPERIENCE.** A BUCKET LIST ITEM THAT DEFINES AN IDENTITY MOLDED IN THE VIRGINIA TECH CORPS OF CADETS AND SEASONED AS A U.S. AIR FORCE PARATROOPER.

Participating as one of only 220 jumpers from across the globe on June 5, 2019, to celebrate the 75th anniversary of D-Day in Normandy, France, I experienced the ultimate satisfaction of celebrating one of America's greatest wartime moments.

On June 5-6, 1944, American, British, and Canadian forces launched the airborne and seaborne assaults into Normandy and its beaches to liberate Nazi-occupied France, eventually leading to victory on the entire Western Front. Indeed, it was on Omaha Beach on June 6 that our own 1st Lt. Jimmie W. Monteith Jr., a Medal of Honor recipient, was killed as he rallied his men and directed assaults on enemy positions.

Standing on the very drop zones and beaches on which so many heroes died, one is overwhelmed with a sense of historical significance that those men and women would not live to appreciate. Indeed, I felt the opportunity to be a part of the celebration of that kind of sacrifice was as meaningful as anything I have ever done.

I am a product of the Corps of Cadets immediately after the Vietnam War and followed a commissioned path into the U.S. Air Force. As both a flyer during the

Cold War era and a master parachutist with combat experience in Albania, Afghanistan, and Iraq, I always felt a kinship to America's warriors and veterans.

After retiring from the Air Force in 2010, I searched for an organization with the same values, that same patriotism and honor we know in the VTCC.

The WWII Airborne Demonstration Team (ADT) is that organization. Its mission is to remember the sacrifices of the men and women whose generation fought to save the world from Hitler's Third Reich; to honor the memory of those who gave their lives as well as those who survived; and to serve that memory by entertaining and informing the public of the sacrifices made by America's warriors.

These words, the foundation of the team's mission, are not merely coincidentally aligned with the values inscribed on the Pylons of our beloved War Memorial. They express the universal character of what America expects and demands of its ethical, moral leaders — especially in today's changing world.

The ADT celebrates those values in the military veterans throughout all America's history.



The reason the WWII Airborne Demonstration Team exists: to remember, honor, and serve America's war veterans. The front row is a group of American veterans of World War II, who made the trip to France to celebrate with the ADT. Photos by Gary Daniels.

All members of the ADT who were jumping into Normandy carried on their person (and perhaps next to their heart) a trove of meaningful items representing World War II warriors specifically important to that jumper. They included dogtags from family friends, rank insignia from a beloved family member, and photos of special veterans

who have made their final jump into time and history. In my case, my dad's oak leaf and photo, my uncle's photo, and special items from close friends were stowed safely in my pockets in order to bind those World War II



After the jump onto DZ "Kilo," Will Kristopik VT '20 and Drew Hodges '75, show off their Hokie pride with the flag Kristopik jumped with.

heroes to this 2019 commemoration.

As a singularly special treasure, I was so extremely honored and humbled to be asked by Samantha Riggan, the curator for the Corps Museum, to carry with me Monteith's Purple Heart, awarded for the fatal injuries he sustained on Omaha Beach. From the moment she put that Purple Heart in my hand,

throughout the entire movement of the task force, the airborne operation into Normandy, and the redeployment back to Virginia, it never left my person.

The weight of that honor was more than I could bear



In France, the team stayed at the Chateau de Plain Marais, located in Beuzeville de Bastille near Sainte Mère Eglise. Photo by Gary Daniels.



The team's living quarters in the west wing of the Chateau. Photo by Gary Daniels.

to part with. Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart, commandant of cadets, also requested I temporarily rejoin Monteith's Purple Heart with his grave marker in the Normandy American Cemetery near Colleville-sur-Mer. This solemn, purposeful trek through such hallowed ground to section I, row 20, grave 12 was a profound, almost surreal experience. The fulfillment of this request after the jump into Normandy is the culmination of an incomparable honor I will never forget.

It should be noted that of the 220 jumpers who participated in this historic event, there were two Hokies. Not only was I fortunate enough to be a part of this organization and the D-Day celebration, but Will R. Kristopik VT'20 is also a member of this organization and made the trip to Normandy. Both he and his dad, Andrew Kristopik, had planned for years to represent the ADT in this momentous airborne operation.

Will Kristopik is also an Army National Guard infantryman with Delta Company, 1/116th Infantry Regiment, 29th Infantry Division. It was a most meaningful joy for him, as it was the 116th Infantry Regiment, 29th Infantry Division that was part of the first wave assault onto Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944. Rarely was a National Guard unit chosen to fill such a dire task. The 29th Infantry Division was teamed with the Big Red 1 (1st Infantry Division) and it was in this assault that Monteith, a member of the 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, was killed.

Our journey in France was much more relaxed as we flew into Paris, moved by ferry across the English Channel to Portsmouth, England, then overland to the historic Royal Air Force Duxford Airfield, from where we would launch our cross-channel airborne operation into Normandy.



Will Kristopik goes through the chow line as Drew Hodges observes in the background. Photo by Gary Daniels.



The team packs parachutes on the lawn of the chateau. Photo by Gary Daniels.



Drew Hodges, at right, takes a picture with World War II veteran Bob Noody.



The group is rigged and ready to board at the Royal Air Force Duxford Airfield, England. Photo by Gary Daniels.

Wednesday, June 5, came early as we arrived at the airfield to prepare for the cross-channel flight and execute the airborne commemoration. The drop zone (DZ) was to be DZ “Kilo,” the British 6th Division’s historic DZ on the outskirts of Sannerville, France. The viewing areas were roped, the crowds were assembled, and all preparations were made. My wife, my daughter and her family had traveled to France specifically for this event and were among the throng of spectators at the edges of DZ “Kilo.”

Then, merely hours prior to boarding the vintage C-47 Dakotas for the jump, we were informed that one aircraft was not available and that 22 of 220 jumpers would be scratched. By the (bad) luck of the draw (literally), both Kristopik and I were two of the four ADT members scratched from the manifest. Never before has there been such a palpable, collective disappointment

than with the 22 jumpers who would not realize our dream!

Each of our fellow ADT members who had trained with us, deployed with us, and lived with us was as disappointed in this turn of events as we were. However, in the finest meaning of brotherhood, four other members of ADT stepped forward to yield their seat so that those of us who were initially scratched could make this meaningful jump.

In Kristopik’s case, one of our members knew he and his dad were making this jump as a mutually shared dream of father-son significance. In my case, another member knew the treasures I was carrying were of such significance that he could not forgive himself if he didn’t sacrifice his seat to me.

We both humbly accepted these utterly selfless sacrifices from our brothers and rejoined the manifest.



Members of the ADT await the order to don parachutes. From left are Chris Kubacki, Bo Hill, Ken Larsen, Drew Hodges, and Andrew Kristopik.



Team members link up after the jump onto DZ “Kilo” in Sannerville, France.

This is again so representative of the organization to which we are joined and the reflection of the universal ideals inscribed on our War Memorial Pylons.

As we boarded the vintage C-47s, some of which actually transported paratroopers into Normandy in 1944, we sat among the photographs of World War II veterans.

Scrawled on the bulkheads adja-

cent to these photographs were the signatures of those old warriors. Some of them having passed into history in the last few years or months.

You could feel the awesomely powerful presence of these men as you prepare to mimic their contribution in Operation Overlord 75 years ago. Simultaneously, we felt incredibly humbled by the incomparable courage, perseverance, and sacrifice those photographs represent.

After an hour and a half transit across the English Channel, we were ready to step into the sky over Sannerville. Our jumpmaster went through the World War II-era jump commands, and the first paratrooper took his position in the open door. Our hearts and minds overflowed with the thoughts of those paratroopers who stood here 75 years ago, preparing to jump into the unknown deadly challenges that awaited them.

Perfectly timed, the jumpmaster yelled, "Go" and slapped the first jumper on the rear. Our stick of jumpers moved swiftly to exit the aircraft. It was all a joy ride from here to the ground as we gazed on the crowds below and wondered how many in the audience may have observed this same spectacle 75 years ago.



Drew Hodges unites 1st Lt. Jimmie W. Monteith's Purple Heart with his grave marker at the Normandy American Cemetery.

And there were some. French citizens, who may have been so very young in June 1944, rushed onto the drop zone as we landed and hugged us as if we were the actual liberators who brought an end to Nazi occupation of France. The residents of Normandy will never forget what the American, British, and Canadian forces sacrificed in the air, on

the beaches, and along the byways of Normandy. This is the legacy for which we, in the WWII Airborne Demonstration Team, strive to honor. It is this history that is so vitally important to remember and cherish.

On June 25, I returned Monteith's Purple Heart to its permanent residence with the Corps Museum.

The significance of all that I experienced, the veterans that I met, and the genuine gratitude of the French people of Normandy after 75 years goes beyond any emotional bounds. Mostly, however, it is a renewed awareness that the heroism and courage at Normandy in those ominous days of June 1944 represent almost 54,000 Allied killed in action, including Monteith, who would not live to realize the gravity of their ultimate sacrifice.

Truly, these heroes embodied the values of Brotherhood, Honor, Leadership, Sacrifice, Service, Loyalty, Duty and *Ut Prosim*.

This article is dedicated to those heroes who not only liberated the world from oppression but returned to build the United States of America into the greatest economic, industrial, humanitarian, and democratic nation the world has ever known. *Ut Prosim!*



# A SUCCESSFUL CORPS REUNION

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

We kicked off our Corps Reunion on Sept. 13 with our Cadet Leadership Dinner. We began with a reception, posted the colors, and started the program and meal.

We had Corps of Cadets alumni from SEVEN decades join us for our weekend!

Commandant of Cadets Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart gave us the status of the Corps, and I introduced four cadet seniors in leadership to speak to us about their experiences.

Savannah Bailey '15 traveled the farthest, coming 7,673 miles from Okinawa, Japan. The decade with the greatest number of participants was the 1970s with 88 alumni back. The most "mature" graduate was Nick Valdrighi '57, who's a member of our alumni board, and our youngest alumnus in attendance was Ben Pederson '18.

On Saturday, we marched into Lane Stadium before our football game against Furman, and afterward we had our wrap-up dinner.

I am always amazed how cool it is to see buds from years gone by. David Lowe '63, one of our first Distinguished



Regimental Commander Justin Clipson '20 speaks about his Corps experience at the Friday night Cadet Leadership Dinner during Corps Reunion.

Alumni Award recipients, was our guest speaker. He spoke about the Corps' struggles in the mid-1990s when enrollment dipped below 500 overall and our future seemed in question before a few great folks came together to help the Corps flourish again.

Then we concluded our weekend with the "Old Hokie" cheer!

Everyone was very happy to have our reunion this year, after we had to cancel

it in 2018 because of a hurricane that moved inland and threatened us with bad weather. We always have a great time.

Today's Corps has the highest enrollment in 50 years, and we started this fall with 1,154 cadets. Can you believe that?

Let's keep supporting this great group of young people.

Go Hokies!

PLEASE REMEMBER, AS ALUMNI WE MUST **COMMUNICATE,**  
**PARTICIPATE, AND DONATE!**

AS THE REGIMENT CONTINUES TO GROW — 1,154 CADETS THIS FALL — SO DOES THE EXCITEMENT SURROUNDING OUR EVENTS.



Alumni volunteers helped the parents of new cadets during New Cadet Week Move In on Aug. 17.



New cadets practiced marching along the sidewalks of Upper Quad during New Cadet Week.



The regiment marked the anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks and said thank to you local first responders on Sept. 11.

First-year cadets and their training cadre made the 13-mile Fall Caldwell March on Oct. 5. Photo by Cadet Melonie Mallette '21.







Col. Paul Mele, commanding officer of Virginia Tech's Army ROTC program, celebrates after completing the pushups with Esprit de Corps at the Sept. 14 Furman game. Photo by Cadet Victoria Ann '22.



U.S. Secretary of Defense Mark T. Esper greets Cadet Tajeem Johnson 21' during the secretary's visit to Virginia Tech and the Wake Forest game on Nov. 9.



Volunteers from Alpha Company stood guard duty at the Ut Prosim Pylon during a 24-hour vigil to remember Ensign Sarah Mitchell '17, who commanded Alpha Company her senior year and whose name was added to the war memorial a year ago, as well as all Alpha Company alumni who have fallen in combat. This will become an annual tradition for Alpha Company on Nov. 9. Each year, the sophomore class will choose a new alumna to be the main focus of the day.



Medal of Honor recipient Melvin Morris spoke to cadets on Nov. 14. The retired U.S. Army sergeant first class received the Medal of Honor for his actions in Vietnam.



Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart and Del. Nick Rush, of Virginia's 7th District (at center), honor veterans during a remembrance ceremony on Nov. 11.

# BOUNDLESS IMPACT

Virginia Tech announced the most ambitious fundraising and engagement campaign in university history in October during an event in which thousands gathered on campus to celebrate the occasion and their school's growing impact in the commonwealth and beyond.

**Boundless Impact:** The Campaign for Virginia Tech has a goal to raise \$1.5 billion to fuel excellence across all university programs and drive forward major strategic priorities. A second goal is to engage 100,000 alumni in meaningful ways over the course of the campaign, which is projected to run until June 30, 2027.

The campaign is expected to fuel major initiatives all across the university, including \$50 million for the Corps of Cadets to ensure cadets graduate ready for the world that awaits them. Your investment in this journey will support priorities such as:

## EMERGING LEADER SCHOLARSHIPS

Emerging Leader Scholarships make the Corps affordable and give cadets the ability to focus on becoming leaders without adding part-time jobs or other stressors to their already-demanding schedules. The goal by 2027 is to give every cadet a scholarship to help defray some of the cost of their educational experience.

## RICE CENTER FOR LEADER DEVELOPMENT

The Major General W. Thomas Rice Center for Leader Development is a key driver in the Corps' effort to equip cadets with leadership theory and allow them to research an array of leadership styles. Between now and 2027, private support will dramatically enhance the center's programming and its abil-



Cadets raise a Virginia Tech flag in front of the World War I Chateau-Thierry American Monument in France during their Global Scholars trip to study the decisive battles of World War I.



Regimental staff lead cadets in saluting the flag on a cold November morning.

ity to assess its effectiveness. Through additional staffing, the Rice Center will have the resources to expand its connections to Virginia Tech's colleges and programs and create new collaborative relationships. These partnerships will maximize the opportunities offered by Virginia Tech's research prowess.

## CORPS MUSEUM

History teaches cadets how they can better shape the future. The museum's mission is to capture, preserve, and bring to life leadership lessons with real-world artifacts that reflect the history and legacy of the Corps' graduates. The museum will serve as a source of reflection and gratitude for service for decades to come.

## GLOBAL SCHOLARS

Our study-abroad programs allow cadets to dissect the decisions made around the globe during times of war and conflict and then travel to the battlefields to experience the place and the modern culture surrounding it. Private support will allow the number of cadet participants to grow from dozens to hundreds each year. A powerful way to support tomorrow's

leaders is to expand the number of cadets who can explore countries around the world and gain a greater understanding of the context and global impact of all major conflicts. This type of international experience is vital to the Corps' role in growing the intellectual capital of the next generation.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

Our environment facilitates cadet leader development 24/7. A modern infrastructure and a well-equipped staff reinforce the Corps' commitment to cadets and demonstrates that what they are doing matters. Our buildings, current and future, will be designed to adapt to the changing needs of cadets, the ROTC units, and the Citizen-Leader Track program.

Today, tomorrow, and always, cadets will solve critical global issues, protect our freedoms, and be the silent leaders in our communities.

They follow in the footsteps of thousands of alumni, whose successes both large and small echo the enduring impact of the Corps' leader development program.

Join us. What will your footprint in leadership be?

**TODAY, TOMORROW, AND ALWAYS, CADETS WILL SOLVE CRITICAL GLOBAL ISSUES, PROTECT OUR FREEDOMS, AND BE THE SILENT LEADERS IN OUR COMMUNITIES.**

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS YEAR'S CORPS REUNION, SEPT. 13-14, INCLUDED THE GUNFIGHTER PANEL, FORMAL RETREAT, DINNER SPEAKERS, AND, OF COURSE, THE MARCH INTO LANE STADIUM TO START THE FOOTBALL GAME.



Participants in the fall Gunfighter Panel for cadets were (from left) U.S. Army Capt. Aaron Barragan '14, Steve Scarfe '90, and U.S. Army Maj. Jason Shick '07.



Returning alumni gather for the Friday afternoon formal retreat ceremony on Upper Quad.



After the flag is lowered, cadets stand at order arms.



The reunion dinners provide alumni with an opportunity to catch up.



David Lowe '63 addresses alumni during the Saturday evening dinner.



Alumni work on their guidon skills outside Lane Stadium. Photo by Mike Diersing.



Alumni line up at the southeast tunnel into Lane Stadium to await their entrance onto the field. Photo by Cadet Charlie Alexander '20.



On the field, alumni line up by company alongside today's cadets. Photo by Cadet Charlie Alexander '20.



Cadets enjoy breakfast with their scholarship donors. Photo by Lauren Zuchowski '20.

# CLASS NOTES

## 1970s



**Johann Richard Kinsey H-'77** was promoted to the rank of major general in the Texas State Guard, Adjutant General's Department. Kinsey is currently serving as the commanding general of the Air Component Command. Photo by Cotton Puryear.



**Ronald C. Daughtrey '79** retired after 40 years as an agricultural education teacher in Suffolk (Virginia) Public Schools. He taught at Forest Glen and Lakeland high schools.

## 1980s



**Brig. Gen. Walt Mercer C-'85** (at right) retired with over 35 years of

combined Army and Army National Guard military service in July 2018. Senior Virginia National Guard leaders, family, and friends gathered for his retirement ceremony at the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond, Virginia. He was presented with the Distinguished Service Medal by Maj. Gen. Tim Williams HT-'84 (at left). Mercer's final assignment from 2014 to 2018 was as the assistant adjutant general -Army, responsible for the leadership, training, and readiness of all Army National Guard forces in the Commonwealth of Virginia. He continues to serve in a civilian position as the chief operations officer for the Virginia Department of Military Affairs in Richmond.



**Dawn (Shook) Jones '87** and Bruce Jones adopted an 11-year old girl, Anastasiya, to their family in January.

## 1990s

**Col. Kelly Dickerson '95** earned his master's degree in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College. Dickerson is chief operating officer at Katabat in Alexandria, Virginia, and brigade commander for the 308th Civil Affairs Brigade of the U.S. Army Reserve.

## 2000s

Air Force **Lt. Col. Nick "Warble" DeFazio '01** accepted command of the Air Combat Command Air Operations Squadron (AOS), Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia, from Maj. Gen. Kevin



Huyck. The AOS is the sole entity controlling global deployment of multi-service/allied fighter aircraft to deploy forces safely and efficiently. DeFazio is a command pilot with over 2,700 flight hours, primarily in the A-10A/C as an instructor pilot, as well as an Adversary Air instructor pilot and flight evaluator in the T-38. He has flown 586 combat hours in Afghanistan, as well as numerous peace-keeping missions over the demilitarized zone in the Republic of Korea.



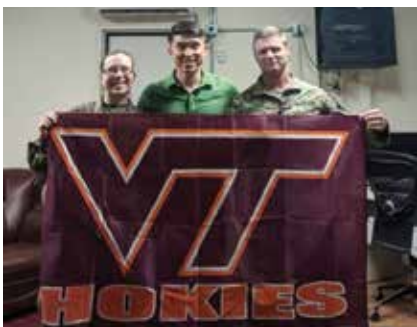
**Daniel Maine '07** (at right) was promoted to U.S. Navy lieutenant commander in December 2017 on board the decommissioned battleship USS Wisconsin. On May 6, he assumed the

admin department head position at the VQ-3 Ironman Squadron at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma. He is currently flying with the Navy attachment known as TACAMO. Photo by Kathryn Sutter Photography.

## 2010s



In his travels on the way to be a strategic weapons officer, **Lt. Mike May HT-'10** came across a USS Maryland (Gold) SSBN-738 crew that included three Hokies. Pictured (from left) are May, Lt. Roger Terry VT'09, **Lt. j.g. Jesse McDarris '17**, and Lt. Nathan Whitelaw VT'08.



Corps alumni deployed to Bagram, Afghanistan, include (from left) **Capt. Leigh Wilson '12**, **Capt. George Hogg '10**, and Sgt. Patrick Shaffer. Wilson provides intelligence support to information operations, and Hogg and Shaffer are with the 75th Ranger Regiment.



**Andy George '15** was promoted to captain in May, and he and wife, Air Force **1st Lt. Erika George '16**, are currently assigned to Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Captain George is with the Army's 101st Airborne Division, and 1st Lt. George is assigned to the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment.



**Tim Rackowski '15** and **Katelyn Margraf '16** were married Aug. 31 in Manassas, Virginia.



Air Force **1st Lt. Garrett Treaster '16** was deployed to northern Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel with the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing.



**1st Lt. Case Schiefer '16** and Kelsey Paine were married Sept. 7 in Charlottesville, Virginia. Case is a field artillery officer currently stationed at Fort Hood, Texas.



Army 2nd Lt. Jake Jenkins '18 (at left) and 2nd Lt. Chase Duncan '17 proudly represent Hokies in Iraq



Hokies going through naval aviation training at Pensacola Naval Air Station, Florida, and celebrating several of their group starting "primary" flight training are (from left) Amelia Gifford, Bradley Gifford '17, Benjamin "Beau" Nickerson '18, Robert Cale '18, Nick Padgett, Thomas Fogwell '18, Nick Huffman '18,



Kevin Byerly '18, Lindsey Bittinger '18, Claire Blume '18, Daniel Kamman, Josh Monteville '18, and Reagan Stromback.



Six of the Corps of Cadets' Army ROTC cadets recently trained with the 1st Battalion, 509th (Airborne) at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, Louisiana. Cadets were given leadership opportunities and fought alongside the battalion against the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd



(Airborne). The high-paced training afforded a brief link up with the center operations group's Corps alumni, including (from left) Capt. Andrew Kirschak '09, Cadet Andrew Humpton '20, Cadet Jacob Withers '22, Cadet Garrett Lyons '22, Cadet Brandon Haraldsen '20, Cadet Joseph LaBianca '20, Cadet Devon Seville '22, and Lt. Col. Scott Porter '00.

*Send your news and photos to us via our online form at [vtcc.vt.edu/classnotes](http://vtcc.vt.edu/classnotes).*

# NEW CORPS SUPPORT

## COL. CRAIG J. ALIA



Col. Craig Alia

U.S. Army Col. Craig J. Alia (retired) became deputy commandant for 1st Battalion in October.

He is a native of Saddle Brook, New Jersey, and was commissioned in 1992 upon graduation from the United States Military Academy.

Alia has served in command and staff positions. His deployments include Korea, Bosnia, and four deployments to

Afghanistan. He most recently commanded 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, where he deployed the unit to Afghanistan and changed command in theater. His last post was as the chief of staff for the Future Vertical Lift-Cross Functional Team.

Alia is a graduate of Initial Entry Rotary Wing Course; Aviation Officer Basic and Advanced Course; Maintenance Managers Course; Command and General Staff College; School of Advanced Military Studies; and the Naval War College. He has earned three master's degrees as well as the Senior Aviator Badge, the Senior Parachutist Badge, the Air Assault Badge, and the Combat Action Badge.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, the Joint Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal (with "V" device), and the Joint Service Commendation Medal among other awards.

He has been married to his wife, Darla, for 27 years and they have three children.

Command Sgt. Major Dan Willey remains the 1st Battalion senior enlisted advisor.

## LT. COL. DON RUSSELL

While not new to the Corps staff, U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Don Russell (retired) does have a new position as





Lt. Col. Don Russell

the deputy commandant for 2nd Battalion. Russell had been deputy commandant for the Citizen-Leader Track program, also known as VPI

Battalion, since 2012.

Master Gunnery Sgt. Lance Jones remains the 2nd Battalion senior enlisted advisor.

Jason Oberoi '09 is overseeing the Citizen-Leader Track program, where he's been the assistant director since 2006. The search for a new deputy commandant will begin in the spring.

## CAPT. JAMES P. MCGRATH III '90



Capt. Jamie McGrath '90

U.S. Navy Capt. Jamie McGrath '90 (retired) became deputy commandant for 3rd Battalion in September.

He graduated cum laude from

Virginia Tech in 1990 with a bachelor's degree in history and was commissioned through Naval ROTC. He holds a master's degree in national security and strategic studies with distinction from the Naval War College and a master's degree in military history from Norwich University.

He is a nuclear-trained surface warfare officer who served on a variety of ships from frigates to carriers in operations and engineering positions, cul-

minating in his command of Maritime Expeditionary Security Squadron 7 in Guam from 2006 to 2009. He completed his final at-sea assignment as assistant reactor officer aboard USS Harry S Truman (CVN 75) in 2012.

Ashore, he taught at Naval Nuclear Power School from 1995 to 1997. After completing his sea tours, he served as the Liaison for Naval Forces Europe to U.S. European Command in Stuttgart, Germany, where he was designated as a Joint Qualified Officer.

He then was chief, Joint Exercise Division, Deputy Directorate for Joint Training, on the Joint Staff J7, in Suffolk, Virginia, where he led development of the Chairman's Globally Integrated Exercise program. He finished his 29-year naval career in 2019 as a military professor in joint military operations at the Naval War College.

He is married to the former Kirsten Clos '90 of Glenview, Illinois. They have two grown children, Abigail '16 and Samuel.

Sgt. Maj. David Combs remains the 3rd Battalion senior enlisted advisor.

## TATUM ISENBERGER



Tatum Isenberger

she spent seven years as the regional major gifts officer for the National Audubon Society and as a major gifts officer at both Duke University and Drexel University.

She has a bachelor's degree in sec-

Tatum Isenberger joins the Corps' advancement team as the associate director of development. Previously,

she spent seven years as the

regional major gifts officer for the National Audubon Society and as a major gifts officer at both Duke University and Drexel University.

ondary education from Missouri State University and a master's degree in communication and marketing from Drury University.

## JENNIFER BROGAN

Jennifer Brogan is the scholarship and donor stewardship coordinator for the Corps' advancement team. She is responsible for all Corps scholarships and all donor stewardship activities, such as the Caldwell March thank you letters and the annual Donor Breakfast.

Before coming to the Corps, she spent three years with the Virginia Tech Office of Financial Aid and before that the Virginia Tech Office of Veterans Affairs.

## ERIC TYSOR

Eric Tysor is the Corps of Cadets' development associate and joined the Corps' advancement team in August. Tysor moved to Blacksburg in 2004 with his wife, Christine, who then was a Navy helicopter pilot (CH-46D Sea Knight). Before coming to the Corps, he was the marketing coordinator for Meridian Bird Removal in Christiansburg.

He compiles data and coordinates the logistical arrangements for donor, alumni, stakeholder mailings, and engagement activities.

## MEAGHAN SULLIVAN

Meaghan Sullivan is the residential learning coordinator for the Corps of Cadets. Sullivan serves the Corps as a liaison and advocate to Housing and Residence Life, provides support and connections to academic and co-curricular resources on and off campus, and assists in cadet leader training, including commander residential advisor training.

# NEVER PASS UP THE OPPORTUNITY TO SAY SOMETHING

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

The title of this article runs counter to a principal that years ago was once pretty standard fare for young officers, “Never pass up the opportunity to say *nothing*.”

Well, when it comes to talking about the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets, we should all, young and not so young, violate that principal at every opportunity. This article was written in early November, and the college fair season in Virginia was coming to a close. The chance to catch large numbers of high school students at these events has passed.

While I might be glad for a break from evening travel to college fairs, I already miss the opportunity to talk about the Corps. So what is a recruiter to do when there are no easy ways to reach large audiences of high school students?

The answer came a few weeks ago in a conversation with Tom Beam '73, a friend and fellow director on the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni board. He made the excellent point that when we can't talk directly to potential cadets, we talk about the Corps to groups of successful mentors who then spread our message to the young people in their lives.

Furthermore, we gradually eliminate a problem that tracks back to the 1960s, namely that when asked about military colleges in Virginia, everybody thinks about that school in Lexington. The growing future of the Corps is becoming better known, and I'd like to see us accelerate that change — no longer should the Corps be the best-kept secret in Virginia!

Beam is an avid speaker and involved in numerous civic and business organizations — think Rotary Clubs, Lions Clubs, Ruritan Clubs, Kiwanis Clubs, Chambers of Commerce, business roundtables, etc. He is also using two excellent video clips of



New cadets practice their rifle drill during this year's New Cadet Week training.

the Corps that are available on the Corps' YouTube channel.

The clip he opens his talk with a clip titled “The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets (2:05).” The body of his talk highlights some of the recent achievements of the cadets and the Corps as a whole.

He then describes the training that new cadets undergo from the time they matriculate until classes at Virginia Tech begin the following week, and closes his talk with a video clip titled “NCW 2019 Class of 2023” that shows New Cadet Week training. As you might guess, Beam routinely fields questions from his audiences following his talk.

I suggest that all of us could scan the most recent issues of the Corps Review for noteworthy cadet and Corps accomplishments. These accomplishments, coupled with the video clips mentioned above and our personal endorsement of the Corps, would make a powerful presentation for the civic and business organizations that many of us associate with.

And for military alums (retired and those still serving), we could deliver a Corps talk at an upcoming Military Officers Association of America chapter meeting. It's a great way to level the playing field with the service academies and those other senior military colleges.

*Ut Prosim!*

SENIOR CADET COMMANDERS, FALL 2019



REGIMENTAL COMMANDER **JUSTIN CLIPSON**

Cadet Col. Justin Clipson is pursuing a dual degree in Russian and international studies with a focus in national security and foreign policy. He plans to commission as an intelligence officer in the U.S. Air Force upon graduation. In the Corps of Cadets, he has held multiple leadership

positions, including the 1st Battalion sergeant major and the regimental command sergeant major. He has received a Corps' Emerging Leader Scholarship, as well as a Project GO scholarship that funded a study abroad to study Russian in Latvia between his sophomore and junior years.



FIRST BATTALION COMMANDER **NELSON DEMAREST**

Cadet Lt. Col. Nelson Demarest is pursuing a degree in civil engineering. Upon graduation, he will attend the U.S. Navy Officer Candidate School to commission as a civil engineer officer.

In the Corps, he served as the Delta Company first sergeant, 1st Battalion sergeant major, and then as the 1st Battalion commander. He is the recipient of an Emerging Leader Scholarship.



SECOND BATTALION COMMANDER **RUDOLPH LEVINSKI**

Cadet Lt. Col. Rudolph Levinski is pursuing a degree in industrial and systems engineering with a minor in leadership studies. Upon graduation, he intends to apply for the Marine Officer

Candidates School. In the Corps, he has served as the Golf Company first sergeant and as the VPI Battalion sergeant major. He is a recipient of an Emerging Leader Scholarship.



THIRD BATTALION COMMANDER **ISAAC PATTERSON**

Cadet Lt. Col. Isaac Patterson is pursuing degrees in international studies and Russian. Upon graduation, he will commission as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps and report

to The Basic School in Quantico, Virginia. In 2018, he served as the regimental bugler and first sergeant for Band Company. He is the recipient of an Emerging Leader Scholarship.

*Note to readers: Because the Corps of Cadets changed its process on portrait photography this year, some of the Quad Angle photos were taken during the cadets' junior year.*

## COMMAND STAFF, FALL 2019



Regimental Executive Officer  
Meredith Oakes  
International Studies and  
Russian  
Army



Regimental Adjutant  
Charlie Young  
Business Information  
Technology  
Army



Regimental Public Affairs  
Officer  
Lauren Zuchowski  
Political Science  
Air Force



Regimental Operations Officer  
Mason Fitzsimmons  
Aerospace Engineering  
Air Force



Regimental Supply and Finance  
Officer  
Joseph LaBianca  
National Security and Foreign  
Affairs  
Army



Regimental Academics Officer  
Cyrus Unvala  
Electrical Engineering  
Citizen-Leader Track



Regimental Sergeant Major  
Mame Ngom  
Political Science  
Air Force



Regimental IG  
Julissa Rios  
Animal and Poultry Sciences  
Army



Honor Court Chief Justice  
Ross Millner  
Business Information  
Technology  
Army



Regimental Alumni Liaison  
Officer  
Nyaima Brackner  
Russian  
Citizen-Leader Track



VPI Battalion Commander  
Elizabeth McGuiggan  
Geography  
Citizen-Leader Track



Army Battalion Commander  
Taylor Lacroix  
Construction Engineering  
Management  
Army



Navy Battalion Commander  
Evan Dixon  
Physics  
Navy



Air Force Wing Commander  
Sydney Tinker  
National Security and Foreign  
Affairs  
Air Force



Regimental Growley Handler  
Zach Harding  
Meteorology  
Navy



Alpha Company Commander  
Dominic Castelli  
Mathematics  
Navy



Bravo Company Commander  
Tom Kosar  
Political Science  
Navy



Charlie Company  
Commander  
John Russell  
Mining Engineering  
Marines



Delta Company  
Commander  
Caroline Sullivan  
Psychology  
Citizen-Leader Track



Echo Company Commander  
Jacob Gray  
Economics  
Army



Foxtrot Company Commander  
Delaney McQuade  
Meteorology  
Air Force



Golf Company Commander  
Peter Rhodes  
Management  
Army



Hotel Company Commander  
Jack Cunningham  
Accounting  
Marines



India Company Commander  
Luis Marin  
Meteorology  
Navy



Kilo Company Commander  
Ryan Exner  
Criminology  
Air Force



Lima Company Commander  
Thomas Shanahan  
Psychology  
Marines



Band Commander  
Mariah Zwirb  
Economics  
Citizen-Leader Track



Band Alpha Commander  
Matthew Cooper  
Computer Science  
Air Force



Band Bravo Commander  
David Martin  
Aerospace Engineering  
Navy



Drum Major  
Wyatt McCranie  
National Security and Foreign  
Affairs  
Citizen-Leader Track

# FOCUS ON PHILANTHROPY: WHY I GIVE

By Capt. Sally (Chin) McElwreath Callo, U.S. Navy (retired)

When asked about my brother Richard Chin '59, I tell of a life that fascinates — truly an American story — and Virginia Tech is a crucial chapter.

Let me illuminate. There were the four siblings: Richard, the oldest; Robert; Arthur; and me. We lived in New York's Chinatown — in an apartment with hot and cold running water and indoor plumbing. We also lived on a farm in New Jersey that didn't have those amenities. Our father was a farmer who grew Chinese vegetables, which he supplied to New York's Chinatown. We lived on the farm during the spring and summer growing season and in the city during fall and winter.

That meant we went to two different schools each year: September to January in New York; February through June in New Jersey. Sometimes, we were in one grade in New Jersey and a different grade in New York in the same year. Not conducive to consistent learning!

As the oldest, Richard lived the life our parents expected of him. Our mother and father were both immigrants from China. And as first born, Richard took his responsibilities seriously and carried out our parents' wishes to the very end. He cared for us as a parent would. While at the farm, starting at 8 or 9 years old, he would go to school, then come home and work in the fields until 6 p.m. At 11 years old, he taught my 9-year-old brother, Robert, how to drive a truck and a tractor. He was incredibly responsible, not because he was told to be, but because as the eldest son it was expected of him.

In 1948, my parents decided that my



The Chin family circa 1947, from left, Sally, Jean, Robert, Richard, and Toon.

two older brothers should experience the culture of their ancestry, and they sent Richard and Robert to China to attend middle school. Off they went to China, first by cross-country train to California, then across the Pacific Ocean by ship.

The boys were on their own in school in Canton; Richard was still responsible for Robert and getting the most out of the opportunity of being in China. But after only three months, there was word of a Communist invasion. The boys



Richard Chin '59 graduated with a degree in construction management and was commissioned into the U.S. Army. He served with the 82nd Airborne and the 1st Armored Division as a helicopter pilot and attained the rank of captain. Following his military service, he joined the Honeywell Corporation.

had to escape. They managed to board a train to Hong Kong, get on a ship, cross the Pacific to San Francisco, and board a train to New York. Richard was in charge. He was 13; Robert was 11.

And that's not all. Upon returning to New York, and entering high school, Richard determined that he could no longer split his school year. He had to stay in one high school to the finish. It was also decided that I, too, should stay in one school.

The result was that Richard, at age 13, and I, at 8 years old, lived alone during the school year in New York City. He was totally responsible for me.

It was expected that Richard would go to a local college, but having had so

much responsibility for so many years, he received permission to go away to a college recommended by a cousin.

At Virginia Tech, my brother's life took a turn that enabled him to be freed from family obligations, and the prior years of leadership and responsibility prepared him to take advantage of what Virginia Tech offered.

He particularly cherished his time in the Corps of Cadets, and as usual, he excelled in that aspect of his time at the university.

He led the elite Pershing Rifles drill team (now the Gregory Guard) and had a record of excellence. He learned to fly, he had the camaraderie of fellow cadets, and he learned and led. His time there

prepared him for the future. Many of his classmates became lifelong friends.

After graduation, he served with distinction in the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne and then in the 1st Armored Division as a helicopter pilot in Korea. He then worked for Honeywell at its New York headquarters and in Italy.

As Richard's family, we want to thank him for his loving care by helping Virginia Tech to continue to nurture people like him. Naming the Operations Center in the soon-to-be built Corps Leadership and Military Science building for Richard, contributing to the Commandant's Priorities Fund, and a legacy donation are perfect thank you's to both Richard and Virginia Tech.

# WHAT WAS A ROOTER?

By Samantha Riggin VT'16, Corps museum curator

In the 1896 Bugle yearbook, there is a club named The Rooters.

A curious group, their motto was “Root, Hog, or Die,” cadet members had titles such as Great Hog, Recording Hog, Hog of Finance, or shoat. Similar to the term “rat,” a shoat was a baby hog — a newbie.

The year 1896 is a turning point in Virginia Tech’s history. The college’s name changed from Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College to Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College and State University, one mouthful exchanged for another. It was also the year the college adopted the official colors of Chicago maroon and burnt orange, replacing the black and gray “prisoner” uniforms of the football team.

The Rooters of 1898’s motto, “Yell, Yell, Yell like Hell!” was lighter

than the previous, but what did a group of foraging pigs have to do with the college? What role did those potential pork chops fill for the school?

In June, I received a call from Page Herbert '55, who told me about a jersey he had that belonged to his grandfather Paul Hobday '1898. The jersey is maroon and orange, and Herbert couldn't quite figure out why his grandfather had it.

The jersey was striped like jerseys worn by the football team in the 1898 Bugle, but Hobday had been much too small to be a member of the football team. Herbert couldn't find mention of his grandfather in the Bugle.

It turns out that in 1898, Hobday was a shoat in The Rooters, a precursor to today's Esprit de Corps cadet spirit squad. I still don't know why they chose pigs as their logo.

What makes Hobday's jersey an important, historical artifact for the Corps of Cadets and the university is that after research and deduction, I concluded that Hobday's jersey was produced either in late 1896 or 1897, making it one of the earliest examples of the use of Chicago maroon and burnt orange in Virginia Tech's history.

In fact, neither the athletic department nor special collections has anything similar from the earliest era of our proud colors.

The jersey is in archival storage until the Corps Museum opens inside the soon-to-be-built Corps Leadership and Military Science Building. Although Herbert cherished the jersey, he chose to donate it to the Corps Museum.

It has come home.



Page Herbert '55 donated to the Corps Museum this jersey that belonged to his grandfather Paul Hobday 1898.





Cadets, special guests, and members of the Fox family listen to the speakers during the second annual Col. Fox: The Man Behind the Medal lecture. Photo by Cadet Lauren Zuchoswki '20.

## CADETS HEAR FROM DIVERSE SPEAKERS

By Elaine Humphrey, director, Major General W. Thomas Rice Center for Leader Development

To remember and honor the late Col. Wesley Fox, the Major General W. Thomas Rice Center for Leader Development hosted the second annual Col. Fox: The Man Behind the Medal dinner and lecture for the first-year cadets on Sept. 30.

His widow, Dotti Lu Fox, was joined by two of her daughters and a granddaughter. The panelists were Gen. John Sheehan (retired), Lt. Gen. George Smith Jr., and Col. Mick Davis (retired).

Commandant of Cadets Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart moderated, and panel members shared personal and professional stories of their time with Col. Fox, a Medal of Honor recipient, U.S. Marine, and former deputy commandant. The special evening concluded with

Virginia Delegates Chris Hurst and Nick Rush presenting a resolution to the Fox family the General Assembly passed.

First-year cadets read Fox's book, "Six Essential Elements of Leadership," for their Corps Lab to enhance their readiness for the class and contribute to the message that he serves as a role model of a 24/7 global, ethical leader.

The country and the Corps of Cadets will always be in his debt.

The Cutchins Leadership Lecture Series continued to offer cadets a diverse and relevant roster of speakers this fall. Jeffrey Rosen, president and CEO of the National Constitution Center; Herman Viola, a curator emeritus at the Smithsonian Institution; and Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. 1st Class Melvin Morris

(retired) spoke during this semester's Corps Labs. A select group of cadets then joined the commandant at dinner with each of our guests for quality time to interact and network.

The curriculum is advancing its work with cadets through learning objectives for every Corps Lab that focus on global leadership. Examples include sophomores attending the Camille A. Brown & Dancers performance at the Moss Arts Center and seniors participating in a lunch with Viola and American Indian students at the American Indian and Indigenous Community Center.

Such activities provide cadets with opportunities to engage with diverse cultures and thus be better prepared for their futures.

IT'S ALWAYS A GOOD TIME WHEN WE GET THE BAND BACK TOGETHER. HIGHTY-TIGHTY REUNION AND VIRGINIA TECH HOMECOMING WAS OCT. 19.



Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart (at left) reaches to touch the homecoming game ball being run across campus by cadets in Ranger Company.



To honor the class of 1969's induction into the Old Guard Society of Golden Alumni, the regiment held a pass in review on Oct. 18. Lt. Gen. Joseph Inge '69 (at left) speaks to cadets (at right) during the event.



Highty-Tighties held their reunion luncheon. During the event, Cadet Skyler Powell '22 receives the Jim Schaeffer Memorial Scholarship from Highty-Tighty Alumni President Chuck Rowell '72. Photos by Cadet Brooke Reese '21.





The Highty-Tighties march with precision through downtown Blacksburg during the homecoming parade. Photo by Cadet Victoria Ann '22.



Drum Major Lori Keck-Beach '92 leads the alumni band along Alumni Mall. Photo by Cadet Victoria Ann '22.



Foxtrot Company not only won the Corps of Cadets' homecoming banner competition, the company took second place overall in the parade's walker/banner category. Photo by Cadet Victoria Ann '22.



During the homecoming game, the Highty-Tighties perform alongside the alumni. Photos by Mike Diersing.



Hokie football players jump into the cadet sections in the South End Zone at the start of the Duke game.

## WHAT IMPACT WILL YOU HAVE ON THE CORPS?

By Sandi R. Bliss, chief advancement officer

AS WE OFFICIALLY ENTER A CAMPAIGN AT VIRGINIA TECH WHERE BOUNDLESS IMPACT IS THE THEME, I CANNOT IMAGINE AN IMAGE THAT EPITOMIZES THIS SENTIMENT MORE THAN THE HOKIE SPIRIT SHOWN ABOVE.

During my first football game at Virginia Tech, I was deeply touched when I saw how the players and cadets interacted. The impact on cadets and players is something they will carry with them the rest of their lives, a boundless impact. As you think about the impact you would like to have on the Corps of Cadets, we hope you will consider one of these options.

### WAYS TO GIVE

Endowments are a powerful investment in the future of the Corps. They provide a dependable, perpetual source of funding. Endowed gifts are invested, and each year, a percentage of the return is made available to the university to support critical Corps initiatives. The distribution amount is approved

by the Virginia Tech Foundation board each year. Endowments can be created with a minimum gift of \$100,000.

Special opportunity: We still have several naming opportunities in the new Corps Leadership and Military Sciences Building that begin at \$25,000.

Annual gifts of any amount can make an immediate impact. They can be made one time or arranged to be made on a convenient, recurring basis. Gifts to the Commandant's Priority Fund of \$500 or greater automatically sponsor a first-year cadet on the fall or spring Caldwell March. For end-of-the-year giving, please be sure your envelopes are postmarked by Dec. 31.

■ Give online at [givingto.vt.edu/corps](http://givingto.vt.edu/corps). PayPal, Venmo or making a re-occurring gift are now options.

■ Text to give to 51555 and reply VTCC.

You can also support the Corps in many other ways by donating:

■ Securities such as stocks, bonds, and mutual funds.

■ Real estate, including both present and future interests.

■ Gifts-in-kind of tangible property, such as works of art or historic memorabilia.

## IN MEMORY / IN HONOR

Scholarships, endowed positions, Corps facilities, or programs may be named after special individuals. Gifts may be made to honor a loved one or someone who inspires you.

## EMPLOYER MATCHING GIFTS

Many Corps donors are employed by companies that encourage donations to higher education. Donors who wish to support the Corps often can provide more substantial support with the as-

sistance of a matching company gift. Before making your gift, please check to see if your company provides matching contribution. Our matching gift web page at [givingto.vt.edu/match](http://givingto.vt.edu/match) can help you find out.

## GIFT PLANNING OPTIONS

If you are age 70 1/2 or older, consider using a charitable IRA rollover to make a gift that can count toward your required minimum distribution without it being taxed as income.

There also are many additional options for leaving a powerful, smart legacy through planned gifts to the Corps.

Are you interested in fixed income that could include avoidance of capital gains taxes? Are you looking for a way to use the best asset choices for gifts to family and the Corps? We encourage you to reach out to find out your options.

Some of these are:

■ Designating the Corps of Cadets as the beneficiary of a will, trust, retirement plan, or life insurance policy.

■ Utilizing a gift model such as a charitable gift annuity, charitable remainder annuity trust, charitable remainder unitrust, charitable lead trust, or IRA rollover.

■ Creating a Donor Advised Fund to maximize tax benefits now and recommend charitable gifts, possibly with family involvement, for many years to come.

## OTHER WAYS TO BE INVOLVED

■ Become a class champion for your classmates.

■ Help create a Cadet Internship opportunity at your company.

■ Host an alumni event at your home or a business you're connected to.

■ Most importantly, keep your contact information current.

*For more information about any of these opportunities, please contact the Corps of Cadets advancement team today at 540-231-2892 or [VTCC@vt.edu](mailto:VTCC@vt.edu). We're online at [vtcc.vt.edu/give](http://vtcc.vt.edu/give).*

# Virginia Tech Giving Day 2020 is March 18-19

Are you in? Mark your calendars to support the Corps of Cadets during Giving Day 2020 and join us for 24 hours of challenges and camaraderie with your Corps buds.

Here's how you can participate:

**Give.** It only takes \$5 to be counted as a participant for the Corps!

**Connect.** Update your contact information, come for a visit, provide an opportunity or experience for a cadet.

**Become an Ambassador.** Inspire others to support the Corps. Sign up at [givingday.vt.edu](http://givingday.vt.edu).

Email us at [vtcc@vt.edu](mailto:vtcc@vt.edu) for more information.



# ARMY ROTC NEWS

## WATER TRAINING BOOSTS CONFIDENCE FOR CADETS

By Cadet Jacob Braich '19

This summer, I attended Maritime Assessment Course (MAC) at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, followed by the Combat Diver Qualification Course (CDQC) in Key West, Florida.

MAC is two brutal weeks of physical fitness sessions followed by four hours in the pool focused on “water confidence” events. Each day concluded with a 3-kilometer open water swim.

CDQC is a Special Forces-run school that focuses on developing soldiers in the covert infiltration methods of combat diving, as well as over-the-beach, zodiac, helocasting, and scout swimmer operations.

My fondest memory of the school is helocasting training: jumping 10 feet to the water from a helicopter in flight made me feel like I was doing exactly what I joined the Army to do.

The toughest part of the summer was likely the pool training. We would conduct 60- to 90-minute PT sessions, then spend four to six hours in the pool being tested physically and mentally through treading water and timed underwater competency tests.

What I loved the most was the camaraderie and professionalism I saw from both my West Point peers and the Special Forces cadre. The biggest lesson I learned was to empower your subordinates and trust them.

Everyone there possessed considerably more military and general life experience than me, so I learned how to give each soldier a “left and right limit,” and together we were able to accomplish seemingly impossible tasks.



Cadet Jacob Braich '19 shows his Hokie spirit at the Combat Diver Qualification Course in Key West, Florida.



Braich watches another cadet exit the helicopter at Combat Diver Qualification Course.



Braich surfaces as two more cadets exit the helicopter.



At left: Cadet Trenton Snead '21 sits in his tank at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California. Above: Snead takes part in the U.S. Military Academy's Hacking for Defense program.

## PROGRAMS PROVIDE REALISTIC EXPERIENCES

*By Cadet Trenton Snead '21*

This summer, I was selected to participate in two exciting Army programs. First, I was embedded into an opposing force troop at the National Training Center, then I took part in a U.S. Military Academy program called Hacking for Defense.

I was assigned to an armor platoon in the 11th Armor Cavalry Regiment. I shadowed the platoon leader and learned about his job. I integrated into the platoon, conducted PT, and prepared to deploy to “the box,” where we would act as an adversary for a visiting unit.

At the field, I was assigned as a gunner in a tank named “Chad” alongside a sergeant first class tank commander and a private first class driver.

This program gave me the chance to experience some of the responsibilities I will hold as an officer and allowed me to work and see things from a junior enlisted perspective. I was glad I had the honor of working with Black Horse Regiment.

Later, I spent a week at West Point and a week in New York City for Hacking for Defense. The program featured a week of classroom instruction followed by a week of field experience in New York City.

I worked as a part of a team tasked with better equipping soldiers to protect themselves from commercially manufactured drones operated by our enemies. A commercially available, off-the-shelf drone that costs about \$400 represents a method of enemy surveillance and can be modified to injure troops. We contacted experts in the Army, as well as industry to learn more about commercial drone’s capabilities and to develop countermeasures against them.

During the program, I learned how to apply a problem-solving strategy to a specific problem and how to use creative solutions to bridge capability gaps in the Army.

“ I LEARNED HOW TO APPLY A PROBLEM-SOLVING STRATEGY TO A SPECIFIC PROBLEM AND HOW TO USE CREATIVE SOLUTIONS TO BRIDGE CAPABILITY GAPS IN THE ARMY.



Midshipmen fourth class from Delta Company practice proper hose technique with Blacksburg firefighters during a damage control lab.

# NAVAL ROTC NEWS

By Cadet Alex LaMagna '21

From retirements and static displays to service selection and summer cruise, 2019 has been an exceptional year for the Naval ROTC unit at Virginia Tech.

This fall, the Navy battalion facilitated the retirement of Cmdr. Jerry Burkette after 28 years of faithful service. Burkette was extraordinarily influential in the lives of Virginia Tech midshipmen, and the Navy battalion was deeply privileged to see him ashore for the final time.

Additionally, courtesy of U.S. Marine Corps Medium Tiltrotor Squadrons 263 and 264 at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, North Carolina, midshipmen were able to speak with Virginia Tech alumni pilots and view a static display of four MV-22B Ospreys,



Cmdr. Jerry Burkette (at right) stands with his family before going ashore one last time.

a heavy-lift tilt-rotor helicopter used by the Marine Corps as the primary assault support aircraft.

The battalion was also able to take advantage of flight simulators organized

by the Roanoke Marine Corps Officer Selection Office.

## SERVICE SELECTION

On Sept. 26, the first-class midshipmen learned their future warfare communities in a high-energy ceremony attended by Laura Belmonte, dean of Virginia Tech's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Over the next six months, Naval ROTC will commission 52 officers — the highest number in the nation — into the following warfare communities: one naval flight officer, three SEALs, five submarine officers, 12 pilots, 19 surface warfare officers, and 12 Marine Corps officers. The largest percentage, 36 percent, of midshipmen commissioning



this fall or coming spring were selected to serve as surface warfare officers, with three of them specializing in particular designations within the community, such as meteorology command and engineering duty officer.

Before they commission and enter the fleet, midshipmen aspiring to be surface warfare officers spend portions of their summer on summer cruise. These cruises involve daily interaction with both enlisted sailors and officers onboard ships performing real missions. A select few are able to attend foreign exchange cruises and participate in training with other navies allied to the United States and gain valuable experience and knowledge.

## MIDSHIPMEN WORK TO SHARPEN SKILLS

This fall, the Naval ROTC admitted a record number of first-year midshipmen, with over 120 new students joining the program. Although the new class may be large, these fourth-class midshipmen are better equipped than ever to build a strong foundation of discipline and leadership with the highly anticipated arrival of Command Senior Chief Shawn Fleming, the unit's first senior enlisted leader.

Those who complete their fourth-class year are given the opportunity to lead as they enter their sophomore years. Midshipmen third class become squad leaders, now not only responsible for themselves but for their shipmates' success in academics, physical fitness, professional and personal growth, and performance.

Junior year exposes second-class midshipmen to higher leadership and staff positions. Their decisions and performance directly affect their companies and the battalion as a whole.



Hanna Kobayashi '19 (at left) attended an exchange cruise with the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force aboard the JS Shimakaze. She was joined by other midshipmen from Kansas and Michigan.

These midshipmen are given the responsibility to plan operational training events, curate service projects, lead physical and professional development training, and implement morale events.

One of the initiatives they coordinated and executed this fall was a damage control training event assisted by the Blacksburg Fire Department. During one of the unit's professional development labs, midshipmen practiced shipboard firefighting skills. Naval officers tested the midshipmen on damage control techniques and scenarios to develop quick decision-making and personnel-management skills they will be expected to perform in the fleet.

First-class midshipmen are embarking on the final leg of their journey through the program. Senior year is a defining experience for many of them, midshipmen first class will serve as

company commanders, battalion staff, and, most importantly, mentors to peers and younger midshipmen. First-class midshipmen are fiercely committed and relied upon to fulfill the pivotal role of leading by example.

With years of experience under their belts, first-class midshipmen have a wealth of knowledge to offer and train the fourth-, third-, and second-class midshipmen as they prepare to embark on their Navy and Marine Corps careers.

After four to five years of mastering academics, physical fitness, military aptitude, and leadership skills and acumen, first-class midshipmen will be put to the test in the fleet. Regardless of service and community selection, they will all represent Naval ROTC and carry the spirit of Virginia Tech — *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve) — over land, air and sea throughout their careers.



Cadet Mark Wolter '20 enjoys the view during his eight-week trip to Latvia through Project GO.

## AIR FORCE ROTC NEWS

The fall semester has been a busy one for Detachment 875.

Right from the get go, the detachment welcomed 120 new freshmen and transfer students from countries around the world, such as Italy and Brazil. Of those 120 new cadets, 43 earned a high school scholarship through Air Force ROTC (AFROTC).

Detachment 875 also welcomed four new cadre members: Maj. Ian Chesley, Capt. Brad Pruitt, Capt. Lucas Adams '13, and Technical Sgt. DaVon McCoy.

Cadet Sydney Tinker '20, the cadet wing commander, has been leading the 290+ cadets through a reorganization of the cadet wing with ease. This reorga-

nization has increased training opportunities for cadets at all levels. Her goal throughout this semester is for every cadet to “remember that every day we are earning the right to one day lead airmen, and up to that day, it is our duty to tirelessly train and strive for excellence in all we do.”

### SUMMER TRAINING

Over the summer, several cadets took advantage of programs offered by AFROTC in order to strive for excellence. Cadet Djamila Lou '19, earned her private pilot's license through the Aviation Experience Scholarship. She was one of 48 cadets selected from across the nation

to earn their license and have it fully funded by AFROTC.

Cadet Colleen Pramenko '19, a meteorology major, served as a research assistant at the Air Force Institute of Technology, working with the 45th Space Swing at Cape Canaveral, Florida. As part of her internship, she traveled to Florida to watch Space X's historic launch. Furthermore, she was able to observe the chief launch meteorologist working through the launch criteria to provide the “go” for launch.

Cadet Mark Wolter '20 and 15 other cadets participated in the Department of Defense's Project Global Officer program. These cadets spent eight weeks

studying critical languages in places such as Kenya, Latvia, and Morocco. Wolter said, "After participating in the program, my knowledge of the Russian language, as well as the area that comprises the former Soviet Union, has increased significantly."

Detachment 875 also had several cadets selected for some prestigious opportunities in the Air Force. Cadet Dylan Michaud '19 was selected as a tactical air control party officer after making it through the intense physical, mental, and technical process.

Likewise, Cadets Brett Smith '19 and Carson McKay '19 were selected to attend the coveted Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training Program in Wichita Falls, Texas. It is the world's only multi-nationally manned and managed flying training program chartered to produce combat pilots for NATO. Congratulations to these cadets!

## SEMESTER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

At the beginning of the semester 66 cadets traveled to the Air Force Marathon. Cadet Andrew Bonavita '21, who is currently participating in the U.S. Air Force Academy Cadet Exchange Program, ran the half marathon in 1:24:55 placing 25th overall!

Sophomore cadets began their preparation for field training by practicing their marching, problem-solving skills, and memorizing warrior knowledge. They are working hard, and the detachment continues to expect 100 percent of eligible cadets to attend field training this summer.



Cadet Djamila Lou '19 flies over Florida.

Finally, on Sept. 24, Cmdr. Alex C. Rucker was inducted into the Aviation Wall of Fame. Rucker graduated from Virginia Tech in 1965 and commissioned into the Navy, where he stayed for 20 years.

After retiring, he flew as a commer-

cial pilot for American Airlines for 17 years. Rucker was an inspiration to listen to and couldn't be a more deserving inductee into the Aviation Wall of Fame.

What a great time to be a Hokie in Detachment 875!

NOMINATE A VIRGINIA TECH ALUMNUS FOR THE 2020 AVIATION WALL OF FAME HONORS AT AF.VT.EDU.

# SIX ALUMNI ADDED TO THE PYLONS

By Shay Barnhart, communications director, Corps of Cadets

On Nov. 15, Virginia Tech dedicated the engraving of six new names to the War Memorial Pylons. Five were killed during the Vietnam War era, and the sixth died in an October training exercise.

They are Tech Sgt. Peter Kraines VT'10, Sgt. William E. Hawkins VT'71, Maj. Norman R. Hurst '52, Spc. Fletcher L. Lewis VT'65, Lt. j.g. William L. Sloop '67, and 2nd Lt. Jerry W. Smith '72.

Kraines, who earned a degree in marketing, enlisted in the U.S. Air Force after graduation and was serving as a special tactics pararescueman with the 24th Special Operations Wing. He died Oct. 8 from injuries suffered in a training incident while performing mountain rescue techniques in Boise, Idaho.

The remaining five men were added as the result of a call this past spring for any servicemen or women whose names were believed missing from the Pylons. The memorial bears the names of students and alumni who died defending our nation's freedom, beginning with those lost during World War I.

Hawkins attended the university from the fall 1967 through



Five names were added to the Honor Pylon. The sixth was added to the Ut Prosim Pylon. Photos by Cadet Lauren Zuchowski '20.

fall 1968 to study biology and animal science. He died on May 26, 1970, while serving in the U.S. Army as a medic with the 326th Medical Battalion, 101st Airborne Division. During a rescue and recovery mission, his helicopter was struck by a rocket-propelled grenade in Thua Thien Province, Vietnam.

Hurst graduated from the university in 1952 with a degree in animal husbandry and went on to be a combat pilot in the U.S. Air Force, flying some 90 missions in North Vietnam. He died Sept. 15, 1969, while serving as an instructor pilot with the 4457 Combat Crew Training Squadron at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona. His aircraft caught fire during a training exercise.

Lewis attended the university from fall 1961 through spring 1966 to study physics and chemistry. He was killed while serving in the Army with the 199th Light Infantry Brigade in Gia Dinh, Vietnam, on Jan. 31, 1968, as the result of hostile fire.

Sloop earned his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering 1967. He died Aug. 21, 1969, while serving in the U.S.



A family member of Maj. Norman R. Hurst '52 removes the piece of tape to reveal his name on the Honor Pylon.

Navy with Attack Squadron 44 at Naval Air Station Cecil Field, Florida. During advanced pilot training, his aircraft was involved in a mid-air collision.

Smith graduated with a degree in civil engineering in 1972. He died Jan. 23, 1974, while serving in the Air Force with the 550th Tactical Fighter Training Squadron at Luke Air Force Base. His plane crashed during a ground attack training mission.

In November 2018, the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors passed a resolution to create a policy on adding names to the war memorial. The action formalized the long-standing tradition held by the Corps of Cadets as the guardians of the Pylons. To be added, a person must:



The Gregory Guard fires a rifle salute at the end of the ceremony.

- Be an alumnus of Virginia Tech. The Virginia Tech Alumni Association defines an alumnus as a person who attended the university for at least one academic year (two semesters or three quarters).

- Die in the line of duty while serving in the U.S. military during a war or state of conflict designated by Congress.

Adding a name to the Pylons is a lengthy and collaborative process. Verifications of enrollment, death, and military records confirming a line-of-duty death must be made before the commandant of cadets and the vice president for alumni relations sign off on the addition.

IN MEMORY



**CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS KRAFT JR. '44**

**1924 - 2019**

Christopher Kraft Jr. died July 22. He entered Virginia Tech in 1941. He began his career at the aerospace firm Chance Vought before joining Langley Aeronautical Laboratory of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, the precursor of NASA. In 1958, he joined the Space Task Group charged with putting America's first person in space. He served as flight director for all Mercury and Gemini programs until Gemini 7, then began preparing for the Apollo program. He served in mission control positions and as Johnson Space Center director until his retirement in 1982. He is survived by his wife, Betty Anne, and their daughter and son.



**JAMES MICHAEL BACOS '47**

**1927 - 2018**

James Bacos died June 6, 2018. A native of Brooklyn, New York, he attended VPI before being called to active service in World War II. He returned to VPI, earned his degree in biology, then graduated from medical school before being called back to active service in the U.S. Air Force. He later completed his medical studies. He was assigned to Lackland Air Force Base, where he served as chief of the cardiac lab until his discharge in 1963. During his civilian career, he was a professor, a researcher, and an innovator in cardiac care before going into private practice. He is survived by his wife, Arny; a daughter; and two sons.



**PRESTON HARWOOD ANDREWS '50**

**1928 - 2018**

Preston H. Andrews died July 21, 2018. He was a graduate of VPI. He served as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He married Jane P. Andrews, who preceded him in death. He was a former planning manager for BGF Industries. He served as president of the Petersburg-Hopewell (Virginia) Chamber of Commerce, president of the Altavista YMCA board of directors, treasurer at Altavista Presbyterian Church and treasurer of the Avoca Museum. He is survived by his wife, Ann Weeks Burgess Andrews; one step-daughter; and one step-son.



**WILLIAM WARD MOSELEY '51**

**1930 - 2019**

William "Bill" Ward Moseley died July 23 at the age of 89. Four days later, his wife of 36 years, Patricia, also died. After earning a degree in architecture from Virginia Tech, he went to work in Richmond, Virginia, where he eventually started his own firm, Moseley Architects. He received many architectural honors, including Virginia Small Businessperson of the Year in 1983. After retirement, he pursued his love of painting and enjoyed a second award-winning career as an artist. A past president of the Virginia Tech Alumni Association, he loved all things Virginia Tech, especially football season. He is survived by two sons.

## IN MEMORY



### BRADLEY WARNER DAY '52

1929 - 2019

Bradley Warner Day died on May 21. While at Virginia Tech, he was first chair clarinet of the Highty-Tighties. He graduated with a degree in business. He proudly served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean Conflict from 1952-1953. He also worked for 38 years at Sikorsky Aircraft. He was active in civil defense helping prepare municipalities for natural and wartime disasters. He was a distance runner and competitive badminton player. His loving wife of 60 years, Winnifred, recently predeceased him in death. He is survived by a daughter.



### IRBY NOAH HOLLANS JR. '53

1930 - 2019

Irby Noah Hollans Jr. died April 1. He was an Eagle Scout and heavily involved in the Virginia Tech radio station WUVT, rebuilding it after it caught fire. He graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in business. He commissioned into the U.S. Air Force and eventually retired from the Reserves in 1972 with the rank of major. He worked for and served on several community organizations, clubs, and trade associations. He was married to the late Frances Cox for 60 years. Survivors include a daughter and two sons.



### WILLIAM THOMSON HOECK '54

1932 - 2019

William "Bill" Hoeck died March 20. He grew up in the Washington, D.C., area. He earned his degree in mechanical engineering from VPI and was a member of the German Club. He served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps until 1957 and in the Reserves until 1962. After active duty, he worked for Allis-Chalmers and then started Inland Material Handling before retiring in 2003. He was an avid golfer and was proud of his sailboat, the Hokie Hi. Survivors include his two children.



### PERRY ALLAN NEWMAN '58

1936 - 2019

Perry Newman died Sept. 30. He graduated from Virginia Tech with a bachelor's degree in physics and master's degree in nuclear engineering before completing his tour of duty as an ordnance officer in the U.S. Army. After joining NASA at the Langley Research Center, he returned to Virginia Tech to obtain a doctorate in physics. He retired from NASA in 2004 after more than 43 years of government service. Survivors include his wife of 63 years, Patricia; a daughter; and three sons.



## **JAMES LEE ALESHIRE '59**

**1937 - 2019**

James "Jim" Aleshire died July 3. He was a Bronze Eagle Scout and a member of the Virginia State Orchestra (Award Band) in 1954. At Virginia Tech, he was a member of the Highty-Tighties. He matriculated with the class of 1959, but left school to marry his first wife, Patricia, who died in 1979, and to join the Army, where he played trumpet in the 80th Division Army Band and later in the National Guard Band. After working in management positions, he completed his degree in 1969 in industrial arts education. He retired in 1993 as senior general foreman for Norfolk Southern Corp. Surviving are his wife, Sue; a daughter; and two sons.



## **DONALD ROY BARRANS '60**

**1938 - 2019**

Donald Barrans died June 28. He was a resident of North Carolina at the time of passing. He graduated from Towson High School in 1956. During his time at Virginia Tech, he served as the drum major of the Highty-Tighties. Upon graduating from Virginia Tech, he commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army.



## **EUGENE BROCK MAXEY '64**

**1941 - 2019**

U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Eugene Brock "Gene" Maxey (retired) died Aug. 19. He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Virginia Tech and received his Air Force commission. As a logistics officer, he served around the world. His military career concluded at Langley Air Force Base, where he retired after 21 years of proud service. He then spent 18 years as director of materials management for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. While serving in Germany, he met his wife of 49 years, Jeanne Strassel Maxey, who survives along with their daughter.



## **JOSEPH TAYLOR JONES '65**

**1943 - 2019**

Joseph "Joe" Jones died Aug. 25. In 1961, he enrolled at VPI as a member of the Corps of Cadets. He met the love of his life, Joan, there, and they began their life in the Air Force together. He flew F-4 Phantoms during the Vietnam War. Upon retirement, they returned to the Corps of Cadets, where he was an assistant commandant while attending graduate school. He then began a career in real estate and served his community, including the NRV Board of Realtors and formation of a Christian school. Survivors include his wife of 54 years, a daughter, and two sons.





## **DENNIS WARREN MCCLELLAN '65**

**1943 - 2019**

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Dennis “Mac” Warren McClellan (retired) died June 8. He graduated from VPI with a bachelor of science degree. He commissioned into the U.S. Army, Armor Branch, in 1966. He served two tours in Vietnam with numerous other posts in the United States, Germany, and the United Kingdom, culminating with duty at the Pentagon’s Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans. He was the recipient of the Bronze Star with two oak leaf clusters, a Bronze Star with a V-device, and a Purple Heart, among other awards. He retired in 1991. He is survived by his wife, Lt. Col. Patsy J. McClellan (retired), and three daughters.



## **GARRY DUNBAR SALE '65**

**1942 - 2019**

Garry Dunbar Sale died July 30. He attended Virginia Tech and earned his bachelor’s degree in forestry. He was commissioned into the U.S. Army. He proudly served in Vietnam as an airborne combat engineer and attained the rank of captain within two years. After his military service, he earned his Master of Business Administration. He used his education during his 41+ years of government service, which he concluded at Mount Weather. He is survived by his wife, Patricia “Patti”; a daughter; and a son.



## **JEFFREY WAYNE HESSON '78**

**1956 - 2019**

Jeffrey Wayne Hesson died Aug. 26. He was the third of four children. He took great pride in being a member of the Corps of Cadets from 1974 to 1978 and often spoke of his role on Skipper Crew. He served in the U.S. Army from 1978 to 1989, achieving the rank of major. He lived in Michigan for 25 years and then relocated to Virginia five years ago to work at the Army’s Center of Military History. He married the love of his life, Sue Hill, in 1979. In addition to Sue, survivors include a daughter and two sons.



## **BERTRAM YORK KINZEY JR. VT'42**

**1921 - 2019**

Bertram “Bert” Kinzey Jr. died Sept. 9. He attended Virginia Tech and received his bachelor’s degree in 1942 and his master’s degree in 1943 in architectural engineering. He worked as a naval architect at the Norfolk Navy Yard during World War II. In 1944, he married Ellen Virginia Smith. After the war, he worked briefly at an architectural firm, then joined the faculty at Virginia Tech. In 1959, he joined the faculty of the University of Florida. He became known as a pioneer in the environmental technologies of architecture, and he wrote a widely-used textbook. He was a huge supporter of the Corps and the Highty-Tighties. He is survived by two sons.

## LEST WE FORGET

William F. Young Jr. '42, Odessa, Florida, 05/14/2019  
Jesse L. Wheeler Jr. '43, Burke, Virginia, 08/11/2018  
Ralph S. Hess Jr. '44, Danville, Virginia, 08/01/2019  
James Parrish Trant Jr. '44, Newport News, Virginia, 08/14/2019  
Charles Edward Varn '44, Exeter, New Hampshire, 04/11/2019  
Benjamin Thomas Cullen Jr. '45, Crozet, Virginia, 03/20/2019  
Wilson B. Dodson II '45, Norfolk, Virginia, 08/03/2019  
Rush M. Forquer Jr. '45, Atlanta, Georgia, 03/01/2019  
James Malcolm McIntosh Jr. '45, Richmond, Virginia, 04/13/2019  
Herman G. Powers '45, Macon, Georgia, 04/01/2019  
Louis Grover Good '46, Cleveland, North Carolina, 07/07/2019  
Blair Monroe Haines Jr. '46, Romney, West Virginia, 04/21/2019  
Donald B. Kearney '46, Traverse City, Michigan, 03/02/2019  
Charles K. McCracken '46, North Bergen, New Jersey, 01/13/2019  
T. Barrett Oliver '46, Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, 06/26/2019  
Leon O. Silvan '46, Charlotte, North Carolina, 09/25/2019  
Richard H. Timberlake '46, Knoxville, Tennessee, 07/29/2019  
Melvin Cohen '47, Palo Alto, California, 04/20/2019  
Julian Harris Lipscomb Sr. '47, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 08/23/2019  
Roberto Francisco Nin '47, Miami, Florida, 06/30/2019  
Edward E. Ankers '48, Tappahannock, Virginia, 01/18/2018  
Diamond E. Erminy '48, Richmond, Virginia, 02/12/2019  
D. Stephen Mayer '48, Berwyn, Pennsylvania, 06/03/2018  
Sidney A. Burnstein Jr. '49, Richmond, Virginia, 07/12/2019  
Lauren F. Corr '49, Camden, South Carolina, 03/03/2019  
George Dalton Dove '49, Goldsboro, North Carolina, 05/24/2019  
William B. Smith '49, Willow Spring, North Carolina, 10/08/2019  
Ernest G. Wagner Jr. '49, Pocahontas, Virginia, 08/14/2019  
Samuel M. Walton '49, Greensboro, North Carolina, 05/10/2019  
James H. Binns III '50, Afton, Virginia, 07/21/2019  
Orion L. Birdsall Jr. '50, Palmyra, Virginia, 07/07/2019  
William T. Borthwick Jr. '50, Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, 03/02/2019  
Austin Allen Bradley Sr. '50, Pueblo, Colorado, 09/18/2019  
Bernard Lewis McGinnis '50, Shipman, Virginia, 04/23/2019  
James Madison Pollard Jr. '50, Ashland, Virginia, 06/20/2019  
George Greer Richards Jr. '50, Newport News, Virginia, 07/16/2019  
George Wyche Slate '50, Emporia, Virginia, 07/21/2019  
Joseph N. Steingasser '50, Dallas, Texas, 10/25/2018  
Robert Hopkins Strickler '50, Harrisonburg, Virginia, 05/24/2019  
James H. Taylor Jr. '50, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 03/04/2019  
H. Neal Troy '50, Franklin, Tennessee, 09/08/2019  
Robert L. Waring '50, Fredericksburg, Virginia, 10/16/2019  
Lester L. Knight Jr. '51, Newport News, Virginia, 09/03/2019  
Edward J. Reynolds Jr. '51, St. Simons Island, Georgia, 07/09/2019  
A. Fred White '51, Cape May Court House, New Jersey, 06/25/2019  
Alfred E. White '51, Lynchburg, Virginia, 01/31/2019  
Wallace M. Brown '52, Harrisonburg, Virginia, 07/03/2019  
William Thomas Green '52, Newport News, Virginia, 10/17/2019  
Raymond F. Huntington '52, Cocoa Beach, Florida, 04/23/2019  
C. Franklin Jester Jr. '52, Franklin, Virginia, 09/19/2019

W. Guy Williams Jr. '52, Richmond, Virginia, 03/14/2019

James E. Yates '52, Surfside Beach, South Carolina, 06/04/2019

James Bailey Bell '53, Arden Hills, Minnesota, 07/23/2019

William Horatio Brown IV '53, Surgoinsville, Tennessee, 03/06/2019

John Dunn Farmer Jr. '53, Henrico, Virginia, 08/30/2019

Gilmer G. Holland Jr. '53, Northfield, Ohio, 06/07/2019

Richard Edward Loving '53, Waxhaw, North Carolina, 04/13/2019

Wilbert Raymond Minor '53, Hockessin, Delaware, 10/02/2019

Daniel J. Moncol '53, Raleigh, North Carolina, 09/13/2019

William C. Murray Jr. '53, Greensboro, North Carolina, 09/15/2019

David Samuel Perry Jr. '53, Richmond, Virginia, 02/28/2019

Douglas E. Richie '53, Gloucester, Virginia, 05/07/2019

Arnold David Robins '53, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, 08/16/2019

Clifton Odell Tiller Jr. '53, Richmond, Virginia, 08/03/2018

John Marshall Andrews '54, Alexandria, Virginia, 09/10/2019

Winston W. Burks Jr. '54, Bedford, Virginia, 04/13/2019

Eddie T. Hall '54, Millbrook, New York, 09/06/2019

David C. Meyerhoeffer '54, Owasso, Oklahoma, 09/27/2019

Albert E. Motley Jr. '54, Tampa, Florida, 10/02/2019

Stephen Hrut Williamson '54, Franklin, Tennessee, 08/17/2019

Frederick T. Anstey '55, Rustburg, Virginia, 10/07/2019

Marvin Vincent Craft Jr. '55, Suffolk, Virginia, 07/24/2019

Richard Gordon Draper '55, Elmira, Oregon, 03/30/2019

Roy Lafong Haley '55, Glen Allen, Virginia, 03/20/2019

George E. Keller II '55, Charleston, West Virginia, 10/07/2019

Lawrence Elbert Perry Jr. '55, Roanoke, Virginia, 07/18/2019

John Wilcox Scarborough '55, Dinwiddie, Virginia, 03/26/2019

Francis A. Shane '55, Roanoke, Virginia, 08/13/2019

Bobby Leon Tilley '55, Charlottesville, Virginia, 09/04/2019

Lowell E. Wade '55, Christiansburg, Virginia, 05/27/2019

Richard James Wagner '55, Dupont, Washington, 08/04/2019

William E. Winfrey Jr. '55, Bumpass, Virginia, 09/28/2019

Bruce Austin Beam '56, McLean, Virginia, 07/26/2019

James Howard Camp '56, Raleigh, North Carolina, 09/19/2019

Cubert N. Handy '56, Woolwine, Virginia, 10/02/2018

Robert Booker Jewell '56, Mechanicsville, Virginia, 08/02/2019

Kenneth Carroll Moore '56, Providence Forge, Virginia, 10/02/2019

James E. Morris Jr. '56, Chapin, South Carolina, 04/01/2019

Carlton Lee Cutchin Jr. '57, Franklin, Virginia, 05/26/2019

Melvin T. Dixon '57, Slocomb, Alabama, 08/19/2019

Edgar Marion Hollandsworth '57, West Melbourne, Florida, 12/21/2018

John E. Hubard '57, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 10/01/2019

Samuel P. Hurd '57, Topeka, Kansas, 04/22/2019

Paul L. May '57, North Little Rock, Arkansas, 04/13/2019

Halley A. Merrell Jr. '57, Davidson, North Carolina, 09/02/2019

Floyd Gregory Boothe Jr. '58, Richmond, Virginia, 07/17/2019

Carl Irvin Campbell '58, Rolla, Missouri, 04/20/2019

Billy B. Cross '58, Lebanon, Virginia, 03/26/2019

Robert N. Davis '58, Greensboro, North Carolina, 05/22/2019

Donald E. Graves '58, Cumberland, Maryland, 03/04/2019

James Carroll Lovin '58, Brevard, North Carolina, 03/15/2019

Arthur Lee Scarborough '58, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 07/09/2019

Alan E. Trotter '58, Commerce, Georgia, 05/02/2019

Charles Kinsley Widmaier III '58, Smith Center, Kansas, 07/07/2019

Joe B. Wightman '58, Edinburg, Virginia, 03/23/2019  
 Fred Adams Jr. '59, Woodlawn, Virginia, 03/24/2019  
 Frederick W. Clemens '59, Blacksburg, Virginia,  
 07/29/2019  
 George Lawrence Eitel Jr. '59, Hurricane, Utah, 03/21/2019  
 Henry Dewey Laster '59, Stockbridge, Georgia, 09/07/2019  
 William C. Marshall '59, Spencer, Virginia, 08/08/2019  
 Calvin Currell Southern '59, Ponte Vedra, Florida,  
 05/03/2019  
 Louis McGuire Briel '60, Calhoun, Georgia, 06/18/2019  
 Robert Wesley Chrisp Jr. '60, Smithsburg, Maryland,  
 01/15/2018  
 Robert M. Henry '60, Winchester, Virginia, 08/07/2019  
 Arthur Jackson King Jr. '60, Bland, Virginia, 09/19/2019  
 Paul Kovacs III '60, Machipongo, Virginia, 06/06/2019  
 John Wiseman Newman Jr. '60, Jonesboro, Louisiana,  
 10/19/2018  
 Walter F. O'Brien Jr. '60, Blacksburg, Virginia, 07/25/2019  
 Robert L. Rash '60, Charlotte, North Carolina, 06/30/2019  
 William Weaver Snidow '60, Richmond, Virginia,  
 10/10/2019  
 James Edgar Ware Jr. '60, Quakertown, Pennsylvania,  
 05/10/2019  
 James Leon Conner '61, San Angelo, Texas, 07/07/2019  
 Albert Wesley Crawford '61, Roanoke, Virginia,  
 07/08/2019  
 Hoen McGuire Edwards Jr. '61, Zuni, Virginia, 07/17/2019  
 Edward J. Lucas Jr. '61, Fieldale, Virginia, 06/27/2019  
 Howard C. Melton '61, Alexandria, Virginia, 06/21/2019  
 Charles F. Shell '61, Amelia Court House, Virginia,  
 07/10/2019  
 Charles Newman Smith '61, Moneta, Virginia, 09/05/2019  
 Wayne Elkins Booth '62, Christiansburg, Virginia,  
 01/18/2018  
 Ray Donald Faulconer Jr. '62, Orange, Virginia, 07/14/2019  
 Gerald Gene Gallimore '62, Dallas, Texas, 03/05/2019  
 George Kawood Lucas '62, Riner, Virginia, 07/05/2019  
 Phillip F. McClung '62, Pittsford, New York, 03/12/2019  
 Walter Lee Reynolds '62, Smyrna, Georgia, 07/06/2019  
 Carl H. Schmitt '62, Silver Spring, Maryland, 01/29/2019  
 George Edward Washington '62, Purcellville, Virginia,  
 02/26/2019  
 John Gayle King '63, Rocky Mount, Virginia, 04/24/2019  
 David Alden Robinson '63, Magdalena, New Mexico,  
 10/20/2018  
 Fielding Rolston '63, Kingsport, Tennessee, 09/29/2019  
 William J. Schlemm '63, Lake Forest, Illinois, 02/24/2019  
 John Andrew Creasy Sr. '64, Marietta, Georgia, 04/07/2019  
 Richard C. Davis '64, Bainbridge Island, Washington,  
 03/13/2019  
 Kenneth Wayne Poore '64, Henrico, Virginia, 06/05/2019  
 Earl Rush Sutherland '64, Winchester, Virginia, 05/11/2019  
 Robert Ellis Casey '65, Roanoke, Virginia, 03/05/2019  
 Harry Taylor Coyner '65, Stone Mountain, Georgia,  
 05/07/2019  
 Frederick Elbert White '65, Lynchburg, Virginia,  
 09/02/2019  
 Gerald Edward Burks '66, Hampton, Virginia, 03/21/2019  
 Philip Keith Webb '66, New Castle, Virginia, 08/20/2019  
 Bergen Frederic Berkaw Jr. '67, Marion, Virginia,  
 06/26/2019  
 Garland Lee Burch '67, San Antonio, Texas, 07/07/2019  
 Edward Stephen Ferguson '67, Hardy, Virginia, 02/26/2019  
 Neil Craig Miller '67, Boca Raton, Florida, 04/28/2019  
 Marion Southgate Whitfield Jr. '67, Virginia Beach,  
 Virginia, 11/26/2018  
 Richard Combs Henderson '68, Massillon, Ohio,  
 09/25/2019  
 Curt Lennart Ohlsson '70, Arlington, Virginia, 12/13/2018  
 Lewis R. Pugh '70, Crawfordville, Florida, 04/08/2019  
 Peter D. Madeo '71, Boonsboro, Maryland, 04/01/2019

# INTERNSHIPS READY FUTURE WEATHER OFFICERS

By Krista Timney, communications director, College of Natural Resources and Environment

This past spring, the U.S. Air Force expected to commission just 30 weather officers from the 1,900 students finishing ROTC programs. Virginia Tech, which offers a major in meteorology, supplied approximately 25 percent of those officers, more than any other university in the country.

“Weather officers are considered a critical need,” explained Lt. Col. Barry Burton of the Air Force ROTC Detachment 875 at Virginia Tech. “The Air Force is short on flying-related rated career officers, but there’s actually a restriction on the number of meteorology students who can compete for this training because the Air Force wants those cadets with meteorology backgrounds to fill the weather officer slots first.”

An Air Force weather unit is tasked with integrating current and forecasted atmospheric conditions into operations planning, as well as conducting and developing research in meteorology.

Burton is working to strengthen the crucial relationship between Virginia Tech and the Air Force by finding internships that will connect aspiring weather officers with former Hokies.

In spring 2018, when 2nd Lt. Mason Sorrell '19 raised his hand for an internship with the Air Force Institute of Technology, he didn't know what to expect. However, when he found out that the researcher involved was 1st Lt. Daniel Katuziensi '15, he was glad to hear a familiar name.

“I didn't know it was Katuziensi when I raised my hand,” Sorrell said. “I knew him from when he was at Virginia Tech, and I knew him from before that. We actually went to the same high



U.S. Air Force 1st Lt. Daniel Katuziensi (at left) and now 2nd Lt. Mason Sorrell '19.

school, and he was friends with my sister. It was an amazing coincidence to find out I'd be working with him because we had known each other for a long time.”

Katuziensi's research focuses on developing radar forecasting techniques to better predict and mitigate lightning impacts on Air Force space missions.

“The 45th Weather Squadron at Cape Canaveral is tasked with producing weather forecasts for the American space program,” Katuziensi explained. “As you can imagine, lightning and rockets don't necessarily mix. My project focused on optimizing Doppler weather radar parameters to improve radar lightning forecast methods at the cape.”

Katuziensi then tested his lightning forecasting algorithm in the western deserts of Utah. The project required a great deal of data organizing and processing, and Katuziensi asked if he could recruit a cadet from Virginia Tech

to help with the work.

“Cadet Sorrell came out in July [2018] and just started working through the files,” Katuziensi recalled. “He went through 10 gigabytes of data, including 2,000 weather radar files, 900 lightning mapping arrays data files, and approximately 200 upper air sounding measurements from Salt Lake City.”

When Katuziensi sensed that Sorrell was getting bored cycling through data, he had the cadet practice running some of the programing code for the project.

For Burton, this kind of internship experience is one that he would like to build on at Virginia Tech.

Sorrell commissioned into the Air Force in January. He attended the Weather Officer Course at Keesler Air Force Base in March and now is a weather officer at Barksdale Air Force Base in Shreveport, Louisiana, where he does forecasting work for the southeastern branch of the Air Force.

STARTED IN 2006 BY IMG SPORTS, THE HOKIE HEROES PROGRAM HONORS CORPS OF CADETS ALUMNI WHO ARE DEPLOYED DURING THE HOKIE FOOTBALL SEASON.



Boston College game: U.S. Army Capt. William Chung '15 is deployed to Afghanistan.



Old Dominion game: U.S. Army 1st Lt. Devin Lamb '15 is deployed to Afghanistan.



Furman game: U.S. Air Force Capt. Allison Laclede '15 is deployed to Qatar.



Rhode Island game: U.S. Army Maj. Stephen Schuyler '07 is deployed to Afghanistan.



Wake Forest game: Corps of Cadets alumni deployed with Carrier Strike Group 12 include (from left) Cmdr. Matthew Wright '00, Cmdr. David Dartez '00, Lt. Cmdr. Anthony LaVopa '08, Lt. Nick Len '09, Lt. Tom Clapp '09, Aerographer's Mate 2nd Class Patrick Nichols '12, Lt. Joe Haslem '14, and Lt. Jonathan Bressette '14. Below is Lt. Tyler Manuel '14. Not pictured is Lt. Mondre Barnes '09.





Duke game: U.S. Army 1st Lt. Lyndsey Washington '14 is deployed to South Korea.



Miami game: 1st Lt. Samantha Reed '16 is deployed to the United Arab Emirates.



Georgia Tech game: U.S. Air Force 1st Lt. Joshua Preiss '16 is deployed to the Middle East.



Notre Dame game: U.S. Army 2nd Lt. William Breedlove '18 is deployed to Iraq.



Boston College game: U.S. Marine Corps 1st Lt. Andrew Benton '15 is deployed on the USS Boxer.



Pittsburgh game: U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer Chris Toler '04 (at right), pictured with 1st Lt. Marco Peterson, a current Virginia Tech doctoral student serving in the Virginia Army Reserves, is deployed to Iraq.

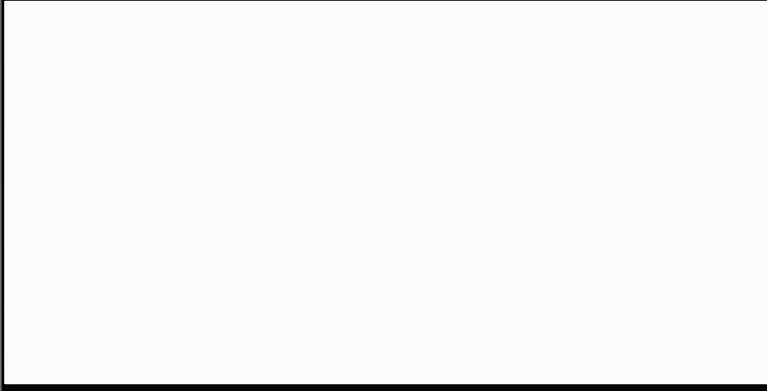


Virginia game: U.S. Army Col. Barry "Chip" Daniels '93 is deployed to Afghanistan.

**VTCC Alumni Inc.**

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Blacksburg, VA 24061

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