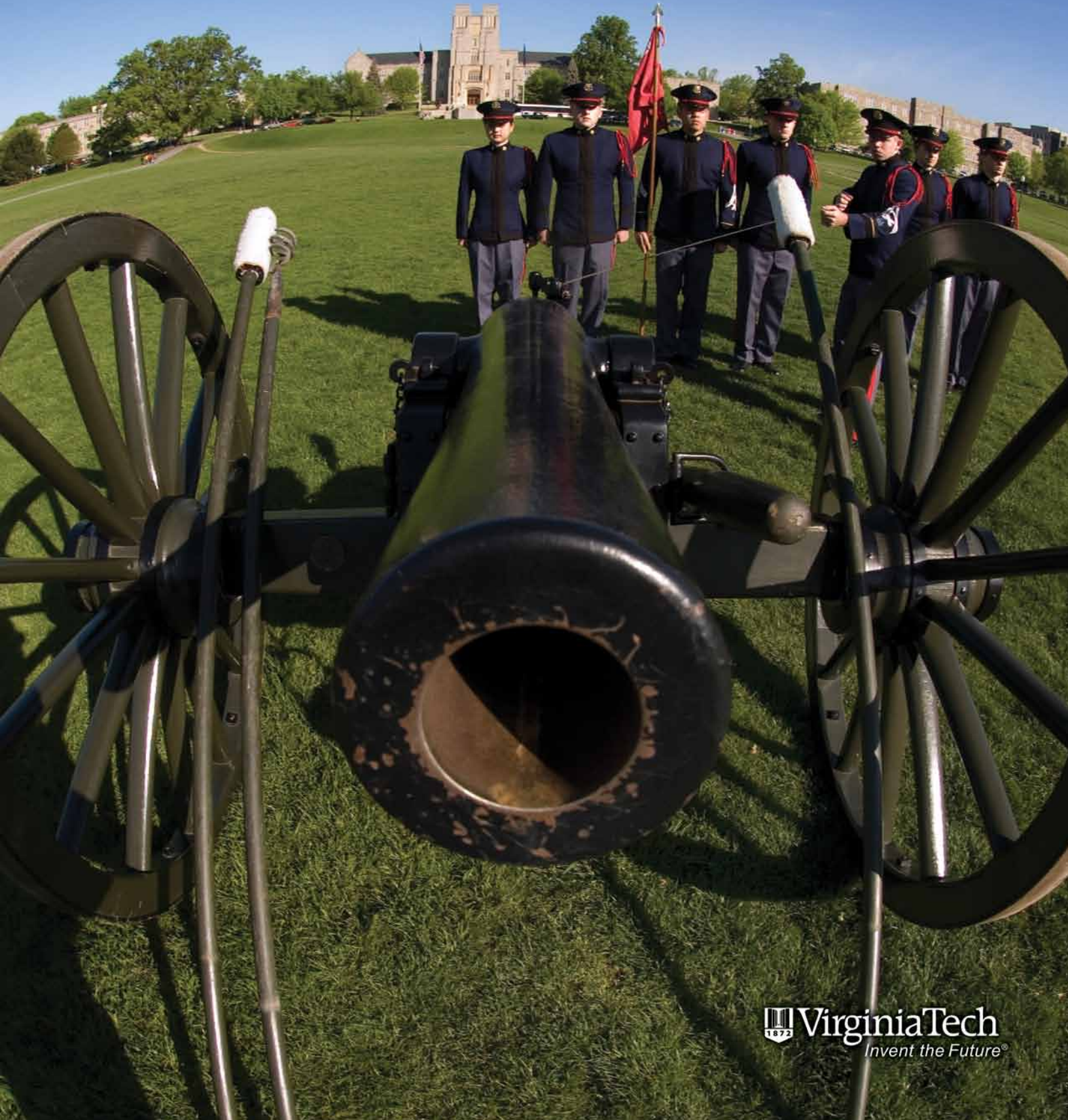


Vol. 22 No. 1 Fall 2011

CorpsReview

The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Magazine





Hokie presence in Afghanistan: Tom Whitlock '95 sent this photo of a Virginia Tech mini-reunion of personnel assigned to Combined Joint Task Force 435 at Camp Phoenix in Afghanistan (from left): Capt. Jordan Swears B'08, visiting that day from his field artillery unit; Capt. Timothy Wu D'08; Lt. Patrick Forman C'01; Lt. Col. Tom Whitlock A'95; Maj. Mark McGovern VT'95; Maj. Ed Skelly A'95; and Maj. Joy Triplett VT'90. It's amazing that in a headquarters unit of some 150 personnel, six are Hokies, four of whom are VTCC alumni representing the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines.

Maj. Mark Sherkey '95 forwarded this photo of his wife, Krista, and him atop the mountain range known as "The Remarkables" near Queenstown, New Zealand. Mark, who was on leave and experienced the country's beauty, sent the photo as the football season was about to kick off. He expressed his wish that our beloved Hokies would be on a summit at the end of the season. Go, Hokies!



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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS

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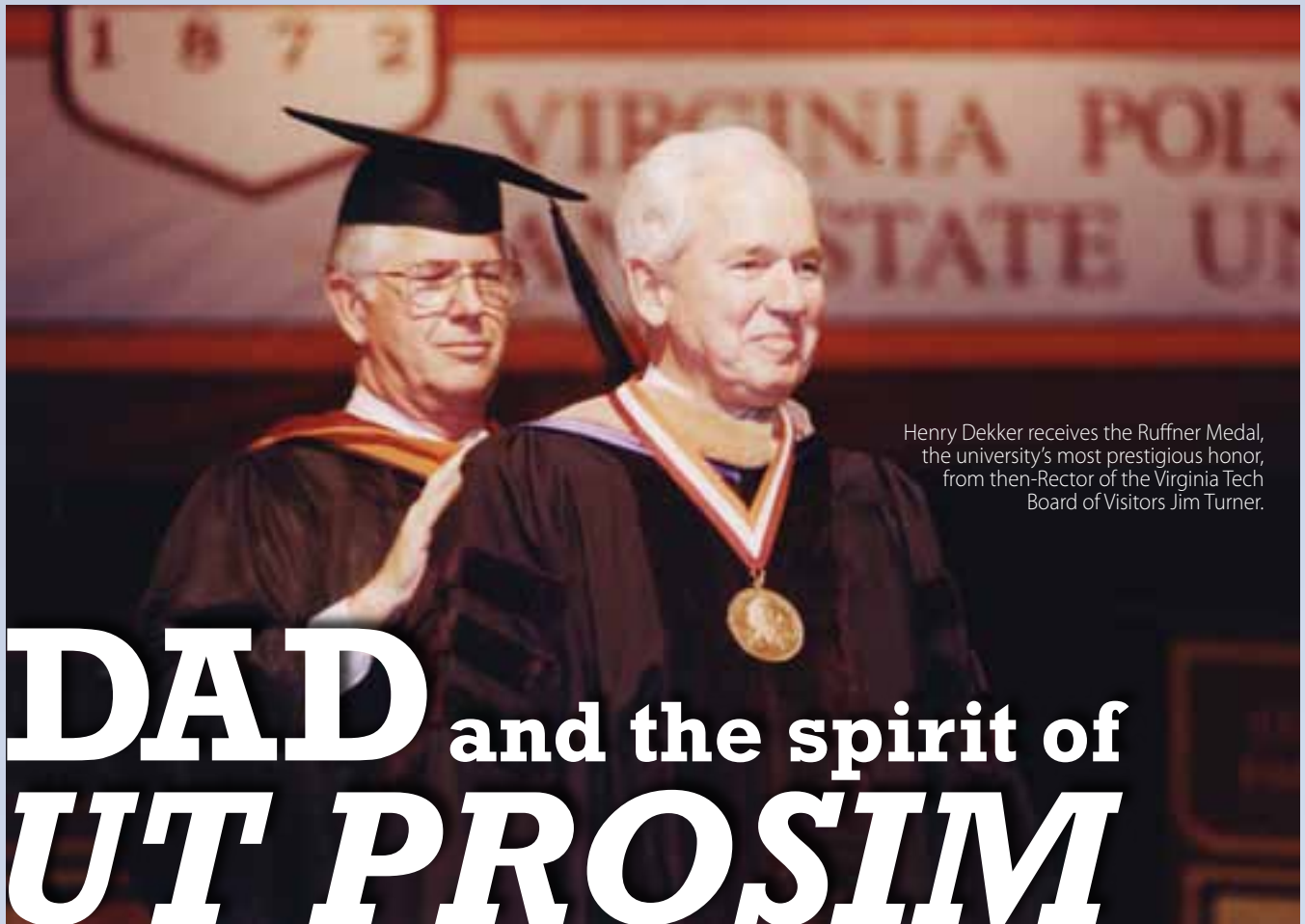
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Henry Dekker receives the Ruffner Medal, the university's most prestigious honor, from then-Rector of the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors Jim Turner.

DAD and the spirit of *UT PROSIM*

A reflection on the life of Henry J. Dekker '44

July 29, 1920 – June 13, 2011

By Alice Hoge Gillet Dekker

From the age of 20, Dad became inextricably linked to VPI, as Virginia Tech was known when he first came to campus as a freshman in September 1940. This land-grant university—its history, the opportunities it presented to my dad as a student and the possibilities for its future—shaped the man my father became and laid the foundation for all that Dad accomplished in his full and well-lived life.

It was here, in this time, 1940–1947, that Dad found his great and lifelong passions: the Corps of Cadets, the German Club, and the Pamplin College of Business. His character, already formed by the strong, loving discipline from his German mother, became etched in stone. To know what he believed and what he

became, one need only read the following from the Cadet Creed:

I am a Virginia Tech Cadet committed to the ideals upon which the Institute was founded: Brotherhood and Honor, Leadership and Loyalty, Service and Sacrifice, Duty and Ut Prosim. As a cadet I strive to embody the highest standards of discipline, dignity, and integrity in all that I endeavor. I know that I am at all times an ambassador of the Institute and will conduct myself accordingly.

To say that Dad believed that creed is an understatement. It is far more accurate to say that he lived it in all aspects of his life. One need only look at the published lists of accomplishments and

awards that Dad received to know that his was a life of service.

From his earliest years at Tech to the end of his life, he was resolute in his tenacious devotion to his three great passions. He was elected president of the Class of 1944 for each of three years and was elected president of the Corps of Cadets in January 1943. He also served as vice president of the German Club from 1942 to 1943 and president in 1946 and 1947. He was elected to Omicron Delta Kappa, the National Leadership Honor Society, in 1942 and was active in student government.

He left school in 1943 to enter the U.S. Army, training as a paratrooper with the 11th Airborne Division and eventually serving during the occupation of

Japan. He returned to campus in 1946 to finish his education, earning his degree in advanced accounting. In 1947, he became the treasurer of VPI and completed all the coursework for a master's degree.

What some may not know is that Dad had every intention of earning a doctorate from Harvard Business School. Among his papers I found his application to the doctorate program. Part of the reason why he had wanted to attend this program was, as you might expect, tied to his devotion to Virginia Tech. In the essay required for admission, Dad makes the following comments to answer the question, Why do you want to obtain your degree from Harvard Business School?:

I want an additional point of view to complement that which I have obtained here at a small college in the South. I want the education which Harvard offers because I know my background may thus be improved. Aside from the usual personal motives, I have a somewhat altruistic desire to be of more

valuable service to my present institution. ... My keen interest in the Virginia Polytechnic Institute is another reason for wanting the doctoral degree. I have tremendous faith in the institution's future and I want to be in a better position to be of valuable service.

"Life" would intervene, and Dad, although he had earned admission, would not go to Harvard Business School. Rather, he left the treasurer's office at VPI and took his young family to Greensboro, N.C., where he joined Eugene C. Rowe '33, vice president and treasurer of Burlington Industries, as an assistant in May 1951.

From there, Dad's career took him to New York, where he worked primarily in the marketing divisions of the textile industry as vice president of several companies, including Milliken, Hoechst Fibers, and Texfi Industries, and finally as president of Louis Feraud in 1979. Dad retired in 1991 and returned to Blacksburg to his beloved Virginia Tech.

When I would call home each week



Henry walking down the aisle with his beloved Louis.



At home in his twilight years.



As a young cadet in front of Squires Hall.



With Dawn and Maj. Gen. Stan Musser on the occasion of Gen. Musser's retirement after serving 10 years as the Corps' commandant of cadets.



From left, Charles Cornelison '67, then-chair of the VTCCA; Maj. Gen. Tom Rice '34; and President Charles W. Steger with Dekker at the rededication of the War Memorial in September 2001.

to check in with Mom and Dad, Mom would often say that Dad was at the German Club or at "his office" at the Corps of Cadets. Or he would be in the car on the road, alone or with some brave soul, driving the state or sometimes to nearby states, visiting people and raising money for the Corps of Cadets or the German Club or the Pamplin College of Business. His was a heart devoted to service and to doing whatever he could to further the goals and ensure the survival of the institutions he loved so well at Virginia Tech.

Only recently did I learn of the following story—shared by Virginia Tech's Vice President for Development Betsy Flanagan—that just sums up Dad's devotion and sense of duty completely:

Before I arrived at Virginia Tech, I found that I had "someone" on my schedule. As you can guess, it was your father. He was the first person I met here 11 years ago. He wanted to be sure I understood the importance and needs of the Corps of Cadets and the German Club. We had many subsequent visits, and each one revealed more about his commitment to Virginia Tech and about his generous heart and optimistic spirit.

In the last year of Dad's life, his connections to Virginia Tech sustained his interest in the world at large. He looked forward to and was revived and invigorated by each phone call or letter from

anyone associated with the Corps of Cadets or the German Club.

His final project involved the replacement of a large black-and-white photo of Mel Jeffries '26, author of the beloved German Club Ritual, in the German Club Manor. Nothing would do before we left Blacksburg but that he would engage the cooperation of Mel's son, Buddy Jeffries '64; Ken Motley '52; and the artist Brenda Tatum to create the portrait that now hangs in the place of honor in the manor. Dad would never get back to Blacksburg to see the portrait, but he took great pleasure and found great peace in knowing that the project had been accomplished.

Dad's devotion to his university began early and never ended. From his helping to raise money for his various passions to making speeches in support of a cause or accepting awards, the small moments of individual kindness and attention that Dad showed others are what people most often share with me upon remembering him.

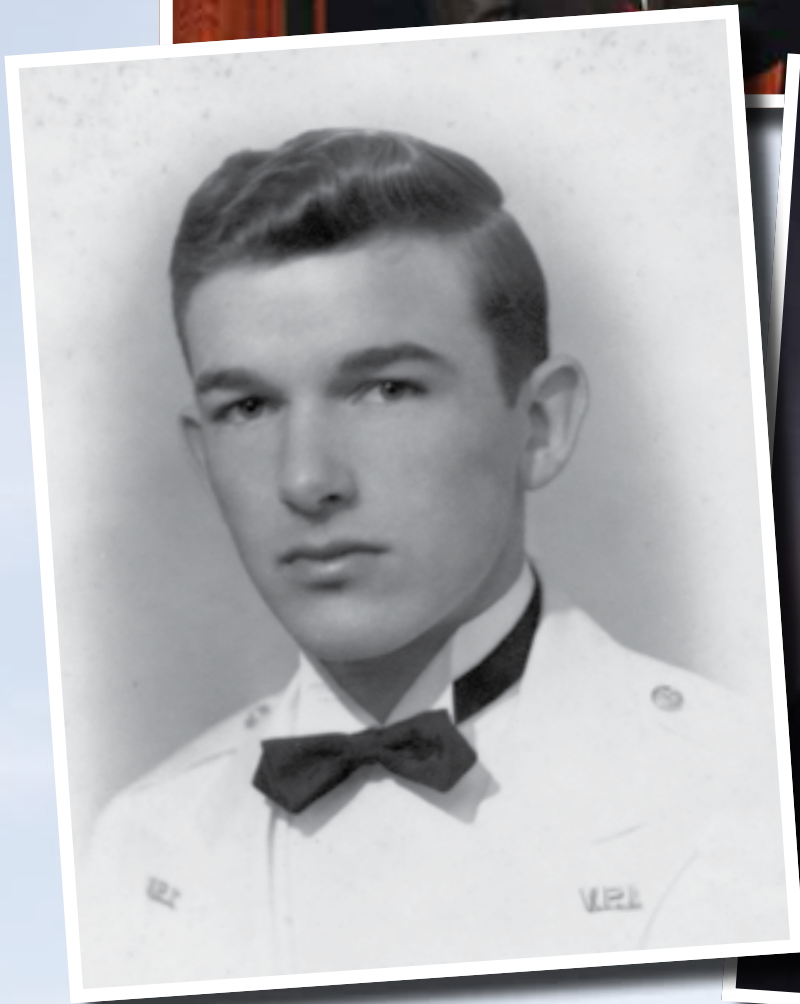
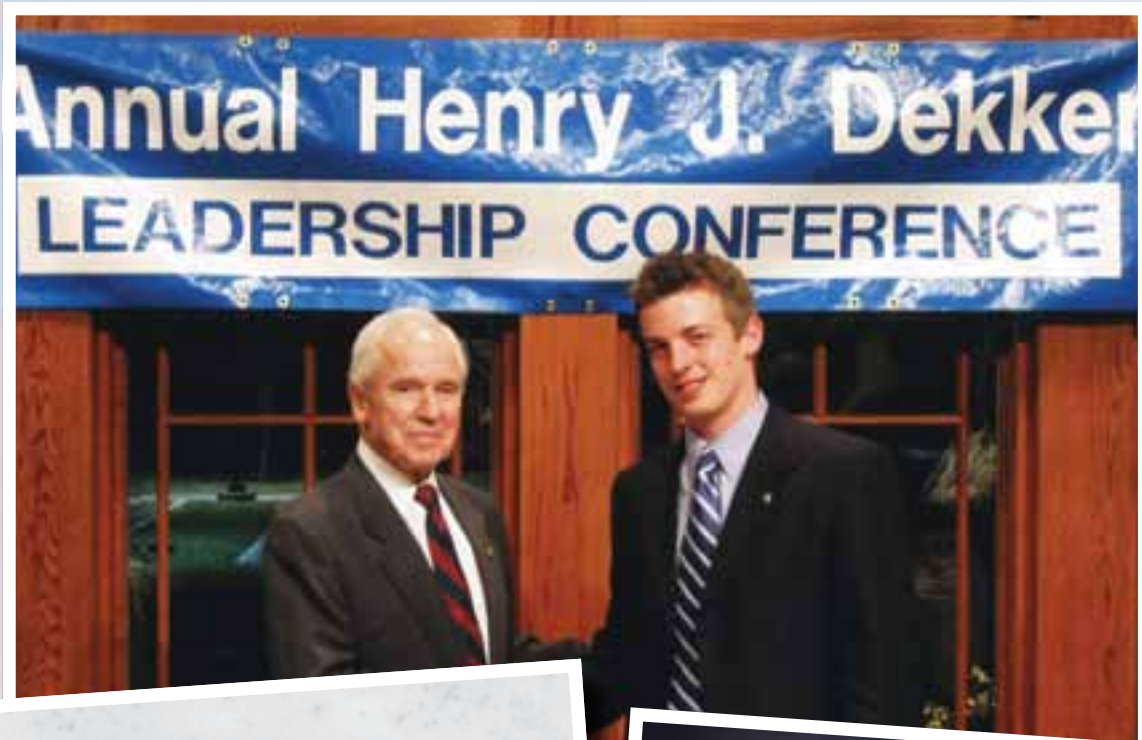
I believe that Dad's character is captured in the note one former German Club member and cadet wrote to me after Dad passed away:

I hope it is of some comfort to you and your family to know that I and many others loved your father as a good friend and will always remember him fondly. I was acquainted with Mr. Dekker

through the Corps of Cadets and the German Club at Virginia Tech. We did not know each other well, yet whenever he saw me on campus, he never failed to call me by name and take a few minutes to talk. It always impressed me that such a big man who did big things took time to do the small things and befriend everyone.

That was my dad and the spirit of *Ut Prosim*.







Flexibility is the key ...

by Frank Mondo '94

There's a phrase I learned when I was at Tech, which happened to be our class motto: "The only thing constant is change." It was true then; and 20 years later, it still holds true.

As a kid, I had always wanted to be in the Air Force. Attending a college recruiting fair when I was in high school, I came across the Virginia Tech display. The woman behind the table asked if I was interested in Tech, and I said, "No, thanks. I'm probably going to the Air Force Academy." She replied, "Well, have you heard about our Corps?" From that point on, I was hooked!

I arrived at Virginia Tech in August 1990, ready for Cadre Week, ready to become an F-16 pilot in four short years, and ready to join the Air Force elite as a member of the Thunderbirds. Well, five years later, I graduated with a B.S. in civil engineering and was commissioned as a civil engineer (CE) officer. For 16 years, my career has been filled with plenty of twists and turns, but as they say, "Flexibility is the key to airpower!"

In the Corps, I spent two and a half years in Alpha Company, six months in Hotel Company as the first sergeant, and my senior year as the Golf Company

executive officer. There's a reason that Tech's engineering program is ranked among the best in the nation—it was tough!

I struggled some and took a full course load in my fifth year so that I could graduate. But the hard work and discipline I learned in the Corps, along with a lot of prayer, got me through and on my way to a new Air Force career. As it turned out, it was a good thing I stuck it out that extra year; that's when I met my future wife, Kellie.

When it came time to fill out the "dream sheet" for my first duty assignment, I chose three bases on the East Coast and two on the West Coast. The Air Force sent me to the



55th Civil Engineering Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska!

While serving as the squadron readiness officer and a construction project manager, I was given a very unique “additional duty.” Offutt is also home to the United States Strategic Command (US STRATCOM), responsible for maintaining our nation’s nuclear forces. The “Looking Glass” is STRATCOM’s airborne command post, and our squadron augmented that mission with engineers.

I became one of the youngest CE officers to serve on that battle staff and completed more than 60 sorties during my two years there. Kellie and I were married in 1996; and two years later, we had our first daughter, Emma, just before we moved to Alabama.

We headed to Maxwell Air Force Base, where I was assigned as a flight

training officer (FTO) at Officer Training School (OTS). I had been “non-volunteered” into the job, and I was pretty apprehensive. What did I know about being an FTO?

Well, as a matter of fact, I knew quite a bit! I had been fortunate enough to serve as a member of the Corps cadre all three of my upperclass years. The lessons I had taught our new cadets were just as applicable to those officer trainees. Once I had made that connection, OTS eventually became one of my favorite jobs. Every 12 weeks, a new adventure began and reminded me a lot of my time in the Corps of Cadets.

During one of my commissioning ceremonies, I had the secretary of the Air Force as a guest. Just as we began, the audio system crashed, and there was no music for the ceremony. As my flight



Frank in his dorm room with buds (from left) Rob Tyls, Marquell Williams, and Tom Whitlock after Frank and Rob had received their class rings.



Drillfield pass in review.



Inspection-ready with Cadet Eric Verbeek.



and I stood at attention on the stage, I turned to the audience and asked everyone to join me in singing the national anthem. The “performance” wasn’t pretty, but it reminded me of the importance of expecting the unexpected and staying flexible. Later during the ceremony, the secretary gave me his coin and thanked me for my “flexibility.”

After two years at OTS, I was hired as the aide-de-camp to the commander of the Air Force Doctrine Center (AFDC), Maj. Gen. Lance Smith ’69, another Hokie. Because AFDC was a direct reporting unit under the Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen. Smith was engaged at the highest levels of strategic planning and doctrine development for the Air Force. I was exposed to a side of our service that very few junior officers get to see, and I learned so much more than I ever thought possible in just a year.

My new appreciation for the strategic perspective followed me to my next assignment as a graduate student at the Air Force Institute of Technology at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, where I earned a master’s degree in engineering and environmental management.

I studied strategic planning and based my thesis on an analysis of the Air Force Civil Engineer’s Strategic Plan.

Shortly after classes had begun, Kellie and I found out that our second daughter, Abbie, was going to be born with spina bifida, a birth defect of the spinal cord. Abbie (and Kellie) underwent fetal surgery at Vanderbilt University Hospital to repair the lesion on her spine, and she was born in January 2002.

Approximately two weeks after Abbie’s birth, my mother passed away after a long battle with cancer, and both of my grandmothers passed away later that year. These were certainly trying times for my family, but faith and love and perseverance helped pull us through.

I eventually graduated in June 2003 and transferred to Headquarters, Air Force Materiel Command. There I worked in the strategic plans branch of civil engineering and later deployed to the Combined Air Operations Center at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, in 2004. I was the CE resource manager for Operation Enduring Freedom and had the opportunity to visit many of the squadrons and installations throughout the region in

countries such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Bahrain, and Diego Garcia.

While I was in Qatar, I met the CE squadron commander at Al Udeid. His follow-on assignment was to Dover Air Force Base, Delaware, and he hired me to be his operations flight commander. I served there for two years and had more than 200 military and civilian craftsmen in my flight. We were responsible for maintaining the base’s facilities and infrastructure, including two runways, taxiways, and aircraft parking aprons in support of two C-5 squadrons and one of the East Coast’s largest aerial ports.

I often think about the unique relationship the Corps has with the civilian population at Virginia Tech and how it helped me understand the delicate balance between military and civilian personnel. Learning how to communicate effectively with both, along with leading them to accomplish the mission, is a critical lesson for any officer to learn.

In 2007, I separated from active duty and became an individual mobilization augmentee (IMA) in the Air Force Reserve. I went to work for Atkins



(formerly PBS&J) in Charlotte, N.C., as a design and construction project manager. Most of my work is with Air Force and Army clients, managing military construction, master-planning, and engineering design projects.

I also worked for the Defense Threat Reduction Agency at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, as an IMA. I supported the Joint Staff Integrated Vulnerability Assessment teams in evaluating Department of Defense installations' antiterrorism/force protection programs. I had an opportunity to assess at least one installation from each of the four services, as well as the Air National Guard.

On Aug. 23, I was selected for promotion to lieutenant colonel, and on Sept. 1, I began my new assignment as the IMA to the commander, 20th CE Squadron at Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina.

My career may not have taken the "normal" path to success, but constant change throughout my life has proven to be a good thing. You never know what the future holds, so take one day at a time, do the best job you can in whatever job you have, and always remember: Flexibility is the key!

Ut Prosim!



Frank with fellow Hokie Maj. Chris Plieman '91 during a deployment to Uzbekistan.



Rendering honors at Arlington National Cemetery during a Christmas wreath-laying ceremony.



From left, Daniel Banks with his sons, Dennis '11, Timothy, and Peter '03, after the 2009 game between the Hokies and Boston College.

Joining the Army— at 62

by Dr. Daniel E. Banks
Brooke Army Medical Center
Fort Sam Houston, Texas

Editor's Note: Although the author of this article is not a Corps alumnus, two of his sons are. I was so taken by their impact on his life that I felt certain this story would resonate with our readers.

The tone set by my parents during my childhood discouraged me from pursuing military interests. My mother's brother was in the Canadian army and was killed in action by a member of the German army in World War II. He was a motorcycle messenger traveling along the rural roads of France. I was told that this assignment was accompanied by a 30-day median life expectancy. My father, who served in the Army in a civil engineering unit in France during World War II, had been shot in the leg by one of his buddies in what he described to me as an accident.

As an undergraduate student, I was convinced that American participation in Vietnam was not a good idea. I had a high draft number (even now I can remember the number: 125) and had little need to be concerned. Furthermore, I was exempted from being drafted, which ended around the time that I began medical school.

After completing medical school, I spent three years in internal medicine training at a safety net hospital. I worked hard in a medical care system with less than sufficient resources to care for many indigent individuals. Three years of that work resulted in my wanting a change in my life.

I then enjoyed a great opportunity to take additional specialty training in internal medicine as a member of the U.S. Public Health Service. For three years, I took full advantage of all the educational opportunities offered. Although this experience was considered “uniform service,” neither I nor my colleagues owned a uniform. Leaving government employment, I began a career as a medical school faculty member, caring for patients and teaching students and young doctors, as well as undertaking research projects.

I first began to understand the military when my oldest son, Peter, was approaching his high school graduation. At the time, our family lived in Morgantown, W.Va., the home of West Virginia University. Peter was willing to do whatever was necessary to leave home.

I was willing to let him go to school away from home only if I could be convinced that he would have an increased chance for success.

Peter worked hard to find options and decided on the Corps of Cadets at Virginia Tech. He was able to convince me to allow him to leave because of the mandated evening study hours for first-year cadets. I do not recall him being very excited about being in a military environment. Nonetheless, he changed within his first year at Tech and joined the Virginia National Guard.



Dennis Banks '11



Peter Banks '03

When I would visit Peter in Blacksburg, my interactions were revealing. I met his friends. I was impressed that they were the “very best” young men and women I had ever been around. I can recall taking him and his friends out for Sunday lunch after he had been at school for three or four months. I saw how he and his friends enjoyed each other, how each was focused on achieving and on building a career—be it as a submariner or an artillery officer. I always had an enjoyable time when I visited Peter, and

I was soon convinced that his decision to join the Corps of Cadets was great for him.

After Peter graduated, he went to Fort Bliss and learned about Patriot missiles. He left that group and is now in a civil affairs unit at Fort Bragg as a captain. He is preparing for his third tour of the Middle East.

My second son, Timothy, took a different path. We had moved to Shreveport, La., where I took the position of chair of the Department of Medicine at the Louisiana State University (LSU)

School of Medicine. Timothy chose to attend a high school with great athletic opportunities and took full advantage but did not have a strong record of achievement in academics.

Given a chance at college, Timothy was admitted to LSU in Baton Rouge. I perceived him to be “lost” from the start, and he was never able to gain his bearings. He was on his own. He had no community of friends to

help him “find his path.” I could see no way to help him.

During his second year, Timothy became more interested in physical fitness and spoke of leaving school. I could not speak against this plan as he was neither happy nor successful. He left school and within a short time entered the U.S. Navy. He became a hospital corpsman assigned to the Marine infantry.

After five years and two very difficult tours in southern Afghanistan, he is back at LSU in Baton Rouge. He is different



Dennis' commissioning photo and (right) his cadet days. Brother Peter is now in the Middle East for his third combat deployment.

now, much happier and more mature, and speaks of attending medical school.

My third son, Dennis, is a gifted athlete. At the end of high school, he was unsure about his future. When he was asked what he wanted, his only answer was "to land jets on an aircraft carrier." I offered to pay his first year at Virginia Tech, and the rest was up to him. He accepted this, and in time he grew confident that he could succeed as a Navy pilot.

Dennis was in the Navy ROTC for four years, receiving a scholarship for three years, and graduated in June. He has been given his chance. He began training in Pensacola, Fla., in October. I am certain that without the "life" structure that the Corps of Cadets provided and without the support of his fellow students in the Corps, his dream would never have come true.

That leaves me.

My sons have inspired me. I have been changed by these young men, by their ideas, and by their fellow students whom I met when I was around them. Furthermore, my ideas have been

changed by the past decade of events in the country and in the world.

About three years ago, I started the process to join the Army. After a civilian academic medical career, I thought I could bring my strengths in medical education and my experience in patient care and administration. With the many deployments, the Army teachers were "spread thin" and working hard to meet the very rigorous rules for academic productivity posed by the agency that accredits the training program. I was offered the chance to work with young doctors and faculty members to help them become more successful in their efforts to become academically productive.

I like the people and their manner. I enjoy the disciplined life. I plan to benefit from the culture of fitness. I am not young and look at this as a chance to have an adventure that I had not planned on. I am excited for the opportunity.

I took the oath of July 5, 2011, and entered the Army on that day.





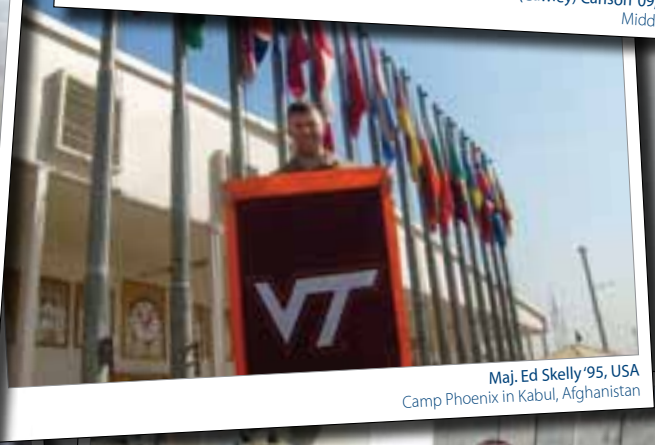
2nd Lt. Mark Walczyk '10, USA
Operating Base Delta, Iraq



2nd Lt. Tavia (Cawley) Carlson '09, USAF
Middle East



Lt. Col. Tom Whitlock '95, USAF
Camp Phoenix in Kabul, Afghanistan



Maj. Ed Skelly '95, USA
Camp Phoenix in Kabul, Afghanistan



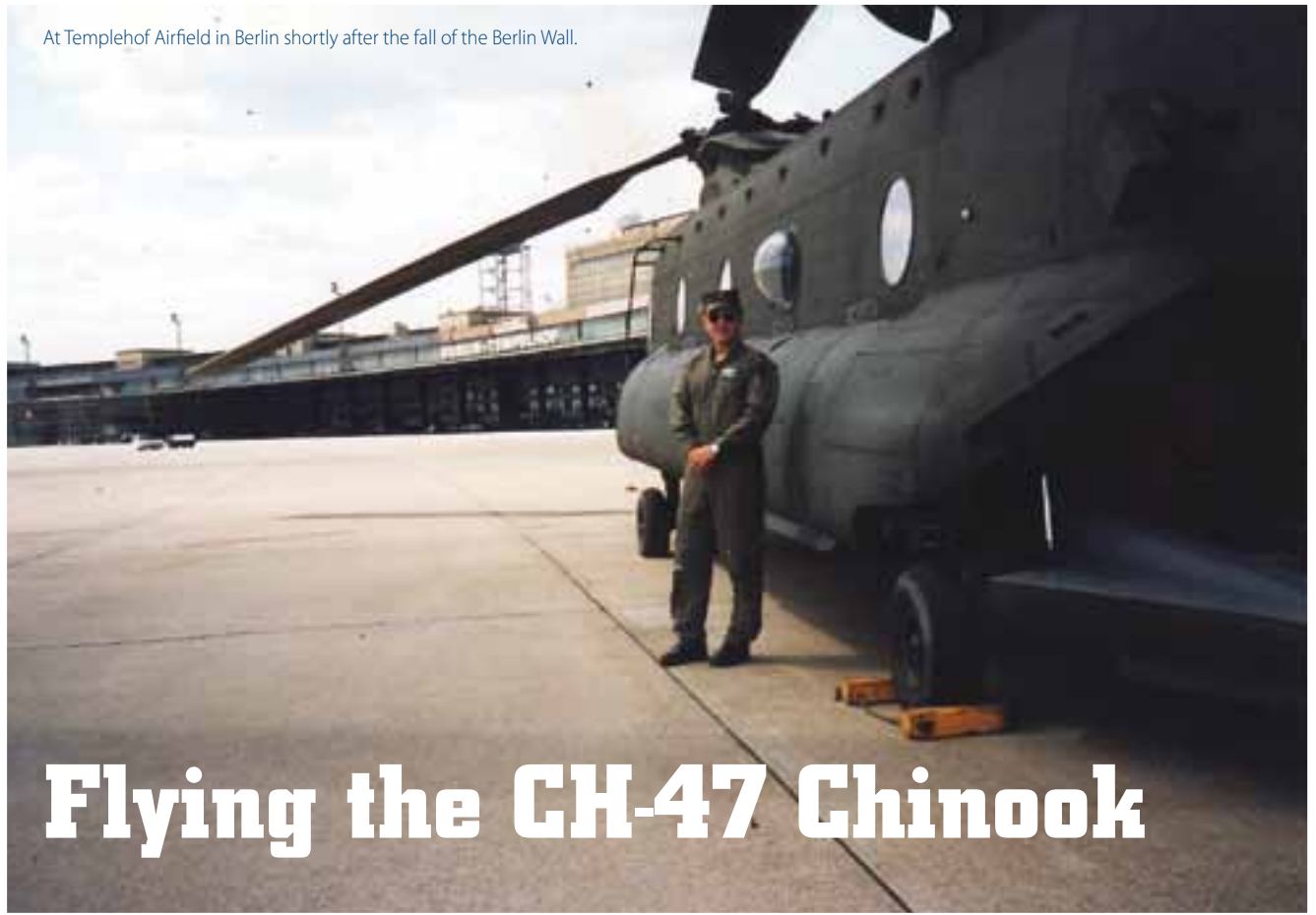
1st Lt. Nate Kane '08, USAF
Joint Base Balad, Iraq



Maj. Josh Snyder '98, USA
Baghdad, Iraq

Started in 2006 by IMG College and sponsored by the University Bookstore, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Hokie Hero program honors Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets alumni who are currently deployed. Recipients of this honor are highlighted during the radio broadcasts of Virginia Tech football games by Bill Roth and Mike Burnop, on the Corps of Cadets website, on the Corps of Cadets alumni website, and in the Corps Review magazine. Shown here are the Hokie Heroes featured during the first half of the 2011 football season.

At Templehof Airfield in Berlin shortly after the fall of the Berlin Wall.



Flying the CH-47 Chinook

by Kerry Koritko '86

My graduation from Virginia Tech seems like yesterday, but this year marks a quarter of a century since that day for me. My military journey started four years earlier, however, in the spring of 1982.

I had just finished high school and did not think that a summer job was necessary since I was heading to Virginia Tech in the fall. When my parents said there would be no handouts, Rajev Bricksin, my friend who was in the Corps from 1982 to 1984, pointed out a recruiting advertisement to join the Army that would help pay for college. We joked about it and then enlisted in the Army Reserve under the buddy program and shipped out to basic training at Fort Dix, N.J. An Army private in basic training

... now that was a rude awakening. But the lifestyle grew on me, and I served continuously for the next 27 years.

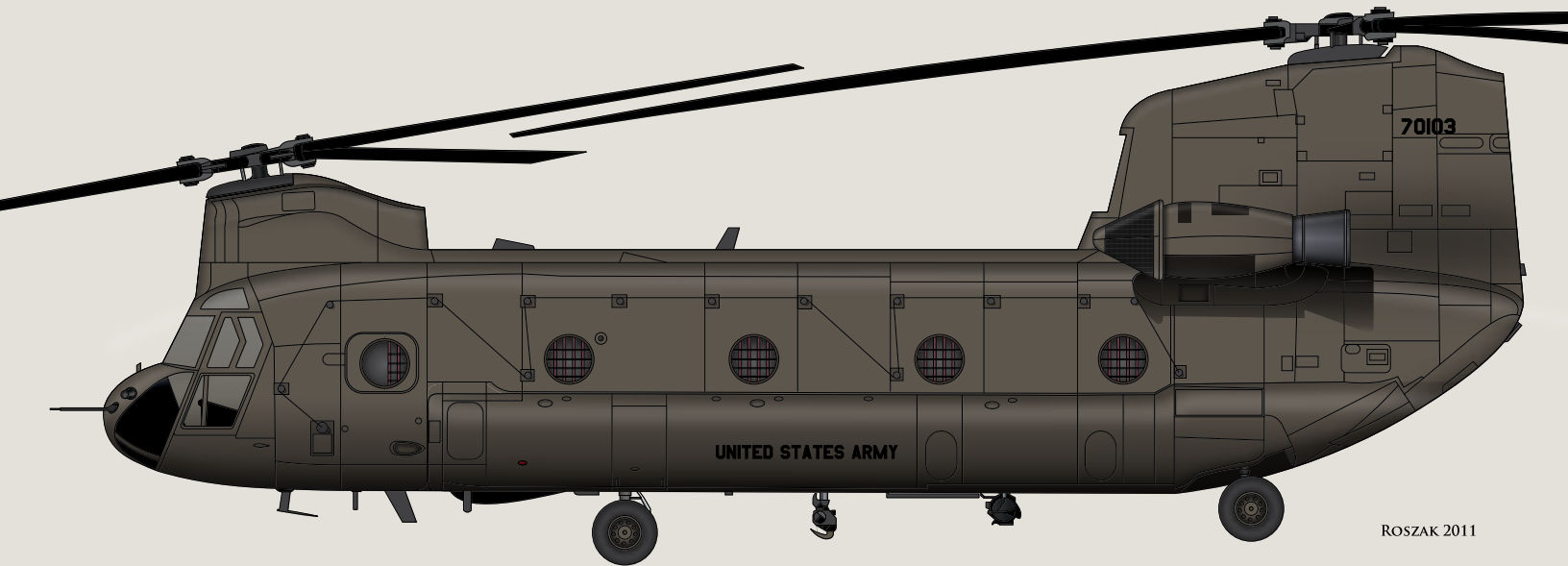
After graduating from basic training, I had one day to get to Tech to start my freshman year. The Army had given me that last fresh haircut, so I started classes essentially bald. Upperclass cadets thought I was a “rat” and proceeded accordingly. Of course, they ultimately got no satisfaction, but that may have been some foreshadowing of things to come.

Although initially enlisting as a watercraft engineer (boat mechanic), I joined the infantry reserve unit in Dublin, Va., which was conveniently located near Tech for drilling. I completed the drill sergeant course and earned the expert infantryman badge, but soon realized that I should be

in ROTC, so I joined the Corps at the end of my sophomore year.

I admit that I was already saturated with academics and the Reserves and knew the “rat” experience would be less dramatic in the spring as opposed to the following fall. Joining the Corps’ Army ROTC enabled me to pursue the Simultaneous Membership Program as planned during my junior year, and I was able to remain a reservist with the Dublin unit.

The Virginia Tech experience was significantly enhanced by my affiliation with the local Reserve unit and working side by side with soldiers twice my age. Those “old” folks had plenty of good and bad advice that provided an early insight into how the world operated outside Virginia Tech.



ROSZAK 2011

Boeing CH-47D Chinook flown by Captain Kerry Koritko, U.S. Army
 D Company, 502nd Aviation Regiment "Cyclones", Operation Provide Comfort I, Iraq, 1991
 Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Class of 1986

In the Corps, I was in Delta Company, and participation taught me early how to prioritize and work efficiently. The Corps also provided the unique experience of working closely with fellow cadets who were in other ROTC programs or Corps-Only and had very different perspectives. Teamwork was not unfamiliar to me at this point, but the concept was elevated to a whole new level and truly enhanced the sense of accomplishment.

After graduating from Tech in 1986 with a bachelor of science in mechanical engineering and a regular Army commission, I went to flight school at Fort Rucker, Ala., and in October 1987 left qualified in the C model CH-47 Chinook.

My first assignment was with the 271st Assault Support Helicopter Company "Innkeepers" at Camp Humphreys, Korea. Six months into the tour, I was anointed a pilot-in-command and



Kerry with wife and former flight instructor Ingrid.

regularly flew the demilitarized zone, the circuit around Seoul, numerous air mobile training exercises, and even the Dallas Cowboy cheerleaders once. Korea was a great place to spend an initial tour.

My next stop was D Company, 502nd Aviation Regiment “Cyclones” in Mannheim, Germany, to fly the new D model. But first I needed to do temporary duty back at Fort Rucker to learn the new aircraft. While studying the D model-10 aircraft manual in my bachelor officers’ quarters, I learned that my classmate and fellow Chinook pilot, 1st Lt. Alan C. Urban ’86, had perished in a D-model Chinook accident.

On Dec. 8, 1988, Chinook 85-24332 (Flipper 332) suffered a mechanical failure near La Ceiba, Honduras. All five crewmembers were lost, one of whom was a crew chief I had just flown many hours with in Korea. After all these years, the memory of lost friends and fellow



Alan C. Urban '86

soldiers does not fade. This article is dedicated to Alan Urban and the fact that this story could just as easily have been his.

I should say that the Chinook community and my Corps of Cadets background made for a small world. Besides Alan, I ran into other Corps alumni both during and after my service. During my last assignment, my commanding officer was Maj. Duncan Clements '77, who

had flown Chinooks from 1983 to 1992 and later retired as an Army Reserve O-6 in 2005.

Through my association with Corps alumni, I also became acquainted with John Helmick '68 and discovered that we had a unique connection. All CH-47s began as A, B, or C models in the 1960s. In the 1980s, Chinooks went back to the factory to be modernized to the D-model standard. Back in 1970, John had flown the CH-47B in Vietnam. Researching serial numbers, I found that he had flown B-model serial number 67-18436, which was to become D-model serial number 87-00078, which I flew two decades later. Small world indeed.

I was told I was the pilot-in-command of the first Chinook paratroop in Iraq in 1991. I can't confirm that, but the paratroopers we dropped were excited to be marking such an event and to put a combat star on their jump



The memorial plaque at the tree planted in Alan Urban's honor outside Brodie Hall.



wings. That made me nervous, but you've got to be inspired by our troops who serve so selflessly. On one occasion during emergency relocation operations in Northern Iraq in 1991, we squeezed 96 Kurds and a crew of four into the helicopter—about three times its actual seating capacity.

Being stationed in Germany in the early 1990s afforded a number of additional opportunities. Boston University offered an extension program at Ramstein Air Force Base for a master's degree in mechanical engineering, which I completed in 1991. I then heard about

a lovely Nordic flight instructor, fluent in Swedish and Icelandic, at the Coleman Army Airfield Aero Club, and I decided that it was time to learn how to fly airplanes. Two years later, Ingrid Gudnadottir and I were married.

I completed my flight school obligation, resigned my regular Army commission, and left active duty in 1992. Back home in Northern Virginia, I joined B Company 5/159th Aviation Regiment "Madcow" Chinook Reserve unit at Fort Meade, Md., and served for five years. We moved that unit to Fort Eustis, Va., in 1995.



I spent more than 10 years in the Chinook on active duty and in the reserves and flew more than 2,000 hours. My promotion to O-4 took me out of the Army cockpit and out of the Chinooks permanently. I continued another 12 years in various assignments at Fort Belvoir, Va., and in October 2009, I retired as an O-5, having served exactly 10,000 days.

The "old" D models are now heading back to the factory. This time, the airframes are being scrapped, but other overhauled systems will continue the proud heritage as "new" F and G models. Who will be the next Virginia Tech alum to fly the Chinook using some of those same components that served all over the world on the B model John Helmick flew and then on the D model I had the privilege to fly?

Kerry and Ingrid Koritko have two daughters and live in Leesburg, Va. Ingrid is a Gulfstream 550 Captain with NetJets International. Kerry owns and operates Goose Creek Aviation LLC and has been flying the Dassault Falcon 900, Rockwell Turbo Commander, and Bell 430.



Explaining the Chinook at a static display event.

Corps Homecoming 2011

Corps Homecoming 2011, held in conjunction with the Hokies' football game against Arkansas State University, was a great success. A highlight of the weekend was our Day with Cadets event on Friday, during which cadets from each class and from each ROTC unit and VPI Company provided insights on life in today's Corps of Cadets. Friday's formal retreat formation and Cadet Leadership Dinner were wonderful events, and Saturday's pre-game meal was a fine opportunity for alumni to learn about Gen. Fullhart's vision for our Corps. A fantastic football game, featuring the cadet and alumni regiments march-on and a VTCC alumni-crewed flyover, was the finishing touch on a superb weekend.



Corps Homecoming kicked off with our Day with Cadets, a great new event during which alumni learned about today's Corps.



On Friday afternoon, the regiment held a formal retreat ceremony that was well attended by visiting alumni.



The Cadet Leadership Dinner on Friday night seated 250 guests.



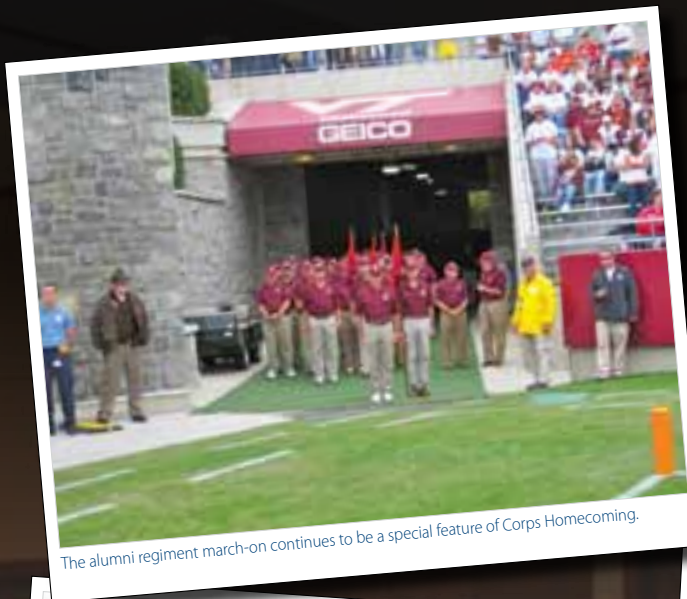
Cadet leaders, including 2nd Battalion Commander Amanda McGrath, spoke about their Corps experience and their gratitude for alumni support.



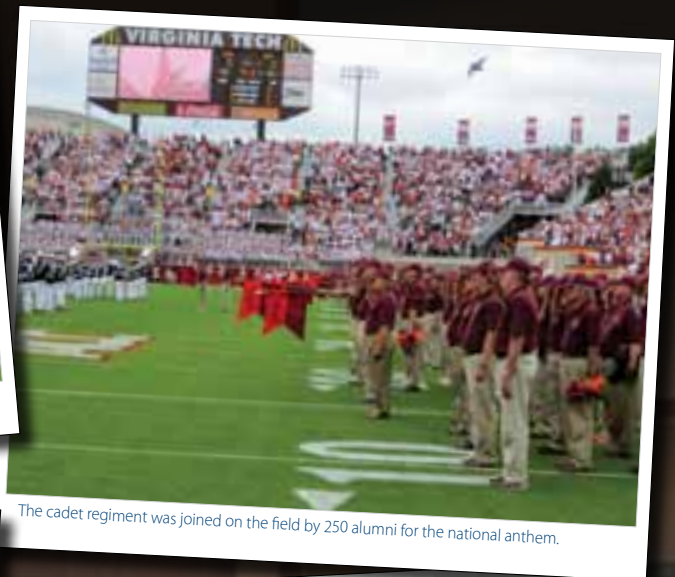
Maj. Gen. and Mrs. Fullhart were joined by Adnan Barqawi '09 (left), a former regimental commander, and his brother, Nabeel.



Alumni filled Latham Ballroom to capacity for our game-day luncheon and the opportunity to hear our new commandant's vision for the Corps of Cadets.



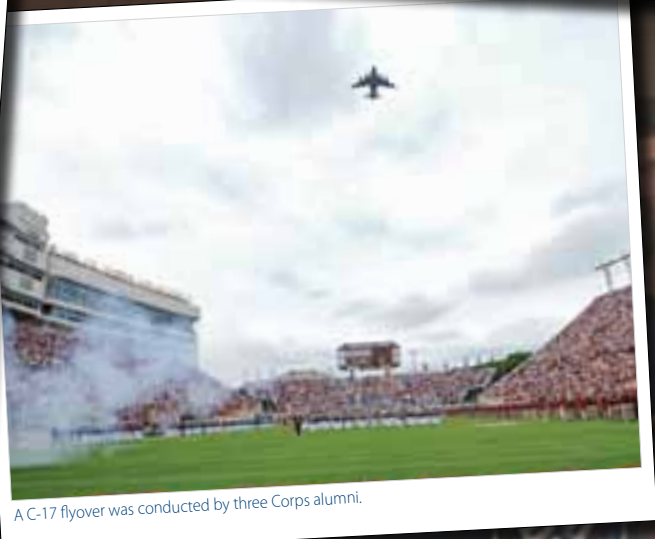
The alumni regiment march-on continues to be a special feature of Corps Homecoming.



The cadet regiment was joined on the field by 250 alumni for the national anthem.



Skipper was fired at the last note of the anthem.



A C-17 flyover was conducted by three Corps alumni.



After landing in Roanoke, the C-17 crew joined us in the stands and was escorted to the president's box by Gen. Fullhart.



Hundreds of Corps alumni filled the stands for Tech's victory over Arkansas State University.

Ring in 100 years of Virginia Tech tradition: The 1990s

by Laura Wedin VT'84

Continuing our history of Virginia Tech's class ring tradition, we look at the eighth-decade rings.

Even with a steady decline in enrollment in the Corps of Cadets through the mid-1990s, the ring tradition at Virginia Tech stayed strong, thanks in part to



stable gold prices and a prosperous economy for much of the decade.

Competition was at an all-time high for the ring contract. ArtCarved, Herff-Jones, Jostens, and Balfour all made rings in the 1990s, with a different company supplying rings for each class year. In 1998, ArtCarved finished out the rings for the decade and continued into the 2000s, eventually being absorbed into Balfour in 2004.

In 1993, the advising of the class system, starting with the Class of 1995, transferred from Student Activities to the Alumni Association, which hired student programming staff to specifically assist the ring design committees with the management of their ring contracts.

Several new ring-design conventions were established in the 1990s. A square-shaped bezel with a bold university spell-out dominated rings of the decade. The “honor point,” a shield-shaped emblem that could be customized with a Corps company letter or a variety of other choices, became standard.

A stadium-top bezel was first offered by the Class of 1991, but it didn't become a standard option until the end of the decade. Although the traditional ring was still the top choice among male students, it was overshadowed by the number and variety of fashion class rings available for female students.

By the 1990s, the purpose of the rings' shank sides had been firmly established. The university side, which did not include a class year, depicted the heritage of the university with traditional elements such as the eagle, flags, seal, Burruss Hall, and the Pylons. The class side displayed the class year.

Both sides of the rings of the 1990s are complex, bearing many layers of elements, almost to excess. The class sides are full of hidden, humorous, or pop-culture elements.

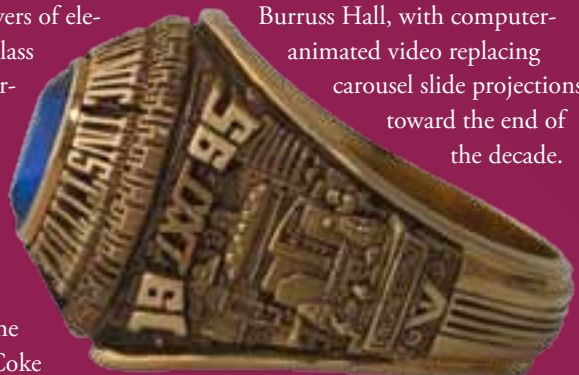
The 1994 ring, for example, cleverly hides the word “MOO” in the grass. The front of a Blacksburg Transit bus appears as a window of Newman Library on the 1995 ring. And a legendary Coke

bottle—in reality, a marker light that was later removed—sits atop Burruss Hall on the 1991 and 1995 rings.

Gumby, the popular claymation figure, appears next to Squires Student Center on the 1997 ring. Elements such as mountains, “Beat U.Va.,” and the Skipper cannon appear on the 1995 ring, as well as later rings of the decade. Starting with the 1998 ring, the university shield was engraved inside the ring, a feature that continues today.

With the growing success of the Hokies football team, icons depicting bowl games started to appear regularly on the rings beginning in the mid-1990s. The iconic HokieBird, which premiered as Tech's mascot in 1987, was first depicted on the 1992 class ring and has appeared on nearly every class ring since.

During the decade, digital artwork and utilization of CAD design for the ring molds transformed how the ring design was implemented. The Class of 1998 had the first digitally created class logo. Similarly, Ring Premiere evolved into a large, well-attended multimedia show held in Burruss Hall, with computer-animated video replacing carousel slide projections toward the end of the decade.



Marketing the ring using the most-current trends became an important aspect of the ring committee's work. Free T-shirt giveaways connected with the Ring Premiere began with the Class of 1998.

During the renovation of Squires, beginning in 1989, Ring Dance moved to Cassell Coliseum for three years, for the classes of 1990-1992. Re-opening in 1992, the renovated Squires appears on several rings of the decade. In the early 1990s, a banquet night replaced one of the dance nights, with the formal dance on Friday and banquet on Saturday. By 1996, the dance night had moved to Saturday night.

Beginning with the Class of 1991, a university president or distinguished alumnus or alumna was honored as namesake of the ring collection. Dr. Julian Burruss, who served as university president from 1919 to 1945, was named the first ring namesake.

Distinguished Corps alumni who were honored as namesakes during the 1990s include Gen. Thomas D. Richards '56 in 1992; Earle D. Gregory '23 in 1993; Charles Gordon Sr. '42 in 1995; and Henry J. Dekker '44 in 1998.

To learn more, go to www.alumni.vt.edu/classrings/.



A cadet sabre arch greets guests as they arrive for Ring Dance at Cassell Coliseum.



VTCC alumni manned the Virginia Tech recruiting tables at the annual Kaiserslautern Military Community College Night in Germany. This year's event attracted more than 2,000 high school students throughout the U.S. military community in Europe and more than 100 colleges and universities. From left, Simon Emanuëls '90, USAF (retired) joins Air Force colonels Stephen Hughes '89 and Larry Roche '87.

Recruiting task force needs your continued help

by Bill Swan '66, task force leader

The Class of 2015 began New Cadet Week with 383 entering cadets that brought the size of our Corps to its largest since 1969. The recent success in recruiting and retaining quality young men and women is helped by the efforts of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Inc. (VTCCA) volunteers who represent Virginia Tech and the Corps at college fairs in the fall and summer and who present Emerging Leader Scholarships during spring award ceremonies.

We should constantly be looking for the truly outstanding student who is an Eagle Scout, high school or church youth-group leader, community volunteer, or part-time employee. Even if these students are not ready to make a commitment to a college because they are sophomores or juniors (or even younger), you can steer them toward Virginia Tech and our Corps by providing timely information.

Shortly after I assumed the recruiting task force leader posi-

tion in July, I began building a how-to guide that will better equip every VTCCA volunteer to represent our Corps. Some potential volunteers express concerns about making a speech or providing the right information to prospective cadets or their parents. Consolidating numerous samples to help volunteers from first-timers to the most experienced Area Team Leader (ATL) or Regional Team Leader (RTL), the guide provides step-by-step procedures to fully prepare you to represent the Corps at a college fair, ELS presentation, or other public event. We tried to avoid the "fire hose" effect (i.e., information overload) by providing what you need to perform your current assignment, but also giving a look ahead for when you assume a bigger share of the recruiting load.

The guide will be distributed electronically to ATLs and posted on both the Corps and the Corps alumni websites in December.

William H. "Bill" Swan Jr. was a member of N Squadron, Class of 1966. He graduated with a degree in management and was commissioned in the Air Force Reserve. Active duty tours included assignments in South Carolina, Thailand, Germany, and Arkansas. He left the active force in 1974, but retained his Reserve commission and supported units in South Carolina, Japan, and the Joint Staff, where he retired as a colonel in June 1996. Following active duty, Bill became an Air Force civilian contract specialist with assignments in South Carolina, Japan, Hawaii, and North Carolina. In 1987, he began working for the Army at Fort Jackson, S.C.,

with follow-on jobs at the Pentagon Renovation Project and Military District of Washington Fort McNair. He retired out of Headquarters Army Contracting Agency, Falls Church, Va., in 2005, and now lives in Brunswick, Ga., with his wife, Dr. Deborah A. Swan. Bill has been the ATL for Georgia, Southeast RTL, and a member of the VTCCA Board of Directors since 2007.

Learn how you can help our Corps continue to grow and prosper. Please call or email Bill at (912) 265-7530 or twoswans911@comcast.net.

Senior Cadet Commanders, Fall 2011



Regimental Commander
Miles Sonntag

Cadet Col. Miles Sonntag, a mathematics major from Fayetteville, N.C., is the regimental commander for fall 2011. A past member of Echo Company and the Army ROTC's Ranger Company, he joined the Corps because of the outstanding Army ROTC program and the unique leader-development program offered by the Corps. Upon graduation, Sonntag hopes to pursue a career in the aviation community of the U.S. Army. Cadet Sonntag is a recipient of the R.B. Pamplin Family Emerging Leader Scholarship.



First Battalion Commander
Harrison Moder

Cadet Lt. Col. Harrison Moder, an Army ROTC cadet from Pittsburgh, Pa., is majoring in international studies with a minor in Russian. A past member of Alpha Company, he has served on the Corps color guard and was the regimental sergeant major his junior year. Moder joined the Corps because he wanted a disciplined lifestyle and "something more" than a typical college experience. He aspires to fly Apaches for the Army upon commissioning in the spring. Cadet Moder is the recipient of the Class of 1961 Emerging Leader Scholarship.



Second Battalion Commander
Amanda McGrath

Cadet Lt. Col. Amanda McGrath hails from Springfield, Vt., and is pursuing a degree in history. She joined the Corps because she knew she wanted a cadet lifestyle, and she felt that the Air Force ROTC was exactly what she was looking for. McGrath served both as a member of the Skipper crew and as the regimental sergeant major her junior year. Upon commissioning in the U.S. Air Force, McGrath will attend pilot training and hopes to fly C-17s. She is the recipient of the Duncan A. Macleod '48 Memorial Emerging Leader Scholarship.



Third Battalion Commander
Samuel Howell Jr.

Cadet Lt. Col. Samuel Howell Jr. of Chuckatuck, Va., is a mechanical engineering major. He joined the Corps because of his great-uncle Scott Rose '71 and to participate in Navy ROTC. Howell has served both on the Corps color guard and as Third Battalion sergeant major his junior year. Upon receiving his commission in the U.S. Navy, Howell hopes to be a naval aviator. He is the recipient of the John Vivian Perry '46 Memorial Emerging Leader Scholarship.

Command Staff, Fall 2011



Regimental Executive Officer
Christine Barry
Business Management
Clifton, Va.
Air Force



Regimental Adjutant Officer
David Dopico
Spanish
West Palm Beach, Fla.
Army



Regimental Public Affairs
Officer
John Waters III
Industrial and Systems
Engineering
Chapin, S.C.
Navy



Regimental Operations
Officer
Robert Hart
Sociology
Cologne, Va.
Army



Regimental Supply and
Finance Officer
Tony Forlini
Interdisciplinary Studies
Annandale, Va.
Civilian Leader Track



Regimental Academics
Officer
James Houser
Political Science
Blairs, Va.
Civilian Leader Track



Regimental Sergeant Major
Andrew Greenberg
Natural Resources Science
Education
Charlotte, N.C.
Marine Corps



Regimental Inspector
General
William McWaters
Aerospace Engineering
Stafford, Va.
Civilian Leader Track



Executive Court Chairman
Adrien Wilkins
English
Apple Valley, Calif.
Marine Corps



Regimental Chaplain
Bo Waldo
Sociology
Roanoke, Va.
Army



Regimental Retention Officer
Julia Kline
Political Science
Berryville, Va.
Army



Regimental Recruiting
Officer
Bryan Krieger
History
Yorktown, Va.
Civilian Leader Track



Honor Court Chief Justice
Scinju Gadamsetty
Engineering Science and
Mechanics
Fairfax, Va.
Air Force



Regimental Historian
Robert Pfeiffer
History
Durham, N.C.
Navy



Regimental Medical Officer
Zachary Kiernan
Chemistry
Virginia Beach, Va.
Air Force

Command Staff, Fall 2011



Regimental Information
Systems Officer
Benjamin Watanabe
Accounting and Information
Systems
Williamsburg, Va.
Civilian Leader Track



Regimental Athletics Officer
Michelle Colebank
Management
Charlotte, N.C.
Army



Alpha Company Commander
Evan Kaleda
Building Construction
Long Valley, N.J.
Army



Bravo Company Commander
Neale Wetherall
History
Knoxville, Tenn.
Army



Charlie Company
Commander
Faith Mueller
Chemistry
Greensboro, N.C.
Army



Delta Company Commander
Timothy Brooks
International Studies
Ashburn, Va.
Army



Echo Company Commander
Nicholas Quenga
Electrical Engineering
Warner Robins, Ga.
Navy



Foxtrot Company
Commander
Brian Gendreau
Mathematics
East Hampstead, N.H.
Air Force



Golf Company Commander
Nicholas Tepfenhart
Geography
Long Valley, N.J.
Army



Hotel Company Commander
Leigh Compton
Animal and Poultry Science
Kailua, Hawaii
Army



India Company Commander
Sean Grindlay
Economics
Chesapeake, Va.
Air Force



Kilo Battery Commander
Christopher Larson
Aerospace and Ocean
Engineering
Peachtree City, Ga.
Air Force



Band Company Commander
John Witte
Mechanical Engineering
Charlotte, N.C.
Army



Regimental Drum Major
Aaron Bonovitch
History
Goochland, Va.
Air Force



VPI Company Commander
Ryan Callaway
Chemistry
Crofton, Md.
Civilian Leader Track

Navy ROTC news

The Navy ROTC (NROTC) battalion began the spring 2011 semester with more than 260 midshipmen divided among four Navy-option companies and one Marine-option company.

Virginia Tech's NROTC unit, which consistently outperforms the other 69 NROTC units across the country in nuclear program officer production, receives roughly 10 percent of the two- and three-year scholarships awarded annually to midshipmen.

By instilling the Navy's core values of honor, courage, and commitment, the NROTC unit supplements the values taught to cadets of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets (VTCC).

Marine Corps cake-cutting ceremony

Nov. 10, 1775, is a date held in high regard by all Marines, present and past, who have worn the eagle, globe, and anchor. The traditional cake-cutting ceremony is a special event intended to honor the Marine Corps' many accomplishments throughout its history. Last year, Raider Company upheld this tradition by holding the annual cake-cutting ceremony at Champs Sport's Bar and Café in Blacksburg.

Guests in attendance included the NROTC unit staff, VTCC deputy commandants, the aspiring Marine Corps officers of

Raider Company, and several active and former Marines. During the ceremony, the first piece of cake was passed from the oldest Marine present to the youngest, an action representing the passing of wisdom and responsibility from the older generation to the new generation of Marine war-fighters and leaders. The ceremony was capped off with the inspiring words of Bob Hudson, a local Marine and decorated Vietnam War veteran.

Navy and Marine Corps Birthday Ball

On Nov. 6, 2010, the NROTC battalion celebrated the 235th birthday (October 13, 1775) of the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps at The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center. More than 500 midshipmen, staff, and guests attended the event, which emphasized the shared camaraderie of the Navy and Marine Corps.

The ceremony began with a social hour, followed by the arrival of the official party, parading of the colors, and reading of official messages by the secretary of the navy, chief of naval operations, and commandant of the Marine Corps. An official cake-cutting ceremony preceded the dinner. After the formal ceremonies, the guests enjoyed a night of dancing.



(From left) Master Sgt. Scott Keith, Maj. Michael Little, and Medal of Honor recipient and former Deputy Commandant of Cadets Col. Wes Fox.

Senior dining-in

On April 8, the graduating NROTC seniors held their annual dining-in at The River Company in Radford, Va. Fifty-seven midshipmen, staff, and special guests enjoyed a night steeped in centuries of tradition.

Dining-in is one of the many traditions passed down from the British Royal Navy, in which officers' meals aboard the ship were formal occasions. Adapted by the U.S. Navy, the event honors the feats of individuals and units both afloat and ashore. The guest of honor shares wisdom with the graduating seniors as they prepare for commissioning and joining the fleet. This year's guest of honor was Capt. Robert Barbaree Jr., USN (retired).

Guests enjoyed a cocktail hour followed by the welcoming of the official party, which entered the dining room behind the ceremonial bagpiper. Other dining-in traditions included the parading of the beef, formal and informal toasts, and a speech by Capt. Barbaree. The High-Tighties provided the official music, and Midshipman 1st Class Daniel Pappas served as president of the mess.



Maj. Little, former Deputy Commandant of Cadets Lt. Col. Bill Stringer, and Marine seniors with their paddles at the senior dining-in.

Marine Mess Night

The Raider Company Mess Night held on April 22 began with the members of the mess conducting their ceremonial march into the dining area. Midshipman 1st Class Benjamin Augspurger, president of the mess, commenced the evening's events. As dinner was served, he opened the floor for fining, which proved to be entertaining and spirited—and well-choreographed in most cases.

As the evening progressed, rising juniors were given their Raider chords, signifying their successful completion of two years in Raider Company. Then, the seniors were each presented with an engraved paddle in recognition of their dedication to Raider Company.

The highlight of the evening was hearing guest of honor Sgt. Maj. Ruff, USMC, sergeant major of Officer Candidate School (OCS), speak about OCS and the Marine Corps. Finally, Lt. Col. Stringer, USMC (retired), was presented with a parting gift in gratitude for his many years of working closely with Raider Company. The night ended with toasts to warfighters past and present.

Marine field exercise

On April 15, Raider Company began its final two-day field



exercise (FEX) of the school year.

The operation took place at the Selu Conservancy in Radford.

Midshipmen were challenged with multiple OCS-type events in order to build confidence

through familiar-

ization of OCS field concepts and procedures. Much of the emphasis was placed on training and evaluating midshipman who would be attending OCS during the summer. The FEX also highlighted the underclassmen's transition from followers to leaders.

All midshipmen were graded on their proficiency in negotiating a land-navigation course. Additional exercises included fire watch, service-rifle nomenclature, service-rifle assembly/disassembly, and hip-pocket classes. Inclement weather during the FEX proved challenging; however, the Raider Company senior staff was able to adapt and ensure that all training objectives were met. Overall, the spring 2011 FEX provided excellent training, better preparation for OCS, and enhanced camaraderie within Raider Company.



Next to a Confederate artillery piece at Gettysburg, Lt. Col. Stringer describes the July 3, 1863, assault on Cemetery Hill to Maj. Little, Master Sgt. Keith, and the Marine-option seniors.

Gettysburg trip

Each spring, Raider Company seniors travel to Gettysburg, Pa., to tour the historic Civil War battlefield. They explore the hallowed ground and small town that was the bucolic backdrop to the bloodiest three days in U.S. history. Lt. Col. Stringer, USMC (retired), led a walking and driving tour that focused on the elements of leadership and strategy of this pivotal battle, elements that young officers often face in today's armed forces.

Commissioning

Thirty-one Navy and Marine Corps officers were commissioned from the NROTC unit. The Marine Corps commissioned seven second lieutenants to proceed from Virginia Tech to The Basic School in Quantico, Va., to begin training as Marine Corps officers: 2nd Lt. William Adkins, 2nd Lt. Benjamin Augspurger, 2nd Lt. Christina Devereux, 2nd Lt. Tobias Boyle, 2nd Lt. Michael Jablonski, 2nd Lt. John Piluso, and 2nd Lt. Peter Roenke.

The following are Virginia Tech's most recent naval officers who are now in training as the U.S. Navy's newest naval aviators, naval flight officers (NFO), surface warfare officers (SWO), submarine warfare officers, and special warfare officers: Ensign Dennis Banks

(aviator), Ensign Patrick Bates (aviator), Ensign Kasey Beernink (submarine), Ensign Jared Behrens (SWO), Ensign Daniel Carl (SWO), Ensign Joseph Curry (NFO), Ensign Kathryn Daniels (SWO), Ensign Anthony Demma (SWO), Ensign Andrew Harbison (aviator), Ensign Brent Harkins (special warfare), Ensign Thomas Hendricks (aviator), Ensign Robert Herster-Dudley (SWO), Ensign Robert Hodgson (aviator), Ensign Matthew Latimer (SWO), Ensign Michael Marlow (aviator), Ensign Michael May (submarine), Ensign Shawn Murray (submarine), Ensign Christopher Novitch (submarine), Ensign James Orr (special warfare), Ensign Daniel Pappas (SWO-nuclear), Ensign Matt Schick (aviator), Ensign Miles Shipley (aviator), Ensign Daniel Willey (aviator), and Ensign Tyler Williams (submarine).

Honor graduates

Named for the Virginia Tech graduate who was killed in action during the 1983 bombings of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon, the 2nd Lt. Maurice Edward Hukill Award is presented each year to a Raider Company cadet who best upholds the high standards expected of a Marine officer. This year's recipient of the Hukill Award

for outstanding Marine-option graduate is 2nd Lt. Michael Jablonski.

The NROTC battalion also awarded its annual Navy Sword Award to Ensign Tyler Williams, who majored in materials science and engineering with minors in leadership and music. He began training as a submarine warfare officer at Nuclear Power School in Charleston, S.C.

Fair winds and following seas

Farewell, Lt. Browning

Delta Company's Lt. Jeremy Browning departed Virginia Tech in October 2010, after a two-year tour. He reported aboard the San Diego-based USS Peleliu, joining the amphibious assault ship's air department.

Farewell, Lt. Weithman

Lt. Michael Weithman, who served two and a half years as advisor to Alpha Company, earned an M.B.A. from Virginia Tech while with the NROTC unit. Following his tour, Lt. Weithman separated from the U.S. Navy and is enjoying civilian life in the Roanoke, Va., area.

Farewell, Lt. Lee

In December 2010, the NROTC battalion bid farewell to Lt. Donald Lee after three and a half years as Bravo Company advisor. Lt. Lee earned an M.P.A. from Virginia Tech and began the department head course at the Surface Warfare Officers School in Newport, R.I. Upon completion of training, he will report to the USS Bulkeley (DDG 84) in Norfolk, Va., as the chief engineer.

Hails

Welcome aboard, Lt. Matthews



Lt. Cullen Matthews attended University of Central Arkansas, where he received a B.S. in chemistry and mathematics. While at the university, he was selected for the Nuclear Prospective Officer Candidate program. Upon graduation, he reported to Navy OCS, where he received his commission in April 2006. After commissioning, Lt. Matthews completed Nuclear Power School in Charleston, S.C.; Nuclear

Prototype in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.; and Submarine Officer Basic Course in Groton, Ct.

From there, Lt. Matthews reported to Bangor, Wash., aboard the USS Michigan, one of four newly renovated guided missile class submarines. This class is an anti-terrorism platform designed for massive tomahawk strikes, such as those conducted during Operation Odyssey Dawn in Libya and during SEAL delivery missions. Onboard, Lt. Matthews held various jobs, including main propulsion assistant, reactor controls assistant, assistant weapons officer, force protection officer, and quality assurance officer. During his tour, he oversaw the safe operation of the nuclear reactor and stood officer of the deck during critical missions, in charge of overall operations of the ship. Lt. Matthews has been with NROTC since December 2010 as the Delta Company advisor.



Welcome aboard, Lt. Jones

Lt. Adam Jones, who assumed duties as Bravo Company advisor in January, earned his commission in 2007 through Navy OCS in Pensacola, Fla., after graduating from his home state's University of Maine with a degree in history in 2006.

Following commissioning, Lt. Jones reported as a division officer aboard USS Bainbridge, a guided missile destroyer based in Norfolk. He was aboard USS Bainbridge during two deployments, including her maiden deployment to the Horn of Africa, Mediterranean Sea, and Gulf of Guinea, where she conducted 17 port visits as flagship for Standing NATO Maritime Group. Lt. Jones performed duties as the main propulsion division officer, electronic warfare officer, and assistant combat information center officer.

Lt. Jones next served as the damage control assistant aboard USS Forrest Sherman, another Norfolk-based destroyer. He was underway for her maiden seven-month deployment to the Horn of Africa and Fifth Fleet area of operations.

Officer Candidate School



During the summer between their junior and senior years, Marine-option midshipmen attend six weeks of training and evaluation at the



Marine Corps' Officer Candidate School located in Quantico, Va. During this time, midshipmen are trained, screened, and evaluated by the OCS staff "to

ensure they possess the moral, intellectual, and physical qualities for commissioning, and the leadership potential to serve successfully as company grade officers in the Fleet Marine Force."

Midshipmen are tested both mentally and physically throughout the six-week program as they participate in a number of training events, including the obstacle course, an endurance course, platoon- and squad-sized drill, platoon- and squad-sized runs, conditioning hikes ranging from six to nine miles, a combat course, confidence course, pugil sticks, and written examinations. To succeed, each midshipman must possess impeccable character, physical and mental courage, and the ability to work as part of a team.

Summer cruise

Every summer, NROTC scholarship midshipmen spend a month experiencing active duty life in the fleet, a unique opportunity that is often the highlight of their time as midshipmen.

At the end of their freshmen year, midshipmen attend Career Orientation Training for Midshipmen (CORTRAMID), during which they spend a week in each of the following warfare communities: aviation, surface warfare, submarine warfare, and Marine Corps. The indoctrination training familiarizes them with the diverse careers in the Navy and Marine Corps.

Marine-option sophomores attend Mountain Warfare School or Marine Afloat Training onboard an amphibious ship. Navy sophomore midshipmen are paired with enlisted sailors during their cruise to give the future officers an appreciation for the work of the sailors who will be under their charge one day. During summer cruise, midshipmen visit ports in the U.S. and around the world.

Rising seniors are immersed into their prospective communities to shadow junior officers and experience the role of division officers at sea. They observe the day-to-day operations of a ship from a junior officer's point of view, both in port or underway. Message-writing, personnel administration, and equipment inspections are some of the areas that seniors learn about on their cruise.



Midshipman 1st Class Mohrenweiser (right) gives orders to the helm during a surface transit on the USS Maine.



Midshipman 1st Class Demos (right) checks the communication gear during a flight in an E-2C Hawkeye.



Midshipman 1st Class Morrison checks the magazine release on his M-4 carbine during his Explosive Ordnance Disposal cruise.



Midshipman 1st Class Demos (left) before takeoff in an F/A-18F on the carrier USS George H.W. Bush.



Midshipman 1st Class Jarrett takes the controls during a ride in an SH-60 Seahawk helo.



Rising sophomores take a break during Mountain Warfare School in Bridgeport, Calif.



Midshipman 1st Class Waters steadies himself during a submarine emergency surfacing during his summer cruise.



Midshipman 1st Class Goodman pauses for a photo-op while topside onboard the submarine USS Oklahoma City.

The Rice Center: The foundation for leader development in the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets



Created in 1996 through a generous gift from Alice and Bill Goodwin '62 and named for Maj. Gen. W. Thomas Rice '34, the Rice Center for Leader Development is responsible for programs designed to help cadets succeed academically. The center is a part of the Pamplin College of Business and is housed in Rasche Hall on the Upper Quad.

Over the past 15 years, the center undertook several initiatives that resulted in significant improvements to the Corps' academic program. In 1998, a Corps of Cadets minor in leadership studies was created and administered through the Rice Center. Cadets can earn that minor by meeting the following criteria: taking either ROTC courses (military-leader track) or selected courses offered by

various university departments (civilian-leader track); serving a minimum of four semesters as a cadet; and successfully completing two semester-long leadership positions. Each year, approximately 125 cadets graduate with a leadership minor.

In 2003, Management 2944 (Military Leadership Practicum) was created as a required course for cadets. This one-credit, pass/fail course was taken each semester by cadets in the Corps unless there was a schedule conflict with a class in their major.

Other initiatives, collectively called Academic Success Programs, begun in the past several years include on-site tutors for math, physics, and chemistry; freshmen grade-monitoring to identify cadets needing academic help; and a two-hour Sat-

urday lab for freshmen that teaches skills such as time management, use of a daily planner, test preparation, and how to organize for the semester—a process known as reverse-engineering the semester. The cadets develop a four-year plan of study; complete a Noel-Levitz survey to identify areas an individual cadet might find difficult; maintain evening quiet-hours to establish an environment conducive to study; and have the option of a voluntary flight ground school to help prospective pilots prepare for required tests.

The Rice Center also offers cadets various opportunities to learn from successful leaders by bringing alumni back to campus both to share how the Corps prepared them for success and to speak on the principles of leadership and ethics. In addi-

tion, the center partners with the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni office to offer a program known as the Gunfighter Panel. Every semester since spring 2004, alumni with combat-deployed experience have returned to campus to discuss real-life examples of how their time in the Corps prepared them for what awaited them after graduation.

A third program, also endowed by the Goodwins, is the Cutchins Lecture Series. This annual event brings to campus a nationally recognized speaker who addresses critical leadership issues facing our nation. Our guest for spring 2012 will be Tom Ridge, former governor of Pennsylvania and the first director of Homeland Security.

The next several years will usher in additional improvements to the Rice Center's academic programs. During the 2011 spring semester, eight courses were developed that will replace Management 2944. These courses are designed as a building-block, sequential series of classes that will teach the skills and knowledge

needed to be an effective leader.

Focusing on the areas of servant leadership, critical thinking, and life skills, each semester will build on the knowledge gained from previous courses so that when cadets graduate, they will be well prepared to assume roles of responsibility in a military or civilian career field. These courses, which will go through the university governance system during the fall 2011 semester, should be approved for spring 2012 and offered as graded (A-F) classes.

These courses apply to all cadets, whether in the military-leader track or the civilian-leader track. For specific career development, the ROTC detachments do an excellent job of preparing military-leader track cadets for their profession.

Another initiative of the Rice Center is to provide a more formalized program of training and development for the civilian-leader track. New courses designed specifically for the civilian-leader track cadets were proposed during the spring 2011 semester and will continue to work their

way through university governance. These courses will give our civilian-leader track cadets the skills and knowledge they need to prepare themselves for careers in the public or private sector. Examples include developing an electronic portfolio, writing a résumé, preparing for a job/career fair, preparing for graduate school, and learning from experts in a range of career fields, as well as such topics as interview techniques, project management, and dining etiquette.

Long-term goals for the Rice Center are to expand its academic offerings, serve as a host for regional and national leadership conferences, conduct research in the areas of leadership and ethics, develop study-abroad opportunities for our cadets, and create a summer program for prospective cadets. With significant plans to enhance our program, the Rice Center plays a major role in the leader development of our cadets. We are grateful for the continued support provided by our alumni, which is critical to continuing to develop tomorrow's leaders today.





Capt. Jim Snyder (far left) with VTCC and VMI cadets sharing time with Kuna Indians on Needle Island during the May 2011 Olmsted trip.

Military-track cadets take advantage of overseas educational opportunity

The George and Carol Olmsted Foundation, headquartered in Falls Church, Va., has long supported educational programs that help active duty military officers and service academy cadets and midshipmen gain a better understanding of foreign cultures.

Assigned to China in 1943 during World War II, Gen. George Olmsted interacted extensively with Chinese and Japanese officials, an experience convincing him that American military leaders suffered from a lack of exposure and sensitivity to foreign cultures. This belief, along with a lifelong dedication to the nation's security, led the general to establish the Olmsted Foundation to execute a scholar program for commis-

sioned officers in foreign-resident study programs.

In 2004, the Association of Military Colleges of the United States petitioned the Olmsted Foundation to extend its educational opportunities to the U.S. Code Title X Senior Military Colleges (SMC), including Virginia Tech. By fall 2004, the board of directors of the Olmsted Foundation had established an international travel program to non-English-speaking nations for "academically and socially qualified commission-tracked ROTC Cadets" at each of the SMCs.

The international program, called the Olmsted Cadet Travel and Cultural Immersion Program, contributes to the preparation of future military officers for

international assignments and strengthens our nation's ability to function efficiently and effectively in and with foreign countries. Program participants, who increase their cultural sensitivities in order to better engage civilian and military leaders in the United States and other countries, are better prepared as their careers progress with increasing responsibilities and interaction with foreign leaders.

The foundation provided the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadet (VTCC) a \$10,000 grant in 2005, and three rising senior cadets travelled to Rio de Janeiro for two weeks during the summer.

Upon recognizing the Corps' optimization of cadet participation through its

aggressive liaison with U.S. embassies for support in visited countries, the Olmsted Foundation increased the annual grant to \$15,000 in 2006, and then to \$20,000 for 2008 travel.

In 2006, four cadets traveled to Santiago, Chile; and in 2007, five cadets, including a Civilian-Leader Track cadet sponsored by the commandant, traveled to Buenos Aires, Argentina. The trip in 2008 to Panama was a large one with eight VTCC cadets joined by 12 cadets from Army ROTC units at 12 different universities around the country. This experience was enlightening for our cadets as they gained valuable insights about Panamanian culture and the military training in 12 distinct ROTC programs.

The downturn in the U.S. economy impacted the Olmsted Foundation's endowment, resulting in a smaller grant

of \$10,000 for the Corps' 2009 travel. To leverage planning efforts and the success of previous cultural-immersion travel completed by Virginia Tech, the U.S. Navy Service Training Command assigned one officer candidate and one midshipman to join with the Corps' 2009 trip to Panama.

Due to financial constraints, the Olmsted Foundation made no awards to any SMC in 2010. With economic conditions improving, the Olmsted Foundation made \$12,000 grants to the VTCC and to Virginia Military Institute (VMI) for 2011 travel. Because of the robust trips completed by the Corps in previous years, VMI requested to join our efforts for another trip to Panama and assigned four cadets to accompany VTCC cadets.

On May 16, Virginia Tech cadets Amanda McGrath, a senior, and Marga-

ret Castelvechi, Luke Cox, and Daniel Marotto, juniors, represented the Corps, Virginia Tech, and the nation well as they completed activities in Panama.

Along with touring the capital city and commerce port city of Colon; the Panama Canal; a tropical jungle area and native community; and San Blas Island natural habitat area, the group attended meetings with leaders and students of the Panamanian National Police Academy, briefings at the Panamanian Air Service and Maritime Service, three community service projects, and a country brief with the U.S. Embassy staff.

The cadets also attended an evening reception with 19 U.S. CAPSTONE flag and general officers and Panamanian officials in the official residence of the U.S. Ambassador to Panama Phyllis M. Powers.



The Olmsted travelers: (l. to r.) VMI Coordinator Cdr. Tim McElhannon, USN (retired), Ashley Gernhardt, Frederick Dawson, Peter Van Steyn, Michael Scaplehorn, Daniel Marotto, Amanda McGrath, Luke Cox, Margaret Castelvechi, and VTCC Coordinator Capt. Jim Snyder, USN (retired). Capt. Snyder has set the bar for SMC travel with the Olmsted Foundation.

New Cadet Parade 2011

The annual New Cadet Parade was conducted on Saturday, Aug. 20, at the end of New Cadet Week. Because of the size of the freshman class—the largest freshman class in some 45 years—the parade was the most visually impressive New Cadet Parade in decades. The number of freshman cadets and their training cadre on the field was larger than the entire regiment in the early 1990s.



Cadet Christine Barry, regimental executive officer, led the regiment toward its parade position.



Freshman cadets clearly showed the results of their intense week of training. Perfection!



The parade formally began with the sounding of adjutant's call.



The Class of 2015 stretched across the Drillfield.



The formation went to attention and present arms at Ruffles and Flourishes in honor of the commandant.



While the Color Guard stood at attention, the Highty-Tighties demonstrated their excellence by performing a sound-off.



The Class of 2015 demonstrated its drill proficiency by performing the manual of arms.



Maj. Gen. Fullhart addressed the crowd. Vice President for Student Affairs Ed Spencer was in the reviewing party.



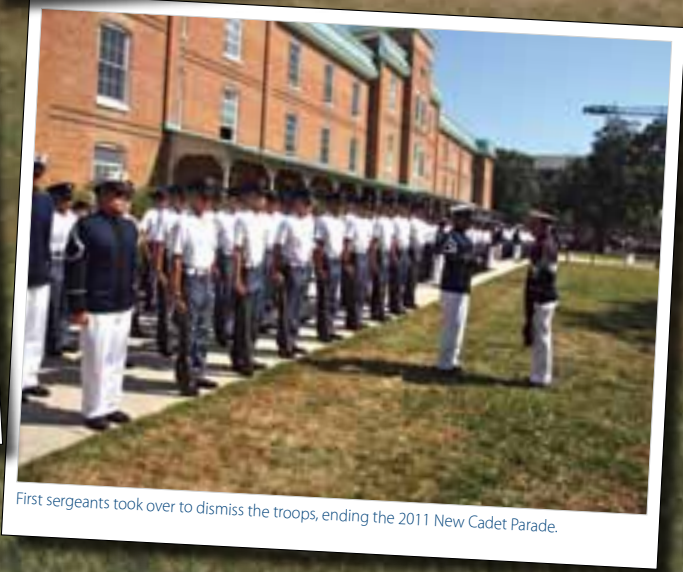
The freshman class took its oath to uphold the Honor Code.



Cadet Barry led the parade past the reviewing party.



Units then marched back to the Upper Quad.



First sergeants took over to dismiss the troops, ending the 2011 New Cadet Parade.



Esprit de corps

by Commandant of Cadets Maj. Gen. Randal D. Fullhart, USAF

Welcome to the fall edition of the Corps Review. We are now well into the academic year, having begun with the largest freshman class and Corps since 1969. The freshmen have completed the first half of the Caldwell March, completed Red Phase of their training, and have experienced the excitement of Hokie football in Lane Stadium.

With our growing numbers and with support from university leadership, we are co-chairing committees to lay out our design requirements for new residence halls. These will be replacement buildings for Brodie and Rasche halls in their current locations.

Cadets and I have visited other residence halls and are working with our staff to define our requirements for facilities that can meet the unique needs of the Corps and support our leadership development activities. It's an exciting time to be part of the Corps as we truly are inventing the future!

We've also been updating the curriculum that is provided to our cadets and that contributes to the minor in leadership awarded to many of our graduates. One area that we are especially keen on expanding is summer internships for cadets in our VPI civilian-leader track. Our goal is for 100 percent of our civilian-leader track cadets to have at least one internship experience, preferably two—one between their sophomore and junior years, and one between their junior and senior years. We're working with our alumni board to help make these internships possible. On that note, if you or people you know are looking for sharp cadets to be part of your organizations,

we'd love to hear from you. Contact us, and we'll put you in touch with the right people.

The Highty-Tighties are also enjoying growth, boasting more than 130 in their ranks. They will be playing in the Veterans Day parade in Roanoke, as well as in New York City for the St. Patrick's Day parade. They also received accolades for their many well-received performances around campus. Finally, I'd like to thank the athletic department for sending our Highty-Tighties to represent Virginia Tech at the Duke game in late October.

I'll close by saying that my first semester as commandant of cadets has been both challenging and rewarding.

The tremendous character of our cadets—from the regimental staff through the freshman class—demonstrates to me the strength of the next generation of leaders we will be providing to our nation, the commonwealth, and our local communities. The future of your Corps of Cadets has never looked brighter, and I look forward to marching in step with you as the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets becomes the focus of leader development for our great university.

Ut Prosim.

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facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/cvtcc>



Each fall, the athletics department tries to send the Highty-Tighties to an away football game to represent the university and the Corps. Although the trip is not possible every year, the Highty-Tighties were able to attend the Duke game on Oct. 29. It was a chilly day, but they looked resplendent in their blaised overcoats, and they added just enough spirit to garner the victory.



Appreciation and the way ahead

by Gary Lerch '72, chairman

I begin this column with the previous issue of the Corps Review in front of me. In the Honor Guard department, we note with sadness the passing of Henry Dekker '44. Among other very noteworthy accomplishments, Henry, in partnership with several key individuals, was responsible for saving the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. He was also instrumental in establishing the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Inc. (VTCCA) to ensure the continued viability of the Corps. Henry also served as the first chairman of the VTCCA.

Without Henry's leadership and passionate beliefs, the Corps as we know it would not exist today. Instead of passing into history in the mid-1990s, the Corps of today is an integral and valued program at Virginia Tech. Its contributions and leadership development are widely recognized and highly respected. We are very grateful to Henry Dekker, and we extend our sincere condolences to his family.

The second note from the last issue of the Corps Review relates to the generosity of Corps alumni. The honor roll of donors who gave in excess of \$1,000 goes on for several pages, and in fine print. I was also pleased to see a number of non-Corps alumni contributors, which speaks volumes about our reputation. Such generosity, especially in these challenging times, is amazing and very much appreciated. I also find it very gratifying that I recognize many of the names and count many of you as friends. I am humbled to be a part of this.

As you might expect, our work is not finished, and our need for signifi-

cant alumni contributions continues. The good news is that, with an incoming freshman class of more than 380 cadets, our goal of a 1,000-cadet Corps is in reach. The bad news is that only 59 percent of these young men and women have been awarded Emerging Leader Scholarships. We would like for all of them to have these scholarships, and we would like to be able to increase the amount to help our cadets face the increasing cost of a Virginia Tech education.

A further challenge facing us is that ROTC scholarships and commissions are very likely to decrease as the Department of Defense faces draconian cuts. These factors certainly challenge us as we

attempt to grow the Corps, but we are optimistic that an increasing number of students will recognize the benefits of the Corps' leadership experience. We need the financial resources to tip the scale in our favor.

Our needs are certainly not limited to funding and supporting Emerging Leadership Scholarships. In future issues, we will talk about the vision for a re-energized Lane Hall. We will also discuss other opportunities for alumni involvement through the various task forces of the VTCCA.

In the spirit of *Ut Prosim*, until next time ...

Gary



Cadet Landon Perez proudly displays his Emerging Leader Scholarship certificate with his donor, Jim Overacre '61. Jim and 1961 classmates Bill Lawson, Chip Houston, and the late Charles Strickler were recognized for their generosity at the Class of 1961 luncheon in October.



News from the Corps of Cadets Development Office

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

Apologies

No excuse, sir and/or ma'am! That's all I can say. The campaign honor roll published in the summer edition of the Corps Review contained an incorrect list

of those who made commitments at the Battalion Commander level (\$50,000 to \$99,999.99). We mistakenly republished the list from the summer 2010 edition instead of the correct list as of June 30,

2011. We did our best to individually contact each person who had been omitted from the list, and I want to again express my humble apologies. The correct list follows:

Battalion Commander

≥ \$50,000 to < \$100,000

(U) Denotes membership in the Ut Prosim Society recognizing lifetime giving to Virginia Tech of \$100,000 and more.

(C) Denotes membership in the Caldwell Society recognizing lifetime giving to Virginia Tech between \$50,000 and \$100,000.

(L) Denotes membership in the Legacy Society recognizing donors who have included Virginia Tech in estate plans.

* Deceased

Mr. Alexander Alexander* and Mrs. Katherine P. Alexander Anonymous (C)

Anonymous

Dr. H. Pat Artis and Ms. Nancy Artis (U)(L)

Mr. John S. Autry and Ms. Priscilla Roberts (L)

Mr. Robert H. Bailey Jr. and Ms. Lynda K. Bailey (L)

Mr. Kelso S. Baker and Mrs. Vera M. Baker (U)

Mr. James A. Beasley Jr. and Mrs. Lee H. Beasley* (C)

Mrs. Margaret E. Beville and Mr. Edward N. Mitchell (L)

Mr. Samuel G. Bickford Jr. and Mrs. Mary K. Bickford (U)(L)

Mr. John P. Billingsley Jr. and Ms. Lawanda W. Billingsley (U)(L)

The Honorable Daniel W. Bird Jr. and Mrs. Karen G. Bird (U)(L)

Mr. Earving L. Blythe and Mrs. Elizabeth W. Blythe (U)

Col. John L. Brown and Mrs. Mary Jean M. Brown (U)

Col. Richard H. Brownley and Mrs. Eunice B. Brownley

Ms. Patricia A. Caldwell (U)(L)

Mrs. Elizabeth M. Carpenter and Mr. S.R. Carpenter (L)

Mr. Donald T. Carrigan and Mrs. Caroline Carrigan (U)

Mr. Reginald B. Childers and Mrs. Bettye D. Childers (C)(L)

Communities Foundation of Texas Inc.

Mrs. Karen G. Connors and Col. Patrick E. Connors (L)

Mr. Dennis J. Cooper and Mrs. Linda P. Cooper (L)

Mr. Doyle C. Counts (U)(L)

Col. Lester B. Cundiff, USA (Ret.) and Mrs. Pat R. Cundiff* (U)(L)

Mr. Shawn P. Dikes and Ms. Terry R. Dikes (L)

Col. William H. Dunham III and Mrs. Judith B. Dunham*

Col. James T. Ewell Jr.* (U)(L)

Mr. Charles B. Ferguson* and Mrs. Sally G. Ferguson

Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund

Col. Charles W. Flippo and Mrs. Nancy H. Flippo

Mr. William H. French*

Mr. Mahlon G. Funk Jr. and Ms. Cynthia T. Funk (C)(L)

Mr. George B. Garrott III and Mrs. Elizabeth C. Garrott (L)

GE Foundation

Mr. S. Cary Gill and Ms. Jean Crenshaw (U)

Mr. Gregory C. Godsey and Mrs. Lisa A. Godsey (C)



Dr. Walter A. Gray III and Mrs. Janice M. Gray (C)

Mr. Branch R. Hammock and Mrs. Mildred S. Hammock (C)(L)

Mr. John T. Hanna (C)(L)

Mr. Leon P. Harris and Mrs. Beverly Harris (U)

Lt. Col. Claude A. Hodges Jr. and Mrs. Jo Ann Hodges

Mr. Melvin E. Huffman and Mrs. Peggy E. Huffman (U)

Infilco Degremont Inc.

Mr. Jeff H. Jaffe and Mrs. Natalie R. Jaffe (U)(L)

Col. Frederick E. Johnston III, USA (Ret.) and Mrs. Merylyn C. Johnston (C)

Dr. J.B. Jones and Mrs. Jane H. Jones* (U)

Mr. Bertram Y. Kinzey Jr. and Mrs. Virginia S. Kinzey* (C)(L)

Mr. Mark S. Lindsey and Mrs. Denise D. Lindsey (L)

Mr. David E. Lowe and Ms. Sharon Lowe (U)

Mr. William H. May and Mrs. Barbara J. May (U)

Mr. David S. McConnell and Mrs. Pamela A. McConnell (L)

Mr. Robert M. McMarlin and Mrs. Anne M. McMarlin

Mr. Rieman McNamara Jr. and Mrs. Merrily B. McNamara (U)(L)

Lt Col. Caddy R. Meekins (Ret.) and Col. E.B.P. Meekins, USA (Ret.) (L)

Minneapolis Foundation, The

Estate of Mr. Benjamin F. Morgan Jr.* and Mrs. Betty Morgan (U)(L)

Mr. Edwin A. Myrick and Mrs. Lelia W. Myrick (U)(L)

Mr. James C. Overacre and Mrs. Bonnie W. Overacre (C)

Mr. James M. Pollard Jr. and Mrs. Marilyn K. Pollard (U)

Estate of W. Thomas Rice* (U)

Mr. Leonard E. Ringler (L)

Mr. Meade H. Rudasill and Mrs. Sue Rudasill (L)

Maj. Mark B. Sherkey Jr. and Mrs. Krista Sherkey (L)

Dr. William E. Skelton* and Mrs. Margaret G. Skelton* (U)(L)

Mr. Arthur O. Smith Jr.* and Mrs. Elizabeth F. Smith

Mr. Carlton M. Southworth Sr.* (U)

Mr. John H. Staley Jr. and Mrs. Bette F. Staley (C)(L)

Mr. James B. Stark and Mrs. Linda N. Stark (L)

Mr. Harvey L. Sutton and Mrs. Agnes Sutton

Col. William H. Swan Jr., USAFR (Ret.) and Dr. Deborah A. Swan (C)

Mr. David T. Thomas II and Mrs. JoAnn S. Thomas (U)(L)

Mr. Raymond H. Thrift Jr. and Mrs. Ellen H. Thrift (C)(L)

Maj. Gen. Forrest D. Tignor Jr. USA (Ret.) and Mrs. Ronda B. Tignor (C)

Mr. William D. Vaughan and Mrs. Dean L. Vaughan (C)

Virginia Baptist Foundation Inc.

Mr. Aubrey V. Watts Jr. and Mrs. Emily W. Watts (C)

Mr. Jack W. Webb and Mrs. Faye N. Webb (U)(L)

Wichita Falls Area Community Foundation

Col. Thomas O. Williams III and Mrs. Frances S. Williams (L)

Col. Calvin S. Wisman* and Mrs. Anne S. Wisman (U)

Mr. Thomas C. Young and Mrs. Bonner R. Young (U)

Mr. Robert E. Young and Mrs. Sandra B. Young



A selection of cadets and donors at the Class of 1961 luncheon (from left): Butch Aaron '61, Harrison Moder, Leah Dreher, Landon Perez, Jim Overacre '61, Bill Hartt '61, and Maj. Gen. Randy Fullhart.

In addition, Clem Gimbert '51 informed us that we incorrectly listed his spouse in the Platoon Leaders section. Please accept our apologies. The entry should read as follows: Mr. Clement H. Gimbert and Mrs. Flora Gimbert.

Class giving

Some of you are aware that we post information relating to class giving on our Web page at www.vtcca.vt.edu/?q=giving-corps. The graphs you will see by clicking on “Class Giving Charts” near the bottom of the page provide a basis of comparison for commitments to the Corps from all classes back to 1940. Please go to the link to see how your own class measures up. I will use the decade of the 1970s as illustration to explain the graphs further.

The orange bar indicates commitments to the Emerging Leader Scholarship (ELS) for each class. The gift or pledge to the class account may come from anyone, regardless if he or she is a member of that class. You can see the all-time greatest Class of 1970 leads the way in the 1970s with nearly \$90,000 in our ELS account. However, when total commitments to any Corps account are

used as the measuring stick, the Class of 1970 comes in fifth for the decade. This calculation is reflected by the maroon bar that includes commitments by all members (and their households) of a specific Corps class to any Corps of Cadets (VTCC) account. These accounts include the class ELS, individual named scholarships, unit scholarships, memorial gifts, honorariums, the Highty-Tighty freshman stipend, capital projects, our operating accounts, and every other account supporting the Corps.

Some will argue which bar is the best measurement of how an individual class supports the Corps, but for now we will publish both on our website and will update the page quarterly. If you have questions, please write or call.

(Editor’s note: The REAL all-time greatest Class of 1971 ranks second in the decade in both categories—71!)

Annual Fund news

from Randy Holden, director of Annual Giving

The Office of Annual Giving is pleased to announce that in fiscal year 2011, which ended June 30, we completed our most successful year ever for the Corps. We raised more than \$367,000, an increase of 28 percent over the previous fiscal year. In spite of the economic issues that impact us all, Corps alumni showed their spirit by supporting the Corps through the Annual Fund. More than 1,600 alumni answered the call to help support the Corps, an increase of 8 percent over the previous year.





At the annual donor breakfast during Corps Homecoming weekend, J. Pearson '87 and Jay Jacobsmeyer '81 with their families and the cadets who receive their scholarships.

The university is aware that Corps alumni tend to be the most loyal to all areas of Virginia Tech. This loyalty proved true again when Corps alumni responded to the Annual Fund appeal, either written or from our student call center, at a rate nearly 70 percent higher than the rate for all alumni. In addition, your average gift of \$227 compares very favorably with the university average of \$191. This is outstanding news for the Corps because you obviously understand the importance of your financial support.

You should have already received a brochure in the mail with a note from Gen. Fullhart explaining the needs of the Corps and asking for your help. Also, around Veterans Day, you may have received a call from a cadet in the student call center. Please be sure to update your phone number with us so that the cadets can reach you in the future and share their Corps experience.

With help from you, the Corps of Cadets will surpass the amazing accomplishments of this past year and will continue to build leaders for the future. Thank you for your past, present, and future support of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.

Major gifts (\$25,000 and more)

We were unable to recognize our major donors in the summer issue because of the space required for the campaign honor roll. Therefore, this column includes all major gifts since January. Thanks to all for your patience.

Eunice B. Brownley funded a charitable gift annuity that will one day establish the VTCC Col. **Richard H. Brownley '44 Scholarship**. Col. and Mrs. Brownley

decided to create this fund because they believe that the Corps and the training it provided well prepared Col. Brownley for the many challenges he faced in his Army career and because they have great affection for the Corps, its standards, and its members.

William M. Cook '75 and Elizabeth Harper Cook '77 are endowing the VTCC Lt. Col. **Harvey M. Harper, USMC, Memorial Scholarship**. Col Harper served for 27 years, including service during World War II, Korea, and two tours in the Vietnam conflict. As a Marine, Harper served in many capacities, ranging from drill instructor to an advisor to the Taiwanese Marine Corps. Though Lt. Col. Harper did not attend Virginia Tech, Bill and Betsy believe that his service to our country epitomizes the Corps' motto, *Ut Prosim*.

To honor the memory of his "old lady" who was killed during the Battle of the Hedgerows in Normandy on June 17, 1944, Col. William H. Dunham III '43 established the VTCC **Giles B. Harris '43 Memorial Scholarship** with



Charles '67 and Bobbie Cornelison and Peggy Reed with the band cadet recipients of the Cornelison and Raymond Reed '57 scholarships.



Cadet Christopher Tomlinson enjoys the annual breakfast with the generous donors of his Emerging Leader Scholarship, Pres '50 and Anne Andrews.

preference for cadets in Army ROTC. Col. Dunham created this scholarship not only to honor his roommate, Giles Harris, and his sacrifice for his nation, but also to inform others of Harris' story. With the help of some of our Corps alumni, Col. Dunham discovered that Harris' remains were returned from France and are buried in his hometown of Lynchburg, Va. Harris' name can be found as G.B. Harris '43 on the Sacrifice pylon of the Virginia Tech War Memorial and on the VPI Plaque at the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Va.

Bud and Cindy Funk created a charitable gift annuity that will fund the **VTCC Cynthia T. and Malcolm G. Funk Jr. '67 Scholarship**. Bud earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in aerospace engineering from Virginia Tech before completing a J.D. at William and Mary. He was a member of N Squadron and the Gregory Guard as an underclassman and commanded Fourth Group as a senior. Bud and Cindy created this scholarship to give back to his alma mater and to provide expanded opportunities for future members of the Corps.

John Hanna funded two charitable gift annuities with the Virginia Tech Foundation that will one day create the **VTCC John T. Hanna '45 Scholarship**. John graduated with a degree in electrical engineering and was a member of T Company and the Society of American Military Engineers. He wants to give back to his alma mater and to the Corps and is requesting preference for children or grandchildren of members of the Shriners organization.

Bob '68 and Catherine Luckner committed to the funding of a second ELS in their names, the **VTCC Robert C. and Catherine E. Luckner Scholarship**. The scholarships support members of the Highty-Tighties who are majoring in engineering.

Bob and Anne McMarlin established the **VTCC Anne and Robert McMarlin '60 Scholarship**. Bob, who was a member of L Company and received both a bachelor's and a master's degree in ceramic engineering, served as a member of the Student Government Association and graduated as a Distinguished Military Student. Anne is a graduate of the

University of Mary Washington and the University of Pittsburgh. This scholarship gives preference to cadets majoring in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering or within the College of Engineering.

Mac McNamara created the **VTCC Merrily B. and Rieman McNamara Jr. '49 Endowment for Leadership Education**. Income distributions from the fund will provide support for the leadership programs of the VTCC W. Thomas Rice Center for Leader Development (see page 32). Mac commanded A Company as a senior and also served as a member of the Cadet Honor Court, as Corps treasurer, as chairman of the Class of '49 Ring Committee, and as vice president of the Class of '49. In his spare time, he earned a B.S. in business, majoring in accounting.

Bob Priddy funded the **VTCC Robert T. Priddy '40 Endowment for Leadership Education**. Bob created this fund to assist the Corps with our most important mission—developing leaders for the future—and to provide a source of funding for the current leadership programs and future enhancements of the VTCC W. Thomas Rice Center for Leader Development.

Patsy and Garnett Smith are endowing the **VTCC Patsy T. and Garnett E. Smith Scholarship**. Strong supporters of the U.S. military and long-time friends of Virginia Tech, Garnett and Patsy created this scholarship to provide expanded opportunities in perpetuity for students who wish to pursue an education as members of the Corps of Cadets.

W. Denman Zirkle '60 transferred the **VTCC Major General John M. Devine Scholarship** to the Corps for administration. Denman named the scholarship in honor of Gen. Devine, who, after retiring from the Army in 1952, became the first retired flag officer to be named comman-

dant of cadets. Gen. Devine remained in the position until 1961 and wrote the following memo to the Class of '60, which was published in "The Bugle":

Education is not limited to academics, and the object of education is not solely to prepare the individual to make a living. A college education must also prepare the student to meet the challenges of life. The Corps, by its organization and operation, by the standards it seeks to maintain, and by the qualities it seeks to instill, plays a significant part in the educational process and helps materially in preparing its members to take their places in the world.

As a senior, Zirkle was the judge of the Honor Court and executive officer of Second Battalion. He created this scholarship to do his part to perpetuate the Corps traditions about which Gen. Devine wrote. The scholarship gives preference to cadets enrolled in an international or global business major or minor in the Pamplin College of Business or a cadet pursuing a foreign language major or minor in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.

Donor breakfast

In conjunction with Corps Homecoming on Sept. 17, we hosted our annual breakfast for our scholarship donors. We again set a record with 113 donors

attending, along with 83 cadets who are benefitting from these donors' generosity. While enjoying breakfast, the donors have the opportunity to get to know their cadets, and the cadets have the opportunity to personally express their appreciation to their donors.

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

Ut Prosim.

In Memoriam:

Cadet Joshua Lee Lilliston '14



Cadet Signal Cpl. Joshua Lee Lilliston died Oct. 30 at his home.

A 2010 graduate of Bel Air High School, Md., Lilliston was a cadet in the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets and played trumpet and bugle in the Highty-Tighties. He was majoring in university studies and intended to pursue a degree in mechanical engineering and a minor in leadership. He made dean's list in his freshman year.

Involved in outreach programs and an advocate for Relay for Life, Lilliston was an active member of Trinity Lutheran Church and had been a Boy Scout in Troop 777. In his short life, he inspired many through his bravery in battling a rare eye cancer, his faith in God,

his resolve, and his pursuit of his dreams despite the disease. He traveled the U.S. extensively, flew a fighter jet plane on his own, skydived, and engaged in many other adventurous activities.

In lieu of flowers, a scholarship fund has been established in Lilliston's name for an upperclassman in the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets with a medical condition preventing him or her from entering the military. Checks—with "Lilliston Scholarship" on the memo line—may be mailed to the Virginia Tech Foundation, Virginia Tech, University Development 0336, Blacksburg, VA 24061, Attention: VTCC.

Six ways you can help grow the Corps endowment

by Judith Davis, Office of Gift Planning, (540) 231-2279, judithb@vt.edu

It may be easier than you think to strengthen the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets endowment with a gift that fits you and your family. If you want your gift to continue supporting the Corps in perpetuity by either creating a fully funded endowment or adding to an existing endowment, here are six options to consider:

- 1) You can fully fund a named endowment today with a gift of cash, securities, or real estate. Or you can make a pledge today that will fund your endowment over time. Your endowment can carry your own name, or you can name your fund in honor of or in memory of someone else.
- 2) You can pool resources with family members or others to create a single named endowment to which each of you contributes—perhaps an endowment that carries your family name or honors a relative.
- 3) You can make a gift that pays you income during your own lifetime and funds your endowment gift in the future. Such life income gifts offer options such as paying income for the lifetimes of both the donor and the surviving spouse.
- 4) You can fund an endowment with an estate gift such as a will bequest, retirement account beneficiary designation, or life insurance beneficiary designation. Some individuals partially fund an endowment during their lifetime and fund the balance with an estate gift.
- 5) You can add a gift of any size, either during your lifetime or through your estate, to any endowed fund, whether the fund was originally established by you or by someone else.
- 6) You can make a gift to the Corps' unrestricted endowment, where the gift will be used to address pressing needs that may otherwise remain unfunded.

In whatever way you make your gift to the Corps endowment, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that your support will continue to benefit the Corps and its programs in perpetuity.

To learn more about endowment gifts or about any gift supporting the Corps, contact Dave Spracher at (540) 231-2806 or dlsprach@vt.edu. As always, you are encouraged to consult your attorney when making any gift that is part of your overall estate planning.



Leadership in action, with alumni support

by Col. Rock Roszak '71, (540) 231-9369, vtcc71@vt.edu

On August 13, the largest freshman cadet class in some 45 years arrived on campus. The Class of 2015 started out with 383 cadets—that's about 150 more than we were bringing in when I first returned to campus in the mid-1990s. How that move-in day went was instructive as to the quality of our cadets.

There were two reasons the day was particularly challenging. We were getting a significantly larger number of cadets than in the past, and there was major construction happening on the Upper Quadrangle. The new Center for the Arts is being built, so we lost the use of Shultz parking lot, and the Shultz Plain no longer exists. All the parking and off-loading had to take place on Alumni Mall and on Turner and Old Turner streets. During summer orientation, we had freshmen sign up for arrival-time blocks to help control the flow, but what to do after arrival was left up to the cadet leadership. The plan they came up with was impressive.

Families parked on the mall and were met by cadets who helped unload. Shuttles took the baggage to drop-off points for each dorm, and parents moved their cars to an outlying parking lot and were shuttled back to the Quad. While freshmen in-processed, got haircuts, and were fitted for headgear, parents did the move-in and began to set up rooms. All were able to rejoin their freshman cadets for a lunch at Shultz Dining Hall, followed by their final good-byes before the cadets entered the training environment and the parents went to Squires for the commandant's intro session.

The plan our cadets came up with was superbly executed. Because of so many moving parts, there was plenty of opportunities for problems, but the feedback from parents was uniformly positive. Of course, next year will have new challenges since we won't be able to use Shultz for our in-processing space. But change is good, and I'm confident that our cadets will again rise to the occasion.

A very nice element during all this was a wonderful group of local alumni who staffed a table to sell items that benefited our operating accounts. These alumni were also a great source of

information and comfort to the parents. Speaking to someone who had gone through our system and could proudly talk about the difference it had made in their lives was very beneficial.

They were great examples of service leadership, and I appreciate their giving up a summer Saturday to demonstrate the spirit of *Ut Prosim*. I want to publicly thank Rick Monroe '66, who assembled the team; Jim Archer '72, Charlie Cornelison '67, Jim Flynn '64, Rob Gibbs '66, Dick Kates '66, Brande Reeves '01, Bill Swan '66, and Rusty Walden '82.



VTCC alumni volunteers working the sales table on new cadet arrival day were (from left) Jim Flynn '64, Brande Reeves '01, Bill Swan '66, Charlie Cornelison '67, Rusty Walden '82, band director Maj. George McNeill, and Jim Archer '72. Not pictured are Rick Monroe '66 and Dick Kates '66. Thanks to all!

In memory

George P. Bowman Jr. '52
1932 – 2011



George P. Bowman Jr. died July 23.

Bowman, who graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in chemical engineering, received a doctoral

degree from The Ohio State University in 1960. He served nearly 30 years in the Air Force as a nuclear research engineer and as an instructor at the Air Force Institute of Technology.

Bowman is survived by his wife, Judith, four children and spouses, and seven grandchildren.

Roger Wesley Farris '64
1942 – 2011



Roger Wesley Farris died March 25.

After graduating from Virginia Tech with a degree in engineering, Farris later received a

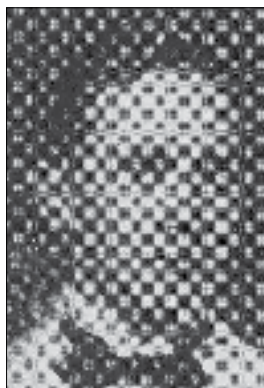
master's degree in industrial administration from Purdue University. A Vietnam veteran, he served as a U.S. Army first lieutenant in the Medical Service Corps.

From 1970 until his retirement in October 2004, Farris served as president, CEO, and general manager of Fairfield Bridge Company. A past president and general manager of Echols Brothers Inc., he served as president of the Virginia

Road and Transportation Builders Association and as director of the American Road and Transportation Builders Association. In 1992, the governor of Virginia appointed Farris to the Virginia Board of Contractors.

Farris is survived by his wife, Evelyn, a son, two daughters, and seven grandchildren.

Virgil A. Folden Jr. '44
1924 – 2011



Virgil A. Folden Jr. died Feb. 22.

Folden, who graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in engineering, earned a Bronze Star

in World War II and later served in the U.S. Army Reserves, retiring as a lieutenant colonel. He worked at Dahlgren Naval Weapons Laboratory as an aeronautical engineer, receiving a patent for his development of an undersea pressure-sensitive actuator.

Folden is survived by his wife, Frances, two children, and three grandchildren.

Arthur C. Klages '42
1921 – 2011

Arthur C. Klages died Aug. 1.

Klages, who graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in industrial engineering, served as a major in the U. S Army Field Artillery. He then worked for Western Electric Corp. until he was employed by the Barbizon Corp., spending the rest of his career in the apparel industry. In 1960, he founded and was president of



the Burlington Belt Corp., now Burlington Handbags. After a successful career, he retired in 1987.

Klages is survived by his wife, Vivian, a son, and a daughter.

Thurmond Carlyle Lea Jr. '59
1937 – 2011

Thurmond Carlyle Lea Jr. died Aug. 5 in Orange, Va.

A Virginia native, Lea graduated from Virginia Tech in 1959 and received a J.D. from the University of Richmond's T.C. Williams School of Law in 1962. A member of the Virginia State Bar certified to practice law before the Virginia Court of Appeals, the Virginia Supreme Court, and the Federal District Court, Western District of Virginia, Lea retired from active practice in 2010.

Lea is survived by his wife, Frances, six children, and 13 grandchildren.

Lenard Arthur Old Jr. '60
1938 – 2011



Lenard Arthur Old Jr. died July 16.

A member of K Company, the Cadet Honor Council, and Alpha Kappa Pi at Virginia Tech, Old

received a degree in business administration. After commissioning, he served

29 years in the U.S. Army as an officer in the transportation corps, including two tours in Vietnam, and retired as a colonel. His twilight tour was as inspector general for transportation of U.S. embassies worldwide.

Old is survived by two daughters and seven grandchildren.

Edmond Wilson Overstreet '59
1936 – 2011

Edmond Wilson “Ned” Overstreet died July 28 in Pinehurst, N.C.

Overstreet earned a degree in electrical engineering from Virginia Tech and served in the U.S. Army before beginning his career at Potomac Electric Power Company. Later working for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Postal Service, he spent most of his career with the U. S Department of Agriculture until his retirement.

Overstreet is survived by his wife, Anne, two daughters, and five grandchildren.

Robert E. Pettit Jr. '63
1940 – 2010



Robert E. Pettit Jr. died Feb. 22, 2010.

Pettit, who graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in distributive education, also earned a

master's in vocational education-school administration in 1969. For 40 years, he was an educator in the Henry County, Va., Public School System.

Pettit is survived by his wife, Frances, two sons, and three grandchildren.

James Middleton Stanley '41
1920 – 2011



James Middleton Stanley died March 13.

Stanley graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in agricultural engineering and served

in the U.S. Army, completing several assignments around the world during World War II. In 1962, he received an M.S. in agricultural engineering from Virginia Tech and retired from the Army Reserves as a lieutenant colonel in 1980. Stanley worked with the U.S. Department of Agriculture at the University of Florida for many years and, upon retirement, moved back to Blacksburg.

Stanley is survived by two children, two grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.





Focus on training: In August, Cadet Hope Mills served on the Echo Company training cadre tasked with providing training and mentorship to the freshman cadets assigned to her company. She reflects the intensity that our cadets display during this critical period in the development of the freshman class.

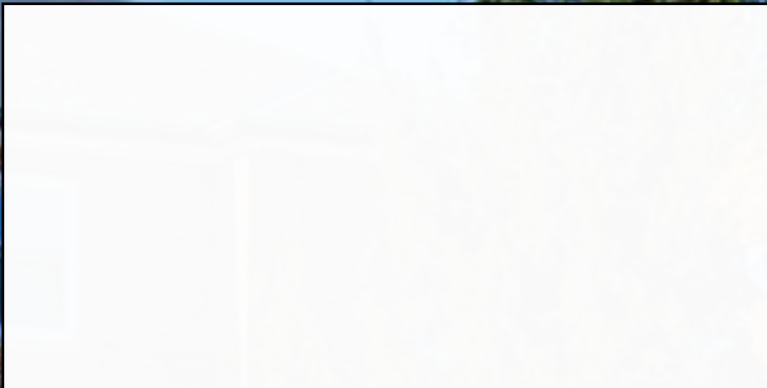
In what must surely be a first, Cadet Catherine Wahlman recently christened a newly commissioned ship, the USNS Spearhead, JHSV 1. The photo was sent to us by Steve Schroeder '93, the test and evaluation manager for the Joint High Speed Vessel Program who will be responsible for taking the ship through her paces over the next year. Cadet Wahlman's father, retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Kenneth Wahlman, is the ship's sponsor. Schroeder reported that Cadet Wahlman represented and exemplified the high standards of the Corps of Cadets at the ceremony. *Ut Prosim.*



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