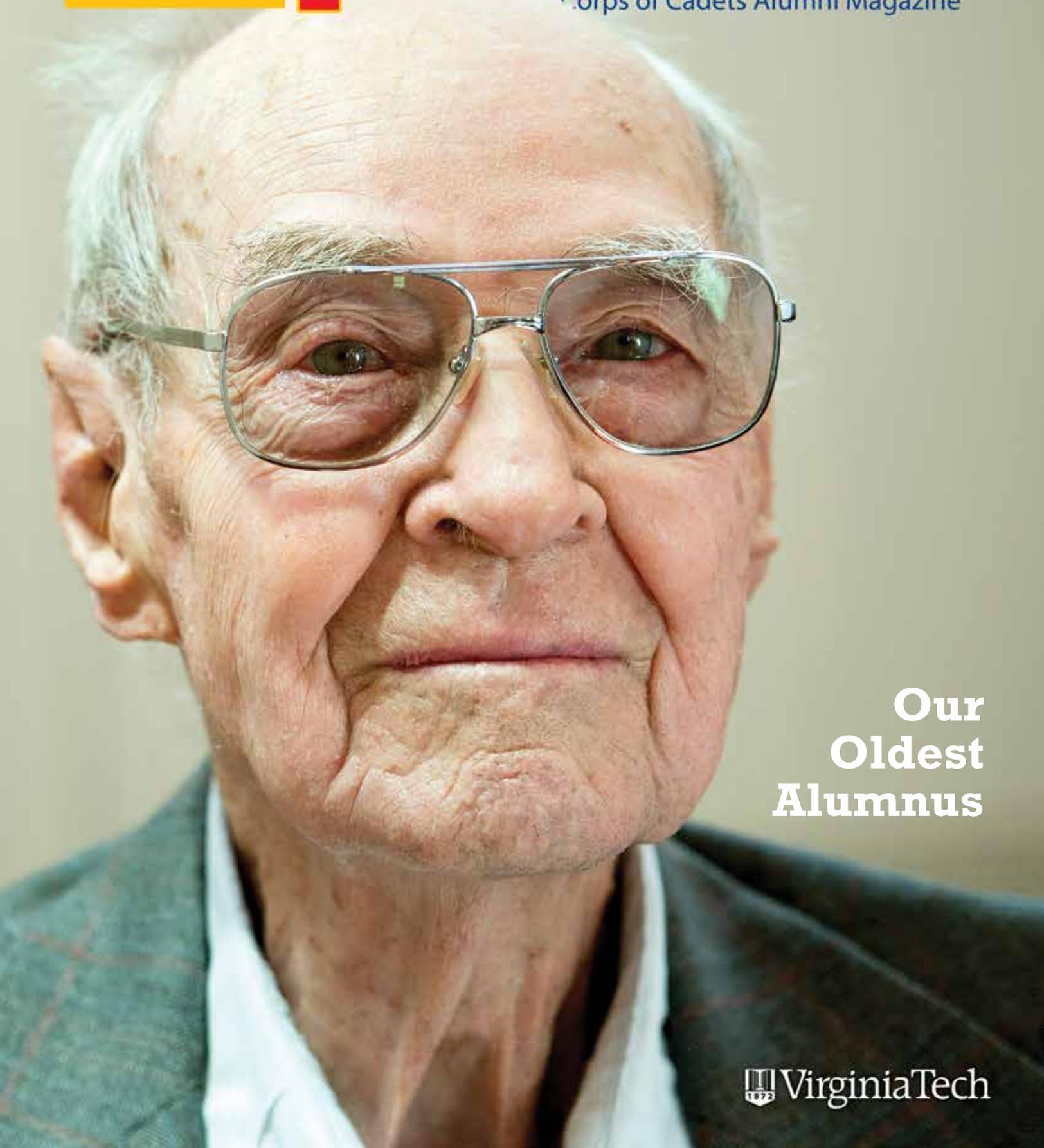


Vol. 27 No. 1 Fall 2016

CorpsReview

Corps of Cadets Alumni Magazine



**Our
Oldest
Alumnus**

It was a picture-perfect weekend for this year's Corps Homecoming, which featured events for alumni and cadets alike. World War II aircraft from the Tri-State Warbird Museum in Batavia, Ohio, sponsored by Major Stan Cohen '49, and a U.S. Air Force C-17 piloted by Capt. P.C. Gaddis '09 flew over Lane Stadium as alumni once again marched in formation onto Worsham Field to the roar of an appreciative crowd.



Both sets of pilots and crew members for the two flyovers of the Corps Homecoming game were recognized on the field of Lane Stadium during the fourth quarter. On the left, aircrew from the Tri-State Warbird Museum who flew the historical planes at halftime and, on the right, aircrew from the U.S. Air Force's 3rd Airlift Squadron out of Dover Air Force Base, Delaware. At center, Major Stan Cohen '49 (with cane), who sponsored his seventh flyover for the Corps.



Corps young alumni in the D.C. area met for social hour at a local pub in Arlington, Virginia, with the commandant and Alumni Director (center) Col Patience Larkin '87.



U.S. Navy Capt. Douglas Beaver '91, U.S. Air Force Capt. Amanda (McGrath) Miller '12, and Virginia State Police Trooper Derek Stotler '13 speak to cadets during the fall Gunfighter Panel.



The class of 1993 was well represented as Mike Miller, Neal Kegley, and Rich Holland pose for a photo on upper quad before the Corps Homecoming formal retreat.



Virginia Tech's Army ROTC unit celebrated its 100th birthday during Corps Homecoming weekend with a cake-cutting event.



J. Pearson (left), and Commandant of Cadets Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart (right), present Bill Swan '66 a plaque to commemorate his many years of service as a dedicated task force chairman and member to the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Inc. board of directors.



Cadet Cameron Lipko, Class of 2017, sits with Stan Cohen '49 during the Corps' annual donor breakfast. Lipko is one of four Emerging Leader Scholarship recipients Cohen sponsors.

CONTENTS

Alumni Spotlights

- 4 **Capt. Aaron Bonovich '12**
Life as a Missileer
- 12 **Christopher J. Almont '91,**
senior executive service
Unexpected turns

Features

- 9 **"Project GO Experience Surpasses Expectations"**
Cadet Leah Roberts visited Tanzania to study Swahili and anthropology with an emphasis on the relationship between culture and the environment.
- 16 **"Olmsted Foundation Support Allows Cadets to Travel to Panama"**
Virginia Tech senior cadets and Olmsted Foundation Undergraduate Scholars' activities, included tours of Panama City and the commerce port city of Colon.
- 28 **"Focus on Philanthropy"**
Gary and Jill Boward proudly carry the leadership lessons from the Corps of Cadets with them today. Through philanthropy, they ensure future generations learn similar lessons.
- 28 **"OPREP: Normandy"**
Twelve cadets stand on the site of courage, leadership, and sacrifice the morning of June 6, 1944, when the Allies invaded Normandy and began the liberation of France.



Jim Godek '87 and his dyker, Sandy Siegrist '85, pose for a picture before Corps alumni march onto the field during pregame at the Corps Homecoming football game against Boston College on Sept. 17.



Corps alumni from all graduating years form up with their companies for the march-on. Gen. Carlton D. Everhart '83 led H Squadron/Company alumni onto the field.



Caption

Photos

- 22 Hokie Heroes
- 40 Corps Homecoming
- 48 Battle for Bristol
- 49 Alumni in Service

Departments

- 2 Alumni Announcements
- 8 Old Guard Column
- 10 Commandant's Column
- 18 Chairman's Column
- 20 Leader Development
- 21 Recruiting Update
- 26 New Corps Support
- 27 Museum Curator
- 34 Army ROTC News
- 36 Naval ROTC News
- 38 Air Force ROTC News
- 42 Philanthropy
- 45 Honor Guard

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

J. Pearson '87, *Chairman, VTCCA*

Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart, *Commandant of Cadets*

Col. Patience Larkin '87, *Alumni Director and Editor*

Shay Barnhart, *Communications Director and Editor*

Juliet Crichton, *Copy Editor*

David Stanley VT'95, *Art Director*

Col. Scott Lyman '84, *Director of Development*

H. Pat Artis VT'71, Shay Barnhart; Michael Diersing; Kathy Fullhart; Randal Fullhart; Bradley Larkin; Patience Larkin '87; Nikkole Lenardson, Class of 2017; Allie Oberoi '10; Stevens Photography of Christiansburg, Virginia; Logan Wallace; *Photography*

Comments and all material for the magazine should be mailed to Editor, **Corps Review**, VTCC Alumni Office (0213); 141 Lane Hall, Virginia Tech; 280 Alumni Mall; Blacksburg, VA 24061. Persons wishing to reprint any portion of the contents of **Corps Review** must contact the editor for permission.

© 2016, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

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

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

Front cover: Cecil P. Balderson, now 104 years old, returned to campus in September to be among the reviewing party for the Corps of Cadets' Old Guard Reunion Pass in Review. Balderson was in the Corps from 1932 to 1934, when he had to leave to help out with the family farm during the Great Depression. Photo by Logan Wallace.

Back cover: Gen. Carlton D. Everhart '83 salutes as the National Anthem is played during the Corps Homecoming football game against Boston College.

Correction: The caption for the inner cover picture of the Spring 2016 Corps Review (D Squadron's 1962 winning Eager Squad) identified the squad leader as senior cadet Aubrey Tarkington '62. Thanks to Lee Garwig, a member of that Eager Squad, for letting us know that the squad leader was instead ranking junior Corporal Swanson Angle '63.

Alumni

Highy-Tighty Instrument and Parade Update

In the summer Corps Review, we asked for gently used instruments for the current band members, and we received quite a number. Senior Chief James Bean and the Highy-Tighties (HT) thank all those alumni and friends



who made contributions toward or donated an instrument. We greatly appreciate your support!

Also, for those of you in the D.C. area, the HTs will be marching in the 2017 National Cherry Blossom Parade on April 8. We hope to see as many alumni there as possible.

Class Champion Status: Getting Closer to Completion

The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets (VTCC) alumni Class Champion Program is close to complete with volunteers assisting us in communicating with their Corps classmates. This network of Corps classes allows us to pass information to our alumni about activities going on at Virginia Tech and with the Corps. If you are a Corps alumnus and have not been contacted through this network, please send an email to the alumni director, Col. Patience Larkin at patience@vt.edu. We have volunteer Class Champions for all Corps class years from 1960 through 2016, except for three classes: '80, '95, and '03. Please contact us if you would like to volunteer. If you can send an email, you can do it!

Hokie Gold Legacy Program

The Hokie Gold Legacy Program was initiated by class members from VTCC's 1964 M Company, with support from the Alumni Association. Alumni or families of alumni can bequeath or donate their class rings, which are either melted down to create Hokie Gold to be included



in the class rings of the next junior class, or retained for future display.

To continue the program in perpetuity, a small amount of Hokie Gold will be reserved from each year's melt to be included in the following year's Hokie Gold melting for the next

class. West Point and the Naval Academy also have similar programs.

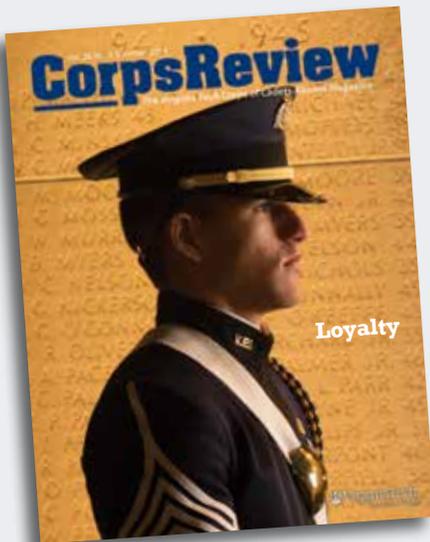
The inaugural Hokie Gold Legacy ring melt occurred May 2012, when rings collected before December 2011 were included in the melt at the VT- FIRE foundry on the Virginia Tech campus. Representatives from the classes of 1964 and 2014 were present at the melt, and the resulting metal was given to the class ring company for refining and inclusion in the Class of 2014 rings.

Hokie Gold Legacy Program questions can be directed to Laura Wedin at 540-231-6285 or lwedin@vt.edu. You can learn about how to donate a ring, tax deductions, and shipping instructions at www.alumni.vt.edu/hokiegold.

Announcements

Corps Review's Summer Edition

We are trying something new next summer and will produce a digital version of the Corps Review magazine. This allows us new flexibility to provide more updates, alumni announcements, and deployment pictures, keeping you better informed about what's going on with your Corps buds and helping us reduce printing and production costs. Stay tuned for additional information and ways you can provide us feedback on this trial delivery method.



Remember to Update Us

Corps alumni: As you move or change duty stations throughout your career, we want to make sure you continue to get the Corps Review and other updated Virginia Tech and Corps of Cadets information. You can help us by updating your mailing and email addresses, phone numbers, and name changes by either going to www.alumni.vt.edu/gateway/index.html or sending an email to alumnidata@vt.edu. If you have any questions, please contact the Corps alumni office at phosner@vt.edu.



Museum Muster

By Samantha Riggan (samsales@vt.edu),
by the VTCC Museum Curator

My work cataloging the VTCC collection of artifacts, manuscripts, and books allows me insight into the Corps that few have been afforded. The stories, pictures, and uniforms are all concrete examples of long-lost days spent on drill fields and in bunkers and dance halls.

However, the collection is not complete, as no museum collection ever really is. This is a living space that must grow to fulfill the mission of the museum and to continue representing the history of the Corps for our cadets, alumni, university, and the world. Our history is rich. It features heroes and hardships; it is not always pleasant, but we learn and grow from our past.

As Corps alumni or family/friends of alumni, please consider donating your historical items directly to our museum. We need your memories to help tell the story of the Corps and to provide a well-rounded history for all to appreciate and learn from.

If you have one item or many that you believe belong as part of our historical story, please contact me directly at samsales@vt.edu so we can discuss the possibility of including those items within our museum. It is my goal to add as many objects to our collection as possible that can illuminate and highlight the Corps' many accomplishments. Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to preserving your memories.





Life as a Missileer

By Capt. Aaron Bonovich '12

Entering my freshman year in 2008, I never imagined what the future might hold. I certainly had no clue that I would be operating some of the most powerful weapons ever developed.

During my senior year with the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets, I put in my dream sheet, hoping to get 13S, which at the time was known as Space and Missiles. Little did I know that by the time I was going through initial training in 2012, the career fields would split, and I would be part of a missile combat crew, or missileer, for the Minuteman III missiles.

First deployed in 1970, the Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM) have provided nonstop nuclear

deterrence. Today, there are hundreds of ICBMs spread out across the fields surrounding Francis E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyoming; Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana; and Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota. On a day-to-day basis, the missiles sit in their individual silos and are connected with miles of cable to underground launch control centers (LCCs). The LCCs are manned at all times by two officers frequently known as missileers. From the LCC, the Missileers monitor the status of up to 50

missiles at any given point. Contrary to popular belief, we do not sit in the silo with the missiles.

On alert

I graduated in May 2012; and by early 2013, I was on alert. Alerts are 24-hour shifts in the LCC.

When going on alert, we start our days by attending a daily mission planning meeting. This gives crews the opportunity to plan for the day's activities, maintenance, and weather, and eliminate as much risk as possible. After the planning, crews depart for the missile field. Crews may travel as little as 45 minutes to their designated LCCs or up to three hours in some cases. Once on site, we



Aaron Bonovitch and his wife, Darcy, at the 2011 Virginia Tech vs UNC football game.



Bonovitch's mom, Shirley; father, Ricky; and sister, Sara, attend his Air Force commissioning in May 2012.

meet with the security forces guarding the site to conduct a mini-mission planning and work with the facility manager to ensure the facilities are functioning properly.

Following our meetings topside, we begin our descent roughly 40 to 60 feet down a freight elevator to arrive at the LCC, or capsule, as we call it, and say goodbye to the daylight for a time. At this point, we meet the off-going team members as they eagerly await their chance to get some fresh air.

After the off-going crew leaves, the oncoming team begins the 24-hour shift. At least one crew member is awake at all times once the blast-door is closed and we are sealed inside. We do have one small bed and an airplane-style bathroom in our trailer-sized capsule. From our consoles, we monitor the status of the missiles.

Some days will be quiet, and crews may have time to watch a movie or work on furthering their education. Other days will be extremely busy as crews struggle to coordinate phone calls, commands, and status of maintenance and security in the missile field. Each day brings new surprises and challenges, though, as we work with an aging weapon system.

Learning the basics

New missileers can expect to complete eight alerts per month, plus an average of three training days added into the mix. In the current construct of the career field, missileers can expect to complete three years of these alerts before moving to another missile base for another three years of being an instructor, evaluator, or flight commander, among numerous other roles. Following the first six-year period, the horizons broaden as jobs open up, such as working with the test squadron at Vandenberg Air Force Base, California, or even NATO forces in Europe.

Before getting to this point, all missileers complete six months of initial training at Vandenberg Air Force Base. I began my training in July 2012 and learned everything from the basics of missile flight to processing classified messages and launching missiles. Most of the training consists of classroom work, but as the training progresses, we put our skills to use in a simulator. The instructor who operates the simulator can present different statuses to the students. This includes a variety of scenarios from fires to security issues. Fortunately for Hokies, our experiences in the Corps prepared

us to keep calm and think clearly during these stressful scenarios.

Test launch

The ultimate role of the missileer is to launch a missile, yet it is a job we hope never comes. The caveat to that outlook is the opportunity to launch an unarmed, test ICBM out of Vandenberg Air Force Base to an isolated island chain in the Pacific Ocean. In October 2015, I had just such an opportunity.

At the time, I was a crew commander stationed at Warren Air Force Base in the 319th Missile Squadron. My flight commander notified me of this opportunity, and of course I jumped at the chance to head back to California for a five-week TDY. In addition to myself, there were five other missileers and approximately 10 maintenance team members from Warren Air Force Base assigned to the launch. For us, this was a great chance to change up our routine. For the 576th Flight Test Squadron based at Vandenberg Air Force Base, it was business as usual. This unit would handle the full-process of the scheduled test launch and give us our directives.

Upon arrival at Vandenberg Air Force Base, we all met up with the team from the 576th to get a better idea of the mis-



Aaron and Darcy Bonovitch on a recent visit to the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

sion. The goal of a test launch is not just to turn the key and launch a missile; it is a chance to gather all sorts of data while the missile is in its silo and in flight.

There are no missiles stored on a regular basis at Vandenberg Air Force Base. For that, the 576th borrows from the three missile wings. In this case, in the weeks prior, an operational missile was removed from a silo at Warren Air Force Base.

This missile was taken to Vandenberg Air Force Base to be equipped with a test re-entry vehicle and launched. This is where the maintenance team members come in.

The airmen from Warren were tasked with installing the missile in the test silo at Vandenberg and preparing it for operations. This process takes time as the teams must transport and load a 60-foot missile in a vertical silo. This provided us crew members a unique opportunity to watch the process. Missiles are installed, removed, or repaired on a regular basis at the operational wings, but crews are always underground when it happens. Without windows and miles away, we

supervise these maintenance movements, but are unable to see them in action.

This test launch gave us a chance to see the process for ourselves and get a better understanding of what we're missing.

The only difference in this and an operational missile is that a team at Vandenberg installs a set of sensors for the test and a self-destruct mechanism for safety purposes. We were lucky to work with such an incredible team of maintainers. They worked patiently with us to explain each part of their process, and, when allowed, let us down into the silo with them to observe up close.

Once the missile was installed and powered, my job as a missileer began. There were six of us crewmembers total to "pull alerts" at the sole LCC at Vandenberg. It was a bit unusual for us as we are typically used to monitoring numerous missiles and activities, not just one. The three crews provided 24/7 coverage from the moment the missile was started up to the night of the launch. During this time, various tests were run on the

missile to verify its capabilities. These tests provide valuable data to the 576th who can analyze the data in comparison to other tests and provide reliability numbers to those who may need to know.

After several weeks of alerts and monitoring the missile, the time had come for the launch. This was the culmination of months of work from many different agencies, to include the space launch teams at Vandenberg, who provided overarching supervision and monitoring of the launch. For the actual launch, we had all crew members in the LCC to participate that night. Our launch window was from midnight to six a.m. This means we had a six-hour gap in which to launch the missile toward the Kwajalein Atoll. Although this sounds like a great deal of time, there are various instances that could delay a launch. For example, even if the weather is clear at Vandenberg, we need relatively clear weather at the missile's destination to get the maximum amount of data from the

test. In our case, the hold-up took several hours as we waited on teams to fix a piece of monitoring equipment.

Alas, the time finally came at which there was no return. Just 30 minutes before the end of our window, a count-down voice came in over the phone lines, similar to a NASA space launch. As the countdown dropped, another crew member and I anxiously put our hands on our key and switches (four total are turned by two crew members). Upon turning our switches, we heard the audible alarm and watched our screens as a launch command was sent to the missile.

Normally, a missile launch requires the command from at least two different LCCs. In this case of testing, a second crew took our place at the seats and awaited their chance to turn the switches. For the first two of us, that was our chance to hurry up the elevator and outside to wait for the launch.

A unique view

Having done our part, we had a rare opportunity to both send a launch command and watch the Minuteman III launch. Not long after we had arrived upstairs, the night sky lit up brightly, and we heard the roar as almost 80,000 pounds left its silo in a hurry. Thanks to a clear night, we were able to see the missile for several minutes as all of the stages broke away and fell back into the ocean.

Our job was done. All that was left was to shut down our control center and return to the main base to debrief the mission. Well within that time, about 45 minutes, we had word that the test warhead had successfully landed in the target area roughly 4,000 miles away. It was all over in minutes, but it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that I had no idea awaited me those years ago when I was just struggling to learn the names of my buds.



Aaron and Darcy Bonovitch on his promotion day to captain, 2016.



Bonovitch's first crew commander, Joe Wyatt, poses for a picture with him after his last alert at F.E. Warren Air Force Base.



Butch Aaron speaks at the Old Guard Reunion.

Changing of the Guard

By Butch Aaron '61, president of the Old Guard

The Old Guard Reunion was held in May at The Inn at Virginia Tech and Holtzman Alumni Center. Butch Aaron '61 was elected president of the Old Guard for 2016.

As the new president, I would like to thank last year's president, Sam Lionberger '62, and the Old Guard Advisory Board for planning a great reunion. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Matthew M. Winston Jr. '90, senior associate vice president for alumni relations, for his welcoming remarks at the class dinners and his closing remarks on the last day of the reunion.

There were 155 members in attendance from Virginia Tech classes as far back as 1942 to the newest Old Guard Class of 1965. I can let this article read like a travel log and tell you about the presentations by university people such as Rachel Holloway, vice provost for academic affairs, who explained the changes in the academic classrooms and the new educational opportunities that are now

possible. There was a presentation by the new football coach Justin Fuente, and a presentation by Steve Mouras of the Office of University Planning, who told us about the changes that are being put into motion for the university campus.

There was a presentation by Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart, commandant of cadets. Those of us who are Corps alumni will be happy to know that our Corps of Cadets is growing and thriving with the many changes that are happening on the Virginia Tech campus. The Upper Quad is being remodeled with new dorms, or, as we called them in our day, barracks. A new military building that will house both the ROTC staff with classrooms and the commandant and his staff is in the planning phase.

The Old Guard has the appearance of being for Corps alumni only; however, the Old Guard is not only for Corps, but also for civilian alumni who have graduated over 50 years ago.

Because of this misconception that

the Old Guard is for Corps only, we must think toward the future and make a greater effort to encourage those civilian alumni to become more involved with the Old Guard. The Old Guard will need to make some changes as we know it so that our civilian alumni will feel welcome to take part in this great event that is not only informative about Virginia Tech, but also a fun-filled few days with many old friends.

The 2016-17 Old Guard Advisory Board will meet in December to plan the 2017 reunion, but also on the agenda will be a discussion concerning a name change to make the Old Guard more appealing to our civilian alumni. I must say that this is a very necessary topic.

As the current president of the Old Guard, I hope to see you and many new alumni, both Corps and civilian alike, at the Old Guard Reunion, which is scheduled for May 17-19.

Ut Prosim!



Project GO experience surpasses expectations

By Cadet Leah Roberts, Class of 2016

To say I was excited to participate in Project Global Officer (Project GO) would be an understatement. The experience of spending the summer in Africa – a continent I had long desired to visit – surpassed my expectations.

Project GO provides ROTC students the opportunity to immerse themselves in a foreign culture and study a language that the military classifies as strategic, which in my case was Swahili. Over eight weeks, I traveled with 22 ROTC students from across the U.S. to eight cities in Tanzania. Our primary focus was to study Swahili and anthropology with an emphasis on the relationship between culture and the environment.

Our packed schedule included three Serengeti safaris, snorkeling in a protected coral reef, lectures at the University of Dar es Salaam, two volunteer projects with African Impact, and a three-night homestay with traditional Maasai families.

The time I spent with a pastoralist Maasai family was easily my favorite part of the program. I helped milk the goats,

watched my host mother cook over a small fire in a mud-dung hut, slept on a stick-frame bed covered with cow hide, and observed a culture unlike anything I have ever experienced.

Prior to this, I would have imagined a life with minimal hygiene, lack of fresh water, and zero modern conveniences as desolate and depressing, but I was wrong. The Maasai are extremely happy and loving, and the bond within the community is inspiring. It reminded me of the bond I formed with my buds during New Cadet Week and Red Phase. It was a privilege to experience this alongside roaming giraffes and gazelles under a sky filled with more stars than I have ever seen. The experience left me with a desire to unplug more often.

In Zanzibar, we spent four days painting the walls of sparsely equipped classrooms. On our final day, we organized a sports day for 160 kids from four schools, including the one we had painted. If I had to pick the best day of the trip, this would be it. We were each given a list of names and told to organize

our teams. Initially, it was difficult to tell if the kids couldn't understand our poor Swahili or if they were simply scared of these foreign strangers. Eventually, language proved to be an insufficient barrier, and it was hard to tell who had more fun – the kids or us.

While I received 12 credit hours for my Swahili and anthropology courses, the personal development I experienced was far more valuable. This trip increased my confidence to travel internationally and adapt to other cultures. It also provided me with an understanding of a part of the world I knew nothing about.

Regardless of where I am, whether deployed or serving stateside, I will encounter people with backgrounds, perspectives, beliefs, and challenges different from mine. The ability to adapt, communicate effectively, and show respect will be imperative to success in the mission. Project GO proved to be a tremendous blessing, and I would highly recommend it to other ROTC students.



A Symbol of Service

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

Those of you who are regular followers of my Facebook page (facebook.com/cvtcc) should know by now that the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets recently welcomed a new ambassador to its ranks. His designation is Growley II, and his call sign is “Tank.”

It is always treacherous ground to try and reconstruct history, so perhaps we can all agree to embrace some various folklore to build Growley II’s story upon. (I also have no doubt that my attempt here will generate some mail with more updates.)

A man by the name of “Growley” Schultz ran the mess hall in the early 1900s, and reports are that he didn’t have a very sunny disposition. Students called the food served there “growley,” and eventually first-year cadets who announced the time until the morning formation would call “minutes to growley.”

Another piece of folklore centers around reports of a dog that was either the property of a Depression-era commandant or was at least adopted by cadets of that era. The practice was for cadets to hold a bit of “growley” back from their meals to ensure that the dog had enough to eat.

Now fast forward to present day. When the cadets’ initiative to add a four-legged ambassador to our ranks took shape during the last academic year, they maintained the connection to Growley and the past

As many of you know, military working dogs have been a part of military or-

ganizations for decades. Today, there are dogs working side-by-side with soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines all over the world. Their sense of loyalty, positive attitude, discipline, and unconditional service to others are all characteristics we hope to emulate throughout our lives.

If any of you are or have been dog owners in the past, you know that it takes no small amount of effort to properly care for and support the needs of an ordinary pet, and it takes a tremendous amount of dedication and discipline to train and maintain a service dog.

Enter Tank

We were very fortunate to be connected with a breeder and trainer of service dogs who happened to have a 3-year-old male yellow Labrador. Tank

has a list of training and performance accolades a mile long. He has worked to provide support to those in hospitals, to young children, and throughout his community.

Tank and his owners visited the campus over the summer and met with Cadet Zack Sever, the cadet who launched the initiative and now serves as the senior handler. A match was made, and Tank began his service with the Corps on Aug. 28.

No ordinary program, we are required to meet U.S. Department of Agriculture standards and are subject to inspections at any time. Tank resides with his senior handler and his assistant in Pearson Hall, and there are two junior handlers designated and two sophomores, all of whom form the team that will train with and



Cadet Zack Sever and Tank greet cadets after the first morning formation of the fall semester.



Cadets salute as the National Anthem is played at the Battle for Bristol football game at Bristol Motor Speedway

work with Tank as he travels across the campus. As you might expect, the work, dedication, and professionalism of the handlers are paramount as they, too, will be representing the Corps at important functions; talking with alumni, friends, and guests; and ensuring Tank's safety and well-being.

Needless to say, we are all very excited about this new facet in our program. As

Tank arrived, we also welcomed 387 new cadets who make up the Class of 2020, bringing us to start the year with 1,093 cadets — yet another increase in our overall enrollment!

Our trip to the Battle at Bristol with the entire Corps was a memorable event for all as the Corps marched around the entire track, partnered with the University of Tennessee to form the color guard,

and took Skipper on its first, out-of-state experience to fire on the field!

We look forward to seeing many of you during the course of the year and sharing other great news, including the latest drawings of the new Corps Leadership and Military Science Building and the incredible, second new residence hall that is towering above the Drillfield!



Travel with Alumni • www.alumni.vt.edu/travel



Christopher Almont at Sea Level on the road to the Dead Sea in Israel in February 2008.

Unexpected turns

By Christopher J. Almont '91, senior executive service

On Aug. 30, 1987, I traveled from Brookhaven, Pennsylvania, to Blacksburg, Virginia, to join my Charlie Corps buds for cadre week with the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. I enrolled in Air Force ROTC, but had no illusions of being a pilot. I could barely see past the nose on my face. I was majoring in international studies, which set me apart — this was Virginia Tech, after all.

I remember being braced up in the hallway in Brodie as Cadet 1st Sgt. David Sikora '89 asked us our majors.

“Mechanical engineering, cadet first sergeant!”

“Aerospace engineering, cadet first sergeant!”

“Physics, cadet first sergeant!”

“International studies, cadet first sergeant!”

If I had grown an extra eye, I couldn't have seemed stranger. With that major and no chance to fly, it was probably inevitable I ended up in intelligence. This

was fine with me because not only did the career suit the major, it was the support field closest to operations.

When I arrived at Virginia Tech, Ronald Reagan was president, and the Cold War was still very much a thing. None of us had any reason to believe the Soviets would soon be a memory. While the Soviet Union's fall was a good thing, it kind of upset my plans to be commissioned, get assigned to Europe, and ski the Alps while we all waited for the Soviet Bear to come through the Fulda Gap.

Instead, my life took an unexpected turn when Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait in 1990. The response, Operation Desert Storm, for better or worse, signaled a 25-year U.S. involvement in the Middle East. I watched the war on TV in Blacksburg in the last semester of my senior year. That summer, I sat on my couch watching as the Communist Party of the Soviet Union was outlawed. In December, the Soviet Union itself dissolved. Suddenly all of us embarking into the profession of arms (and quite a few who had already devoted much of their lives to it) were left to wonder, what now? I had no idea then that Kuwait's liberation charted the course of my career.

In March 1992, I reported to intelligence officer training at Goodfellow Air Force Base in San Angelo, Texas. Because I'd grown up outside Philadelphia in the heart of the largest urban concentration



Christopher Almont as a senior in the Corps in 1991.

in the world, San Angelo seemed like another planet. It sits 90 minutes south of Abilene, down an asphalt ribbon running through the West Texas desert, and the only man-made things for miles were the road and the power lines overhead.

Turns out, it wouldn't be the last desert I'd see in my career.

At Goodfellow, I learned of the 609th Tactical Intelligence Squadron, U.S.

Central Air Forces, or CENTAF (now AFCENT), the air component of CENTCOM. The Middle East was shaping up to be a growth industry in national security, so upon graduation from Goodfellow in September 1992, I set off for Shaw Air Force Base in Sumter, South Carolina. I had no idea that I'd specialize in Middle Eastern defense and security for the next 24 years (and counting).

Operation Desert Storm was 18 months in the rearview mirror, and most of the vets from that conflict had or were moving

on, but Saddam remained. I arrived at the start of Operation Southern Watch, the no-fly zone over southern Iraq.

Nominally, Southern Watch protected the Shia in the south from the Iraqi air force. In reality, we were there to remind Saddam that if he went back to his old ways, the airpower that had pounded his army into powder was just over the horizon.



Almont and his intel school class photo taken at Goodfellow Air Force Base in Texas in September 1992, when woodland BDUs were still a thing.

When I arrived, I distinctly remember being told to expect the operation to end when the Clinton administration took office in January 1993. But Southern Watch became the focal point of my life until I left Shaw in 1996, and the operation itself did not officially end until 2003.

While at Shaw, I deployed for Southern Watch three times: twice to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, while with the Air Intelligence Squadron, and once to Bahrain with the 78th Fighter Squadron. Riyadh was good to me. I learned a lot there, became a command briefer — a skill that's carried me through my entire career — and, oh, yeah, met my wife, Darlene, in the Eskan Village chow hall in April 1993. She deployed there from Misawa Air Base, Japan, and served with me in the J2. We didn't date until she got a permanent change of station to Shaw, but we've been together ever since. How many couples will get to tell their grandchildren that they met in Riyadh?

Around 1996 we decided two Air Force officers in the same career field was getting untenable. We had already done several successive deployments (we called

it “passing each other on the tarmac”) and decided it was time to move on.

Before I left, I managed to squeeze in some unique experiences. The gold souk and “The Edge of the World” in Riyadh, Petra, and the Dead Sea in Jordan (think the end of “Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade”). A day on the USS Nimitz in the Persian Gulf complete with a catapult launch. Five rides in the back of an F-16 while serving in the 78th (and I only got sick twice!).

I also deployed with the 78th to Shaykh Isa Air Base in Bahrain in October 1995. This was the test deployment for the Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) concept. The mission was to deploy from bases in the U.S. to a bare-bones airfield, set up operations, and be flying over the objective, in this case southern Iraq, in 36 hours. We did it in 30.

We lived in tents and operated out of a rickety shack on the edge of the flight line. While there, I worked side-by-side with the pilots planning missions over hostile territory. It was the model for every subsequent AEF deployment since, and it was great to be a part of it.

In September 1996, fresh out of

the Air Force, we left for Washington, D.C. After nine months full-time in grad school, we decided it was time for a child — and raising children takes money — so I re-entered the workforce as a contractor for the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization. While scripting modeling scenarios was interesting for a time, I knew it wasn't something I could do forever. When I found a vacancy for an Iran air defense analyst at the Defense Intelligence Agency, I made the move back into the federal workforce, this time as a civilian.

Before long, I added Iran's air forces to my portfolio. From there, I became a senior forces analyst, covering all services, and then I was promoted to GS-15 and became the senior analyst for all Iran issues. The work we did supported policymakers, decision-makers, planners, and warfighters.

In 2009, I even had one more chance to deploy, this time to Baghdad as the senior intelligence officer at the headquarters intelligence staff under Gen. Raymond T. Odierno. Fortunately, violence was on the wane by then, and we thought we were setting Iraq up for



Darlene and Christopher Almont married in September 1995.



Almont before his fifth and final F-16 ride at Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina, in August 1996.

a peaceful transition to self-rule. Sadly, things haven't turned out that way.

After serving as the senior Iran analyst, I became the deputy defense intelligence officer for the Middle East, branching out to cover the entire region. The challenge in that job was the breadth of issues. I had to be equally well-versed in military issues and geopolitics. One day I could be leading a group of analysts briefing a policymaker on stability in Yemen, and the next day I could be playing an Iranian general in an exercise.

I had very similar experiences during a rotation to the National Intelligence Council (NIC) as deputy national intelligence officer for military issues. The NIC is the focal point for intelligence community analysis and directly supports the National Security Council, among other "customers." Here, too, the challenge was the breadth of the issues. For six weeks in 2010, I briefed congressional committees and members on funding to Lebanon's armed forces while overseeing the publication of a national intelligence estimate on the war in Iraq, then turned to publishing on threats to Israel. While the lack of consistent focus was challenging, constantly mastering new issues was part of the fun.

The Defense Intelligence Agency promoted me to the senior executive service ranks in January 2014, as senior expert for Iran and the Arabian Peninsula. I advise the agency's director on those issues and represent the agency to the intelligence community, policymakers, and commanders. I've also transitioned from a working analyst to a mentor and leader.

It's rare that I write a product myself anymore. Instead, I help others form their ideas, provide historical context (many of these kids weren't even born when Saddam invaded Kuwait), all while teaching them how best to function in their profession.

My time in the intelligence community, military and civilian, has given me the chance to do things I never

would have otherwise. I've been to 25 countries — many several times over — including Australia, Europe, and most of the Middle East. I regularly work in buildings most people only hear about on the news, such as the Pentagon, the Capitol, and even the White House Situation Room. And I've gotten to meet and hopefully influence some of the most important decision-makers in national security.

I'd be remiss if I didn't express just how important Virginia Tech and the Corps of Cadets have been to achieving what I have. In my assessments and analysis, I have always drawn on the lessons I learned as a student. But unlike those days in the halls of Brodie Hall, where I was the only one not studying engineering, at work I'm surrounded by colleagues with the same educational background. The Corps of Cadets sets me apart from almost all my colleagues, who were never immersed in a rigorous program that instilled discipline, leadership, and the "That I May Serve" ethic in its members.



Almont overlooks the Roman Ramp in Masada, Israel, in February 2008.



Almont and his Mom take a picture in front of the old Brodie Hall during his sophomore year homecoming in October 1988.



Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn, at left, swears Almont into the senior executive service ranks in May 2014.



Olmsted Foundation Support Allows Cadets to Travel to Panama

Capt. James Snyder, at far left, and the 2016 Olmsted cadets visit the Panama Canal.

By Deputy Commandant of Cadets Capt. James Snyder, 2nd Battalion

In May, Virginia Tech senior cadets and Olmsted Foundation Undergraduate Scholars represented the Corps of Cadets, the university, and the nation well as they completed activities in Panama, including tours of the capital city and commerce port city of Colon.

Participants were cadets Beth Demyanovich (Air Force), John Hawley (Air Force), Sean Kelly (Air Force), Colleen McGovern (Navy), Casey Reynolds (Air Force), and Ellice Sisson (Army).

In addition to the city tours, cadets visited the Panama Canal, a tropical jungle area and native community, and the San Blas Island natural habitat area. They completed three community service projects and attended a country brief with U.S. Ambassador to Panama John D. Feeley. They attended Memorial Day ceremonies at the U.S. National Cemetery at Corozal in the former Canal Zone and had another opportunity to speak with Feeley after the formal events.

The George and Carol Olmsted Foundation, headquartered in Falls Church, Virginia, has long supported educational programs that give active-duty military officers and more recently cadets and midshipmen at Title IX Senior Military Colleges a better understanding of foreign cultures.

While assigned to China during World War II, Gen. George Olmsted interacted extensively with both Chinese and Japanese officials and discovered that American military leaders lacked exposure and sensitivity to foreign cultures. That experience, coupled with a lifelong dedication to U.S. security, led him to establish the Olmsted Foundation to execute foreign resident-study programs for commissioned officers.

In fall 2004, the Olmsted Foundation board of directors established the Olmsted Cadet Travel and Cultural Immersion Program to enable “academically and socially qualified

commission-tracked ROTC Cadets” at each of the U.S. Code Title X Senior Military Colleges, including Virginia Tech, to travel to non-English-speaking nations. The program helps prepare future military officers for international assignments and strengthens our nation’s ability to function efficiently and effectively in and with foreign countries.

The foundation provided the Corps an initial \$10,000 grant in 2005, and three rising seniors traveled to Rio de Janeiro for two weeks that summer. Since then, recognizing the Corps’ efforts to optimize cadet participation by its aggressive liaison with U.S. embassies, the foundation has awarded grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$20,000 to support cadet travel to Santiago, Chile; Buenos Aires, Argentina; and Panama City, Panama.

Although no grants were distributed in 2010 because of the economic downturn, the foundation resumed

grants in 2011 and 2012. Because of the Corps' robust trips in previous years, VMI requested to join our efforts for the 2011 and 2012 trips to Panama, sending four cadets to accompany Virginia Tech cadets on their travel.

In 2013, the foundation expanded its undergraduate scholar program to include two historically black colleges — Hampton University and Norfolk State University — that sought the Corps' assistance to launch their first cultural immersion trips. Two cadets in Army ROTC from both institutions joined the Virginia Tech contingent for the 2013 and 2014 travel to Panama. In 2015 and this year, two cadets from Norfolk State University Army ROTC accompanied the Virginia Tech group.

In her reflection of this year's experience, Reynolds wrote: "The day we visited Sister Barbara in Colon at a refuge for women victims of domestic violence and day school for underprivileged

children made me realize how lucky I am to be where I am today. It really broke my heart to learn that some of these kids in the poorer communities will never know anything else. They live in terrible living conditions with no running water or bathroom facilities. We take so many things for granted here in the United States, and, meanwhile, they are not given the opportunities to grow, so they simply stick to what they've known all their life. It makes me realize just how lucky I am that I live in the United States and that I am given various opportunities to grow. I think everyone needs to experience something like this in their lifetime so that they realize how lucky they are to be a citizen of the United States."

McGovern added "The most impactful day in Panama for me was when we traveled to the very impoverished city of Colon. It was a very emotional trip for me. I can remember almost every detail

about our walk around the block: The kids sitting down dividing up money amongst themselves; the smell of the unclean air; the polluted standing water in the streets; and the look of pure happiness in the eyes of every person as Sister Barbara walked down the street. She brought safety and solace to a needy community and bravely walks down the streets hugging every child and shaking every woman's hand."

Hawley shared this about his travels: "One of the most interesting parts of the trip for me was our meeting with the U.S. ambassador to Panama, Ambassador John Feeley. He talked about statecraft and American 'soft power' in the country with the insight that foreign relations are just a bigger version of personal relationships. This brought the culture that we had observed into perspective from a global leader."



The 2016 Olmsted cadets visit MUCEC, a women's shelter and primary school for underprivileged children, in Colon, Panama, where they worked to clean up the facilities and interacted with children.



An Impressive Year

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

My first year is in the books.

I just completed my first full year as your chairman. What a year. Here are a few of the highlights:

- We successfully opened and moved into Pearson Hall.
- Your Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets is the largest in modern history, numbering 1,093 cadets.
- We raised the private portion for our new Corps Leadership and Military Sciences (CLMS) building, and it is in the design phase. The CLMS building is on the short list of the university's priorities. We still need the state's approval, and we will need your help to keep it moving through the budget process.
- The new residence hall replacing Brodie Hall is scheduled to open after winter break.
- Our cadets have an average 3.0 GPA. Now, that is something I have never experienced.
- The Class of 2020 made it through New Cadet Week and is settling in.
- The ROTC detachments' commanders continue to get asked for more officers as the services recognize the quality they produce. We commissioned more officers by percentage (64 percent) than the other senior military colleges.
- Our Emerging Leader Scholarship (ELS) program is helping recruit and retain our cadets, but we can do better. That is my No. 1 goal for next year. All of our cadets should receive an ELS.

In addition, we just completed another successful reunion. The Virginia Tech football team posted a 49-0 shutout over Boston College, which made it all the better. We had almost 400 folks representing eight decades of alumni attend our various events. We also had more than 200 alumni march onto Worsham Field before the football game and 20 stand by the Corps to welcome the team during "Enter Sandman."

Our guest speaker for our Saturday lunch, Gen. Carlton "Dewey" Everhart '83, talked about his airlift command and how our great Corps is producing awesome quality officers. He said, "Gen. Fullhart, feed me more!"

A C-17 from his command in Dover, Delaware, flew over Lane Stadium for the national anthem, piloted by our alumnus. Yes, I gazed up to see the huge aircraft soar over the football field. During halftime, the war birds flew over to tremendous applause.

Maj. Stan Cohen '49 again proved his dedication by bringing a C-45 named "Hokie Pokie" and two AT-6, all World War II-era airplanes, to Blacksburg. He even told a story during our dinner about oasting a deer after a game. Gen. Fullhart quickly reminded the cadets in the room, "That was then, and this is now." We all laughed.

We had seven cadets speak to us about their experiences and how our support helps them succeed. The Regimental Commander Cadet Col. Mike Schoka, Class of 2016, led the cadets speaking about how he had to drop out of Air

Force ROTC for medical reasons. The Corps inspired him to stick and not to quit, so he moved to the VPI Citizen-Leader Track Battalion. Now he is the leader of Corps.

Gen. Fullhart gave us an update on the Corps, and the bottom line is we are in good shape. His staff continues to deliver a Corps we can be proud of.

The Corps attended the Battle at Bristol and made us very proud. Twenty-two buses and a trailer with Skipper in it made the trip. We as alumni made it happen financially, and the staff executed the plan on time and under budget. When the Corps marched on the track before the game, the cadets filled three-quarters of it. Our Highty-Tighties played, and everyone in the stands stopped and watched.

Even though the score was not what we wanted, having the Corps there will pay dividends in the future with giving, recruiting, and retention.

During our fall board meeting, we had Tom Gabbard Sr., associate director of athletics for operations, as our guest speaker. He is a veteran who loves the Corps. He explained to us how the Bristol game came about and that Virginia Tech always wanted the game to happen. The pay day for the university was great, too! Tom commented on how the Corps looked clean and crisp and had great military bearing as he showed us photographs.

The color guard made national recognition that night and proved to be the best picture he saw of the event.

He confirmed that the Corps tradition of handling the flags that the football players carry before each game at home and away will continue. The Corps will continue to be invited to attend big games in future, too.

I would like to thank you for allowing me to serve you as your chairman this year. I do not take the job for granted. I enjoy giving back to an organization that helped me be successful in the military and in business. We all need to pull together to help reach our goals for next year. Please do not forget to write a letter to your U.S. senators asking our Highty-Tighties to march in the presidential inauguration. Please also write your state representatives to approve our CLMS building and Corps funding.

Please remember: As alumni we must communicate, participate, and donate!
Ut Prosim!

Go, Hokies!



Gen. Carlton "Dewey" Everhart '83, at left, and Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart, at right, present J. Pearson '87 and wife, Renae Pearson '91, with a wooden Corps crest the Pearsons won in a raffle during the Corps Homecoming luncheon in September. The crest was donated by Shawn Cagle '01.

★ COMMITTED TO ★
VETERANS

New Hiring
www.jobs.vt.edu

f t

VIRGINIA TECH RECEIVES GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR HIRING MOST VETERANS

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

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

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

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



LIVE ◀ LEARN ▶ WORK



Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets alumni, from left, U.S. Navy Capt. Douglas Beaver '91, Virginia State Police Trooper Derek Stotler '13, U.S. Air Force Capt. Amanda (McGrath) Miller '12 talked with cadets during this fall's Gunfighter Panel.

Successful Collaborations

By Elaine Humphrey, director, Maj. Gen. W. Thomas Rice Center for Leader Development

The word of the day in the Rice Center for Leader Development is “collaboration.” I continue to be very impressed and grateful for how much staff and cadets care about what we are doing. And they don’t just say so — they demonstrate it daily!

One example of this Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets-wide investment in the Rice Center is my collaboration with the deputy commandants and senior enlisted advisors to enhance the curriculum of our Corps Labs. Meetings started last spring and continue this semester to increase the rigor and relevancy of the content. One new approach we are trying this semester is to have four of the Thursday classes designated as “battalion time.” Rather than having the cadets meet by academic level, the instructors are giving their battalions an opportunity to plan and execute class activities. Freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors are practicing the leadership theories about which they are reading and learning. This format is designed to make the

Corps Labs true leadership laboratories.

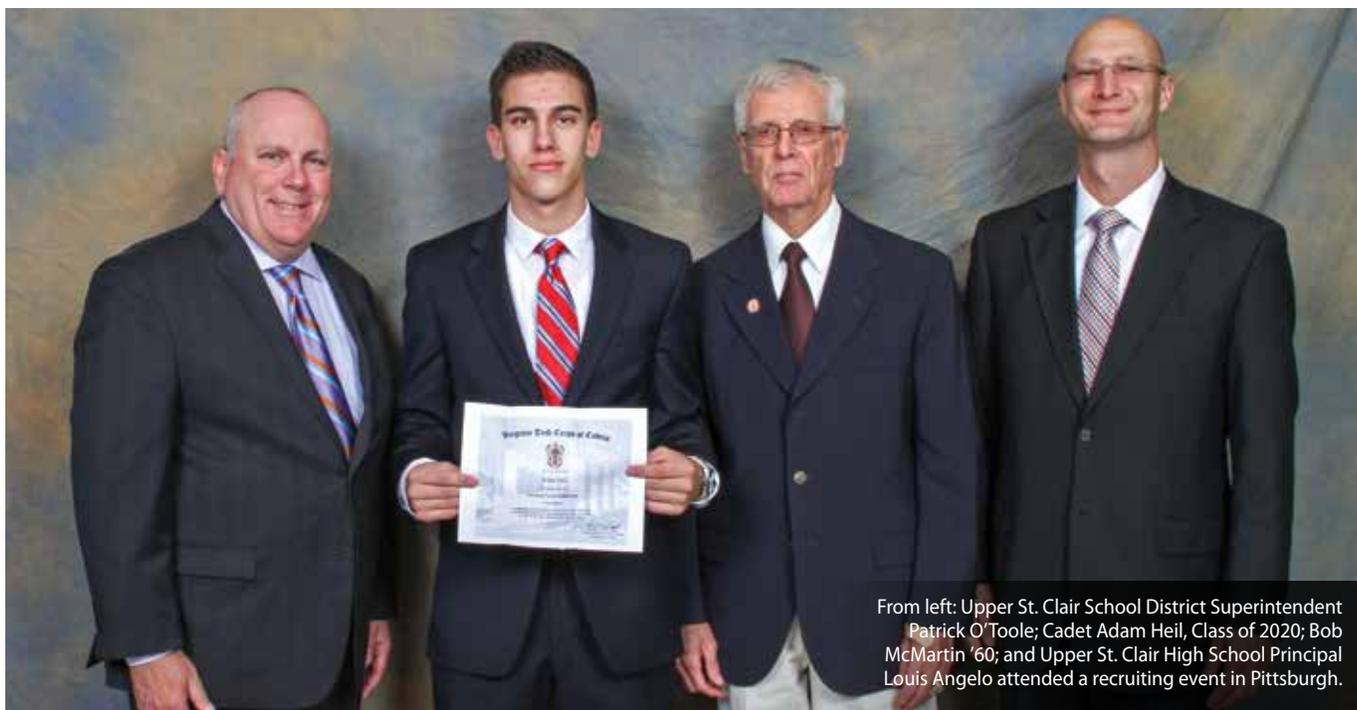
Cadet Judith Skinker, the regimental academics officer, and her staff have also significantly stepped up to the plate. In the summer article, I talked about the pilot program called F.A.S.T. (Freshmen Academic Success Teams). The focus is to facilitate new cadets’ academic success through weekly meetings in small groups led by sophomores. Freshmen report on their previous week’s accomplishments and challenges and make a plan for the upcoming week to properly prepare for their classes. Cadet Skinker led the recruitment and selection of the F.A.S.T. facilitators. She and her staff are maintaining a close eye on the meetings and giving me timely feedback so we can address any needs of freshmen or facilitators efficiently and effectively.

The third area of collaboration concerns the decision to conduct an extensive review of the leadership minor. Working with staff, cadets, the Pamplin College of Business, and the university registrar, I am preparing a proposal for a

new leadership minor that will apply to all cadets, regardless of commissioning or non-commissioning status.

We have also kicked off a great semester of guest speakers in our Leaders in Action (LIA) series with our Gunfighters Panel on Sept. 15. Following that, on Oct. 6, both the producer and the director of “The Unknowns” met with cadets to share their newly released documentary about America’s shrine to our fallen heroes. Cadets heard about their experience as tomb soldiers and the journey to create this important work. Retired Lt. Col. Brad Lawing ’92, who also served as a tomb guard, joined them.

November will close out the series with our Medal of Honor commemoration featuring Gary Williams, the author of the book upon which the motion picture “Lone Survivor” is based. He will discuss the history of the Medal of Honor and highlight Virginia Tech’s recipients. The LIA is one more example of the meaningful collaborations empowering the Rice Center to serve our cadets.



From left: Upper St. Clair School District Superintendent Patrick O'Toole; Cadet Adam Heil, Class of 2020; Bob McMartin '60; and Upper St. Clair High School Principal Louis Angelo attended a recruiting event in Pittsburgh.

Five-Minute Call for Young Alums

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

If you follow this column, you might recall that in the last Corps Review, I placed a “first call” to young alumni to partner in the recruiting efforts of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets (VTCC). Well, here we are at “five-minute call,” and I’m back to ask for your help as a Corps graduate in recruiting future generations of cadets.

Every year is a blank slate when it comes to recruiting. If we are successful during an academic year, we’ll have about 390 freshmen the following fall, and the Corps’ strength stays at or near 1,100 cadets. If we are less than successful, then the Corps’ strength could fall below our self-imposed floor of 1,050.

Back in my cadet days, five-minute call to growley was where the uniform for the formation and the menu for the meal were announced — the details. So here is the what and where we are hoping you can help the Corps with:

College fairs are the place where admissions officers from across the nation

interface with high school juniors and seniors seeking information on and entry into colleges and universities. Virginia Tech’s Office of Undergraduate Admissions routinely asks for our help at these events, and there is no better time to tell the story of Virginia Tech and the VTCC than the short windows of September through November in the fall and February through April in the spring.

If you volunteer to help in this endeavor, we will do our best to avoid overtaxing your time. It would be unusual for a Corps alumni recruiter to do more than one or two college fairs per year, and each college fair is a commitment of roughly four hours of your time.

- If you live in a metropolitan area of Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Texas, or North or South Carolina, we need your help with college fairs both in the spring and the fall.
- If you live in Virginia, we have critical shortages of help in Tidewater,

Northern Virginia, Fredericksburg, Winchester, Martinsville, and Danville.

Personal and individual contact with high school seniors who have been offered admission to Virginia Tech as cadets is the other area on which Corps alumni recruiters are focusing. This can be as simple as a few short, handwritten notes congratulating soon-to-be cadets on their decision to attend Virginia Tech as members of the Corps. A more involved position would be attending a VTCC Parents Club event near your home where you would meet a few upper class cadets and their parents, as well as entering cadets and their parents. These are great venues to calm frayed nerves and help make the parents of new cadets our allies in retention!

So there you have it. Just like five-minute call was short, this is the short version of what we are asking of Corps alumni, particularly younger alumni. Until we talk again at last call, *Ut Prosim*.

Hokie Heroes

Started in 2006 by IMG College, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Hokie Hero program honors Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets alumni who are currently deployed. Recipients of this honor are highlighted during the radio broadcasts of Virginia Tech football games by Jon Laaser and Mike Burnop, on the Corps of Cadets website, and in the Corps Review magazine. Shown here are the Hokie Heroes featured during the first half of the 2016 football season.



2nd Lt. Ross Holdsworth '14, USA
Camp As Sayliyah, Qatar



VIRGINIA TECH STUDENTS & ALUMNI
1ST BATTALION, 116TH INFANTRY REGIMENT
VIRGINIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Virginia National Guard's First Battalion, 116th Infantry Brigade combat team
Middle East



Capt. Travis Taggart '10, USA
Bagram, Afghanistan



Lt. Patrick Bates '11, USN
Bahrain and Japan



Lt. j.g. Steve Mehr '10, USN
Middle East and Japan



Lt. j.g. Kevin Willett '13, USN, Lt. JG John Waters '12, and Lt. Cmdr. Mike Steffens '03
Okinawa, Japan



(At far right) Lt. Col. Mike Rembold '96, USA
Dhaka, Bangladesh

Senior Cadet Commanders, Fall 2016



Regimental Commander **Michael Schoka**

Cadet Col. Michael Schoka, of Fairfax, Virginia, is pursuing a degree in mathematics with a minor in leadership studies and plans to work for law enforcement when he graduates in

December. He joined the Corps for the opportunity to train in a high-intensity military environment, ensuring leadership development beyond what an ROTC program outside of a senior military college could offer. Cadet Schoka previously served as a Lima Company first sergeant in the fall 2015 semester and as a squad leader in the spring. Proud to serve the regiment, Cadet Schoka is a recipient of an Emerging Leader Scholarship.



First Battalion Commander **Kevin Byerly**

Cadet Lt. Col. Kevin Byerly, of Virginia Beach, Virginia, is pursuing degrees in aerospace and ocean engineering with minors in leadership studies and naval engineering. He plans to

commission into the U.S. Navy upon graduation. He joined the Corps because he believes it is one of the most rigorous and successful programs in terms of preparation for a military lifestyle. Cadet Byerly previously served as cadre in fall 2015, as the 1st Battalion sergeant major in the spring, and as the Navy Battalion S-4. Honored to serve 1st Battalion, Cadet Byerly is a recipient of a Navy scholarship and an Emerging Leader Scholarship.



Second Battalion Commander **Charles Duncan IV**

Cadet Lt. Col. Charles Duncan, of Raleigh, North Carolina, is pursuing a degree in electrical engineering with a minor in leadership studies and plans to

commission into the U.S. Army upon graduation. He joined the Corps to be a part of a rich tradition and history of excellent leaders. Cadet Duncan served as Golf Company platoon sergeant and cadre during fall 2015 and as 2nd Battalion sergeant major and Army platoon sergeant in the spring. Humbled to lead 2nd Battalion, Cadet Duncan is a recipient of an Emerging Leader and Army scholarship.



Third Battalion Commander **William "Britton" Brannen**

Cadet Lt. Col. Britton Brannen, of Fredericksburg, Virginia, is pursuing a degree in international studies with minors in Spanish and leadership studies.

He plans to commission as a Marine officer upon graduation. Cadet Brannen joined the Corps because he wanted to take full advantage of its leadership opportunities to better prepare himself to lead Marines. He is a proud member of Raider Company within the Naval ROTC program and served as cadre platoon sergeant during fall 2015 and as company first sergeant during the spring for Kilo Battery. He is honored to serve 3rd Battalion and is a recipient of an NROTC (Marine Option) side load scholarship and an Emerging Leader Scholarship.

Command Staff, Fall 2016



Regimental Executive Officer
Tiffany Borden
Human, Nutrition, Foods, and
Exercise
Exton, Pennsylvania
Army



Regimental Adjutant
Aidan Hughes
International Studies
Westfield, New Jersey
Citizen-Leader Track



Regimental Public Affairs
Officer
Nikkole Lenardson
Biological Systems
Engineering
Las Vegas, Nevada
Army



Regimental Operations
Officer
Chris Hintz
Business Information
Technology
Sterling, Virginia
Marine Option



Regimental Supply and
Finance Officer
Daniel Wallace
Political Science
Crofton, Maryland
Citizen-Leader Track



Regimental Academics
Officer
Judith Skinker
Civil and Environmental
Engineering
Allentown, Pennsylvania
Navy



Regimental Sergeant Major
Nicholas Masella
Political Science
Merrimack, New Hampshire
Citizen-Leader Track



Regimental Inspector
General
Aaron Reed
History
Basking Ridge, New Jersey
Army



Executive Court Chair
Walter Gonsiewski
Mechanical Engineering
Lebanon Township, New
Jersey
Air Force



Honor Court Chief Justice
Alexander Rastovac
International Relations and
Russian
Gurnee, Illinois
Navy



Regimental Historian
Adam Summers
Mechanical Engineering
Fairfax Station, Virginia
Navy



VPI Battalion Commander
Peter Wilson
Finance
Spring Hill, Tennessee
Citizen-Leader Track



Army Battalion Commander
Ben Paddock
Economics
Arlington, Virginia
Army



Navy Battalion Commander
Colleen McGovern
Biochemistry
Silver Spring, Maryland
Navy



Air Force Battalion
Commander
Katy Wheeler
Industrial and Systems
Engineering
Radford, Virginia
Air Force

Command Staff, Fall 2016



Alpha Company Commander
Sarah Mitchell
Biochemistry
Feasterville, Pennsylvania
Navy



Bravo Company Commander
Gregory Milhiser
International Studies and
Russian
Montgomery Village,
Maryland
Army



Charlie Company Commander
Austin Leake
Geology
Blacksburg, Virginia
Air Force



Delta Company Commander
Lindsey Bittinger
Industrial and Systems
Engineering
Churchton, Maryland
Navy



Echo Company Commander
Scott Fisher
Finance
Charleston, West Virginia
Citizen-Leader Track



Foxtrot Company
Commander
Claire Blume
Ocean and Aerospace
Engineering
West Dundee, Illinois
Navy



Golf Company Commander
Hunter James Garth
Finance
Lorton, Virginia
Army



Hotel Company Commander
Cody Reuss
History
Virginia Beach, Virginia
Marine Option



India Company Commander
Tyler Phillips
International Studies and
Russian
Madison, Connecticut
Navy



Kilo Company Commander
Ellice Sisson
Psychology
Moneta, Virginia
Army



Lima Company Commander
Aaron Richardson
History
Charlotte, North Carolina
Army



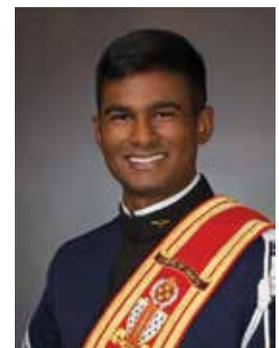
Band Company Commander
Nathaniel Oslund
International Studies
Leesburg, Virginia
Air Force



Band Alpha Commander
Zachary Stossel
Aerospace Engineering
Litchfield Park, Arizona
Air Force



Band Bravo Commander
James Tucker
Civil Engineering
Leesburg, Virginia
Air Force



Regimental Drum Major
Kavi Muraleetharan
Mechanical Engineering
Ashburn, Virginia
Air Force

New Corps Support

Shay Barnhart

Shay Barnhart joined the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets this summer as the



communications director. She maintains a comprehensive communications and marketing program for the

Corps, serves on the Corps' advancement team, and edits the Corps Review magazine, among other duties.

Originally from Kansas City, Missouri, Barnhart graduated from the University of Missouri with a bachelor of journalism degree. She worked a reporter, page designer, and editor at newspapers around the country. In 2010, she joined Virginia Tech University Relations, where she created content for the university's top-level social media accounts and webpages and worked with Virginia Tech News products.

She and her husband, Patrick, reside in Fairlawn, Virginia.

Jason Oberoi

Jason Oberoi '10 joined the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets in August 2005 as



a member of Band Company. Oberoi went on to become a cadre sergeant, the VPI 1st Sergeant, Band XO,

the Regimental S-3, and the Exec Court chair.

After commissioning as an armor officer in May 2010, Oberoi became a platoon leader, executive officer, and adjutant in the 1st Squadron of the 14th Cavalry Squadron at Fort Lewis, Washington. After separating in December 2014, he worked in Baltimore as a logistics manager, then as an executive assistant for Virginia Tech's Pamplin College of Business. This summer he became the assistant director for the Corps' Citizen Leader Track.

Oberoi volunteers as a faculty Fellow for Sigma Phi Epsilon and as an emergency medical technician for the Blacksburg Volunteer Rescue Squad.

Oberoi and his wife, Allie, reside in Christiansburg, Virginia.

Samantha Riggan

Samantha Riggan joined the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets this summer as the

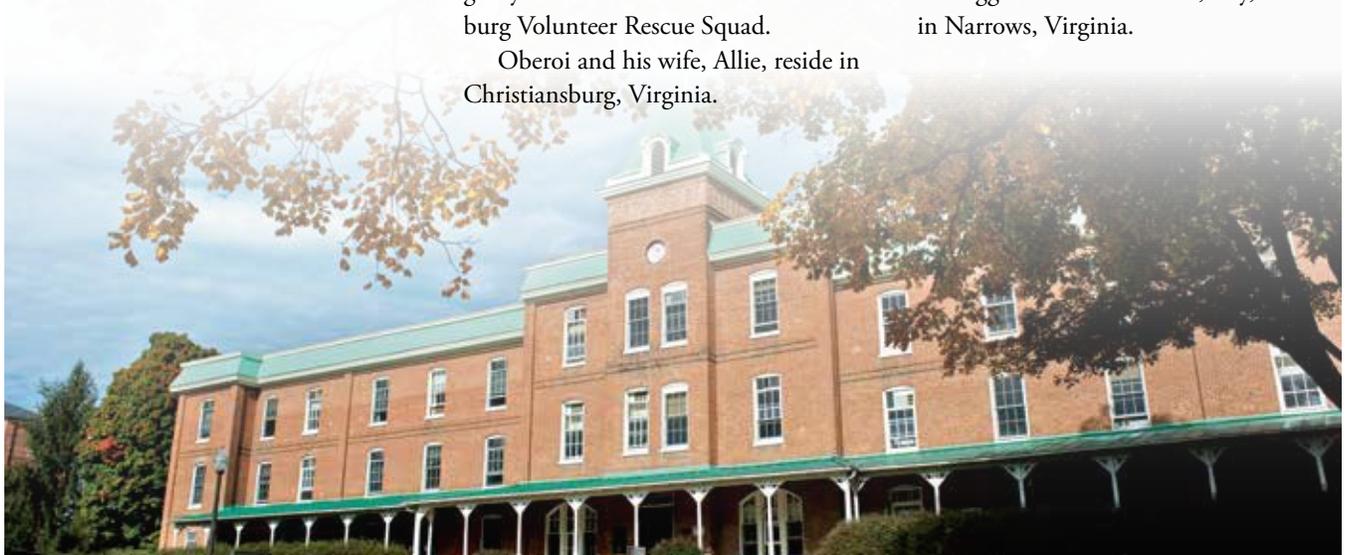


museum curator. With more than 25 years of experience as an antiques dealer, auctioneer, and personal

property appraiser, Riggan earned her undergraduate degree in history and museum studies from Chatham University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and a master's degree in material culture and public humanities from Virginia Tech.

Before joining the Corps, Riggan was the project director for the Montgomery County Memory Project in Christiansburg, Virginia, and as a graduate teaching assistant and instructor for Virginia Tech's Department of Religion and Culture. She also had internships at the Library Company of Philadelphia and at the Senator John Heinz History Center, Library and Archives.

Riggan and her husband, Ray, reside in Narrows, Virginia.





Cecil P. Balderson, who was in the Corps of Cadets from 1931 to 1932 attends church in his hometown of Waynesboro, Virginia.

The Oldest Corps of Cadets Alumnus

By Samantha Riggan, Corps museum curator

Walking across campus I pass buildings bearing names of former school leaders and professors — Burruss, Cowgill, Norris, and Hutcheson, to name a few. As a historian, I am a bit more curious than most about these men whose names grace the university buildings and their histories. If I were only able to relive some of those early days of Virginia Tech.

I found the next best thing: a former cadet who could tell me stories about President Burruss and others whose names grace our buildings. Cecil P. Balderson turned 104 on Oct. 2 and, from what I can find, is the oldest living alumnus of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. He was a cadet in H Company from 1932 to 1934.

Balderson lives independently (with daily assistance) in Waynesboro, Virginia. During an interview in August, he spoke of his memories from VPI (he remembers it as VPI and not Virginia Tech) and his life after he had to leave the Corps to help on the family farm during the Great Depression.

One of his strongest memories was

of his rat year and his initiation into the Corps by the “sophs,” who at times were not particularly benevolent to nervous freshmen. Balderson talked about cold showers, upperclassmen who had a bit more than their fair share of chow than the freshmen, and cold nights of guard duty.

He remembers sitting with fellow cadets on the wall at the entrance to the school, dances at the Cotillion Club, and his admiration for his professors.

When I showed him a photograph of cadets in costume for their Rat Parade (a tradition no longer in place), Balderson told me that his costume consisted of him wearing only his “nighttime underwear.” When asked the difference between nighttime and daytime underwear, he could only say that nighttime underwear was a bit warmer than the daytime garb.

Through it all, he and his fellow cadets not only persevered, many of them went on to hold great leadership roles. Balderson’s classmate, for example, was General W. Thomas Rice, the namesake

of the Corps’ Rice Center for Leader Development.

He met his wife of 71 years, Violet (who died in 2007), at the William Byrd Hotel in Richmond, Virginia, where he was a desk clerk. Their son, Cecil Balderson Jr. ’61, earned a degree in aeronautical engineering.

Even though he didn’t graduate from VPI, Balderson credits much of his success to his time in the Corps. After his tenure as desk clerk, Balderson worked as a sales rep for Texaco and later for the Balcrank Corporation. In 1963, he bought the Central Virginia Oil Company, where he retired from in 1977.

Balderson played golf until he was 90 and served as a state president for the Lions Club International. He still attends church on Sundays. He loves music and considers himself to be a “pretty darned good” harmonica player.

I was excited to welcome Balderson back to campus to be a guest of honor at the Corps’ pass in review for the Class of ‘66’s induction into the Old Guard, part of homecoming weekend.

Clockwise from top left: Daughter Katie Boward, son Matt Boward '17, Jill Boward '87, '91, and Gary Boward '86. Photo was taken in New Orleans during Matt Boward's 21st birthday celebration.



Focus on Philanthropy:

Five Questions for Gary and Jill Boward

Gary and Jill Boward of Woodbridge, Virginia, proudly carry the leadership lessons they learned from the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets with them today. Through philanthropy, they give back, ensuring that future generations learn similar lessons.

In 2012, they generously funded an Emerging Leader Scholarship (ELS), a program that provides financial support for more than 750 cadets enrolled in every college throughout the university. One special characteristic of the program is that many of the scholarships are actively sponsored by alumni, who get to meet and build relationships with the men and women they help.

Jackson Tettelbach, a junior in Naval ROTC studying civil engineering with a minor in green engineering in the Virginia Tech College of Engineering and a minor in leadership studies from the Rice Center for Leader Development, is the current recipient of the Boward's ELS.

Gary Boward '86 graduated with a degree in history and spent more than a decade in the U.S. Army before moving into the private sector. He currently works as an independent business consultant helping small businesses. He joined the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Inc. board in 2013.

Jill Boward '87, '91 graduated with a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering and operations research and a master's degree in engineering administration. She has spent more than 29 years as a civilian employee in the Department of Defense, and is now director of cost engineering and industrial analysis at the Naval Sea Systems Command 05C.

Q: Why did you decide to fund an Emerging Leader Scholarship?

A: Shortly after graduating Virginia Tech, we started giving back to various organizations that have had an impact/influence on our lives or served causes that we believed in. Over the past 30 years, we have been very blessed in many aspects of our lives and have continued to donate to many different organizations; foremost among those is the Virginia Tech Corp of Cadets (VTCC), who we felt significantly shaped us in our formative years and greatly influenced who we became as adults. So when the opportunity presented itself a few years

ago to make a significant contribution to the VTCC that would both "give back" to the VTCC and help a cadet out financially we did not hesitate to fund an ELS.

Q: What rewards do you get from participating with the ELS program? What has been the biggest surprise?

A: There is great satisfaction in actually getting to meet and know your scholarship recipient at the annual fall ELS breakfast and know that you are helping a person who is following in a similar path that you undertook. Helping others grow and achieve their potential is always satisfying.

Another great thing about the ELS program is that you can request consideration concerning the selection of your ELS recipient. In our case, we asked that consideration be first given to graduates from the high schools our children graduated from; if no one met that criteria, another deserving student from our local area. As a result, we are also getting to help students in our community.

The biggest, and most pleasant surprise, was that the first recipient of our Emerging Leader Scholarship was the son of a former classmate of mine and whose mom was a coworker of Jill.

Q: What leadership lessons from your time in the Corps of Cadets do you use the most today?

A: The Corps of Cadets develops moral leaders with strong work ethics. It teaches you the value of serving, the importance of organizational structure and discipline, and the ability to work as part of a team for a larger purpose. Whether you go on to military service or enter the private workforce, these lessons in leadership have served both of us well since graduating from Virginia Tech.

Q: What is your favorite thing to do when you return to campus?

A: That's easy to answer. For the past three years our favorite thing to do is to visit our son, who is a rising senior

at Virginia Tech. As all college parents know, those visits often consist of taking him out for a good meal and a trip to the grocery store. Of course in the fall we also enjoy going to a football game. When we are not doing the latter we enjoy walking around campus and visiting Upper Quad and the German Club. This spring, while visiting our son, we had the privilege of watching the son of a close Army friend complete the Caldwell March and the first-year completion ceremony that followed.

Q: If you could have dinner with any Corps of Cadets alumnus from any time, who would it be and what would you talk about?

A: There are so many distinguished VTCC alumni, from those who served in the military to those who have achieved great success in other endeavors, that selecting just one is a difficult task. So with that in mind, I would choose to have dinner with someone I have dinner with all the time: my favorite alumnus, Jill, my wife.

You may fund an Emerging Leader Scholarship in your name, in combination with your spouse and/or other family members, or you may choose to make a memorial or honorary gift for a person of your choosing. The minimum amount to name an ELS is \$100,000 paid over up to five years or supported with a trust, annuity, or other estate gift that meets the minimum foundation requirements at the time the gift is received at Virginia Tech.

In-state recipients get \$2,000 a year for a total of \$8,000 over four years. Out-of-state recipients, who pay higher tuition, receive \$3,000 a year for a total of \$12,000 over four years. Cadets must meet and maintain a certain set of criteria to retain their awards.



The group stands atop the cliffs of Pointe du Hoc.

OPREP: Normandy

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

“Holy cow! Holy cow!”

This was the collective sentiment as Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets (VTCC) students, faculty, and alumni rounded a tall hedge and saw a cratered landscape overlooking the cliffs of Pointe du Hoc and the English Channel.

The view stirred emotion. It was the site of courage, leadership, and sacrifice the morning of June 6, 1944, when the Allies invaded Normandy and began the liberation of France.

This cloudless morning in May was tranquil as the VTCC group had the battlefield to itself, before the arrival of late-waking tourists. It was one of the first battlefield stops of a week-long trip to France, the capstone of a new initiative called the VTCC Global Scholars Program.

The VTCC Global Scholars Program was created to advance the Corps’ vision of global, ethical leaders and to build its own education abroad program. Twelve

upper-class cadets were competitively selected for a 15-week special study course on the Allied invasion of Europe during World War II. The program’s intent is applied

history, to open wider discussions about current leadership and national security challenges, to immerse cadets in international culture, and to honor veterans and alumni.

Last spring, cadets and instructors met for a three-credit hour seminar and discussed various aspects of the invasion. Readings, faculty presentations, and documentaries provided context.

Cadets chose one of 12 special topics for which they became the subject-matter expert. Later in the semester, cadets presented on their topics and led discussion about leadership, decision-making, and historical relevance to today’s tactical, operational, and strategic challenges. These

topics directly corresponded to a dozen planned stops in Normandy, where again the cadets led discussion about that aspect of the invasion. It blended classroom academics with unbeatable field experience.

The end result was a world-class leader-development opportunity funded almost entirely by the Corps. Alumni generosity helped to pay for lodging, flights, and ground transportation for the group. For many of the cadets, it was their first time abroad or first time to Europe.

The contribution of Gordon Rudd ’72 was instrumental. After graduating, Gordon served 23 years as a U.S. Army officer and taught history at West Point. He holds a Ph.D. from Duke University and is a professor of strategic studies at the Marine Corps’ School of Advance Warfighting. Rudd generously donated his time and expertise and knows Normandy like few do.



Cadet Lindsey Bittenger '17 and members of the group on La Fiere bridge, the causeway a key Normandy objective and site of heavy fighting for U.S. airborne troops.



Cadet Judith Skinker '17 at Crisbecq Battery, near Utah Beach.



The date of the invasion is etched on a marker.

In May, the cadets and Deputy Commandants Lt. Col. Don Russell and Lt. Col. Chuck Payne departed for France. They would be in country for six days — four in Normandy and two in Paris. From a hotel in Bayeux, the group ventured to Omaha and Utah beaches, Pointe du Hoc, airborne landing zones, and obscure locations that, 72 years prior, were scenes of tide-turning battles.

Corps alumnus Gary Obermeyer '86 and his wife, Patti, joined the group, as well. Gary Obermeyer is assigned to U.S. European Command and explained

current perspectives on Europe's dynamic security environment.

Cadet Bridger Johnson '17, a political science major in Army ROTC, summed it up well: "I believe studying history can help leaders develop in a personal and professional sense. If you study the experiences of another person, you can take the knowledge of the experience as your own, as if you lived that life as well. Exposure to past experience is what makes this trip crucial to us as developing leaders."

Cadet Kavi Muraleetharan '17, a mechanical engineering major in Air Force ROTC, added, "Studying operational and leadership scenarios concerning adaptability, effective training, communication, and trusting subordinates, I learned lessons I could apply to cadet leadership and to my skills as a future officer." Muraleetharan is this year's drum major in the Highty-Tighties.

Cultural immersion was an equally

important objective. Cadet Judith Skinker '17, a civil engineering major in Navy ROTC, said, "I loved staying in Bayeux and then traveling to Paris. We got the whole experience, the small town and the major city."

Fall 2016 Regimental Commander and math major Mike Schoka summed it up: "I can say with confidence that this class was the most meaningful course I have taken in all my semesters at Virginia Tech. I had the opportunity to build good friendships with other cadets who all genuinely care about developing themselves as leaders. I think this environment was key to the growth of all as global, ethical leaders."

Resources willing, it is the intent to continue and grow the VTCC Global Scholars Program. You can help support the program through a donation to the Commandant's Priorities fund. To give, go to the VTCC website at vtcc.vt.edu and click on the "give" link.



Gordon Rudd '72 explains the D-Day assault on Utah Beach.



Cadets enjoy morning coffee at a Paris café.



Connecting with Monteith

The cadets, including Cadet Bridger Johnson '17, visited 1st Lt. Jimmie Monteith's grave site.

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

All cadets and alumni know of 1st Lt. Jimmie Monteith, who on June 6, 1944, was a section leader in L Company, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, in the first wave of the invasion on Omaha Beach.

They know he heroically led an assault off the beach, died from enemy fire, and posthumously earned the Medal of Honor. He is one of seven alumni recipients of the nation's highest honor.

Twelve cadets connected more closely with the Monteith's lore during a May trip to France, the capstone of the VTCC Global Scholars Program.

German strongpoint WN60 was the easternmost fortified position overlooking Omaha Beach. Perched on a steep bluff, it was made up of 40 German soldiers with a commanding view of the beach arching to their west. From this position, they could rain artillery, mortar, and heavy machine gun fire on invading Allies.

They also protected a draw coming off the beach. The Allies identified this draw as Exit F-1. Securing five exits coming off Omaha were

among the first American objectives, but F-1 was so far east it did not seriously factor into Allied planning.

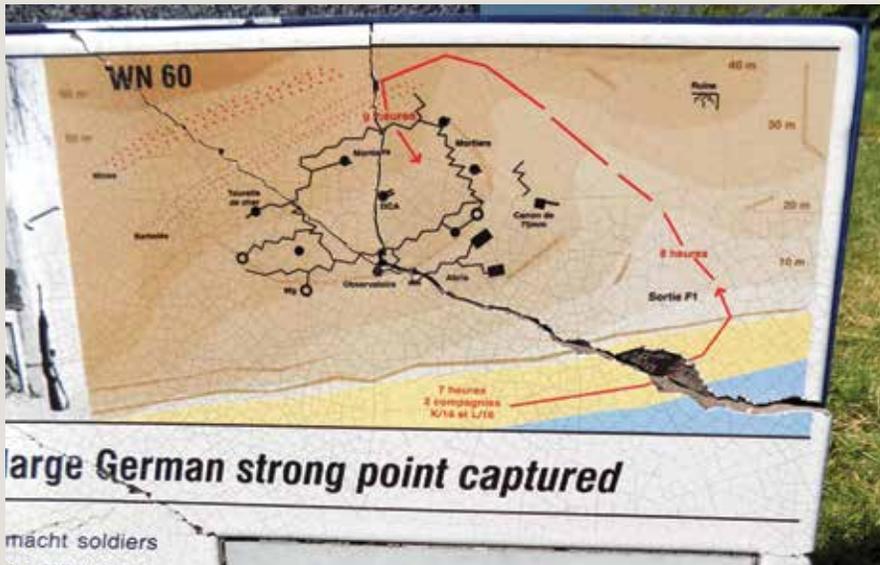
Sea conditions put L Company's landing craft 30 minutes behind schedule and several hundred meters east of the intended landing sector. Monteith and the 31 men in his section ran aground under withering fire at 7 a.m. on the sector known as Fox Red. Finding little shelter on the beach and suffering heavy casualties, Lima was the only rifle company in the 16th's assault wave that crossed the open beach as a unit.

Monteith had 26 men remaining, and they managed to gather at the lee of a cliff directly under WN60. Other company officers had been hit. It was hardly a

place to mount an offensive, but Monteith and other sections organized the men and worked through the problem.

The only way off the beach was to work their way right along the cliff to the base of the draw and scale a six-foot embankment that would expose them to fire coming from WN60's commanding position to their left. Monteith and his engineer got over the bank and blew the protective barbed wire, allowing the sections to begin moving up the draw. Standing unprotected, he motivated the men to navigate a minefield and advance up the hill.

Realizing he needed more fire power when his men were pinned down, Monteith returned to the beach under fire to direct two Sherman tanks that managed to make it ashore. He led the tanks through the mine field and up the draw, pointing out enemy targets. Monteith's section led the advance up the draw, using heavy brush for concealment. A



At WN60, this illustration depicts fighting positions and the route of assault led by 1st Lt. Jimmie Monteith.

direct assault on WN60 was not possible, but flanking through the draw to get to the rear was. For an hour they fought their way to the high ground.

At the top of the draw, the men enveloped the enemy position, systematically taking out bunkers and shelters with gun fire and grenades. By 9 a.m., WN60 had fallen with 31 Germans taken as prisoner. It was the first German position taken on Omaha, neutralizing fire on 1st Division troops on the easternmost sector of the beach.

L Company expanded several hundred meters to secure a defensive posture atop the hill previously occupied by its prisoners. At about 1 p.m., a platoon of Germans hit back in the vicinity of Monteith's flank. He moved position to

position, exposed to fire, leading his men to beat back four counterattacks. He hurled grenades at machine gun positions and shot three Germans at point blank range. While re-crossing the field, Monteith was hit by enemy machine gun fire and killed.

In May, cadets retraced Monteith's steps, taking in the beach, the cliff, the embankment, and the steep F-1 draw. Atop WN60, they explored the remains of the German fortified positions and the incredible view of Omaha Beach. They also experienced the serenity of the American Military Cemetery. You could hear a pin drop when the group came upon Monteith's grave site amongst the nearly 9,400 others buried there.

Remembering the experience, Cadet



The group examines a German mortar position atop WN60, overlooking Omaha Beach.

Lindsey Bittenger '17, an industrial systems engineering major in Navy ROTC, said, "Standing in the physical location was a truly amazing moment in the trip. Lt. Col. Russell directed the bus down a dirt road to WN60, where we found the gun emplacements Lt. Monteith's men destroyed. As we were wrapping up that stop, a few of the cadets ventured back to the bus, but those of us who remained looked at the map and realized we hadn't found all the gun emplacements. We ran around the flowing grass of the hill, overlooking the beach, discovering the rest of the battery. It was a good moment of reflection to realize the challenges those men faced on 6 June 1944."



The 2016 VTCC Global Scholars at WN60 and the bluff overlooking Omaha Beach, site of 1st Lt. Jimmie Monteith's assault on June 6, 1944.



Cadet Peter Unpinco, Class of 2018, after his graduation ceremony from Air Assault School at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.



Cadet Dylan Bowie, Class of 2019, took a photo with Cambodian cadets during his CULP mission.



Cadet Amanda Quinn, Class of 2018, taught English to Congolese students as a part of her CULP mission.

Army ROTC News

Virginia Tech commissioned and bid farewell to 69 second lieutenants this academic year. They made up a very strong class, exceeding the national average in regards to branching results: 68 percent of them received their first choice branch, 86 percent received one of their top two choices, and 100 percent received one of their top three branch choices. Field artillery (17), infantry (11), and armor (7) were the dominant branches that were awarded.

The future of our battalion remains strong. We welcomed 120 Virginia Tech first-year cadets to our program in August. Of them, 69 came in with a three- or four-year ROTC scholarship from the Cadet Command National Scholarship Board.

Cadet Summer Training

Army ROTC cadets stayed busy during the summer participating in Cadet Summer Training opportunities all over the world. In total, the battalion sent 197 cadets on diverse summer training missions.

The majority conducted their training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, where 38 cadets completed Basic Camp and 72 cadets

attended Advance Camp. Four cadets also served as Basic Camp cadet leaders.

Basic Camp teaches fundamental military skills with a focus on preparing cadets to plan and execute missions as a squad. In addition to training up lateral-entry cadets with no ROTC experience, Cadet Command's goal is that all cadets attend Basic Camp after freshman or sophomore year.

Cadet Tana Putnum, Class of 2019, said that while at Basic Camp she experienced the CS chamber, a high ropes course, and a leadership reaction course. She said she enjoyed the realistic combat field training the most. "I learned that leadership isn't always about knowing everything, but it's about making a decision quickly and being calm and collected when you're doing so."

She added that attending Basic Camp confirmed for her that she has chosen the right branch of service, and it inspired her to use her newfound knowledge and confidence to be a mentor for incoming freshman cadets this year.

Advance Camp is the culminating event for cadets who have completed their junior year and tests their expertise and



Cadet Stephen Pistoia, Class of 2017, outside of an operating room at his medical internship in Fort Lewis, Washington

leadership potential after three years of ROTC training. Cadets spent much of their time in the field learning to function in an operational environment.

Cadet Philip Choe, Class of 2017, said Advance Camp taught him “that there are multiple levels of planning and execution throughout the chain of command” and that there are many different ways to approach a tactical situation. Overall, he said Advance Camp was a “challenging, but great learning experience.”

Army schools and internships

Thirty-seven cadets attended other domestic training opportunities to include Airborne School, Air Assault School, Cadet Field Training at the U.S. Military Academy, Northern Warfare School, Cadet Troop Leader Training, and military engineering, logistics, medical, and cyber internships across the country.

Cadet Ben Baldwin, Class of 2017, said airborne school taught him attention to detail and the importance of a positive attitude and perseverance.

Cadet Stephen Pistoia, Class of 2017, had a medical internship at Fort Lewis, Washington. When asked about his experience he said, “My preceptor was a surgical oncologist. He showed me the benefits of being a doctor and also some of the hardships of being a cancer surgeon. I had one moving experience where I sat next to him while he had to tell a family that he was not going to be able to save their loved one — a huge learning experience for someone who is thinking about entering the surgical field. I learned a lot about the line between professionalism and showing empathy as a physician. This experience has solidified my ambitions to become an Army physician.”

CULP and Project GO

Forty-six cadets spent portions of their summer abroad participating in the Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency (CULP) Program or Project Global Officer (Project GO).

CULP is a Cadet Command-sponsored program in which cadets are sent to nations across the globe to work with foreign militaries and immerse themselves in foreign cultures, languages, and socio-economic views. Selection is nationally competitive. This year, Virginia Tech received 35 CULP slots, more than any other school in the nation.

Cadets traveled to many countries, including Sao Tome, Montenegro, Mozambique, Guatemala, Vietnam, and Sri Lanka. Cadet Lindsey Mazer, Class of 2019, described her time in Malawi: “My CULP experience broadened my cultural knowledge, introduced me to new perspectives and outlooks, and taught me the importance of applying cultural sensitivity to various situations.”

Cadet Jacob Payne, Class of 2018, trained with the Rwandan military and performed community service projects. He said, “Traveling to Rwanda was the most eye-opening experience I have had. I greatly enjoyed learning about Army operations in Africa and about Rwandan culture and history.”

Project GO is a Department of Defense program and is open to ROTC cadets from any service. It is much more language intensive than CULP, requiring cadets to study that language in college and then put their skills to practice in the country they visit.

Cadet Daniel Steiner, Class of 2018, studied Arabic and spent eight weeks living with a Jordanian family. He said that actually living in the culture taught him much more than any class could ever have, and added, “Airborne and Air Assault School looks cool on your chest, but a cultural immersion will teach you lessons that you will use for a lifetime.”



New Cadet Army Briefing photo: Incoming Army ROTC cadets receive their first briefing from the Professor of Military Science Col. Kevin Milton during New Cadet Week.

Naval ROTC News

The Naval ROTC (NROTC) battalion began the fall semester with approximately 323 midshipmen. Virginia Tech's NROTC unit continues to commission a large number of officers into the fleet and received six three-year scholarships and 10 slots for advanced standing after the side-loaded board met in August. As the third-largest Navy and Marine Corps unit in the nation, we attribute our success to the high standards maintained academically and physically by the midshipmen.

Commissioning

Twenty-five Navy and Marine Corps officers were commissioned into active service this past school year. The unit commissioned eight ensigns to serve as surface warfare officers: Xavier Canlas '16, Joshua Craft '16, Nickolas England '16, Emily Konoza '16, David Lee '16, Tiffany Moreira '16, Catherine Schumacher '16, and John Stillwell '16.

The following ensigns were commissioned to serve as naval aviators or naval flight officers and will report to Pensacola for flight training: Joseph Balak '16, Evan Forst '16, Naveen Gupta '16, Elizabeth Kiernan '16, James Paratore '16, Cassandra Quick '16, and Matthew Whitford '16.

The following ensigns were commissioned to serve as submarine officers and will report to nuclear power school in Charleston, South Carolina: Perry Artz '16, Adam D'Amico '16, Troy Manzitti '16, John Parker '16, Logan Pomeroy '16, and Mark Sweet '16.

Samuel Stearney '16 commissioned into the special warfare community and will report to training in Great Lakes, Illinois.

Three students were commissioned as second lieutenants in the Marine Corps and will proceed to The Basic School in Quantico, Virginia: 2nd Lt. Sean Evans '16, 2nd Lt. Michael Simolke '16, and 2nd Lt. John Snyder '16.

Officer Candidates School

by Midshipman 1st Class Andrew Greenwood, Class of 2017

This summer, nine midshipmen and five officer candidates from the Corps of Cadets attended and successfully graduated from Marine Corps Officer Candidates School. Midshipmen Christopher Hintz '17, Ryan Leavis '17, William Brannen '17, Joseph Paragone '17, Stephen

Bologna-Jill '17, John Peacock '17, Lawrence Hussey '18, Matthew Kim, '17 and Andrew Greenwood '17 are part of the NROTC detachment. Officer candidates Ford Williams



Midshipman Colleen McGovern, Class of 2017, at right, with a midshipman from Virginia Military Institute aboard the USS McCampbell.

'19, Nolan Paduda '17, Sam Kaylor '17, Samantha Fulgham '17, and Matthew Remsen '18 are part of the Platoon Leaders Course while also active members of the Corps of Cadets. The mission of Marine Corps Officer Candidates School (OCS) is to train, screen, and evaluate candidates on their potential to lead as officers in the Marine Corps.

Leavis describes OCS as a “challenging but rewarding experience, but I’m very proud to have earned the title of ‘Marine.’ Raider Company more than adequately prepared me for the challenges of OCS.”

These Marines are now setting their sights on The Basic School, which they will attend after earning their degrees at Virginia Tech.

A summer with the 7th Fleet

by Midshipman 1st Class Colleen McGovern, Class of 2017

On my first class cruise this summer, I joined a strike group whose homeport is Yokosuka, Japan. After traveling for more than 24 hours, I met the strike group in Manila, Philippines, where we boarded a plane and landed on the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan in the South China Sea. After spending two days on the carrier, we took a helicopter to the USS McCampbell, one of the strike group's destroyers.

People talk about midshipmen not getting involved on cruise, but this was not an option for us. We stood every five-hour watch with our running mates, as well as followed them around and learned about their jobs as division officers. The strike group had been underway for about 55 days without any port visits, which is a tough deployment in the 7th fleet. Their schedule is generally unpredictable and sometimes they get only a one-day notice before they go underway. It was clear that the morale was a little low and everyone was exhausted, but I was impressed that every single sailor got up every day and did his/her job.

The best part of this training cruise was that instead of having us sit on the sidelines and observe, they had us fully immersed in every exercise the crew did. I walked through engineering and participated in freshwater wash-downs, damage control drills, small boat exercises, and weapons exercises. As I walked around combat, every enlisted sailor gladly explained to me what he or she does. We were even invited to sit in on the intelligence briefs and operation meetings, and it was in those briefs that I really got to see how the Navy's operations are applied.

I am fortunate that I was able to spend my first and last cruise with the 7th Fleet because the operations of the strike group are very important in that area. I am excited for my future and all the opportunities that come with being a U.S. naval officer.

Naval Officer Development Program

By Midshipman 1st Class Bradley Polidoro, Class of 2017

After its establishment in spring 2016, the Naval Officer Development (NOD) Program continues into its second semester at Virginia Tech. Lead by midshipmen within the NROTC, this organization assists its members in acquiring and

retaining general Navy knowledge. NOD members advance through the ranks by passing boards that quiz them on their ability to recall information and think under pressure. Members also share differing experiences from summer cruise and pass on knowledge to the next class of midshipmen

Comings and goings

Lt. Michael May '10 assumed the duties as Alpha Company advisor this fall. As a graduate of the Virginia Tech NROTC unit and a former Highy-Tighty, May and his wife are thrilled to be back in Blacksburg. He is reporting to the unit from the USS Mississippi homeported in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. He said he looks forward to teaching and guiding the midshipmen over the next two years as they work their way toward commissioning.

Lt. Daniel Miller transferred from the unit in August. He served as the Alpha Company advisor and as the academics officer, among other responsibilities. He additionally earned a master's degree in nuclear engineering during his tour of duty. His next assignment will be aboard the USS Florida as the weapons officer after he completes the Submarine Officer Advanced Course. Fair winds and following seas!



Lt. Michael May



Cadet Micaela Albright, Class of 2019, flew in a T-38 with the 192 Operations Group of the Virginia Air National Guard.

Air Force ROTC News

By Lt. Col. Carrie Cox, U.S. Air Force, assistant professor of aerospace studies

Air Force ROTC (AFROTC) provides opportunities for experiential learning and additional training that helps our cadets develop outside of their classroom experience here at Virginia Tech. Experiences around the globe help prepare them for their future military career and to be the global citizens and leaders this nation needs. These amazing opportunities in global and experiential learning are right in line with Virginia Tech President Tim Sand's mission for all students at the university.

Throughout the summer, cadets completing their second year of AFROTC headed off to field training at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama. It consists of 24 days of intense training. Cadre instructors train and evaluate cadets in garrison "on base" and in an expeditionary environment to stratify cadets and to determine their suitability to enter the Professional Officer Course or the junior and senior year of AFROTC. The instructors only graduate cadets who display the attributes the Air Force seeks.

This year we had a 100 percent selection rate to attend, and our 36 graduates earned three Top Guns (overall number one cadet in their flight), three Distinguished Graduates (top two in flight), two Superior Performers (next two in flight), 26 total overall awards, and 10 CTAs recommendations (to return next summer as a cadet trainer)!

This summer also offered extra training opportunities. Cadets must compete for these limited opportunities with cadets from all 145 AFROTC detachments across the nation.

Bill Vician VTCC '16 and Eric Daly VTCC '16, two of 16 AFROTC cadets nationwide to be selected, attended Field Engineering Readiness Lab (FERL), held each summer at the U.S. Air Force Academy. Cadets experience the ultimate hands-on engineering class. The academy's Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering faculty prepare the FERL program, and highly skilled active-duty, reserve, and Air National Guard technicians serve as mentors. In addition, civilian mentors and local industrial companies bring their professional knowledge to the program.

"The motto of FERL is 'Construction First, Design Later,' which sums up our training," Daly said. "We learned how to pour concrete, pave roads, build houses, purify water, assemble steel structures, drive bulldozers, and much more. The program was filled with site visits and field trips to see civil engineering start to finish. We toured water treatment facilities and even aggregate mines."

"The best thing about FERL is the mindset with which they teach you. As an officer, you rarely work with the equipment or concrete that your followers are doing. FERL teaches

you not to be the best at every task, but to know that these tasks entail,” Vician said. “Most importantly, I know what hardships people face while constructing for the Air Force. It is now much easier to imagine how long it will take for my people to perform certain tasks, and what equipment or materials need special attention. FERL taught us how to build, how to lead those to build, and everything in between.”

Eric Jordan '16 was selected to attend the Expeditionary Survival and Evasion Training Program, three weeks of training also conducted at the academy. The training had four categories: Military Operations in Urban Terrain, Combat Arms Training and Maintenance, Patrol, and Survival Evasion Resistance and Escape.

“The most significant lesson I learned is the importance of maintaining a positive mental attitude,” Jordan said. “Even when things are not going your way, you must remain calm and continuously fight to improve your situation. This summer at the academy was an incredible experience. Working alongside the academy cadets through training and also as an instructor helped me recognize the similarities they share with ROTC cadets.”

Again this summer, cadets had the opportunity to participate in Project Global Officer (Project GO) with three traveling

to Estonia and one to Tanzania. This Department of Defense initiative promotes critical language education, study abroad, and intercultural dialogue opportunities.

Also three cadets had the opportunity to fly with the 192 Operations Group of the Virginia Air National Guard. Before the actual T-38 rides, there was a day of training during which they were briefed on what to expect, how to make it through the flight without experiencing any problems, and what to do in case of an emergency.

“When I was given the opportunity to take a ride in the back of a T-38, I was given more than just a chance to have an amazing experience,” Cadet Michaela Albright, Class of 2019, said. “I was given the chance to get a glimpse into the world of U.S. Air Force fighter pilots, to see what kind of training they go through, hear about the amount of work and dedication it takes to have that job, and even more than that, realize how rewarding it is to serve your country in that role.”

It was an amazing summer filled with opportunities not possible within the confines of the classroom. This busy and very successful summer for the over 250 cadets in Detachment 875 was just another demonstration of why we were named the No. 1 large unit in AFROTC last year and continue to be the top producer in AFROTC of new officers for our Air Force!



Eric Daly '16 attended the Field Engineering Readiness Lab, which offers hands-on engineering training.

Homecoming

Memories from fall include new boots for Skipper Crew, the class of 66's 50th reunion and induction into the Old Guard, as well as a handover of Highty Tightly alumni leadership during the regimental band's reunion weekend.



A tremendous friend of the Corps of Cadets and supporter of Skipper Crew, Pat Artis VT '71 (center) and his wife, Nancy (not pictured), generously purchased 15 sets of black leather military boots for the Skipper Crew cadets.



William Ohl '66 (center), returned for his class's 50th reunion and spent time speaking to the current Ranger Company cadets. Ohl not only started and was the first captain of that company back in 1966, he went on to spend many active duty years with the U.S. Army Rangers.



Bob Manning '66 presented his class's Emerging Leader Scholarship to Cadet Noah White, Class of 2019, during 1966's 50th reunion weekend.



Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart introduced senior handler Cadet Zack Sever, Class of 2017, and the Corps' canine ambassador, Growley II (call sign "Tank") during the class of '66's 50th reunion luncheon. We'll have more information on Growley in our next edition!



Regimental Commander Mike Schoka, Class of 2016; Gen. Fullhart; university President Tim Sands; and Bob Manning '66 inspected the regiment as they "trooped the line" during the pass in review in honor of the Class of 1966.



The Highty-Tighty Reunion brings back band members from all graduating years to enjoy the weekend. These alumni graduated 50 years apart (classes of 1964 and 2014), yet prepared to march in unison down Main Street in their traditional HT alumni sweaters.



Hightly-Tighty Drum Major Lori Keck-Beach '92 led the Hightly-Tighty alumni band during the Virginia Tech Homecoming Parade. This year was particularly memorable as the band paused for a moment of silence in front of Mike's Grill, where Charlie Cornelson '67 died in 2015.



Hightly-Tighty alumni President Bert Kinzey '68 presented the Jim Schaeffer Memorial Scholarship (outstanding band sophomore) award to Cadet Djamila Lou, Class of 2019.



In honor of its 45th Reunion, the Hightly-Tighty's Class of 1971 presented a check to Gen. Fullhart funding the class' Emerging Leader Scholarship.



Outgoing Hightly-Tighty alumni President Bert Kinzey '68 (left) presents the Hightly-Tighty alumni guidon to incoming President Chuck Rowell '71 (right) as they transferred command during the annual reunion luncheon.



Gen. Fullhart presented Kinzey with a gift honoring his nine years of tremendous service to the Corps and the Hightly-Tighties as president of the Hightly-Tighty Alumni. Thank you, Bert!



Dave Spracher '70, Rock Roszak '71, and Ron Gibbs '66 attended the 2016 Virginia Tech Aviation Wall of Fame induction ceremony at the campus airport.



News from the Development Office

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

As we embark upon another school year, I am inspired by the philanthropy of our alumni over the past year. Through your gifts, pledges, and bequests, we ended the year with nearly \$6 million. On behalf of the staff of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets (VTCC), thank you for your continued support of our beloved Corps.

Your philanthropy has allowed us to increase the number of scholarships we can offer and to send 12 cadets and three staff members to Europe to see the beaches of Normandy, and increased our total support for the new Corps Leadership and Military Science Building to nearly \$22 million. As it continues to grow, the Corps will need your support more than ever if we want to ensure its rightful place at Virginia Tech.

We are currently focused on increasing our endowed scholarship fund. Last year, more than 70 percent of our cadets were supported with financial assistance. With the increasing cost of higher education, it is increasingly difficult for some of our cadets to afford college. I realize that not everyone has the resources to pledge \$100,000 to endow a scholarship. However, if every living Corps alumnus were to pledge \$1,000 per year for five years, we could raise nearly \$58 million. This would allow us to provide a scholarship for every academically eligible cadet and increase the value of the scholarships that we currently award.

Every gift we receive, no matter how large or small, makes a difference in the

lives of our cadets. Additionally, more than 23 percent of our Corps alumni give to the VTCC. However, we need to increase that percentage; and only you, our loyal alumni, can do that.

Meanwhile, the preliminary design of the Corps Leadership and Military Science Building has been completed and submitted to the university and the VTCC Alumni Board of Advisors. This new structure will house the commandant and ROTC faculty and staff, multiple classrooms, the Corps Museum, and the Rice Center for Leader Development. The tailor shop will also be accommodated, providing much-needed

improvements for storage and seamstress activities.

It is through the generosity of Corps alumni and friends that this structure will be possible. Naming opportunities still remain within the building, and donations will ensure that this long-awaited building will be available for generations to come.

The Corps' second new residence hall is progressing nicely, and we anticipate moving into it later this academic year. When this move occurs, the entire Corps will be housed in the newest residence halls on campus! Stay tuned for more information, and please visit the com-



Bob Irving, class of 1972 and a member of Echo company, has graciously donated his sabre.



mandant's Facebook page at facebook.com/cvttc for photo updates.

This fall marks the start of the 15th annual Caldwell March. Last spring, we had more than 175 alumni, parents, and friends who supported nearly 250 freshman cadets during the spring Caldwell March.

Even though the spring 2017 Caldwell March is still several months away, it's never too early to get involved. I encourage every alumnus to donate \$500 to support a freshman cadet as he or she completes the second leg of the 15th annual Caldwell March.

The following is a list of donors who have taken advantage of Corps Leadership and Military Science Building naming opportunities since the spring Corps Review:

- Mrs. and Col. James Brown Jr., Class of 1960
- Staley F. Hester Jr., Class of 1964

- Georgia Anne Snyder Falkinham, in memory of Pete Snyder, Class of 1958
- Col. Charles H. Roede, Class of 1992
- Elise S. Smith, in honor of Frank Smith, Class of 1944

Major Gifts (\$25,000 and above)

F. Staley Hester '64 made an additional gift to his VTCC **Malinda G. Sayers and F. Staley Hester Jr. '64 Endowed Scholarship**. A member of F Company in the Corps, Hester has been a proud supporter of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets since 1998.

Ellen and James Moore '74 made a gift in the form of a deferred gift annuity that will support both the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets and the College of Engineering. As a student, James Moore was a member of the Corps regimental

band and graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in chemical engineering. The Moores continue to be strong supporters of the Corps and the College of Engineering. In addition, the Moores have also made a gift in the form of a Double M Charitable Remainder Unitrust that will support both the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets and the College of Engineering.

Edward M. Ringley '58 established an estate gift that will ultimately fund the **Edward M. Ringley, Jr. '58 Scholarship**. Ringley is a proud alumnus of Virginia Tech who received a bachelor of science degree in business administration. While a student, Ringley was a member of C Squadron in the Corps and a member of the German Club. He is creating this endowment to provide expanded opportunities for members of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets in perpetuity.

Year-end Giving Tips

This year ends on a Saturday. Check our year-end giving guidelines at <http://bit.ly/yearendguidelines>, and plan to complete your gift to the Corps in time to be eligible for 2016 tax deductions.

The charitable IRA rollover is now a permanent option. Visit <http://bit.ly/irarollover> for information about this popular gift option available to qualifying donors age 70 1/2 or older.

We're here to help you find a gift that works for you and makes a difference for the Corps. Contact the Corps development office at 540-231-2892 or email rlyman@vt.edu.

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

Ut Prosim,
Scott



In Memory

Clifton C. Garvin '43
1922 – 2016



Clifton C. "Cliff" Garvin Jr. died April 17. A 1943 graduate of Virginia Tech, he earned a degree in chemical engineering and then served three years as

a U.S. Army combat engineer during World War II before returning to Virginia Tech, where he completed a master's degree in chemical engineering. Garvin went on to become board chairman and chief executive officer of Exxon Corp. He served on the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors from 1988 to 1996 and as its rector from 1991 to 1996. In addition, he served on the board of the Virginia Tech Foundation, was vice chairman of the Campaign for Excellence (Virginia Tech's first national fundraising campaign), chaired the Virginia Tech Annual Fund, and was a member of the Corporate Development Council and the Council of 100 in the College of Engineering. Garvin was the first recipient of Virginia Tech's University Distinguished Achievement Award (1983), recipient of the William H. Ruffner Medal (1997), and recipient of the Alumni Distinguished Service Award (2001). Garvin and his wife, Thelma, were members of the President's Circle within the Ut Prosim Society. Garvin is survived by his wife and four children.

Thomas I. Martin Jr. '43
1920 – 2016

Thomas Irving "T.I." or "Tinky" Martin Jr. died Sept. 1. A 1943 graduate of Virginia Tech, he served as a lieutenant



in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. Martin was an active member of the Culpeper, Virginia community, serving as a charter member of the Country Club of Culpeper and president of the Culpeper County Chamber of Commerce. He was also on the board of the Museum of Culpeper History (its president for three terms) and served on the Culpeper Memorial Hospital Foundation board. Martin served on various community boards and received many awards and honors. Martin was preceded in death by his wife of 41 years, Harriet Hull, and is survived by three sons.

Albert L. Matthews Jr. '48
1927 – 2016



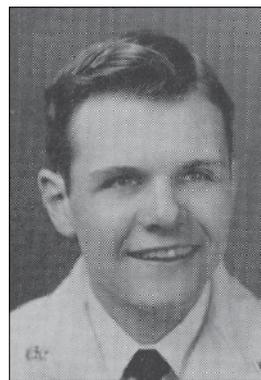
Albert L. Matthews Jr. died Aug. 2. He graduated from Virginia Tech in 1948 and began working at Libbey Owens Ford Glass Company before being drafted into the Army, where he served for one year in Germany. Upon his return, Matthews returned to the glass company, eventually settling in Hacienda Heights, California. An active member of his community, Matthews was the founder of the East San Gabriel Valley Coalition for the Homeless. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn, and two sons.

Charles B. Moore Jr. '48
1925 – 2016



Charles B. Moore Jr. died June 6. Moore was a member of the Highty-Tighties, Cotillion Club, Honor Court, Student Government Association, Scabbard and Blade Honor Society, and other student groups. After graduation, he returned to Bristol, Tennessee, to work with his father before joining I.T.T., Stromberg Carlson and Northern Telecom for 35 years. He retired as regional sales manager for Power and Telephone Supply Company. In 2012, Moore was awarded the Distinguished Highty-Tighty Alumni award, which made him very happy. Moore is survived by his wife, Alice, and three children.

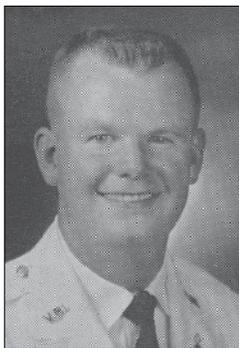
Samuel W. Weaver III '51
1930 – 2016



Samuel W. Weaver III died June 21. He received his degree in business administration from Virginia Tech, where he was a cheerleader and a member of the Corps. Weaver served in the Air Force reserve for 32 years, retiring as a lieutenant colonel. Weaver was awarded a Juris Doctor from the Marshall Wythe Law School at the College of William

and Mary in 1960, and practiced law in Richmond, Virginia, before joining the Internal Revenue Service, where he served as an auditor for 27 years. He later joined the Social Security Administration and retired in 1989. Weaver is survived by his wife of 41 years, Mavis, as well as a daughter, step-son, and step-daughter.

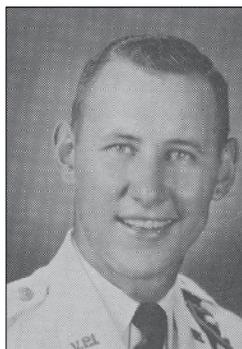
Gordon D. "Sonny" Bowman II '56
1934 – 2016



Gordon D. "Sonny" Bowman II died May 28. Bowman played football for the Hokies, was a member of Phi Beta Phi, the Phi Sigma Biological Society, the Horticulture Club, Ut Prosim,

the Athletic Association, the German Club, and the Corps of Cadets. Bowman received his degree in horticulture in 1956, then served on active duty in the Army until 1958, remaining in the Army Reserves until 1964. He attended the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, graduating with an MBA in 1961 before joining his family's apple business. A successful businessman and philanthropist, Bowman became president of Bowman Apple Products in 1975 and chairman of the board in 2009. Bowman received the distinguished service citation from Virginia Tech's agriculture Alumni association. He is survived by his daughter and son.

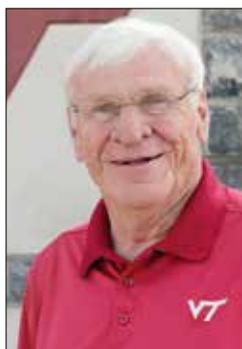
Hunter P. Mabry '56
1934 – 2016



Hunter P. Mabry died July 9. A native of Waynesboro Virginia, Mabry graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in rural sociology. While at Virginia Tech,

Mabry was a member of regimental staff during his senior year. Mabry earned a Ph.D from the Boston University School of Theology and pursued a career in religious education and writing. He is survived by his wife, Dr. Esther G. Mabry, and their daughter and son.

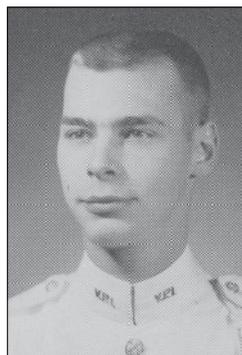
John S. Moody '56
1933 – 2016



John S. Moody died Aug. 8. While attending Virginia Tech, Moody had a rewarding football career. Upon graduation, he served for two years in the U.S.

Army. Best known for his career as an athletic fundraiser at Virginia Tech, his successes were many as evidenced by the Flag Pavilion at Lane Stadium bearing his name, his induction into the Virginia Tech Sports Hall of Fame, and his receipt of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Association of Athletic Fundraisers. Moody is survived by his wife, Kay, two sons, and a daughter.

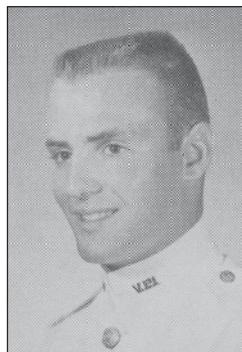
Donald F. Williams '61
1940 – 2016



Donald F. Williams died Jan. 11. Williams earned a degree in industrial engineering and, following graduation, served for two years as an ordnance officer

in the U.S. Army. He joined Armstrong Cork Company in 1963 and during his 30-year career there held a variety of industrial engineering and manufacturing management positions at seven locations, retiring as plant manager of the Carysbrook, Virginia, plant of Thomasville Furniture Industries. Williams is survived by his wife, Carol, and daughter.

Eric S. Renne Sr. '62
1940 – 2016



Eric S. Renne Sr. died Aug. 15. Upon graduation from Virginia Tech in 1962, Renne commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force. Renne served

as an Air Force chaplain in Vietnam and Hawaii and as senior chaplain at Arlington National Cemetery for his final assignment. He retired as a lieutenant colonel after 27 years of service. Renne is survived by his wife, Martha, and three children.

LEST WE FORGET

- Patrick H. Barnes II '30, Apex, North Carolina, 4/11/15.
Nile Truman Horne '38, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, 12/14/15.
James R. Cosby '40, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, 5/12/16.
Robert W. Gifford '40, 8/17/16.
William C. Bennett '41, 6/5/16.
William C. Eubank '42, Las Vegas, Nevada, 8/8/16.
Bernard C. Cook '43, Roanoke, Virginia, 6/19/16.
William L. Petty Jr. '43, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 7/15/16.
Walter W. Wyatt '43, Homestead, Florida, 6/8/15.
Robert H. Ballard '44, Suffolk, Virginia, 5/7/16.
Joseph L. Jones Jr. '44, Willow Street, Pennsylvania, 8/9/16.
Albert F. Lane Jr. '44, Calabash, North Carolina, 9/12/15.
Irvin S. Barnard '46, Richmond, Virginia
Leland E. Beale Jr. '46, Franklin, Virginia 7/13/16.
Murray L. Cooper '46, Henrico, Virginia, 7/2/16.
Stephen H. Ferguson Jr. '46, Farmville, Virginia, 5/15/16.
Kenneth G. Halstead '46, Raleigh, North Carolina, 10/7/15.
Richard D. Tyree '46, Lynchburg, Virginia, 5/1/16.
Ezra H. Williams '46, Kingsport, Tennessee, 7/15/16.
Gene M. Phillips '47, Saint Augustine, Florida, 6/28/16.
James D. Ashley '48, Hampton, Virginia, 6/9/16.
Raynard Taylor Hale '48, Blacksburg, Virginia, 2/18/16.
Giles B. Trimble '48, Staunton, Virginia, 6/30/16.
Charles P. Brewer Jr. '49, Wilder, Kentucky, 4/26/16.
Otho Beverley (Bev) Roller '49, Weyers Cave, Virginia, 3/30/16.
Theodore W. Barrett '50, Suffolk, Virginia, 8/12/16.
J. William Blair, II '50, Staunton, Virginia, 7/15/16.
John M. Funderburg '50, Lake Havasu City, Arizona, 5/29/16.
William D. Richardson Jr. '50, Aldeo, Illinois, 8/13/16.
Edward G. Frye III '51, Alpharetta, Georgia, 6/25/16.
Edwin A. Haley '51, Doswell, Virginia, 6/12/16.
Henry G. Parker Jr. '51, Hampton, Virginia, 6/9/16.
J. MacDougal Rice '51, Manassas, Virginia, 6/4/16.
William L. Stevens '51, Arroyo Seco, New Mexico, 5/10/16.
Donald S. Haga '52, Roanoke, Virginia, 6/12/16.
Najah C. Taylor Jr. '52, Tappahannock, Virginia, 6/18/16.
William E. Calohan Jr. '53, Rustburg, Virginia, 6/10/16.
John M. Fulmer '53, Upper Marlboro, Maryland, 5/8/16.
John P. Gordon '53, Chesterfield, Virginia, 6/24/16.
Ralph E. McDonald '53, Fairfax, Virginia, 6/11/16.
Hugh E. Brown '54, Roanoke, Virginia, 6/20/16.
Hugh Ingram '54, Powhatan, Virginia, 6/22/16.
Robbie F. Owen '54, Wakefield, Virginia 6/15/16.
John J. Payette '54, Culpepper, Virginia, 6/14/16.
George A. Pearson '54, Richmond, Virginia, 5/7/16.
George M. Tederick '54, Winchester, Virginia, 7/12/16.
Richard B. Johnson '55, West Point, Virginia, 6/14/16.
Roman L. Cilimberg '56, Montgomery Village, Maryland, 9/9/15.
Hunter P. Mabry '56, Roanoke, Virginia, 7/9/16.
F. Page Doughton '57, Melbourne, Florida, 7/15/16.
Wilford E. Sivertson '57, Yorktown, Virginia, 9/24/15.
Robert W. Walls '57, Gulf Shores, Alabama, 5/26/16.
Leroy F. White '57, 5/16/16.
William R. Burks '58, Buena Vista, Virginia, 7/12/16.
James L. McGlothlin '58, Cedar Bluff, Virginia, 3/31/16.
William D. Oglesby '58, Roseland, Virginia, 7/24/16.
Alan Rex '58, Colorado Springs, Colorado 4/10/16.
Robert L. Stallard '58, Carlisle, Kentucky, 6/23/16.
Ronald S. Johnson '59, Los Angeles, California, 3/12/16.
Gary R. Keesecker '59, Glen Allen, Virginia, 7/18/16.
Kenneth E. Wright '59, Durham, North Carolina, 7/1/16.
William L. Baker '60, Charleston, West Virginia, 6/13/16.
Robert V. Harris '61, Christiansburg, Virginia, 8/17/16.
Nathan E. Novack '61, Wallops Island, Virginia, 5/18/16.
John A. Gray '61, Fredericksburg, Virginia 7/9/16.
Edward M. Kinzer '63, Oakton, Virginia, 8/20/16.
Leroy J. Kniskern '63, Christiansburg, Virginia, 8/3/16.
Michael C. Boomer Jr. '64, Fairfax, Virginia, 5/12/16.
William L. Smith '65, Henrico, VA, 5/28/16.
Richard C. Roller '71, Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, 6/29/16.
Robert J. Lynch '95, Fairfax, Virginia, 6/21/16.

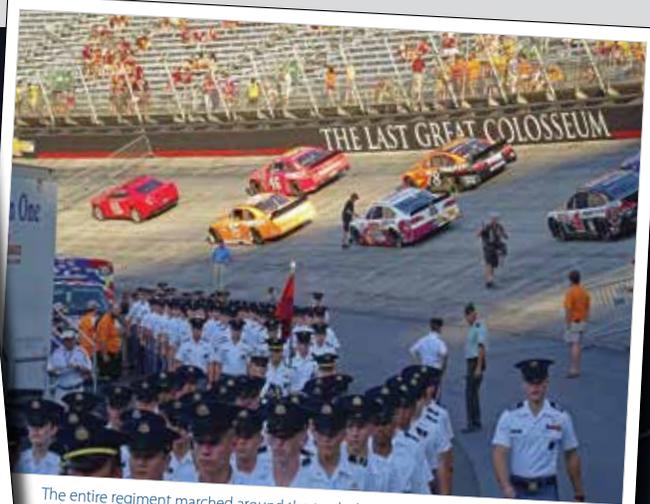
Corps travels to the Battle at Bristol

The entire Corps of Cadets deployed to Bristol Motor Speedway on Sept. 10 to the Battle at Bristol football game, bringing national attention to our program. It took 21 buses with 54 seats each to make the trip, all made possible by the support of Corps alumni and friends.

The experience was about more than just cheering on the Hokies during a record-breaking game. Cadets learned valuable leadership skills as they helped coordinate an operation that brought some 1,100 of their classmates and Skipper, the Corps of Cadets cannon, from Blacksburg to Tennessee and back again.



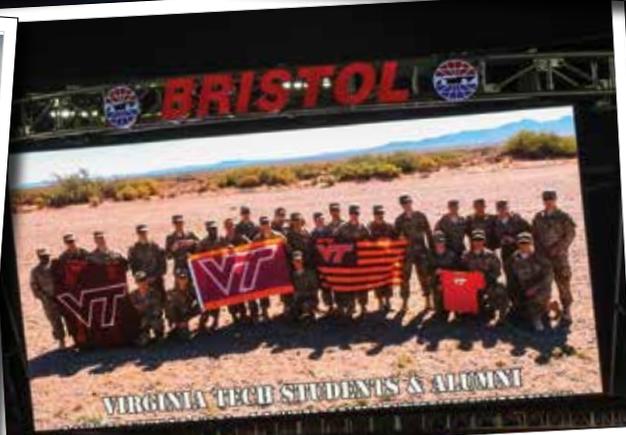
Cadets wait in the Chicken Hill Parking Lot on Virginia Tech's campus before boarding one of the 21 buses that took them to Bristol Motor Speedway.



The entire regiment marched around the track about 90 minutes before kickoff.



Skipper and crew made the cannon's first journey outside state lines and were on the track throughout the game.



The Virginia National Guard's 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Brigade combat team, which includes 26 current students or alumni of Virginia Tech and the Corps of Cadets, was among the Hokie Heroes for the game.



NASCAR driver Ryan Blaney's No. 21 car featured a special Virginia Tech football paint scheme.



It was easy to find the Corps' section in the stands.



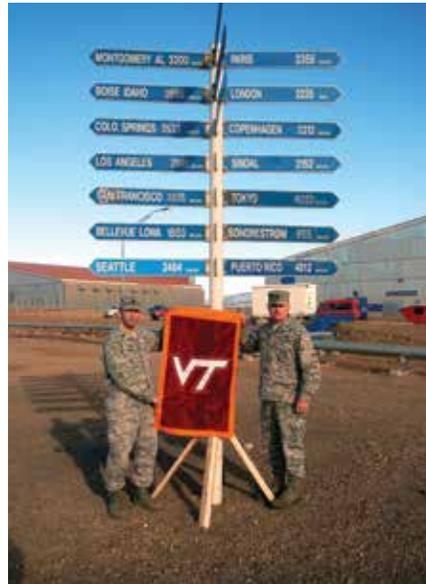
U.S. Air Force Hokies in training at Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas, include Capt. Jon Smythe '11, 2nd Lt. Allison Laclade '15, 2nd Lt Erik Nelson '14, 2LT Alex French '14, 2nd Lt. David Moore '14, 2nd Lt. Kyle Gentile '14, and A1C Bryce Ferrell '16.



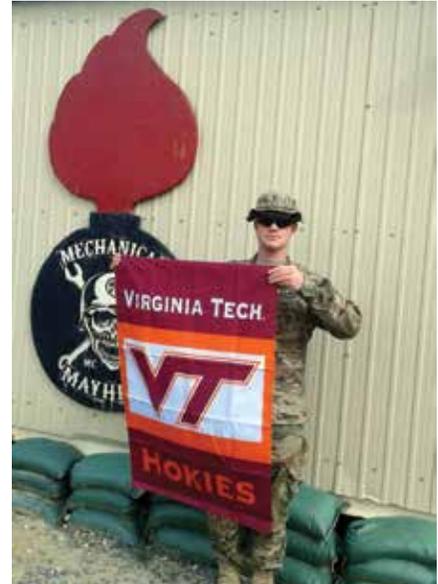
Golf Company cadets hit a home run with first class support to Gobblerfest, the campus activities fair.



Roy V. Creasy Jr. '68 graciously donated sabers from him and his father, Roy V. Creasy Sr. '34, to the Corps for cadet use.



Two Hokies up north! Air Force officers Lt. Col. Marty Easter '96 and Col. Eric Dorminey '90 spent the summer in Thule, Greenland.



Hotel Company alumnus 2nd Lt. Kevin T. McCann '14, U.S. Army, went to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, on a one-year deployment from Fort Sill, Oklahoma.



Corps alumnus 1st Lt. Jack Manning '13 is a U.S. Army Platoon Leader and Apache helicopter pilot deployed to Camp Taji, Iraq.

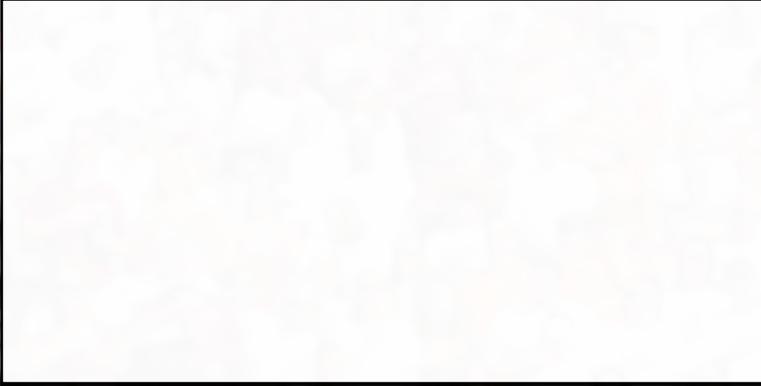


From left, 1st Lt. Dustin Caranci '13, 2nd Lt. Cory Mitchell '15, 2nd Lt. Peter Schadt '16, and 2nd Lt. Marie (Yacone) Tully '15 deployed to Camp Buehring, Kuwait, as members of the 1st Armored Division, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team. They stand in front of a restored tank used by Gen. George S. Patton.

VTCC Alumni Inc.

VTCC Alumni Office (0213)
141 Lane Hall, Virginia Tech
280 Alumni Mall
Blacksburg, VA 24061

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



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY



 **Go Green!**
Please deposit this publication
at a recycling collection site.