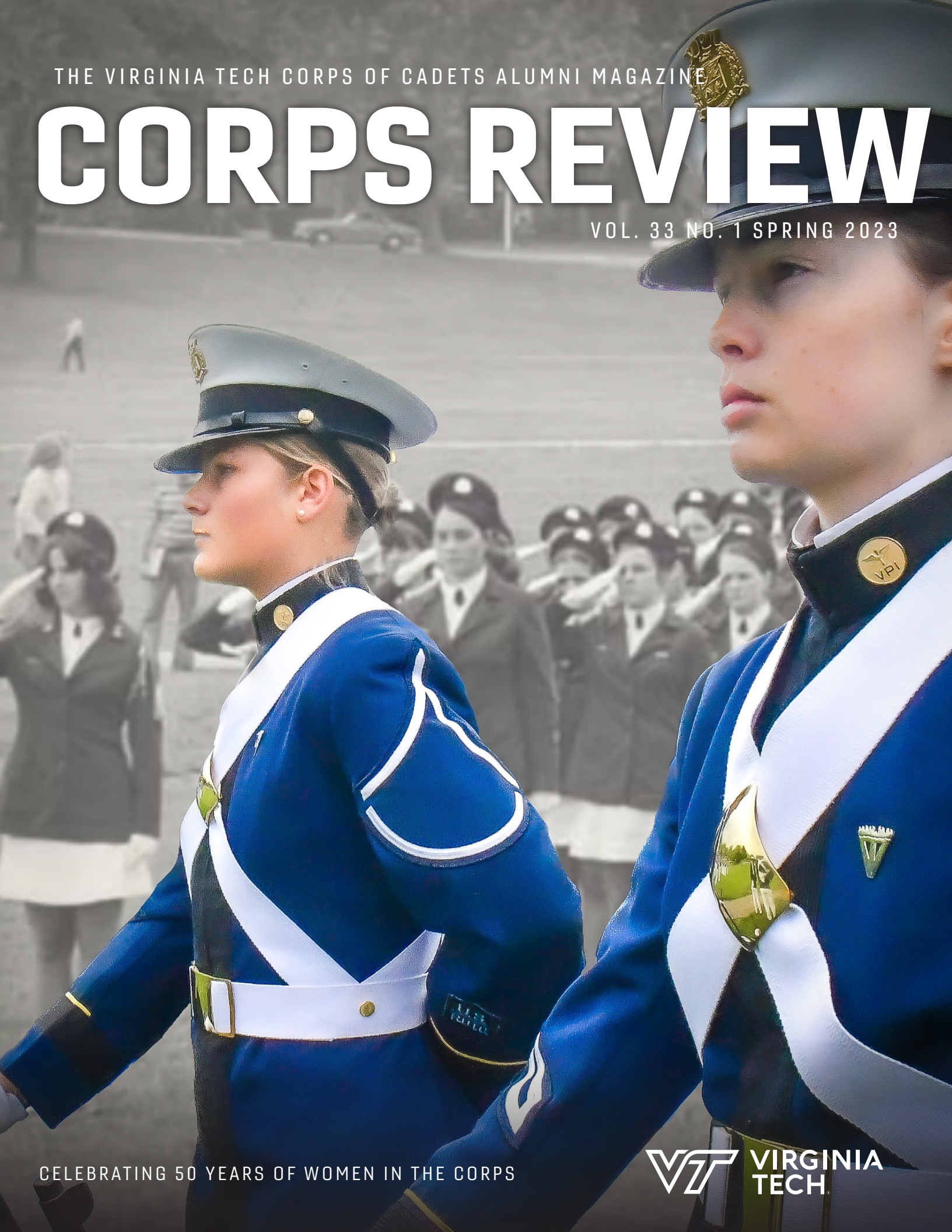


THE VIRGINIA TECH CORPS OF CADETS ALUMNI MAGAZINE

CORPS REVIEW

VOL. 33 NO. 1 SPRING 2023



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF WOMEN IN THE CORPS





3rd Battalion Deputy Commandant and alumnus Col. Bob Shelton '95 serves as the commissioning officer for his spring semester India Company Commander, Jared Webb '23.



CONTENTS

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

- 6 These Are Their Words
- 32 Class of 2023

FEATURES

- 10 One Squadron's Legacy
- 14 A Flyin' Irish Victory
- 22 Cadets at Model NATO
- 24 Aligning Leader Development
- 26 Class Notes
- 28 United By Music

PHOTOS

- 20 Spring Events

DEPARTMENTS

- 2 Commandant's Column
- 4 Alumni Announcements
- 16 New Corps Staff
- 17 Museum Curator
- 18 VPI Battalion
- 29 Quad Angle
- 38 Army ROTC News
- 40 Naval ROTC News
- 42 Air Force ROTC News
- 44 Giving
- 46 Honor Guard
- 52 Organizational Update



MOVING FORWARD ALWAYS

It is a busy time in a busy year. It always seems to be that way. Fall semesters are filled with major events and we rarely find an open weekend between football games, reunions, leadership training events, and ROTC requirements. When spring semester rolls around, the assumption would be that it would come at a slower pace. It never does. The full sprint to the end of the semester hits around Military Ball and before we know it, command selection, graduation, and planning for cadet training in August is upon us.

We are also looking, along with the university, outward at the cost of education and barriers to access that our cadets and prospective cadets are facing.

Some senior military colleges (SMC) are now offering in-state rates for all cadets and free room and board to any cadet with an ROTC scholarship. Other SMCs are following suit.

For us, achieving in-state rates for cadets requires permission from the Commonwealth. Covering room and board would require a substantial increase in financial support to the Corps, not just from alumni and friends of the Corps, but a whole university and Commonwealth approach. Meeting our campaign goals now has a new sense of urgency.

The need for global, ethical leaders remains important, now, more than ever. Smaller populations of high school graduates, and lower numbers that meet the basic requirements for serving in the military, paired with low unemployment, fewer families with first-hand knowledge of our military, adjustments in ROTC scholarship awards, and the rising cost of higher education are the challenges of our time.

We have the state-of-the-art facilities to house (and programs to inspire) a corps of 1,400.

It is going to take work by everyone to accomplish our mission of filling our facilities with cadets capable of becoming “leaders of character.”

As we think of these things, we look forward to the coming year when we will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of women in the Corps. In 1973, we welcomed extraordinary women to blaze a trail that countless others have followed. The Corps admitted women not because we were told to, not because we were ordered to, but because we lead from the front and set the example. We will be welcoming many of these strong women back to campus throughout the year and during Corps Reunion to share their stories, experiences, and how the Corps shaped their lives that followed.

For all our challenges, this is the year where we stake our claim on the future and announce boldly for all to hear: the Corps is here and moving forward!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RDF', written over a white background.

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

UPPER QUAD NOTES

GLOBAL SCHOLARS: MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

Two cadet cohorts of Global Scholars completed their semester-long study of critical leadership decisions during global conflict with trips to Pearl Harbor and Western Europe.



Photos courtesy of Lt. Col. Russell, Darla Alia, Cadet Siena Dellicarpini, Cadet Caitlin Bendit, and Cadet Ilea Wesley.

LET'S CELEBRATE

Watch for this artwork celebrating our 50th anniversary of women in the Corps available during alumni events throughout the year!



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

J. Pearson '87, Chairman, VTCCA

Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart, Commandant of Cadets

Cmdr. Nate Brown '98, Alumni Director

Katie Mallory '03, Communications Director and Editor

Sandi R. Bliss, Chief Advancement Officer

Photography: Katie Mallory '03, Heather Cutshall, Sandi Bliss, Chris Price, Zoey Lynes' 23, Richard Toledo '23, and Caitlin Bendit '24

Comments and all material for the magazine should be mailed to Editor, Corps Review, VTCC Alumni Office, CLMS Bldg (0213), 355 Old Turner St., Blacksburg, VA 24061. Persons wishing to reprint any portion of the contents of Corps Review must contact the editor for permission.

© 2023, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Corps Review can be accessed online at www.vtcc.vt.edu/corpsreview

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.

The indicia featured on this product is a protected trademark of the respective college or university.

Front cover: Composite image of women cadets of L Squadron on the Drillfield and current women cadets during Change of Command in April 2023. Artwork by K. Mallory '03.

Inside back cover: Golf Company during Eager Squad. Photo by K. Mallory '03

Back cover: Spring 2023 Caldwell March. Photo by K. Mallory '03.

Follow us on social media.

Facebook: [VTCCA](https://www.facebook.com/VTCCA)

Twitter: [@vtcorpsofcadets](https://twitter.com/vtcorpsofcadets)

Instagram: [@vtcorpsofcadets](https://www.instagram.com/vtcorpsofcadets)

LinkedIn: [/company/virginiatechcorpsofcadets](https://www.linkedin.com/company/virginiatechcorpsofcadets)

ALUMNI ANNOUNCEMENTS

FROM THE ALUMNI OFFICE

This past winter and spring went by in a flash. The empty campus now is deceiving. While some think that work stops when the cadets are away, that could not be further from the truth. This summer, we are putting the finishing touches on the plan for a very exciting 2023-24 school year. We are proud that we will be honoring our Corps on its 50th anniversary of incorporating women into our ranks! You will see this noteworthy accomplishment showcased in all our programming this year (including in this edition of the Corps Review).

We will also be celebrating a few other events: the opening of our Corps Leadership and Military Science Building during Corps Reunion on Sept. 8, and the Class of 1973's 50th anniversary and entry into the Old Guard during the Homecoming Pass in Review on Friday, Oct. 13.

I was asked recently what I was most proud of from this year. It only took me a second to answer: I am most proud of our alums! Our alums have answered the call at every turn, from achieving top 10 in every competitive category during Giving Day 2023 to participation in all our events this past year. Cadets can see the example that you are setting in your professional accomplishments, your embodiment of Ut Prosim, and your commitment to remain engaged and connected to the Corps.

Last spring, I asked each of you to do one thing - reach out to a classmate that you are not already in contact with. Did you follow through? Aren't you glad that you did? I need you to do it again this year. As an alumni community, we are only as strong as the connections that we have with each other. These connections need to be built and maintained.

It remains my commitment to ensure that your Hokie experience did not end at graduation, and to provide quality events that allow you to enjoy the camaraderie, school spirit, and connections that we all deserve and have earned through our common experience as cadets.

Ut Prosim,
Nate Brown '98
nhbrown@vt.edu



DID YOU GET THE EMAIL?

If you are reading this magazine, then we know we have your address correct. But did you know that we are also pushing a monthly email to all Corps alumni that provides information on in-person and virtual events that you may want to participate in? Our goal is to continue pushing out as much information as possible so that you can continue to live your lifelong Hokie experience.

If you are not receiving this monthly email, it is likely because we do not have an accurate e-mail address for you. Please send your preferred email address to vtccalumni@vt.edu.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Nominations for the 2024 Distinguished Alumni of the Corps award are due by Dec. 1, 2023. Those recommended for this award should serve as inspiring examples for our alumni and cadets and embody the values found on our eight pylons. Nominees must have been enrolled in the Corps of Cadet for at least two years (four semesters or eight quarters). Complete instructions and forms can be found online at vtcc.vt.edu/alumni/distinguished-alumni. Questions should be directed to vtccalumni@vt.edu.

The award recipient and nominator will be notified in early February.



"SHOW ME YOUR MUG" CONTINUES

We want to see your smiling face! Throughout the year, we have several in-person and virtual events that are desperately in need of your participation. Alumni events are no fun without alumni!

As a play on words, we are continuing the tradition of our mug campaign and we hope you all will continue to participate. We gave out metal camping mugs at Corps Reunion last year. In 2023, we still have mugs that can be purchased at our events. Along with the mug, you will receive durable stickers for the mug that indicate you attended an event. Our goal is that alumni will continue to add these stickers to their mugs to document their travels and experiences.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Aug. 10: New Cadet Move-in
- Sept. 7: "Leaders in Contact" Alumni Panel (Burruss Hall)
- Sept. 8-10: Corps Reunion
- Oct. 13-15: University Homecoming and HT Reunion
- Feb. 8: "Leaders in Contact" Alumni Panel (Burruss Hall)
- Feb. 21-22: Giving Day
- March 28: Distinguished Alumni Ceremony
- April 26: Class of 2024 Senior Send Off (Upper Quad)



CORPS REUNION, SEPT. 8-10, 2023

Save the date! Join us to celebrate being an alumnus of the Corps. This year is extra special. We will be celebrating 50 years of women in the Corps and the opening of the Corps Leadership and Military Science Building. Oh, and don't forget the football game and alumni tailgate. We hope you can come see us!

Visit here to learn more: <https://vtcc.vt.edu/alumni/corps-reunion.html>



THESE ARE THEIR WORDS

REFLECTING ON 50 YEARS OF WOMEN IN THE CORPS:
SIX ALUMNAE SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES

In celebration of 50 years of women in the Corps, we reached out to several alumnae spanning the last 50 years, from L Squadron, the female-only cadet unit that introduced women to the Corps in 1973, all the way to this semester's regimental commander. We provided a set of questions and invited them to answer whichever they chose. Interested to see if we could track the Corps' adaptation to female cadets across their time in the regiment, we are eager to share their triumphs, hardships, and reflections. These are their words.

When you were a cadet, what were your living arrangements?

Dee (Dodson) Morris '76: L Squadron was housed on the first floor of Monteith Hall, but there was no room for me there when I joined, so I was assigned to live with a civilian on Monteith's third floor.

Patience Larkin '87: I lived on the third floor of Rasche Hall all four years. My room was in the "newer" section of Rasche (the side facing Alumni Mall), and all the ladies from E and F companies lived in this same area, so as to be close to a women's latrine.

Denise (Shuster) Greenfield '88: I was

FEATURED VOICES

DEE (DODSON) MORRIS '76
L Squadron cadet during the first year women were permitted in the Corps

PATIENCE LARKIN '87
Echo Company, 2nd Battalion Staff (1986-1987), Second Alumni Director for the Corps

DENISE (SHUSTER) GREENFIELD '88
Hotel Company, First Female Regimental Commander (1987-1988)

ELEANOR FRANCO '19
Delta Company, Growley II Handler (2017-2018)

BROOKE JOHNSON '23
Bravo Company, 10th Female Regimental Commander (Fall 2022)

CLAIRE SEIBEL '23
Lima Company, 11th Female Regimental Commander (Spring 2023)

a member of Hotel Company and lived on the 4th floor of Rasche Hall. It was coed, with men and women living on the same floor, but the women were all in one section at the end of the hall. My roommate was also in H Company, but

my neighbors were women from Golf Company. It was nice to be neighbors with women from another company. I never felt we were far from our male buds, so even though we had our own section of the hall, I still felt like I was very much an integral part of the company.

Eleanor Franc '19: As a freshman, I lived in Eggleston with two other women from F-19. As a sophomore, I lived in Pearson with another sophomore female from Delta. As a junior, I lived with Tank and another handler, Hanna Kobayashi. As a senior, I lived in New Cadet Hall with a couple other females from other companies and various ROTCs.

Brooke Johnson '23: I lived in a three-person room. I ratted in Echo Company and I was fortunate to be able to have female roommates that were in the same company as me.

Claire Seibel '23: All four years I lived by company with both males and females on the hall. My roommate was in my company all but one semester when I roomed with an awesome member of Mike Company which bordered Lima in the halls.

What was one of the largest hurdles that you had to overcome as a woman in a predominantly male organization?

Dee (Dodson) Morris '76: No one to talk to about the issue. I was the only woman in my Army ROTC class.

Patience Larkin '87: I didn't feel there were a lot of major hurdles based on my gender. There were a handful of hard-working, tough women who had come before me, to include Sandy Siegrist, E-85, my cadre sergeant during new cadet week who later became the first female regimental executive officer. Before the Tailhook scandal, sexual harassment was not addressed, in the Corps or in the active military. Many males had "girlie" posters up in their rooms, raunchy jodies were sung, etc. So, to fit in and not be singled out as difficult, we ladies put up with that kind of stuff during those years.

Denise (Shuster) Greenfield '88: I was incredibly fortunate to feel welcomed in the Corps from day one. I never had the experience of feeling somehow different because I was a woman. My male buds, many of whom remain good friends to this day, were supportive and treated me with the same respect with which they treated one another.

Eleanor Franc '19: After spending 3 1/2 years in one of the services with the least female representation, I can honestly say the VTCC was one of the most empowering organizations as a young woman pursuing a military career. There are so many like-minded young women to network with and learn from. The faculty and staff have extensive female representation and were excellent mentors for myself and my peers over the years. The VTCC is leagues ahead of the Marine Corps in this regard and was a great

foundation for me entering the service.

Brooke Johnson '23: I felt the Corps needed a more substantial presence of not only diverse cadets in leadership roles, but females as well. That was one of the main reasons I was so intrigued in applying for leadership positions, to be able to represent that diverse, female presence that others could see.

Claire Seibel '23: I do not think my gender created any additional hurdles. I never thought, "Here's how I need to do this as a female leader." I just focused on doing the job to the absolute best of my ability.

If you could go back to your cadet days, what is one piece of advice you would provide yourself?

Dee (Dodson) Morris '76: The seeming abuse or harassment is not personal.

Denise (Shuster) Greenfield '88: Soak it all up! The Corps is a tremendous leadership laboratory. It's been 35 years since I graduated, and I'm grateful for the opportunity it gave me to practice my leadership skills in a "safe" environment.

Claire Seibel '23: You are capable of more than you think.

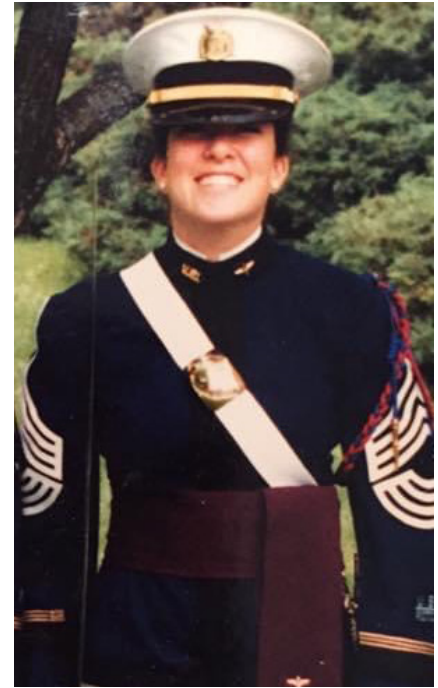
After you graduated, did you feel as though your experience as a woman in the Corps of Cadets prepared you for your chosen profession?

Dee (Dodson) Morris '76: Yes. I had much thicker skin than when I started.

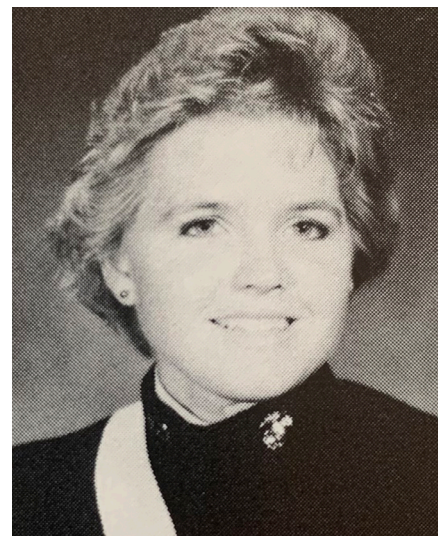
Patience Larkin '87: After a number of assignments and working alongside Air Force officers who had experienced Officer Training School, the United States Air Force Academy and "once-a-week



Dee (Dodson) Morris '76



Patience Larkin '87



Denise (Shuster) Greenfield '88



Eleanor Franc '19



Claire Seibel '23 and Brooke Johnson '23

ROTCs," I knew the VTCC had prepared me better than all others.

Denise (Shuster) Greenfield '88: Absolutely! I had the opportunity to figure out my leadership style before I began leading Marines, and I was able to get comfortable making the tough decisions that come with being in a leadership role. I was also able to get comfortable being a woman in a predominantly male organization, an experience that directly translated – in so many ways – to my experience being a woman in the Marine Corps.

Eleanor Franc '19: In some ways yes, in others, no. The Marine Corps has far less female representation, and still has a long way to go in terms of successfully integrating females. The VTCC showed me a great example of what female integration looks like, which in turn made it very

easy to spot the areas my service needs to improve.

Claire Seibel '23: It certainly helped me in my internship in the intelligence community. People in the office quickly noticed how I dressed more professionally, worked harder, was more respectful, and carried myself with more confidence and professionalism compared to the interns doing the "regular" college experience.

What is one thing that you remember from your time in the Corps that still makes you smile or laugh?

Dee (Dodson) Morris '76: A funny memory was when I had a sewing machine. Mark Waldron was going on active duty immediately after commissioning; he asked me to sew the patches and insignia on his new fatigue uniforms. He was a bit entitled about it, so I sewed his tanks on upside down.

Patience Larkin '87: I always loved Pie Day.

Denise (Shuster) Greenfield '88: Paul Daly still makes me laugh when I think about the antics he got up to on a regular basis. Paul was the Regimental S-3, always pulling some kind of prank. He'd pass on ridiculously funny and bogus information during formation, and he put black shoe polish on the inside of my cover – something I only discovered when some kind soul let me know I had a huge black smear on my forehead.

Looking back, what is one thing that you would change about how the Corps was when you were a cadet?

Dee (Dodson) Morris '76: Many decisions were put to class votes on whether the women would be "allowed" to enter certain traditions. With only four women in the Class of 1976, we never won any

of those votes. One was about carrying sabers and whether we could buy them (thank you to Mike Simpson for slipping me the order form). At Ring Dance, the ladies of L Squadron carried a spring bouquet in protest rather than the traditional roses. My saber was carried by my date.

Patience Larkin '87: I would have hired Senior Enlisted Advisors.

Denise (Shuster) Greenfield '88: There is little I'd change about my experience. I simply loved being in the Corps. I do wish we would have had the opportunity to pursue the minor in leadership studies that is available to our cadets today. And the support we now provide our Citizen-Leaders is tremendous. Although we had what we called at the time "Corps Only" cadets, the Corps didn't provide them with the resources to equip them for those career-starting jobs like we do today.

Brooke Johnson '23: The culture of comparing and competing can create a stressful environment for some who may be progressing at different rates than others. One thing that I wish I could have changed as a cadet was the culture of accepting other people. College is a time when everyone grows and develops their personality, fitness levels, and professional goals.

Discuss your thoughts on the term "belonging" as it relates to your experience as a cadet in the Corps.

Dee (Dodson) Morris '76: During my time in the Corps, I felt that the women were tolerated and treated as a curiosity rather than accepted. It wasn't until years later during a milestone reunion that Steve Taylor reminded the rest of my buds that I was the only woman in my class who regularly attended reunions and contributed generously to the Corps; that it was about time that they fully accepted



Photos courtesy of the Corps Museum archive



that I was a member of the class.

Denise (Shuster) Greenfield '88: I think about belonging two ways: the experience of being wholly accepted for who you are, and the sense of being committed to something greater than yourself. The Corps allowed me to experience both. I think about it this way: we may all wear the same uniform, and while we all certainly understand the importance of becoming leaders of character, the Corps creates space for each of us to do that in our own way.

Eleanor Franc '19: For any cadet who is searching for that sense of belonging, there is a place for everyone in the Corps, whether it's a leadership role or in one of the extracurricular organizations.

Brooke Johnson '23: I believe the term belonging is an integral part of being a part of this program, and while during my time as a cadet, I found no issues with feeling as if I belonged, I found myself assisting others who felt as if they

did not.

Claire Seibel '23: I compare my experience in VTCC to my siblings' experiences as civilian students at VT and JMU. It takes time for "regular" students to find their circle of friends and a sense of belonging. In the Corps, you essentially have built-in friends from the first few minutes and the experience of leaning on your buds forms strong friendships.

Virginia Tech was the first corps amongst military colleges and academies to admit women. Our experiences laid the framework for other institutions incorporating women. What is one thing that makes you proud about how Virginia Tech incorporated women into the Corps of Cadets?

Dee (Dodson) Morris '76: We didn't require an act of Congress or order of the Supreme Court to admit women to the Corps of Cadets.

Denise (Shuster) Greenfield '88: It

seems to me we incorporated women into the Corps of Cadets without a whole lot of fanfare. That speaks volumes about the way we approach the business of creating leaders. Sometimes, when you venture into an initiative and you aren't expecting to have issues, you don't find them. That's certainly not to say we haven't had to learn and adapt, but we seemed to do so with the expectation that we were always going to succeed. That mindset creates a culture of leadership, inclusion, and belonging that becomes part of the DNA of the organization. Our cadets carry that mindset with them into military service and into their roles in the private sector.

Eleanor Franc '19: The VTCC should be proud of its integration of women. I never felt I was at a disadvantage due to my gender. I was simply another cadet, just like everyone else. I was evaluated on both my academic and leadership abilities in the same way as everyone else, and never once felt like my gender played a role.



L Squadron women cadets pose for a photo on Upper Quad. Photo courtesy of VT Special Collections.

ONE SQUADRON'S LEGACY

By VTCC Cadet Historian Staff and Cmdr. Nate Brown '98, U.S. Navy (retired), Alumni Director

The Corps first admitted women to its ranks in the fall of 1973 with the formation of L Squadron, an all-women unit. No other service academy or senior military college in the country had yet permitted women to join, and Virginia Tech

was the first to venture into the unknown territory of women at collegiate military schools. Serving as true trailblazers in the Corps and the nation, the women of L Squadron faced many challenges and paved the way for decades of women to follow



Cheryl (Butler) MacDonald

in their footsteps.

The 1973-74 school year was L Squadron's first year. Deborah (Noss) Ayers '75 was the first commander of L Squadron and women cadets were housed on the first floor of Monteith Hall, which they shared with civilian students. Physically separated from other units

in the Corps, a noticeable first issue came to light: the lack of established uniforms for women cadets. A decision was made that the female uniform would be similar to the male uniforms, with gray tops and skirts. Grooming, physical training, and drill standards also needed to be established. L Squadron cadets had a hand in making these decisions. According to a 1998 interview with the Corps' first Black female cadet and L Squadron commander for the 1974-75 school year, Cheryl (Butler) MacDonald '76 said, "We looked to the military services for a lot of stuff for uniform wear and dressing appearance, because the Corps didn't have anything for us to look to."

After some debate, the U.S. Air Force female grooming standards were adopted for the women cadets and the already-existing physical training test was modified to permit women cadets to run 1.5 instead of 2 miles. Drill standards proved to be more challenging to establish because women cadets were not allowed to carry rifles while in uniform. Senior females were also not allowed to carry sabers or wear senior capes.

While working to overcome those issues, the women of L Squadron also worked to establish an identity for their unit. MacDonald said, "We got to form our identity and establish the fact that women really could be a legitimate part of the Corps, and we got to do it our way. We got the respect and their trust and it made it easier when the integration finally did happen."

They sought ways to prove themselves to the male cadets, including drilling frequently to remove any chances of being belittled by other squadrons or companies. By L Squadron's second year, they were more widely accepted by others in the Corps and by civilians on campus.

"The first year I didn't feel like we were that much a part of the Corps. The next two years I think everyone else was more used to us being there so we weren't an afterthought like we were the first year in a lot of cases," said MacDonald. Under

MacDonald's command during L Squadron's second year, they won the prestigious and highly sought after Kohler Cup for precision drilling.

Ayers and MacDonald would be followed in command of L Squadron by Emily (Pillsbury) Davis '77, Janet (James) Escobedo '77, Victoria (Cox) Mouras '78, and Julie Davila '79. The 1978-79 school year would be the last for an all-female L Squadron, as it was decided that the Corps would fully incorporate the members of L Squadron into the historically all-male companies.

The legacy of the women of L Squadron paved the way for future generations of female cadets, leaving an indelible mark on the Corps and the military as a whole. Because of their courage, creativity, and resilience, other exceptional women cadets in the Corps continue to thrive, creating a proud, living history of women cadet achievements in the regiment.

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS FOR WOMEN IN THE CORPS

DEBORAH (NOSS) AYERS '75
First female company commander
(L Squadron 1973-74)

CHERYL (BUTLER) MACDONALD '76
First Black female cadet
First Black female company commander
(L Squadron 1974-75)

SELENA S. DAUGHTREY '80
First female company commander of a
historically male company
(F Squadron 1979-80)

BARBARA (RUSSELL) BUCKNAM '83
First female battalion commander
(2nd Battalion, 1982-83)

SANDRA SIEGRIST '85
First female regimental executive officer
(1984-85)

DENISE (SHUSTER) GREENFIELD '88
First female regimental commander
(1987-88)

LORI L. KECK '92
First female drum major
(1991-92)

CHRISTINA ROYAL '06
First black female regimental commander
(Fall 2005)





L Squadron photos courtesy of VT Special Collections and University Archives Online



The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets women's basketball team after their win at the Flyin' Irish tournament. Photo courtesy of Heather Cutshall.

A FLYIN' IRISH VICTORY FOR CORPS WOMEN

By Katie Mallory, '03, Communications Director

With the 50th anniversary of women in the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets approaching next semester, a group of women in the Corps has given the cadet regiment yet another reason to celebrate. These cadets weren't in the standard wool uniform and their drill in the early morning hours looked a little bit different. Much like a military unit marching, they worked in unison, but noticeably missing were the sounds of heels hitting pavement and Skipper firing. Instead, a bouncing basketball and scrambling feet echoed during their drill on the court, a drill that has paid off for three years running.

On Feb. 12, the Corps' women's basketball team won the 37th annual Flyin' Irish tournament at Notre Dame,

a national basketball competition for cadets and Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) units across the United States. The bracketed tournament for both men's and women's teams started in 1985 and hosts more than 500 students from over 50 schools.

This wasn't the team's first win in the Flyin' Irish tournament – they've won the tournament the last three years in a row, going back to 2020. The tournament was cancelled in 2021 due to the pandemic.

Preparation for this year's tournament started late in the fall semester and daily 5:30 a.m. practices kicked off with the start of the spring semester. Those early practices for the women cadets focused heavily on conditioning and co-

hesive, vice strategic, time on the court.

"In the first few weeks, there was a lot of running. The guys were taught plays, but since we are all so close, we knew how to play together," said Cadet Stephanie Valencic, a public health major in the Virginia–Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine and senior in the Corps of Cadets Citizen-Leader Track. Valencic served as a team captain along with Cadet Lauren Gravette, a Corps senior and Naval ROTC midshipman majoring in cognitive and behavioral neuroscience in the College of Science.

"For us, it was more defense and just giving it our all," said Gravette.

Master Gunnery Sergeant Lance Jones, the senior enlisted advisor for the 4th Battalion in the Corps, serves as the

coach each year for both the men and women cadet teams. His job within the Corps isn't coaching a basketball team, but mentoring cadets in his battalion. He volunteered extra time to prepare both cadet teams for the tournament, and his passion for coaching showed.

"He lives and breathes this tournament. He really cares about us. He invests so much time and wants to be there with us," said Gravette.

After traveling overnight Thursday and Friday morning to Indiana in mid-February, the team played their first game on Friday evening, and four games on Saturday. There was not much time during the tournament for players to socialize with the 15 other female teams or the 32 male teams. As team captains, it was up to Gravette and Valencic to register the team and keep them on schedule during the fast-paced tournament.

"Being a team captain was a different experience. It was cool seeing the different side of the tournament, all the orga-



The women's team and their coach share a quiet moment of preparation before a game. Photo courtesy of Heather Cutshall.

nizational stuff and the paperwork. I had the schedule memorized," Valencic said.

Virginia Tech women cadets beat competitors from Ohio State and University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign early in the tournament, then triumphed over the University of Pittsburgh. They earned the number two seed in the quarter finals and beat the University of Kentucky, advancing to the semi-finals where they beat Notre Dame's Army ROTC team.

The only women's team left in the tournament was Notre Dame's Navy and Air Force ROTC team, and the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets women's team

faced them early on Feb 12. Compared to the other games, it was a lower scoring match. In the end, Virginia Tech won with a score of 35 to 13.

The Corps' men's team fought their way into the semi-finals but fell to Washington University.

As seniors on the team looking back, Valencic and Gravette realize this is the end of a fun ride for those

graduating this year.

"After we won, I knew this was probably the last time I was going to play an organized game of basketball. My sister and I played basketball all through high school. It put things into perspective. It was sad and bittersweet," said Gravette.

Valencic added, "It's definitely bittersweet because we have gotten so close, but we ended it in a good way."

In the end, the prize was more than a trophy for the women's team.

"These ladies made sacrifices. Their tenacity on and off the court created a sisterhood that will last for the rest of their lives," said Jones.



Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets women's team playing against Notre Dame. Photo courtesy of Heather Cutshall.

NEW CORPS STAFF

The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets continued to add new faces to the staff.

NICOLE FREEMAN RAMOS

Nicole Freeman Ramos joined the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets advancement team as the Manager of Donor Relations, Scholarships and Stewardship in February 2023. She served previously in the College of



Nicole Freeman Ramos

Liberal Arts and Human Sciences as the college's scholarship coordinator. Ramos began her career in scholarships in 2013 with the George Washington University financial aid office, later joining the same office at Radford University. She brings over 10 years of scholarship and higher education experience. Ramos is from Giles County, where she resides with her husband, Ariel. They have one son, Maddox.

ANNA MORGAN KIRK

Anna Morgan Kirk joined the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets staff this May as the administrative office lead for the Rice Center of Leader Development. Kirk will be responsible for handling the budgeting, scheduling, and travel for the



Anna Morgan Kirk

Rice Center. With over 13 years in office experience, she was previously employed with Carilion Orthopedics where she served as the office assistant to Dr. Jonathan Maher. Kirk is a 2011 graduate from Giles High School and resides in Pembroke, VA with her husband, Devin, and two daughters, Lyla Morgan and Libby Mackenzie.

CORPS INTERN EMMY KRAFSIG '23

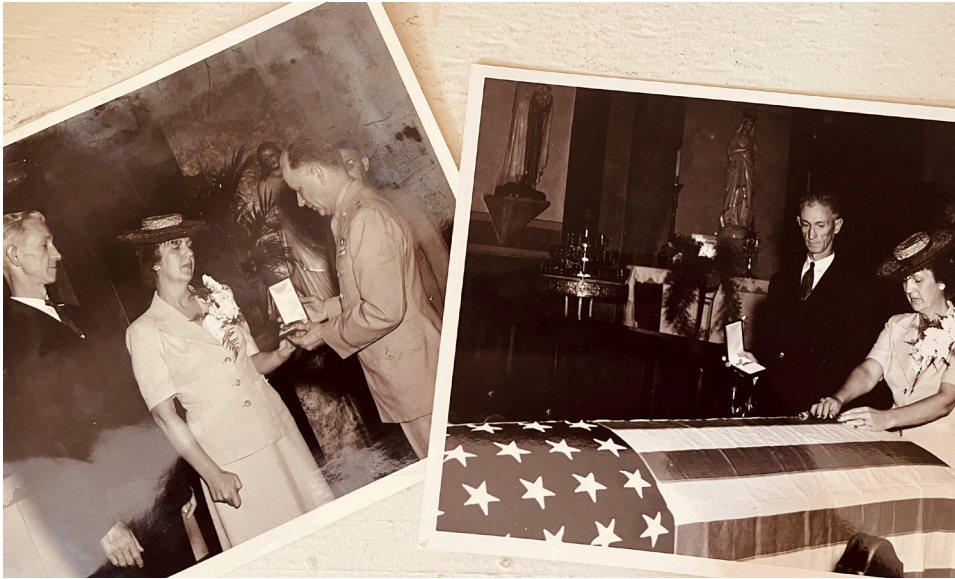
Emmy Krafsig is the Alumni Advancement Associate Managerial Assistant for the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. She is tasked with coordinating events for the advancement team. A



Emmy Krafsig

human nutrition, food, and exercise major, Emmy graduated from the Corps of Cadets in May and served as both VPI Battalion's commanding officer and Regimental Adjutant during her senior year. Emmy has been accepted into the Peace Corps and will be serving in Vanuatu this fall.





Photos shared by Virginia Hall of Robert Femoyer's funeral and Medal of Honor ceremony.

BOB

By Samantha Riggins VT'16, Corps museum curator

A few weeks ago, I started to poke around the internet for contacts of family members of the Corps' eight Medal of Honor recipients. I am planning the new museum's Medal of Honor exhibit to include more of their personal items, which I hope to procure from their kin, most likely long-lost relatives, many who I will never locate because they are so much younger than the honorees.

With a bit of family contact information that my assistant, Cadet Joshua Buckingham, found, I headed off to Facebook and Google land. Facebook provided the most leads, but the results were often outdated. I was frustrated and concerned I might not locate anyone, or anything, to add to their stories.

I found a Facebook page of a man with the last name of Femoyer. He passed away two years ago, and in a post his girlfriend announced a potluck memorial for him and included her contact number. I called the number and left a message. My request was passed down the line until it reached 1st. Lt. Rob-

ert Femoyer's first cousin, Virginia Hall. When she and I finally connected on the phone, I explained why I was calling and she became flustered. She composed herself, launching into Femoyer's story; she had not forgotten him. After speaking with her son, the family offered the museum photos of Femoyer, along with a few of his personal items.

I went to meet with Virginia and her son, Mike Hall, at her home outside of Cincinnati, Ohio. Virginia told me of the first time she met Bob (as she called him) when she was a little child. She then told me that he came home at one point during his deployment to propose to his fiancé, Nancy, with a ring Femoyer's fellow crewmates chipped in their own money so he could buy it. Virginia shared that she felt that was a good illustration of how highly his crew thought of him.

Virginia went into another room and brought out a large box. Inside was Femoyer's crusher hat, trench coat, two flags flown over the Capitol in Wash-

ington D.C., and the flag that had draped his casket. In the mix was a WWII Mackinaw jacket, the style Femoyer and his flight crew wore while flying bombing missions. It was not Femoyer's jacket; he was shot in the spine, and this coat was in good condition. On closer inspection I saw blood stains. Femoyer's blood. The coat was sent along with the other items; the family was told the jacket was put over Femoyer to keep him warm when he was moved off the bomber when it landed. At that point, I started to cry.

Femoyer's Medal of Honor was awarded posthumously to his family for his incredible act of bravery. On a bombing run, he was injured in his spine by shrapnel from a German fighter plane. Refusing morphine for 2 ½ hours, Femoyer remained alert enough to navigate the bomber to a safe landing. His resolve required every drop of blood that left his body during those excruciating 2 ½ hours. Shortly after landing, his veins went dry, and he died.

I brought back Femoyer's coat and other items to my office in Lane Hall. I thought about him on the car ride back, the bloody coat alive with his spirit, in a box on the back seat of my car. I silently thanked him for his service and told him where he was going. I knew Bob was there, heading back to VPI.

Femoyer's coat will be on display in the new museum. Come and say hello to his memory and bring tissues with you, because there won't be a dry eye in the house.



Cadet Payton Hancock, a member of the Citizen-Leader Track, stands with a Coast Guard rescue helicopter during training with the Coast Guard Auxiliary University Program.

VPI BN AND OFFICER PATHWAYS

By Cadet Maddy Djuric

The Citizen-Leader track prepares cadets for a life of service. After graduation, they can be found working at the forefront of the defense industry with companies like Boeing and Northrop Grumman, building communities as engineers and doctors, and protecting their homes with local police departments and three-letter agencies.

Other VPI battalion alumni follow one of several alternate commissioning pathways into the military. Four recent Citizen-Leader Track graduates are taking four different routes into the armed forces.

BAYLOR LIN – PLC

The Platoon Leaders Course is designed to train candidates to successfully complete the rigors of U.S. Marine Corps Officer Candidate School. Baylor

Lin first heard of the Platoon Leaders Course (PLC) after receiving a text from Capt. Thad Guerrero, the recruiting of-



Cadet Baylor Lin in his Marine Corps uniform during summer training.

ficer at Officer Selection Team Roanoke.

Lin attended OCS in two six-week increments in the summers after his sophomore and junior years. His time as a cadet made OCS much easier. “I already

knew a bunch of the stuff I had to do,” Lin said. His experiences in PLC and the Citizen-Leader Track taught him how to be more organized and learn from his mistakes. Serving as the PLC platoon commander and Kilo Battery executive officer allowed Lin to build his leadership skills before putting them into practice as a Marine.

After graduation from Virginia Tech, Lin was commissioned into the Marine Corps and will report to The Basic School. He hopes to serve as a Ground Intelligence Officer.

CLAIRE SEIBEL – NAVY OCS

Claire Seibel’s decision to pursue a commission through the Navy’s Officer Candidate School was inspired by the example of her grandparents, who both

served in the Navy during Vietnam. She also wanted to serve in the intelligence community, and the Navy made that dream achievable.

The Citizen-Leader Track was where Seibel first heard of the possible paths to become an intelligence officer. She was drawn to the chance “to learn every day and to think critically and be creative,”



Cadet Claire Seibel and the commandant during Change of Command this spring.

she said. Opportunities through the Citizen-Leader Track taught her to seek proficiency in her tasks and, as she put it, “work through the growing pains.” She also learned resilience and when to take risks. These lessons and countless others learned as a member of VPI Battalion and the Corps have given Seibel skills she can take with her to OCS and, eventually, to the fleet.

The Spring 2023 regimental commander, Seibel graduated in May and will report to Officer Candidate School in July. Upon receiving a commission as an intelligence officer, she hopes to work with the SEALs.

PAYTON HANCOCK – COAST GUARD AUP

Payton Hancock has always dreamed of following in her father’s footsteps and flying helicopters for the U.S. Coast Guard. The Citizen-Leader Track allowed her to work toward that goal through the

Coast Guard Auxiliary University Program (AUP). The AUP supplements the Coast Guard Academy as a source of commissioned officers. It gives members the chance to do summer internships with sea or air stations, gaining real-world experience.

Hancock was drawn to the Coast Guard because of her family history and the opportunity to apply job skills in life-saving situations every day. Through the Citizen-Leader Track, she learned time management and communication skills, and to anticipate challenges. Upon commissioning this summer, Hancock will take those critical skills to Direct Commission Selected School (DCSS), a training pipeline for Coast Guard officers who have completed at least two years at a senior military college. After graduat-



Cadet Payton Hancock during Coast Guard training.

ing DCSS, she will head to her first duty station in New Orleans and apply to flight school.

PIERCE CARVER - NUPOC

A mechanical engineering major with a Boeing internship already under his belt, Pierce Carver is pursuing a commission through the Navy’s Nuclear Propulsion Officer Candidate Program (NUPOC). NUPOC trains officers specifically to work on nuclear systems, whether on

submarines or aircraft carriers.

The process to get into the program is



Cadet Pierce Carver, NUPOC-bound.

challenging. “It was such a unique experience,” Carver said. Applying to NUPOC required him to complete phone interviews and then travel to Washington, D.C., for in-person technical interviews focusing on physics and calculus concepts. After completing a final interview with a four-star admiral, Carver was accepted into NUPOC.

The Citizen-Leader Track taught Carver how to communicate effectively with people from diverse backgrounds. The professional environment of VPI Battalion gave him confidence during his NUPOC selection interviews and the chance to expand his professional skillset.

After graduating from Virginia Tech in 2024, Carver will report to Navy OCS. He will then attend nuclear power and propulsion schools before serving on an aircraft carrier.

Despite the differences in the roads taken, each of these cadets share the values of discipline, character, and servant leadership instilled by the military environment of the Corps. Their time in the Citizen-Leader Track gave them the tools critical for service in the military and civilian sector.



The Corps Graduation and Joint Commissioning ceremony on May 12 filled the stage with the newest alumni of the regiment.



Cadets were challenged to many physically demanding exercises during a particularly cold Platoon Tactical Challenge this year. In one timed event, cadets ferried supplies in canoes and raced to unload them.



November Company cadets march during Eager Squad. Preparation for Eager Squad brought intense focus, early morning practices, and



The Color Guard passes the reviewing party during the Change of Command Pass in Review on Apr. 29.



The turning ceremony following Caldwell March on Apr. 15 brought many smiles as first-year cadets celebrated the end of Blue Phase and cadet training.

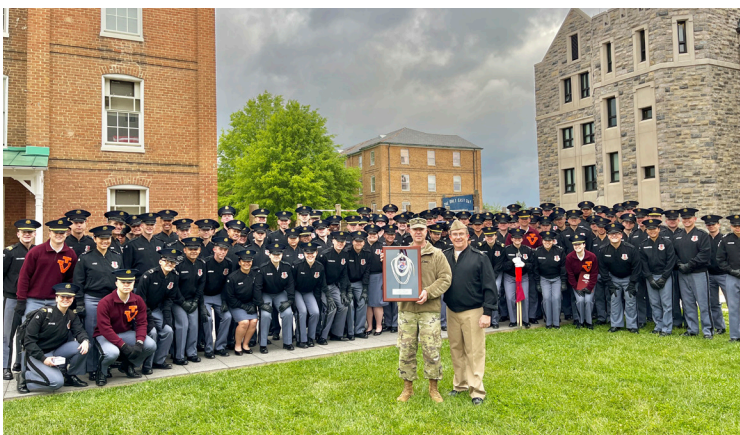
Members of the Highty-Tighties salute Matthew La Porte's stone at the April 16 Memorial after placing his white cord and drumsticks before the Change of Command Pass in Review.



AS THE WEATHER WARMED UP, THE ACTIVITIES INCREASED. IT WAS A GREAT SPRING FOR THE CORPS OF CADETS.



numerous inspections. The Eager Squad event was held on Apr. 14 and crowds formed to watch the squads perform on the drill pad.



Members of the Highty-Tighties bid farewell to Sgt. Maj. Combs in May and presented him with a white cord in recognition of his years of dedicated support to the regimental band.



Cadets danced the night away during Military Ball on Feb. 18.



Cadets in 1st Battalion stand at parade rest during morning formation in late spring.



(From left) Cadets Joshua Nacheman, Ezra Silverburg, Joshua Buckingham, Shannon Hutchens, Avery Cowan, and Kayleigh Castro stand in front of the Greek Embassy during their participation in this year's International Model NATO summit in Washington, D.C. Photos courtesy of Chris Price.

THROUGH PARTNERSHIP, CADETS REPRESENT AT MODEL NATO

By Cadet Joshua Buckingham '23

Earlier this semester, six Virginia Tech cadets, six civilian students, and two advisors traveled to Washington D.C. to attend the International Model NATO summit hosted by Howard University. This incredible opportunity was made possible by a partnership between the Center for European Union, Transatlantic, and Trans-European Space Studies - a Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, the Political Science department, and the Corps' Rice Center for Leader Development. The Virginia Tech delegation, representing Greece and Turkey, countries whose ties have long been strained due to territorial claims, would

engage with delegations from twenty-four other universities from around the world to push ideas and policies that best worked for their respective nations. Their end goal: create a draft paper that would pass the North Atlantic Council (NAC). Cadets were chosen based on interest and experience related to international relations, with two of the cadets taking a class in preparation. In the weeks leading up to the summit, the Virginia Tech delegation met bi-weekly to go over questions and current world events.

On Feb. 15, the delegation made the journey to Washington D.C., using the

five hours they had on the trip to study for the upcoming event. At the end of the travel day, the Virginia Tech delegation spent their time exploring the city and the National Mall.

Due to the earthquakes in Turkey in the weeks prior to the summit, it was unclear at the time if the delegation would have the opportunity to visit the Turkish embassy, so all teams instead visited the Greek embassy. During the visit, cadets and students were able to interact with embassy officials who dealt in political affairs, asking questions ranging from environmental concerns to nuclear policy. Afterward, cadets had the privi-

lege of running into the Greek defense attaché to the U.S. and took the opportunity to ask more about his service and his position on current world events. Out of curiosity, the delegation made its way to the Turkish embassy to take a group photo in front of it. The delegation was quickly spotted by a member of the embassy and were invited inside the compound. Cadets, not wanting to waste an opportunity to learn, asked as many questions as they could pertaining to Turkey's position on global events and policies. The biggest takeaway for the delegation, however, was witnessing volunteers in action who were boxing up donations to be sent back to Turkey.

Later that night, the Virginia Tech delegation traveled to Howard University to meet the other delegates, including those from the United States Air Force Academy, The Citadel, and the Royal Military College of Canada. After listening to opening remarks and the rules of the summit, the team became acquainted with cadets from different schools and



later began preparing opening statements. The summit began on Feb. 17 with Virginia Tech cadets and students reporting to their respective committees: North Atlantic Council, Political, Military, Nuclear Planning Group, and Partnerships and Cooperative Security. Throughout both days, delegations debated issues impacting NATO and its partners, proposing and voting on legislation that would eventually go to the NAC. Teams worked into the evening hours and enjoyed networking with the other delegations after the sessions each day.

After two days of deliberations, the delegates came together to witness the NAC voting on their draft legislation and reflected on the impact of the summit.

“Through Model NATO, I learned about world issues and the intriguing inner workings of actual NATO. I got to build diplomacy skills and come to com-

promises with the other participating delegations. But personally, throughout the conference, I learned about myself, developed confidence, and honed my leadership skills through experience,” said Cadet Avery Cowan, a national security and foreign affairs major from India Company.

Oscar Company's Cadet Shannon Hutchens, an international affairs major, agreed. “The Model NATO summit reaffirmed the importance of developing interpersonal skills. Participants were asked to represent a different nation by adopting that nation's perspective with the biases, pains, sentiments, and culture that make up the perspective. I represented Turkey in the Political Committee and found the Turkish perspective not only different from the American perspective but different from the perspectives of most NATO states.”





Cadets march onto the Drillfield during Change of Command Pass in Review in April.

ALIGNING LEADER DEVELOPMENT

By Capt. Jamie McGrath, '90, U.S. Navy (retired), Director, Major General W. Thomas Rice Center for Leader Development

The end of the 2023 spring semester sees two long term Rice Center projects come to fruition thanks to the hard work and partnership of the commandant's staff and cadet leadership.

VTCC LEADER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Corps of Cadets enjoys a 150-year history here at Virginia Tech. One reason the Corps continues to thrive after a century and a half is its tradition of developing ethical leaders. Another reason is how the Corps has evolved to meet the needs of each generation in that development process. In that way, the Corps, while grounded in the past, is always looking to the future.

One way the Rice Center is helping the Corps look to the future is by defining and codifying the Corps' approach to leadership development. Noting that the organization has a strategic vision to guide the Corp's growth, and cadet regulations to govern day-to-day activities, the Rice Center identified a gap between the two in describing the year-to-year objectives of the Corps as a four-year leader development program. The Corps Leaders Development Program (LDP) is designed to bridge that gap.

Since the 2022 spring semester, an operational planning team with representatives from the commandant's staff and cadet leadership has worked to capture those year-to-year objec-

tives and align them with the Corps' core values engraved on the Pylons: Ut Prosim, Brotherhood, Duty, Honor, Loyalty, Leadership, Service, and Sacrifice. The planning team also worked to align training objectives with the Corps' strategic vision and the cadet regulations. Three pillars of leader development – practical, training, and education – provided the structure on which the Leader Development Program was built. This effort was fueled extensively by cadet desire to increase the focus on personal leadership experiences, train cadets for the next step in their leadership journey, and teach them how to react to the unexpected. The incoming fall semester cadet leaders will implement



Senior cadets listen during the Corps Training Time Senior NCO panel this spring.

the LDP upon their return in August. Over the next several months, the LDP will be published on the Corps website and translated into a pamphlet that can be used in Corps recruiting and education activities.

A special thanks to Cadet Grace Lyle '23, Cadet Evan Spradling '23, and Cadet Shane Ervin '24 for their input, critical comments, and most importantly, their advocacy in refining the Leader Development Program.

CORPS TRAINING TIME

One area where the LDP will pay immediate dividends is in the Corps Training Time (CTT) Corps Lab sessions. Scheduled four or five times each semester, these sessions were made possible when the Corps leadership classes were moved into the academic day. Run by the recently created Regimental Training Officer (S-37) and staff, these sessions addressed some of the class-specific training objectives in the LDP. The inaugural year of Corps Training Times yielded some excellent training oppor-

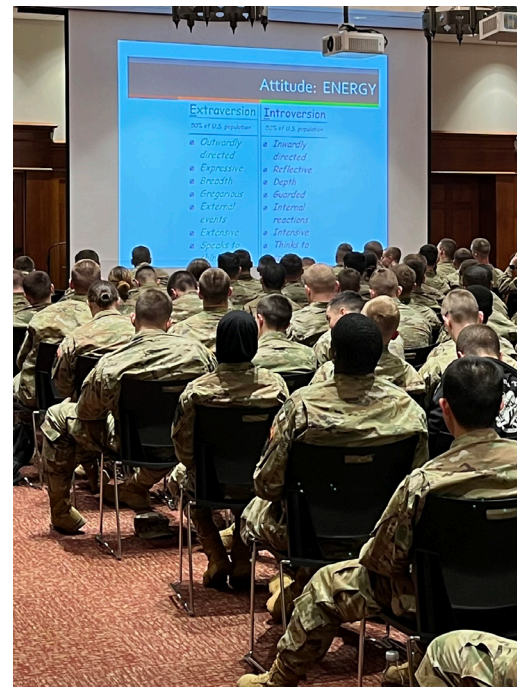
tunities where class years focused on their training needs at the level of detail necessary for improvement as cadets and preparation for the next phase of their career. This semester's Corps Training Time activities have also provided valuable lessons for improving the process, thanks to the diligent work of Cadet Spradling, the Spring 2023 Regimental Training Officer.

GRADUATION WITH DISTINCTION

Along with the LDP and the CTT, the Corps initiated a new program to recognize outstanding graduating seniors. In December, two cadets became the first of the millennium to graduate from the Corps "with distinction." Initiated this academic year, graduation with distinction is designed to recognize cadets who excel during their time in the Corps and highlight those things we hold important to our leader development

program – academics, leadership, and support of Corps activities. Our graduates with distinction must have a GPA of 3.4 or better, which coincides with academic graduation with honors. Those cadets who seek higher Corps leadership positions – command and senior staff positions – have a clear path to distinction. Recognizing that not all cadets have an opportunity to command, cadets may accumulate points for leadership in Corps organizations, participation in leadership conferences, leading Corps activities, and supporting other activities that enhance the Corps and the cadet experience.

After the initial cohort of two in December, this spring we saw another 45 cadets walk across the stage in Burruss Auditorium having earned graduating "with distinction."



Cadets learn about personality traits and their affect on leadership styles during Corps Training Time.

CLASS NOTES

SUBMIT YOUR DEPLOYMENTS, JOB AND RANK CHANGES, AWARDS AND HONORS, FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS, PHOTOS, AND OTHER NEWS AT VTCC.VT.EDU/CLASSNOTES.

1960s

Fred Sanford '61 is building his fifth plane. He built his first plane in 2005 and three more airplanes since then.



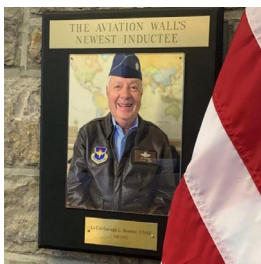
James T. "Tom" Roberts '62 was awarded "Rock Star" status by the commanding general of the 3rd Infantry Division based on his years as a volunteer soldier mentor. Tom was also appointed to serve on the U.S. Army Retiree Council's Southeastern Region sub-council for a 3-year term.

William E. Thomas '64 was awarded an honorary associate's degree from Germanna Community College.

Clyde (Dan) Bailey '67 was honored as a selectee for the VTCC Aviation Wall of Fame in April 2022.

1970s

George "Les" Bourne '72 was honored as a selectee for the VTCC Aviation Wall of Fame in April 2023 based on his life's work in the field of avi-



ation, both as a member of the US Air Force and in the private sector.

Bruce Simmons '72 published his first novel entitled "Try to Shoot an Azimuth" this spring. The novel is about a New Mexico Pueblo Indian soldier returning from Vietnam with post-traumatic stress disorder and how he overcomes his challenges.

1980s

Matt Heffernan '86 was promoted to Vice President, Broadcast Hub Services with Nexstar Media Group, Inc.

Steve Sims '88 and his wife, Caroline, have moved to Flowery Branch, Georgia.

Kenneth Pryor '89 earned a Ph.D. in atmospheric physics from University of Maryland, Baltimore County.



1990s

Cliff Shearer '92 Recently retired as a Navy Supply Corps officer and now provides supply chain solutions for



Navy and Marine programs as the vice president for business development for Blue Raven.

Robert Goodson '93 was promoted on April 1 to senior vice president at Booz Allen Hamilton.

Lee Moore '95 (right) and **Kevin O'Keefe '97 (left)** flew together for the first time at Southwest Airlines. Lee retired from the U.S. Army and Kevin retired from the U.S. Air Force. Both are based in Baltimore.



Cdr. Jason Darish (HT '95) retired from the U.S. Navy on Sept. 16, 2022. There was a small HT reunion at Darish's retirement. L to R: **Jeff Chow (HT '94)**, **Pat Palmer (HT '95)**, **Jason Darish (HT '95)** and **Jeff Grant (HT '91)**.



John deForest '97 completed his dissertation "Leader Development of Adaptive Capacity within Complex Situations" and education doctorate in human and organizational learning

with George Washington University in 2021.

Brig. Gen. William L. Marshall '97 became Deputy Director of Operations, Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration and the United States Air Forces in Europe and United States Air Forces Africa (USAFE-AFAFRICA A3/10) AOC Director in June 2021.



Sisters **Lt. Col. Kara (Gittes) Miller '99** and **Cdr. Jennifer (Gittes) Zuniga '99**, and Kara's husband Lt. Col. Derick Miller will be conducting a joint retirement ceremony from the U.S. Air Force Reserve and U.S. Navy Reserve in June 2023.

2000S

Stacy (Michaels) Uttecht '00 retired from the Navy after 22 years in naval



aviation. She is starting a new career as an overseas Site Operations Manager for Leidos.

Casey Roberts '06 was recognized



with Virginia Tech's Influential Black Alumni award. Roberts is the executive director of New Horizons Regional Education Centers.

Ken Mallory '06 has been appointed as the Director of the Citizen-Leader Track in the Corps of Cadets after having served as Assistant Director since 2021.



Future Hokie Alert! **Nick Nelson '08** and his wife Megan welcomed their son, Thomas Jozef "T.J." Magnus Nelson, on Aug. 10, 2022. T.J. weighed in at 8 pounds, 15 ounces and 20.5 inches long.



Joshua Waddell '08 was promoted to lieutenant colonel in the U. S. Marine Corps on April 3.



2010S

Capt. C. Andrew Mitchell '16 and Taylor Anne Broschat were married at the Sanctuary in Castle Pines, Colorado on Dec. 29, 2022. Brother-in-law **Capt. Liam Garrity '17** and fellow VTTC

members, **Maj. Derrick Anderson '09**, **Capt. Mike Reilly '15**, **Capt. JP Snyder '16** and **Capt. Richard Pedro '18**, participated in the wedding.



Michael Sherburne '17 recently separated from the U.S. Air Force as a captain in March 2023. He transitioned to the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory where he is advising and engineering novel radiofrequency (RF) solutions in the Force Projection Sector.



Lt. Beau Nickerson '18 and **Ensign Alexandra Scarfe '22** are currently serving on USS America (LHA-6) and had the opportunity to execute this Hokie pride picture while preparing for a formal reception for the president of the Philippines while visiting Manila.



UNITED BY MUSIC; REUNITED IN THE CORPS

By Senior Chief Jim Bean, director of the Highty-Tighties



Senior Chief Jim Bean and Cadet Luke Schauber.

"There's so much that we share, that it's time we're aware, it's a small world after all." - Robert and Richard Sherman

After a twenty-two-year tenure as a trumpet instrumentalist in the United States Naval Academy Band, I decided to begin a second career as a teacher. Since I had studied music education in college and my wife had also been a music teacher, this seemed like a logical choice, as she could easily assist me with lesson planning, classroom management ideas,

and any other needs I may have as a first-year teacher.

One of the rewards of teaching is the ability to see growth and development in your students, both academically and in maturity. As an elementary music teacher in a small, rural town on the eastern shore of Maryland, it was truly rewarding to see the excitement that each child had when entering the music classroom and the progress each one attained throughout the year.

In 2007, first-grader Luke Schauber

entered my classroom as one of those conscientious, knowledge hungry students and fourteen years later, this same student joined the Highty-Tighties as a new cadet!

Cadet Schauber was here for his first month and, like any new cadet, was shy about approaching someone with any authority. While reading his Guidon, the name "Bean" triggered a memory and upon reading my biography was shocked to think I may have been one of his teachers at Sudlersville Elementary. After asking his parents, and particularly his sister, who won a recorder instrumental performance contest I sponsored, they determined it was, in fact, me. I still recall when New Cadet Schauber approached me after band practice and asked if I remembered his sister, Hannah. Not only did I remember her, but I remembered Luke immediately as a first grader when prompted by his question.

Any staff member in the Corps of Cadets will say the most satisfying aspect of mentoring young people here at Virginia Tech is watching their progression from a timid new cadet to a confident young adult, to mature leaders capable of leading men and women after graduation. I feel very honored to witness the evolution of Luke Schauber from grade schooler to Band Company commander to soon to be Naval Officer. It really is a small world!

SENIOR CADET COMMANDERS SPRING 2023

REGIMENTAL COMMANDER **CLAIRE SEIBEL**

Cadet Col. Claire Seibel graduated with a degree in mathematics with minors in Chinese studies, leadership, and agricultural and applied economics. She was a member of Esprit de Corps, the Army Ten-Miler team, the Global Scholars Program, and received the Emerging Leader Scholarship. She served in many Corps leadership roles including Lima Company cadre training assistant, 3rd Battalion cadet sergeant major, regimental S-37 non-commissioned officer, and 3rd Battalion commander. This summer she is attending Navy Officer Candidate School to pursue a commission as an intelligence officer.

FIRST BATTALION COMMANDER **REBEKAH SPRIGGS**

Cadet Lt. Col. Rebekah Spriggs graduated with a degree in political science with a concentration in national security studies, also earning a minor in leadership. A recipient of the Emerging Leader Scholarship, she was a member of the Army Ten-Miler team and the National Guard SMP Program. In Army ROTC she served in leadership roles including the Echo Company first sergeant and company commander. She commissioned into the U.S. Army as a Quartermaster Officer.

SECOND BATTALION COMMANDER **SEAN HERNDON**

Cadet Lt. Col. Sean Herndon graduated with a degree in political science and minors in leadership and war and society. He was a member of The G.E.R.M.A.N. Club, Global Scholars, and received the Emerging Leader Scholarship. He served in leadership roles including Foxtrot Company first sergeant, Foxtrot Company commander, Hotel Company platoon sergeant, and Second Battalion commander. While in Army ROTC, he graduated from Army Air Assault School and earned the Recondo Badge and a rating of "Outstanding" at Army Cadet Summer Training. He was commissioned as an infantry officer.

THIRD BATTALION COMMANDER **RILEY BROOKS**

Cadet Lt. Col. Riley Brooks graduated with a degree in finance with a minor in leadership and service and commissioned as a U.S. Army infantry officer. In the Corps, he served as executive officer of Cadets for a Cause, drill sergeant in Gregory Guard, and the Lima Company executive officer. In Army ROTC, he was the Bravo Company squad leader and executive officer. He was a recipient of the Emerging Leader Scholarship and the H.H. Mitchell Leadership Award.

FOURTH BATTALION COMMANDER **ADAM JARDINES**

Cadet Lt. Col. Adam Jardines graduated with a degree in political science and a minor in leadership. He commissioned into the U.S. Army as an armor officer and hopes to command M1 Abrams main battle tanks. He held multiple leadership positions in the Corps including 2nd Battalion sergeant major and November Company commander. Cadet Jardines was the founder of the VT Corps Marksmanship Unit.

COMMAND STAFF, SPRING 2023



Regimental Executive Officer
Ben Wooley
Civil Engineering
Air Force



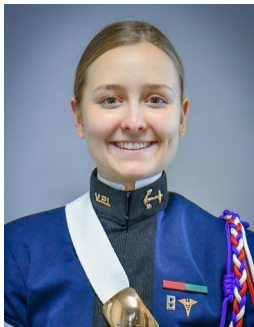
Regimental Adjutant
Amelia Krafsig
Human Nutrition, Foods and
Exercise
Citizen-Leader Track



Regimental Public
Information Officer
Richard Toledo
Robotics and Mechatronics
Army



Regimental Operations
Officer
Grace Lyle
Political Science
Army



Regimental Supply Officer
Bri Smiley
Biological Sciences
Navy



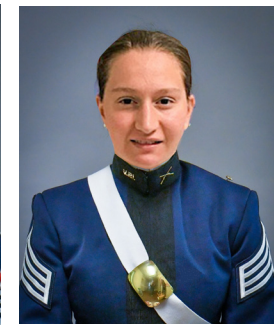
Regimental Academics
Officer
Christine Jung
Human Nutrition, Foods and
Exercise
Army



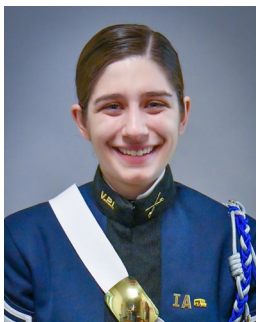
Regimental Information
Officer
George McLoughlin
Secure Computing
Citizen-Leader Track



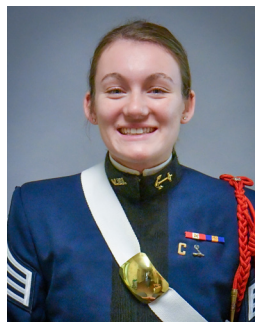
Regimental Sergeant Major
Isaac Lerner
Political Science
Army



Regimental Alumni Liaison
Maria Mastando
Mechanical Engineering
Army



VPI Battalion Commander
Isabella Ciaccio
National Security and
Foreign Affairs, Russian
Citizen-Leader Track



Alpha Company
Commander
Jacqueline Wode
Cognitive and Behavioral
Neuroscience
Navy



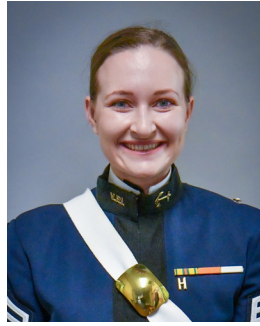
Bravo Company Commander
Gavin Coburn
Aerospace Engineering
Air Force



Charlie Company
Commander
Rowen Gerenser
Industrial and Systems
Engineering
Air Force



Delta Company Commander
Miguel Quimbayo-Cipric
Criminology
Army



Echo Company Commander
Sarah Lattig
Biological Sciences
Navy



Foxtrot Company
Commander
Katie Honan
Political Science
Army



Golf Company Commander
Daniel Garland
National Security and
Foreign Affairs
Marine



Hotel Company Commander
Megan Prochaska
Biological Sciences
Army



India Company Commander
Jared Webb
Political Science
Army



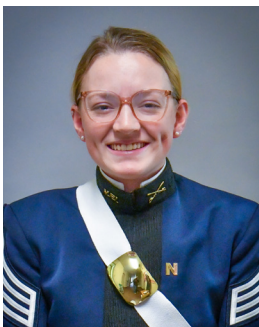
Kilo Company Commander
Alex Ceol
Aerospace Engineering
Navy



Lima Company Commander
Andrew Rodgers
Management
Army



Mike Company Commander
Euri Choi
International Public Policy
Air Force



November Company
Commander
Taylor Nordman
Political Science
Citizen-Leader Track



Oscar Company Commander
William Dwivedi
National Security and
Foreign Affairs
Air Force



Band Commander
Luke Schaubert
Mechanical Engineering
Navy



Drum Major
Kurt Gustafson
Ocean Engineering
Navy

C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S

CLASS OF 2023

***ALISSA ABRAMS**

November Company, Citizen-Leader Track

WILLIAM ALBERTSON

Highty-Tighties, Navy

JOSHUA ALIBANGBANG

Charlie Company, Air Force

COLIN AMES

India Company, Navy

KATHRYN ARTIS

Bravo Company, Citizen-Leader Track

TEYANNI ASHLEY

Alpha Company, Army

CHRISTOPHER AUSTIN

Foxtrot Company, Navy

ARIANNA BALLAS

Oscar Company, Citizen-Leader Track

ISAAC BARBOSA

India Company, Army

***NATHAN BARDEN**

Lima Company, Citizen-Leader Track

***MARISSA BELL**

Echo Company, Navy

FRANK BIANCO

Charlie Company, Army

ELSIE BOATENG

Highty-Tighties, Army

ETHAN BOUTWELL

Kilo Company, Marines

CONNER BOWMAN

Kilo Company, Marines

***JACKSON BRACKNELL**

Bravo Company, Marines

KEEGAN BRAXTON

Highty-Tighties, Air Force

***RILEY BROOKS**

Lima Company, Army

***JOSHUA BUCKINGHAM**

Mike Company, Citizen-Leader Track

***AYANA BULLOCK**

Highty-Tighties, Navy

CHRISTOPHER BUONFORTE

Foxtrot Company, Army

LINDSEY BURNSD

Charlie Company, Citizen-Leader Track

MARIA BUTLER

November Company, Air Force

KEVIN BYRNE

Bravo Company, Navy

CARTER CAMPBELL

Foxtrot Company, Citizen-Leader Track

JOSEPH CAMPIONE

Golf Company, Marines

CALEB CAPPASOLA

Foxtrot Company, Citizen-Leader Track

PAUL CARDONI

Oscar Company, Navy

HENRY CARTWRIGHT

Foxtrot Company, Navy

PIERCE CARVER

Alpha Company, Citizen-Leader Track

COREY CASIANO

Echo Company, Air Force

ZACK CASTEGNARO

Alpha Company, Citizen-Leader Track

***ALEXANDER CEOL**

Kilo Company, Navy

***EURI CHOI**

Mike Company, Air Force

RYAN CHRISTMAN

Golf Company, Navy

ISABELLA CIACCIO

India Company, Citizen-Leader Track

DANIEL CIRACO

Foxtrot Company, Army

***GAVIN COBURN**

Bravo Company, Air Force

GARRETT CORKER

Lima Company, Air Force

***PATRICK CORRIGAN**

Highty-Tighties, Air Force

SERENITY CORTEZ

Delta Company, Army

NATHAN COSSABOON

Lima Company, Army

JAMES COTTON

Golf Company, Citizen-Leader Track

RYAN COX

Foxtrot Company, Citizen-Leader Track

KADE CRALLE

India Company, Citizen-Leader Track



WILLIAM CRANDALL
Foxtrot Company, Army

CHARLES CRAUN
Echo Company, Citizen-Leader Track

KADEN CUEVAS
Oscar Company, Marines

JOSHUA DAAS
Alpha Company, Marines

ANDREW DALY
Golf Company, Army

GREYSON DANIELS
Foxtrot Company, Army

SEAN DAVITT
Charlie Company, Army

COLBY DESANDO
Highy-Tighties, Citizen-Leader Track

*** DANTE DIEGUEZ**
Delta Company, Marines

MIA DILL
Mike Company, Air Force

TYLER DINDAL
November Company, Air Force

CLAY DONAHUE
Lima Company, Army

COLIN DONOHUE
Lima Company, Army

*** SARAH DORMINEY**
Mike Company, Citizen-Leader Track

HENRY DRIESEN
Charlie Company, Navy

WILLIAM DWIVEDI
Oscar Company, Air Force

*** IAN ECKSTROM**
Charlie Company, Army

*** MAXWELL ELKINS**
Alpha Company, Navy

DANIEL ELLIS
Hotel Company, Army

HUNTER FEGAN
Hotel Company, Navy

*** CHARLES FLADHAMMER**
Mike Company, Citizen-Leader Track

DANIEL FLINT
Lima Company, Army

ERIC FRIEDEMANN
Delta Company, Navy

ALEC FRYE
Charlie Company, Air Force

*** DANIEL GARLAND**
Golf Company, Marines

ELIZABETH GASKILL
Highy-Tighties, Army

BRANDON GAVINO
Hotel Company, Air Force

ADAM GEHL
India Company, Citizen-Leader Track

JEREMIAH GERBER
Golf Company, Marines

ROWEN GERENSER
Charlie Company, Air Force

HAYDEN GERVER
Alpha Company, Army

NOLAN GIBBS
Lima Company, Citizen-Leader Track

BRANDON GIBSON
Golf Company, Citizen-Leader Track

BRENDAN GOGAL
Kilo Company, Army

JACOB GRABHAM
Highy-Tighties, Citizen-Leader Track

ERIN GRAVETTE
Golf Company, Navy

LAUREN GRAVETTE
Alpha Company, Navy

JACOB GREENING
Hotel Company, Navy

KURT GUSTAFSON
Highy-Tighties, Navy

MAXWELL GUYER
Mike Company, Army

CHARLOTTE HABER

Mike Company, Citizen-Leader Track

AARON HALE

Echo Company, Army

HUNTER HAMMACK

Highty-Tighties, Air Force

***PAYTON HANCOCK**

November Company, Citizen-Leader Track

ZACHARY HARMEYER

Golf Company, Army

YOUNGCHAN HARTHAUSEN

Echo Company, Army

JASON HEILMAN

Bravo Company, Marines

NICHOLAS HENDERSON

Delta Company, Army

***SEAN HERNDON**

Foxtrot Company, Army

DANIEL HICKMAN

Lima Company, Army

THOMAS HIEP

India Company, Citizen-Leader Track

ROBERT HIGHSMITH

Bravo Company, Marines

LEO HOGROIAN

Charlie Company, Army

***KATHERINE HONAN**

Foxtrot Company, Army

LAURA HUDDLESTON

Bravo Company, Navy

***ANDREW HUMPHRY**

Delta Company, Army

***SHANE HUWEART**

Echo Company, Air Force

***MICHAEL IGNACIO**

Charlie Company, Army

SAFA ISHAQ

Golf Company, Army

JACK ISLAND

Oscar Company, Army

ADAM JARDINES

November Company, Army

GAGE JENNER

Kilo Company, Air Force

***JEFFREY JENSEN**

Hotel Company, Army

BROOKE JOHNSON

Bravo Company, Army

JAMES JOHNSON

Echo Company, Army

JENNER JOHNSON

Charlie Company, Army

GEORGE JONES

Alpha Company, Army

***JERRY JONES**

Echo Company, Army

WILLIAM JONES

Highty-Tighties, Marines

KAUSTUBH JOSYABHATLA

Charlie Company, Citizen-Leader Track

***CHRISTINE JUNG**

Highty-Tighties, Army

SARAH KAYLOR

Alpha Company, Army

KAITLIN KEARNEY

Bravo Company, Air Force

NOAH KIM

Alpha Company, Army

WILLIAM KIRBY

Echo Company, Air Force

ALEXIS KISS

Echo Company, Army

NICHOLAS KNAPP

India Company, Air Force

***SATRIA KNIGHT**

India Company, Citizen-Leader Track

***ALEXANDRA KOLER**

Kilo Company, Air Force

***BRIANNA KOSKO**

India Company, Air Force

AMELIA KRAFSIG

India Company, Citizen-Leader Track

COLLIN LAMBERT

Highty-Tighties, Citizen-Leader Track

ALBERT LAPIEJKO

Charlie Company, Army

SARAH LATTIG

Echo Company, Navy

JANE LAWING

Bravo Company, Navy

STEVEN LE

Echo Company, Navy

JOSEPH LEE

Charlie Company, Citizen-Leader Track

SUNG LEE

Oscar Company, Navy

JULIA LEGATO

Kilo Company, Army

HAYLEY LEMAN

Highty-Tighties, Citizen-Leader Track

BAYLOR LIN

Kilo Company, Citizen-Leader Track

JEREMY LUERS

Echo Company, Army

BENJAMIN LYDAY

Golf Company, Citizen-Leader Track

***GRACE LYLE**

Echo Company, Army

ZOE LYNES

Kilo Company, Navy

NICHOLAS MACKENZIE

Golf Company, Navy

DUKE MADDOX

Delta Company, Air Force

GEORGE MANTAKOUNIS

Hotel Company, Navy

CARMINIE MARRO

Hotel Company, Air Force

ADELINE MARTINEZ

India Company, Air Force

JAMES MARTINO

Kilo Company, Navy

STEVEN MASINO

Highy-Tighties, Air Force

MARIA MASTANDO

Hotel Company, Army

NICHOLAS MCCOMMONS

Oscar Company, Army

KAITLIN MCCULLOUGH

Golf Company, Army

CONNOR MCGUIGGAN

November Company, Army

GEORGE MCLOUGHLIN

Mike Company, Citizen-Leader Track

JASON MICHENER

Golf Company, Army

MAKENZIE MILLIGAN

Highy-Tighties, Citizen-Leader Track

JULIAN MONTES MARTINEZ

Mike Company, Air Force

MAKENNA MOORE

Highy-Tighties, Navy

MATTHEW MORENO

Bravo Company, Navy

ELIZABETH MOREY

Highy-Tighties, Citizen-Leader Track

DAVID MORGAN

Hotel Company, Army

BRANDON MOSIER

Hotel Company, Army

ROBERT MUNN

Lima Company, Army

HOLT MURRAY

Foxtrot Company, Army

JOSHUA NACHEMAN

Lima Company, Navy

WILLIAM NANCE

Oscar Company, Army

MARTIN NEGRETE

Delta Company, Army

JOSEPH NESKOW

Kilo Company, Navy

TAYLOR NORDMAN

November Company, Citizen-Leader Track

DIRK NUGENT

Golf Company, Army

***GRACE O'BRIEN**

Oscar Company, Air Force

AIDAN O'NEILL

November Company, Citizen-Leader Track

***JARED ORENDORFF**

Charlie Company, Air Force

MATTHEW ORWIG

Hotel Company, Navy

JACOB OSBORN

Alpha Company, Air Force

BRUCE PARSHALL

Bravo Company, Army

AMANDA PASSMAN

Bravo Company, Marines

ASHISH PATEL

Mike Company, Army

HAILEY PERRON

Hotel Company, Air Force

ETHAN PIERCE

India Company, Navy

***MEGAN PROCHASKA**

Hotel Company, Army

OWEN PYPER

Mike Company, Navy

MIGUEL QUIMBAYO-CIPRIC

Delta Company, Army

JOSHUA RAPER

Echo Company, Air Force

SETH REHDER

November Company, Air Force

ANTHONY REILLY

Bravo Company, Army

ALEC REYNOLDS

Hotel Company, Air Force

MARGARET RICHMOND

Oscar Company, Army

CONNOR RINGVELSKI

Oscar Company, Citizen-Leader Track

***ANDREW RODGERS**

Lima Company, Army

NATHAN RODRIGUEZ

Oscar Company, Citizen-Leader Track

***OWEN RUBIN**

Charlie Company, Air Force

DILLON RUSMISEL

Highy-Tighties, Citizen-Leader Track

***PATRICK RYAN**

Charlie Company, Army

DAVID SATTERFIELD

Echo Company, Navy

LUKE SCHAUER

Highy-Tighties, Navy

SAMUEL SCHLATTER

Foxtrot Company, Army

CAMERON SCHULER

Alpha Company, Army

GRACE SCHWAB

Lima Company, Army

LIAM SCHWARZ

November Company, Navy

KYLE SCOTT

Oscar Company, Army

ZACHARY SEELBACH

Mike Company, Citizen-Leader Track

***CLAIRE SEIBEL**

Lima Company, Citizen-Leader Track

COLE SHACKELFORD

Delta Company, Army

DIEGO SHENG

Echo Company, Army

CARTER SHERIDAN

Delta Company, Army

STUART SIMPSON

Foxtrot Company, Air Force

BRIANNA SMILEY

Bravo Company, Navy

GRANT SMITH

Bravo Company, Army

ZACHARY SMITH

Foxtrot Company, Army

CONNOR SOBOLEWSKI

Bravo Company, Air Force

JUN SON

Kilo Company, Army

EVAN SPRADLING

Mike Company, Army

REBEKAH SPRIGGS

Alpha Company, Army

MICHAEL STANLEY

Foxtrot Company, Air Force

SAMUEL STEWART

Kilo Company, Citizen-Leader Track

***DAVID STOY**

Highty-Tighties, Citizen-Leader Track

JOHN STRASSLE

Mike Company, Air Force

CONNOR STUART

Delta Company, Army

***ELIJAH SWAN**

India Company, Navy

***ELISABETH SWIFT**

Golf Company, Navy

DEREK TALBOTT

Charlie Company, Army

STEVEN TEJEDA

Delta Company, Army

JONATHAN TERRY

Bravo Company, Navy

SAMUEL TESEMA

Kilo Company, Navy

IAN THOMSON

Oscar Company, Citizen-Leader Track

VIVIAN TO

Foxtrot Company, Air Force

RICHARD TOLEDO

Hotel Company, Army

***PETER TYNAN**

Mike Company, Army

***CHRISTINE UNDERWOOD**

Delta Company, Navy

ZACHARY VADAY

Highty-Tighties, Army

STEPHANIE VALENCIC

Golf Company, Citizen-Leader Track

***CHRISTINA VAN METER**

India Company, Air Force

FRANK VENDETTI

Alpha Company, Army

MATTHEW VIDRINE

November Company, Army

FREDERICK VYSE

Bravo Company, Army

RYAN WAGNER

November Company, Marines

CAMERON WALDRON

November Company, Marines

TIMOTHY WATERS

Kilo Company, Army

JOSHUA WEAVER

Foxtrot Company, Citizen-Leader Track

JARED WEBB

India Company, Army

***RICHARD WEIKLE**

Lima Company, Army

MARIE WICKARD

Lima Company, Navy

CHANDLER WILKIE

Alpha Company, Army

CORBIN WILLS

Highty-Tighties, Citizen-Leader Track

ANTHONY WIRTEL

Golf Company, Citizen-Leader Track

LOGAN WITTE

Bravo Company, Navy

JACQUELINE WODE

Alpha Company, Navy

SUNGJOON WOO

Hotel Company, Navy

GABBY WOODBURY

Kilo Company, Navy

***BENJAMIN WOOLEY**

Highty-Tighties, Air Force

AUSTIN WRIGHT

November Company, Citizen-Leader Track

MARGARET WRIGHT

Charlie Company, Citizen-Leader Track

CARTER YI

India Company, Army

JIWOON YIM

Alpha Company, Air Force

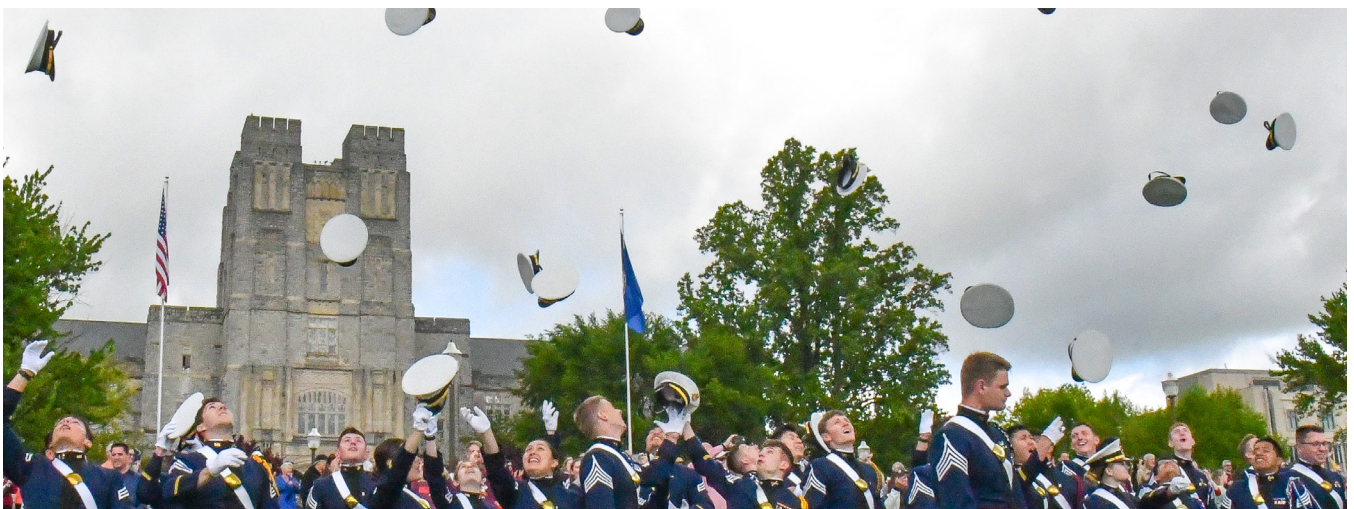
MATTHEW ZARNOWSKY

Bravo Company, Army

KELVIN ZHENG

Delta Company, Air Force

* With Distinction





Seniors, cadre, and staff during the staff ride in February. Photo courtesy VT Army ROTC Public Affairs.

ARMY ROTC NEWS

By Cadet Diego Sheng

BRANCH/CAREER REVEAL

On Nov. 30, 2022, Army cadets graduating in May 2023 received their Army branch assignments. Branch reveal night is an exciting and highly anticipated event for Army ROTC cadets nationwide. After years of studying military science and rigorous field and physical training, cadets are finally assigned to their future jobs in the Army. The night began for our New River Battalion (NRB) MS IV's and V's as they gathered in the McBryde Hall auditorium, brimming with nervous energy. After an agonizing countdown, the cadets opened envelopes containing their branch. The auditorium filled with cheers and hugs as cadets learned what they would be doing for the next phase of their careers. Later, NRB cadre members handed out branch insignia, accompanied by cheers. Branch night was full of camaraderie and pride, as our NRB cadets took one of their final steps towards commissioning. Congratulations!



STAFF RIDE FEB. 25, 2023

In February, senior Army cadets conducted a historical study of the Civil War Battle of Sailor's Creek and Battle of Appomattox that included a preliminary study phase, an extensive field study phase on the actual historic sites, and an integration phase to capture the lessons derived from each.

Senior Army cadets spent several weeks learning about the Battle of Sailor's Creek and the Confederacy's last stand at Ap-

pomattox, and visited Sailor's Creek in Rice, Virginia and Appomattox Court House to walk the battlefields and learn about where the Civil War war came to an end. With a focus on the leadership tactics used in the battle, the staff ride served as an extension of the leadership lessons taught throughout four years of Army training. Historians from the Army Combat Studies Institute led cadets throughout the staff ride to help them understand decisions made by key leaders in the battle and how to learn from those lessons as future officers.

SGT. MAJ. GENTLES COMMAND SELECTION

Congratulations to our very own Chief Military Science Instructor, Sgt. Maj. Sharlton Gentles. Gentles has been selected to become the command sergeant major of the 2nd Battalion, 13th Infantry at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. He will complete his time as the New River Battalion's sergeant major and move to Fort Jackson this summer.



SPRING FIELD TRAINING EXERCISE

From March 30 to April 2, the New River Battalion conducted its spring field training exercise (FTX) at Fort Barfoot, Virginia. The FTX serves as an intense and immersive training event to provide cadets with experience in the field and help them develop the skills necessary to become effective leaders in the Army. During this FTX, cadets participated in many activities, including tactical lanes, land navigation, and a field leadership reaction course, providing them valuable experience in military operations which developed their leadership skills and teamwork.

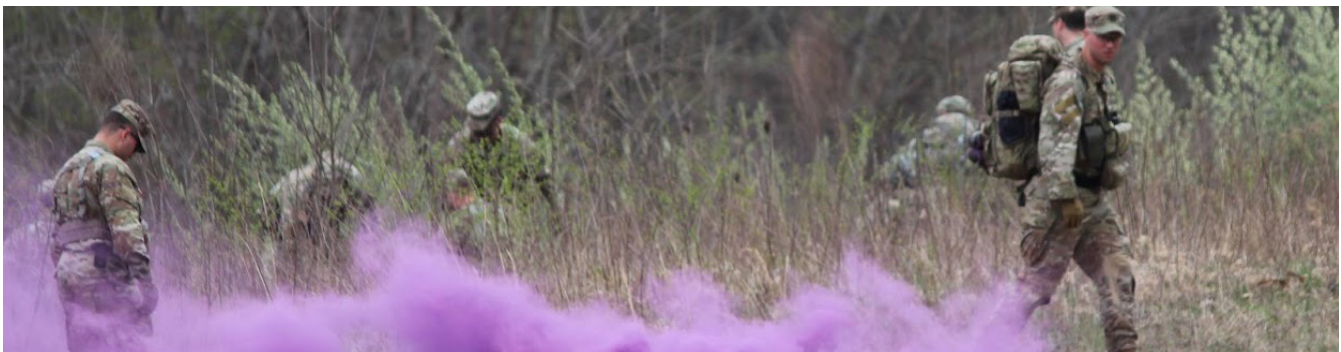
On March 30, NRB cadets slated to attend Army ROTC Advanced Camp this summer conducted M4 rifle marksmanship training on how to handle and operate firearms safely. The training allowed them to demonstrate proficiency while conducting a zero and "pop-up" qualification range. Many cadets were also able to use close combat optics as part of the training.

Battle drills during tactical lanes were another critical component of the FTX. These simulated military operations required cadets to work together as part of a team to achieve a military objective. Battle drills tested leadership abilities, decision-making skills, and the ability to work under pressure. Through these drills, cadets learned to communicate effectively, make quick decisions, and adapt to changing situations.

Another key part of FTX was land navigation which taught cadets how to navigate through unfamiliar terrain using a map and compass. An essential skill for military leaders, land navigation allows operations in remote or hostile environments where GPS may not be available. Land navigation requires a high degree of skill and attention to detail, as cadets must navigate through rough terrain and other obstacles to reach their objectives.

The FTX also provided an opportunity for cadets to build a sense of camaraderie and teamwork. By working closely with their peers, cadets develop a sense of trust and mutual respect that is essential to their success in the military. They also learn to rely on each other for support and to work together to achieve common goals.

Overall, the FTX is an essential part of New River Battalion training regimen, providing cadets with a realistic and immersive training that prepares them for the challenge of Army Advanced Camp and their future careers as officers. Through marksmanship training, battle drills, land navigation, and teamwork exercises, cadets gained valuable experience and developed the skills necessary to succeed in the military.



Cadets during field training exercise at Fort Barfoot, Virginia. Photo courtesy VT Army ROTC Public Affairs.



Midshipman Henry Driesen (seated) celebrates after selecting the USS Bainbridge (DDG-96) out of Norfolk, Virginia. Photo courtesy of Midshipman Zoe Lynes.

NAVAL ROTC NEWS

By Midshipman Jessica Dodson

The Virginia Tech Naval ROTC Battalion charged full speed ahead into the spring semester, riding the successes of the fall. In October, midshipmen and Naval ROTC staff celebrated the 247th birthdays of the U. S. Navy and Marine Corps with the theme “On-Watch 24/7” for the annual Midshipmen Birthday Ball, the battalion’s biggest event of the year. Over 500 midshipmen and their dates, staff, faculty, and community supporters were treated to our guest of honor, retired Adm. Mark Ferguson III, who shared leadership lessons and sea stories. Adm. Ferguson previously served as the commanding officer of U.S. Naval Forces Europe and as the 37th Vice Chief of Naval Operations.

In December, five graduating midshipmen joined the fleet at the joint commissioning ceremony. Midshipmen James Weldon, Criostoir Neal, Alex Navarrete, Liam Murphy, and Alexander Sanchez were commissioned into military service, along with sixteen new Air Force and Army officers.

PROLAB TRAINING

The Naval ROTC Battalion is continuing their mission of training well-rounded and competent leaders for the fleet with a unique ProLab training schedule. Training includes



Adm. Ferguson speaks to midshipmen and staff at the annual birthday ball. Photo courtesy of Midshipman Caitlin Bendit.

Officer-Enlisted leader relationships, damage control, customs and courtesies, leadership reaction courses, weapons safety and handling, and drill. New this year, the Naval Battalion has partnered with Hokie Wellness to train midshipmen volunteers in three major wellness areas: mental and emotional

health, responsible alcohol use and substance awareness, and sexual responsibility. This program is known as CSADD: Coalition of Students Against Destructive Decisions. The goal of the program is to encourage positive peer interactions, educate midshipmen in wellness resources, and reinforce a culture of shipmates helping shipmates to aid in mission readiness. In the spring, CSADD-trained midshipmen led two class sessions sharing what they learned. CSADD has proved to be effective in increasing the resiliency of the entire battalion.

SPRING MIDSHIPMEN CHAMPIONS

Over the university spring break, the VT Corps Marksmanship Unit featuring NROTC Midshipmen Jake Bush, Chris Campione, and Tyler Wade competed in the SASP National Championship. Bush and Wade won third place in the Rimfire Pistol Iron Sight (RFPI) competition. Campione won third place in Centerfire Pistol Iron Sight (CFPI), first place for Centerfire Pistol Optics, and highest overall in the CFPI division. Additionally, for the third year in a row, the VTCC Women's Basketball team, featuring NROTC midshipmen Erin Gravette, Lauren Gravette, Laura Huddleston, and Jacqueline Wode, won the national Flyin' Irish Tournament competition hosted at Notre Dame University. Finally, four Marine option midshipmen from Raiders company - Aidan Adair, Aidan Denny, Cameron Waldron, and Samuel Williams - competed in the "Mad Anthony Mud Run" obstacle course race, winning first place as the fastest male team!

SENIOR SEND-OFF

In October, the May 2023 commissioning class received their service assignments. Midshipman Peter Wang was

selected for Naval Special Warfare. Midshipman Andrew Garland served as another trailblazer by being selected for Marine aviation. In February, surface warfare-selected midshipmen participated in the national ship selection ceremony in which midshipmen select their first ship and homeport based on their national ranking. Midshipman Marissa Bell, one of three slated nuclear surface warfare midshipmen from Virginia Tech, was ranked third of 229 in the nation! She selected the USS Arleigh Burke (DDG-51) out of Rota, Spain. Bell was the midshipmen commander of the NROTC Battalion during the fall 2022 semester and is sure to continue a legacy of success in the fleet. The Virginia Tech NROTC Battalion is proud to remain one of the top units in the nation, providing ready-to-lead junior officers to the United States Navy and Marine Corps.



(From left) Ensigns James Weldon, Criostoir Neal, Alex Navarrete, Liam Murphy, and 2nd Lt. Alexander Sanchez.



Members of the VT Corps Marksmanship Unit pose for a photo after the awards ceremony.



Cadets inside a C-17 during a visit to Charleston Air Force Base.

AIR FORCE ROTC NEWS

The cadets at Detachment 875 had an action-packed spring semester, filled with exciting training events and inspiring incentive flights, while learning about our Air Force and Space Force heritage.

Immediately upon returning from a well-deserved winter break, AFROTC cadets from across the eastern U.S. traveled to Virginia Tech for the first-ever STARS Align Space Training Weekend. Our STARS student club (Space Training and Advancement Readiness Squadron) is dedicated to advancing the education of our nation's future Space Force officers. Cadets and civilian students who attended this event were able to network with over 200 participants, while gaining insight on the future of the Space Force from the Vice Chief of Space Operations, General D.T. Thompson, Air Force ROTC Commander, Col. Corey Ramsby, and a variety of Space Force officers (including six Hokies) who traveled from around the country to share their knowledge and hands-on demonstrations of space domain concepts.

During Black History Month, cadets had the opportunity to visit Charleston Air Force Base, South Carolina for “Accelerating the Legacy.” Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr. was in attendance, along with the last living Tuskegee Airman, retired Lt. Col. James Harvey. The cadets were able to talk with pilots from different airframes and explore historic aircraft. To top the weekend off, our cadets experienced a flight in a C-17!

It’s not all about aviation in Det. 875. Nineteen cadets attended the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge (GAFPD) competition at Ft. Bragg, which was hosted by the 93rd Combat Weather Group. The GAFPB is a decoration of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Germany. Participants accomplished many military events, including first aid application, chemical gear exercises, a 7.5-mile ruck march, and a pistol qualification. Det. 875 represented well, with 18 cadets earning bronze, silver, or gold badges.

The cadets of Det. 875 have an insatiable appetite for flying. Air Force Flyers, a cadet-led organization, also had the opportunity to visit Charleston Air Force Base for a deep-dive into the operations group. This trip gave our cadets excellent insight into the life and mission of a pilot and what it is like to be an Air Mobility Command member. These cadets also got to experience flight in the back of one of the 437th Airlift Wing's C-17 aircraft.

Det. 875 finished off the semester with its capstone exercise, the Air Force Training Exercise. The two-day training event was conducted at Radford Army Ammunition Plant. The exercise was planned and executed by senior cadets, led by Cadet Jillian Haas with oversight from Det. 875's Operations Flight Commander, Maj. Kristen Baker. Planning training exercises provides cadets with experience in running large-scale military operations. Junior cadets were put through realistic scenarios based upon current events, and practiced tactics like operational security, tactical combat casualty care, and basic base defense, all skills they will need to succeed at summer field training and in the Air Force as multi-capable Airmen.

Cadet Alec Reynolds, our cadet wing commander, summarized the semester perfectly, saying, "The cadets and cadre of Detachment 875 collaborated seamlessly to successfully execute a dynamic schedule of events, advancing our mission of developing exceptional future Air and Space Force officers. With each passing semester, we continue to learn and grow as a



Cadets gather around Lt. Col. James Harvey during the Accelerating the Legacy event in February.

unit, eagerly anticipating the exciting prospects that lie ahead in our future."

We capped off the year by commissioning 44 new Air Force and 2 Space Force officers. Det. 875 tops the Southeast Region in number of officers commissioned, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) majors, and cost efficiency...Hokies lead the way!



Cadets during the STARS Align Space Training Weekend conference in January.



BECAUSE OF YOU!

By Sandi R. Bliss, Chief Advancement Officer

Do you ever wonder if your gifts matter? If so, this article is for you, and if not, I hope this information adds to your giving joy.

The little things add up to the big things. An example of this occurred this past February during Giving Day 2023; the Corps saw record participation among all class years, including cadets. We doubled any previous year's participation. Corps alumni and friends are setting the pace for future alums and every gift to the Corps matters! Because of you, more cadets have scholarships and get to be a part of Global Scholars trips. Because of your gifts, we can pay for buses for cadets to participate in Veterans Day parades, the first-year cadet trip to the National D-Day Memorial and all the other "little" things that are truly the big things. Thank you for adding to the cadet experience!

We hope you see the value of your investments in the Corps and will continue to find ways to have an impact below.

WAYS TO GIVE

Special Naming Opportunities

Corps Leadership and Military Sciences Building (CLMS) - If

you are interested in investing in this impressive new space, there are a few naming opportunities available starting at \$25,000. All naming opportunities can be achieved through a five-year pledge. Be sure to secure your legacy naming soon; CLMS is opening this fall! We also have naming opportunities in each of the residence halls as well as a few other special opportunities on Upper Quad.

Endowments provide a dependable, perpetual source of funding for things such as cadet scholarships. Endowed gifts are invested and each year a percentage of the return is made available to the university to support critical Corps initiatives. The distribution amount is approved by the Virginia Tech Foundation board each year. Endowments can be created with a minimum gift of \$100,000.

Annual Gifts of any amount can make an immediate impact. They can be a one-time gift or can be made on a convenient, recurring basis. Gifts to the Commandant's Priority Fund of \$500 or greater automatically sponsor a first-year cadet on Caldwell March in the fall or spring. Through these contributions, you are working toward the \$2,500 cumulative threshold needed to earn a Brick Plaque. Don't wait because the deadline to earn a Brick Plaque is March 10, 2025. There is also now a way for you to pledge \$10,000 a year for five years to have your own named scholarship during those five years.

To give online, visit: givingto.vt.edu/corps

Non-Cash

You can support the Corps in many other ways. You can donate securities such as stocks, bonds, and mutual funds. You can also donate real estate, including both present and future interests, and you can donate gifts-in-kind of tangible property, such as works of art or historic memorabilia

In Memory / In Honor

Scholarships, endowed positions, Corps facilities, or programs can be named in memory of a special individual. Gifts may be made to honor a loved one or someone who inspires you. All of these opportunities can be made through a 5-year pledge.

Employer Matching Gifts

Many Corps donors are employed by companies that encourage donations to higher education. Before making your gift, please check to see if your company provides matching contribution. Our matching gift web page at givingto.vt.edu/match can help you find out.

Gift Planning Options

There also are many additional options for leaving a powerful, smart legacy through planned gifts to the Corps. Are you interested in a fixed income that could include the avoidance of capital gains taxes? Are you looking for a way to use the best asset choices for gifts to family and the Corps? You can now make a one-time \$50,000 QCD transfer to a charitable remainder trust (CRT) or another split-interest gift such as a charitable gift annuity (CGA). These are the "Legacy IRA" provisions. The new statute requires that the vehicle contain only IRA assets.

The required minimum distribution (RMD) age (previously 72) increased to 73 on January 1, 2023. The age will increase to 75 beginning on January 1, 2033. As a reminder, "required

minimum distribution" (RMD) refers to the mandated amount that you must withdraw from qualified retirement plans, which include IRAs as well as 401(k)s and other tax-deferred retirement accounts. Reach out to find what fits best. There are several options, such as designating the Corps of Cadets as the beneficiary of a will, trust, retirement plan, or life insurance policy. You may also use a charitable IRA rollover to make a gift that can count toward your required minimum distribution without it being taxed as income. Utilizing a gift model that can provide an income such as a charitable gift annuity, charitable remainder annuity trust, charitable remainder unitrust, or a charitable lead trust may fit your donation desires. Another option is creating a Donor Advised Fund to maximize tax benefits now and recommend charitable gifts for many years to come.

SUSTAIN OUR MISSION. GIVE ONLINE

AT

GIVINGTO.VT.EDU/CORPS



LEAVE YOUR LEGACY IN THE CORPS



Throughout history, Corps of Cadets graduates have left their names and class years in pencil on the bricks of Lane Hall. Now, you can leave your mark on a brick plaque in the new Corps Leadership and Military Science Building. We've actually used images of the Lane Hall bricks to make these one-of-a-kind plaques.

Here's how it works: Donate at least \$2,500 to any Corps of Cadets non-endowed fund, such as the Commandant's Priorities Annual Fund, between March 10, 2020, and March 10, 2025. That's just \$500 a year. Once you reach the \$2,500 total giving threshold, we will send you a sample inscription to approve. The inscription will include your full name, class year, and Corps company on three separate lines. You can choose our typeface or your own handwriting. (Because of space limitations on the plaque, we will be unable to add titles, honorifics, military rank, or nicknames.) Each brick plaque must be tied to a single giving record, and we must limit one plaque to each record. The \$2,500 threshold can only be counted once to an individual giving record. If you are giving to honor a friend or loved one in addition to your own brick plaque, please be sure that \$2,500 donation is tied to that person or another family member's giving record. We are unable to count company matches toward any \$2,500 giving threshold. The brick plaques will be featured in a special place in the Corps Leadership and Military Science Building, expected to open in 2023. Give now to ensure your name is in place for the dedication ceremony.

The process of acquiring information and printing Brick Plaques can take months to complete. The deadline to have your brick completed in time for the fall Corps events each year is May 1 to reach the \$2,500 threshold and Brick Plaque name and details received by June 15. The deadline for Spring is November 1 to reach \$2,500 threshold and Brick Plaque name and details received by December 15. Please note we will contact you after the cutoff dates listed above once you have reached the \$2,500 and are ready for your Brick Plaque details.

The Corps' advancement team is ready to help you with any needs or questions.
Contact us at 540-231-2892
or vtcc@vt.edu

Learn more at vtcc.vt.edu/give

IN MEMORY



JAMES CLARK DIEFFENDERFER '41

1919 – 2022

James Clark Dieffenderfer died Sept. 16, 2022. Born in West Virginia, he attended VPI and earned his pilot license through the Civilian Pilot Training Program. After graduation, he entered the Army Air Corps. During World War II, he flew 46 combat missions as a B-17 pilot and was decorated with two Distinguished Flying Crosses, two Purple Hearts, and three Air Medals. He was an instructor pilot and developed electrical systems over his 29-year military career. After retirement, he continued working in the electrical field with Walt Disney Corporation. His name is listed on the Disney Hall of Fame and the Blacksburg Airport Aviation Wall of Fame.



SAMUEL ASTON LOYD JR. '45

1924 – 2022

Samuel Aston "Ackie" Loyd Jr., of Waynesboro, Virginia, died Dec. 1, 2022. He was born Jan. 19, 1924, in Lynchburg, VA. After graduating from Virginia Tech with his degree in mechanical engineering, he served in the U.S. Merchant Marine. Later, he worked for DuPont, Acme Visible Records, and Data Visible. Ackie loved many activities, especially canoeing, camping, and hiking. His true passion was spelunking. He was preceded in death by his wife, Betty (Vaught) Loyd, and three brothers. Surviving are his daughter, son, two grandchildren, and two step-grandchildren.



JOSEPH HOLLEMAN BARLOW SR. '50

1928 – 2023

Joseph Holleman Barlow Sr. died April 27. Born July 21, 1928, he graduated with a bachelor's degree in agricultural engineering. After graduation, he was a territory manager for John Deere. In 1953, he married Margaret Taylor of Suffolk VA. He served in the Air Force, assigned to the Office of Special Investigations. In 1959, he bought Cotton Plains Farm near Chuckatuck and raised peanuts, corn, soybeans, cattle, and hogs as well as his three children. He was predeceased by his first wife, Margaret. He is survived by his wife of 26 years, Lynn Barlow, two sisters, one sister-in-law, two daughters, one son, five grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.



ARCHIE GUTHRIE PHLEGAR '52

1930 – 2023

Archie Guthrie Phlegar died March 30. Born May 22, 1930, in Pearisburg, Virginia, Archie attended VPI as a member of the Highty-Tighties. He graduated with an engineering degree and served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War and later worked for the Appalachian Power Company. He was offered a position in Virginia Tech's admission office in 1967. Archie earned his master's and doctorate degrees and became the Director of Admissions until retirement. Archie married his high school sweetheart, Jean Sublett. They enjoyed 40 years of marriage and raised three children. After Jean's passing, Archie married Barbara Jean Gates in 1993.



CECIL ROGERS MAXSON JR. '52

1931 - 2022

Cecil Rogers "Max" Maxson Jr. died Dec. 8, 2022. Enlisting during the Korean War, he became a lieutenant in the Army Corps of Engineers. He started his civilian career with the Bell Telephone System and retired as the senior vice president of NationsBank. Max served on the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors and received multiple prestigious awards, including the university's highest honor, the Ruffner (now Ut Prosim) Medal in 2001. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Ann Shirlee Garrett Maxson, two daughters, and two grandchildren.



SAMUEL GORDON BICKFORD JR. '53

1932 - 2022

Samuel Gordon Bickford Jr. died Dec. 3, 2022. He was born in Roanoke on Feb. 19, 1932. Sam attended Holland High School in Suffolk, graduating in 1949, was a member of the Class of 1953 at Virginia Tech, and retired from Westmoreland Coal after many years of service. He was a faithful member of Second Presbyterian Church in Roanoke. In addition to his parents, Sam was preceded in death by his wife, Faith; brother, John; and second wife, Mary. He is survived by his beloved companion, Alberta; his three children, grandson, two great-granddaughters, and two nephews.



NICHOLAS D. STREET '53

1931 - 2023

Nicholas D. Street died Feb. 4. Graduating from the Corps of Cadets in 1953, he served in the U.S. Air Force and later graduated from the University of Richmond Law School. He established the law firm of Street, Street & Street with two of his brothers. He was a founding partner in United Coal Company and a longtime advocate for his hometown of Grundy and Southwest Virginia, supporting many charitable causes. In 2022, Virginia Tech awarded Mr. Street the Ut Prosim Medal for his longstanding support and service. Mr. Street is survived by his wife, Fay H. Street, three children, eight grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and a brother.



PERRY RODERICK STUBBS JR. '56

1935 - 2022

Perry Roderick Stubbs Jr. died Nov. 29, 2022. Perry was born on Sept. 12, 1935. He graduated from Christiansburg High School in 1952, studied biology at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and earned his Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond in 1959. His first dental practice was on Main Street in Pearisburg. Perry served the community for 31 years with a term as president of the Southwest Virginia Dental Society before retiring in 1990. Perry is preceded in death by his parents and sister, and is survived by wife, Brenda Jill Kiser, two children, and five grandchildren.



ROBERT MEREDITH HARRISON '61

1940 - 2023

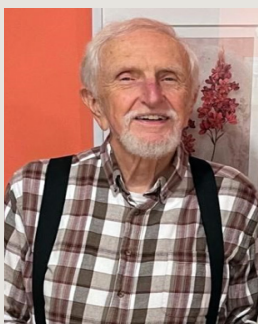
Robert Meredith Harrison died May 16 in Clayton, Georgia. Growing up in West Virginia and Texas, he majored in mechanical engineering at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and served in the U.S. Navy from 1962 to 1965. Robert married Margot McCormick (Sherry) Harrison in 1963 and lived in Norfolk, Virginia, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and Akron, Ohio, before moving to the Atlanta area in 1973 where they raised their kids in Lithonia and began their retirement years in Covington in 1997. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Sherry, and is survived by two daughters, one son, and one granddaughter.



HAMPTON VINCENT SNIDOW '61

1939 - 2023

Hampton "Vince" Snidow died April 3. He was a member of L Company and received his degree in mechanical engineering. Upon graduation, he was employed by Newport News Shipbuilding for 50 years, leaving for three years to serve in the U.S. Army. In 1979, Vince married Nancy. He was a proud supporter of local charities, participating in Relay for Life and the Walk to End Alzheimer's for decades. He was recognized by the American Red Cross for his consistency in blood donations. He is survived by his wife, Nancy, his sister, and many beloved cousins and dear friends.



ROBERT H. GREFE '62

1941 - 2023

Robert H. Grefe, age 82, of Massapequa, New York died March 23. Beloved husband of Dorothy. Loving father of Janet (Paul), James (Jodi), and Jenn (Ray). Cherished grandfather of Emily, Kieran, True, Julian, Remi, Zachary, and Grace. Adored brother of Nancy Cory.



JAMES T. FLYNN JR. '64

1941 - 2023

James T. Flynn Jr. died March 5. Jim was born in Queens, New York and earned a bachelor's degree from Virginia Tech and a master's degree from Virginia Commonwealth University. He served in the U.S. Army, retiring from U.S. Army Reserve as a lieutenant colonel. He dedicated his career to higher education administration and retired from the Virginia Community College System at Wytheville. Settling in Blacksburg, he was an active volunteer with Virginia Tech, the Corps, and the Rotary Club. Jim is survived by two children and five grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his wife, Gretchen Aulbach Flynn, his parents, brother, and sister.



WILLIAM LEWIS SMITH '64

1942 – 2022

William “Bill” Lewis Smith died Dec. 23, 2022. He received his degree in architecture and served in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Vietnam. A recipient of the Bronze Star, he was assigned as a Combat Engineering Instructor at Fort Belvoir, VA. Later, Bill worked for architect Frederick Hyland and became a partner with Highfill-Smith Associates, a founding partner of Courtside West, and a member of AIA. He also served as the Deputy Director of General Services for Henrico County. Predeceased by his parents, Bill is survived by wife, Linda Sue Coffey Smith, three children, and six grandchildren.



JOSEPH RICHARD INGE '69

1947 – 2023

Joseph Richard “Joe” Inge died March 23. He received his degree in agricultural economics and proudly served over 38 years in the U.S. Army. He achieved the rank of lieutenant general before his retirement in 2007. Joe continued to serve his country and community in retirement, led disaster and preparedness exercises in 22 African nations, and served on the boards of several foundations and not-for-profit organizations. He received the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Distinguished Alumni Award in 2021. Joe is survived by his wife of 54 years, Linda, two children, six grandchildren, and two sisters. Joe reunited in heaven with his brother



CHARLES WADDELL CARTWRIGHT JR. '70

1948 – 2023

Charles “Chip” Waddell Cartwright Jr. died Feb. 3. Chip was the first in his family to attend college, receiving a degree in forestry and wildlife management. He served the U.S. Air Force and made history in the U.S. Forest Service as the first Black employee to achieve the positions of District Ranger, Forest Supervisor, and Regional Forester. He received Virginia Tech’s Influential Black Alumni Ut Prosim Award in 2021. His memories will be carried on by his wife, Daisy, his two children and their mother, three grandsons, six younger siblings and their spouses, nieces, nephews, and friends.



JOSEPH EDGAR YATES JR. '71

1949 – 2022

Joseph E. Yates Jr. died Dec 24, 2022. A Highty-Tighty alumnus, Joe worked for the City of Salem for over 32 years, retiring as the Director of Planning and Economic Development. After retirement, Joe worked for Balzer and Associates for ten years. Joe started as a drummer banging out tunes on his crib and played in many local bands, including the Rhythm Doctors as the lead singer and frontman. Joe was preceded in death by his parents and two sisters. He is survived by his wife of 27 years, Lynne Arnold Yates, a sister, and many nieces and nephews.

LEST WE FORGET

Johns H. Redd '29, South Charleston, West Virginia, 5/12/2023
William C. Price '41, Charleston, South Carolina, 11/25/2022
Robert E. Davenport '43, New York, New York, 11/23/2022
William B. Gwathmey '43, Walkerton, Virginia, 3/14/2023
Rutherford B. Thompson '44, Sanford, Florida, 11/15/2022
John A. Johnson '44, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 12/24/2022
Thomas M. Starling '45, Fayetteville, Georgia, 2/5/2023
William D. Lusk '45, Greensboro, North Carolina, 12/8/2022
Herbert M. Mandel '45, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 3/11/2023
Claude C. Arthur '45, Richmond, Virginia, 12/20/2022
Herman Lieberman '46, Demarest, New Jersey, 1/8/2023
Paul N. Lesner '46, Norfolk, Virginia, 4/18/2023
Ridgway M. Dunton '47, Onancock, Virginia, 4/26/2023
James T. DiPiazza '47, Pompton Plains, New Jersey, 2/9/2023
David S. Farmer '48, Farmville, Virginia, 12/2/2022
Leon O. Spiers '49, Gordonsville, Virginia, 3/13/2023
Ulus W. Massie '49, Marion, Virginia, 1/11/2023
Charles W. Moore '49, Martinsville, Virginia, 4/6/2023
George R. Goodson '49, Newport News, Virginia, 2/13/2023
Edwin W. Rice '49, Reedville, Virginia, 1/1/2023
Marvin A. Stahl '50, Bedford, Indiana, 5/10/2023
William H. Sutherland '50, St. Paul, Virginia, 4/1/2023
Frank A. Faison '51, Danville, Virginia, 3/26/2023
Leslie C. Pugh '51, Floyd, Virginia, 12/5/2022
William A. Rule '51, Monterey, Virginia, 3/17/2023
John H. Neblett '51, Richmond, Virginia, 4/25/2023
Roger R. Neel '51, Riner, Virginia, 12/4/2022
Whiteford D. Grimes '52, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 12/22/2022
William M. Mandeville '52, Flushing, New York, 11/15/2022
Charles M. White '52, Fort Mill, South Carolina, 3/9/2023
Thurman G. Copeland '52, Franklin, Virginia, 3/4/2023
Billy O. Moody '52, Glen Mills, Pennsylvania, 11/11/2022
Mills A. Riddick '52, Mount Dora, Florida, 12/8/2022
Dorris N. Stidham '52, Orange Park, Florida, 12/30/2022
Mack W. Bullard '52, Roanoke, Virginia, 4/14/2023
Henry H. Buc '52, Salisbury, North Carolina, 3/24/2023
Robert W. Harvill '52, Staunton, Virginia, 3/31/2023
Thomas S. Smith '52, Washington, Pennsylvania, 3/31/2023
Dorphus M. Hambrick '52, Waynesboro, Virginia, 2/20/2023
Thomas Stark '53, Amelia, Virginia, 12/10/2022

Richard S. Andrews '53, Florence, South Carolina, 12/13/2022
Michael H. Kelly '53, Manassas, Virginia, 4/12/2023
James A. Hepner '53, Maurertown, Virginia, 11/22/2022
Robert L. Detterman '53, Thousand Oaks, California, 12/28/2022
George W. Mills '53, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 12/31/2022
L. Ward Edwards '53, Winchester, Virginia, 11/19/2022
Fred T. Craig '54, Birmingham, Alabama, 5/6/2023
James P. Beard '54, Fredericksburg, Virginia, 12/11/2022
Joseph H. Swink '54, Johnson City, Tennessee, 11/11/2022
Lenoir H. Lewis '54, Lady Lake, Florida, 3/10/2023
Harvey L. Hotinger '54, Lexington, Virginia, 1/30/2023
Courtland C. Keeter '54, Newsoms, Virginia, 2/4/2023
Thomas K. Daughtrey '54, Sandston, Virginia, 1/12/2023
William H. Martin '54, Simpsonville, South Carolina, 4/22/2023
William C. Latham '55, Haymarket, Virginia, 11/7/2022
Albert H. Barnes '55, Knoxville, Tennessee, 3/16/2023
Robert R. Cromer '55, Nokesville, Virginia, 11/20/2022
Ralph N. Greenway '55, Salem, Virginia, 12/21/2022
Royer K. Lewis '55, Springfield, Virginia, 2/27/2023
John E. Mocha '55, Walterboro, South Carolina, 4/14/2023
Leon R. Pleasant '55, Warrenton, Virginia, 12/17/2022
John S. Stacy '56, Bluefield, Virginia, 4/11/2023
John L. Miller '56, Bridgewater, Virginia, 2/23/2023
Charles D. Bowman '56, Cary, North Carolina, 4/2/2023
Arlen T. Powers '56, Dacula, Georgia, 2/23/2023
Alvin W. Kagey '56, Fincastle, Virginia, 3/16/2023
John R. Little '56, Lugoff, South Carolina, 2/22/2023
John M. Richardson '56, Martinsville, Virginia, 5/10/2023
Randolph J. Maupin '56, McGaheysville, Virginia, 12/19/2022
William R. Mitchell '56, Mechanicsville, Virginia, 2/22/2023
Alexander T. Baskerville '56, Orange, Virginia, 5/14/2023
Robert B. Oliver '57, Blacksburg, Virginia, 12/1/2022
Grady M. Brown '57, Colonial Heights, Virginia, 4/17/2023
Kenneth E. Whetzel '57, Harrisonburg, Virginia, 2/14/2023
Lee G. Scripture '57, Heathsville, Virginia, 11/8/2022
Richard D. Chumney '57, Mechanicsville, Virginia, 5/2/2023
Charles C. Laney '57, Portsmouth, Virginia, 11/6/2022
Robert W. Birdsong '57, Yorktown, Virginia, 12/18/2022
Charles W. Seaver '58, Abingdon, Virginia, 5/3/2023
William C. Wingfield '58, Collinsville, Virginia, 11/2/2022
Bruce M. Scott '58, Fairfax, Virginia, 1/17/2023

Donald T. Hundley '58, Norristown, Pennsylvania, 11/25/2022
 Joseph V. Crowling '58, Rixeyville, Virginia, 1/5/2023
 Jerry G. Curtis '58, Rixeyville, Virginia, 12/21/2022
 Morris H. Bell '58, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 2/2/2023
 Earle L. Everton '58, Winter Haven, Florida, 4/26/2023
 Thomas E. Ellers '59, Clearwater, Florida, 4/23/2023
 Richard J. Dillard '59, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, 1/27/2023
 Albert L. Byer '59, Kingsport, Tennessee, 1/29/2023
 Godwin P. Dunn '59, Kingsport, Tennessee, 5/4/2023
 Thomas F. Betz '59, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 2/22/2023
 Ronald D. Oslin '60, Chattanooga, Tennessee, 12/12/2022
 William C. Woods '60, Hampton, Virginia, 4/20/2023
 Joseph A. Barta '60, Radford, Virginia, 5/4/2023
 Donald E. Helton '61, Abingdon, Virginia, 4/23/2023
 Harold H. Speed '61, Christiansburg, Virginia, 11/22/2022
 John R. Potter '61, Corvallis, Oregon, 11/5/2022
 John G. Ashby '61, Galax, Virginia, 5/15/2023
 Leonard J. DeRyder '61, Hampton, Virginia, 4/3/2023
 Robert M. Thompson '61, Mount Airy, North Carolina, 11/21/2022
 Roger C. Mullins '61, Salem, Virginia, 4/10/2023
 John F. Sage '62, Bland, Virginia, 3/26/2023
 James M. Paxton '62, Henrico, Virginia, 1/5/2023
 James Y. Shen '62, Irvine, California, 2/15/2023
 Benjamin J. Hyde '62, Kempner, Texas, 11/25/2022
 Channing G. Williams '62, Richmond, Virginia, 12/28/2022
 Zack E. Osborne '63, Centerville, Georgia, 4/9/2023
 James L. Hall '63, Daleville, Virginia, 5/9/2023
 Roland E. Weaver '63, Emporia, Virginia, 4/21/2023
 Swanson W. Angle '63, Frisco, Texas, 1/2/2023
 Ronald W. Coiner '63, Greensburg, Pennsylvania, 5/13/2023
 William D. Harmon '63, Troy, Michigan, 4/16/2023
 Larry P. Buchanan '64, Greenback, Tennessee, 11/11/2022
 Russell H. Coats '64, Houston, Texas, 2/1/2023
 John D. Bolton '64, Midlothian, Virginia, 1/28/2023
 Robert G. Greene '64, Nickelsville, Virginia, 3/28/2023
 Lewis P. Fulcher '65, Bowling Green, Ohio, 5/9/2023
 Joseph M. Bloomer '65, Chatham, Virginia, 4/19/2023
 Albert H. Clark '65, Cross Junction, Virginia, 2/28/2023
 Fred H. Reger '65, Manassas, Virginia, 4/22/2023

Charles R. Climpson '65, Ocean Isle Beach, North Carolina, 2/9/2023
 Danny R. Dillon '65, Roanoke, Virginia, 11/7/2022
 Lawrence M. Bonner '65, Sumter, South Carolina, 1/12/2023
 Reese E. Graves '66, Adamstown, Maryland, 1/25/2023
 William L. Baker '66, Edenton, North Carolina, 3/18/2023
 John D. Bradshaw '66, Suffolk, Virginia, 11/17/2022
 John R. Krezel '67, Moseley, Virginia, 4/26/2023
 John T. Morris '68, Fincastle, Virginia, 12/5/2022
 Michael K. Brandon '68, Midlothian, Virginia, 4/30/2023
 William A. Duke '68, Woodford, Virginia, 11/15/2022
 Michael E. Gleason '69, Williamsburg, Virginia, 4/20/2023
 Bruce C. Kidd '70, Fleming Island, Florida, 12/7/2022
 Robert D. Rice '71, Culpeper, Virginia, 3/19/2023
 John E. Huber '71, Dover, Delaware, 11/5/2022
 Jonathan F. Rhodes '71, Hampton, Virginia, 1/23/2023
 David E. Ogle '71, Woodford, Virginia, 5/19/2023
 Stephen N. Bell '72, Savannah, Georgia, 5/2/2023
 Don L. Ferk '74, Fulton, Missouri, 11/4/2022
 Lloyd W. Hofer '74, Ocala, Florida, 2/25/2023
 Benjamin L. Sikes '77, Port Washington, New York, 2/19/2023
 James D. Couch '84, San Antonio, Texas, 1/22/2023
 Michael G. Broaddus '89, Bowling Green, Virginia, 4/6/2023
 Kwang W. Kim '10, Minnetonka, Minnesota, 2/14/2023



SKIPPER TRUCK

Skipper Crew takes meticulous care of Skipper. However, the Corps does not own a truck to pull Skipper and relies on the university to lend Skipper Crew a vehicle for each event.

Skipper Crew is raising money to purchase a vehicle to pull Skipper. You can help!



Give online:
www.givingto.vt.edu/corps
Select these options on the giving form:
Area: "Corps of Cadets"
Fund: "Other"
Designation: "Skipper Crew"

By mail:
Address:
Corps Advancement Team
CLMS Bldg (0213)
355 Old Turner St
Blacksburg, VA 24061
Check To line: VT Foundation
Check Memo line: Skipper Crew



ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATE: SKIPPER CREW

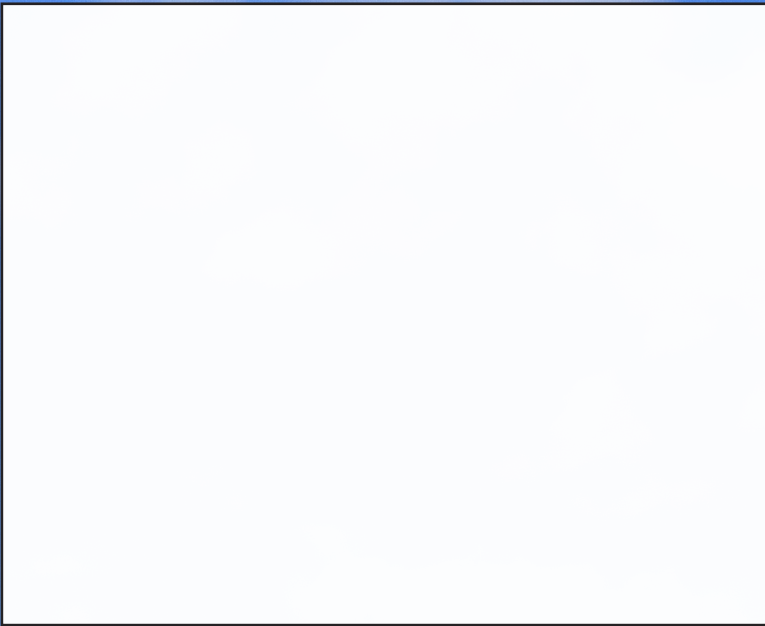


Photo courtesy of Chris Price.



VTCC Alumni Inc.
VTCC Alumni Office
CLMS Bldg (0213)
355 Old Turner St
Blacksburg, VA 24061

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Bedford, Va
Permit No. 3



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY



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