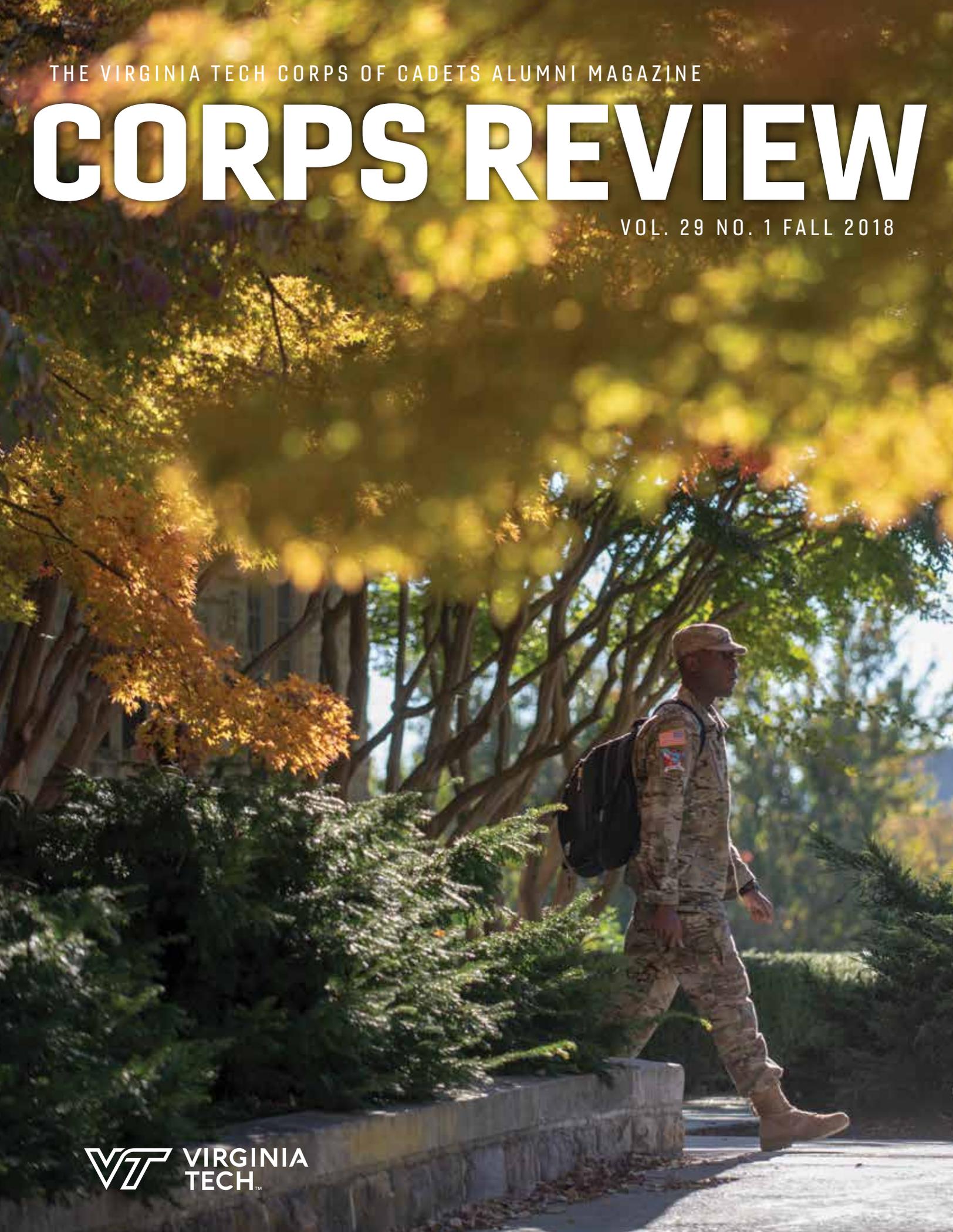


THE VIRGINIA TECH CORPS OF CADETS ALUMNI MAGAZINE

# CORPS REVIEW

VOL. 29 NO. 1 FALL 2018





Corps ambassador Growley II (call sign "Tank") sits next to regimental handler Sarafina Ramalho '20 as regimental staff waits for the national anthem to begin before the Notre Dame game on Oct. 6.



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# ALUMNI ANNOUNCEMENTS

## FROM THE ALUMNI DIRECTOR

Preparing for Corps Reunion 2018 (an eight-month labor of love) and canceling three days before felt like training for a marathon and breaking a leg the week before.

It was extremely frustrating but mostly sad because we did not get to complete our mission of hosting YOU, our alumni, for a fantastic weekend, which is our

favorite part. Michele Messner and I missed seeing all of our alumni friends and families.

With fingers crossed for no more hurricanes, we believe next year will be even better! We want to see you in 2019.

*Ut Prosim,*

Col Patience Larkin (retired) E-'87, [patience@vt.edu](mailto:patience@vt.edu)

## UPCOMING REUNIONS

The university's Reunion Weekend 2019 is June 6-7, and the Old Guard Society of Golden Alumni Reunion is May 22-24.

Reunions are a celebration of the strong connection between Hokies. Take advantage of these occasions to reach out to classmates and make plans to return to Blacksburg to reconnect with each other and the university. These spring and summer reunions are opportunities to re-live your collegiate experience on campus. All alumni are welcome, regardless of class year.

Reunion Weekend will feature parties on the Drillfield, guided tours, open houses for each college, presentations from faculty and researchers, opportunities to re-enact those Corps PT mornings, and more. There will be special reunion recognition for the classes of 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004, 2009, and 2014.

Reunion Weekend will feature parties on the Drillfield, guided tours, open houses for each college, presentations from faculty and researchers, opportunities to re-enact those Corps PT mornings, and more. There will be special reunion recognition for the classes of 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004, 2009, and 2014.

The 2018 Reunion Weekend included fireworks on the Drillfield.

Our Old Guard Society of Golden Alumni Reunion connects alumni who have already celebrated their 50th reunion. There will be special recognition for the classes of 1939, 1944, 1949, 1954, 1959, and 1964.

We hope to see you back on campus!

## VTCC DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets (VTCC) Alumni Office will accept nomination packages for the 2019 VTCC Distinguished Alumni award until Jan. 7, 2019. Please note that nominees must be living.

The recipient(s) will be notified in the beginning of February. The selection committee includes the commandant, the VTCC Alumni Board chairman, the university's senior associate vice president for alumni relations, and the VTCC alumni director.

Information concerning criteria, selection process, and package information can be found online at [vtcc.vt.edu/alumni/distinguished-alumni.html](http://vtcc.vt.edu/alumni/distinguished-alumni.html). There, you can also read about the 2018 award recipients, David E. Lowe '63 and Gen. Thomas C. Richards '56.





## A MEETING IN FRANCE

Cadets who traveled to France in May as part of the VTCC Global Scholars Program attended the Centennial Remembrance Ceremony of Belleau Wood and ran into alumnus and U.S. Marine Corps Col. Christian Harshberger '92. Of course, cadets carry the VTCC flag everywhere they go, so they had to take pictures. Hokie Nation is worldwide!

## JANET (JAMES) ESCOBEDO '77 WRITES BOOK

Forty-five years after women enrolled in the VTCC in 1973, U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Janet Escobedo (retired) L-'77, one of the first ladies to enter the Corps, is a newly published author, writing under her maiden name, Janet James.

Her historical fiction novel, "Come to Poppa," is about a young woman who joins the VTCC and goes into intelligence training. During her first assignment at an Air Force drone group, she becomes involved in an operation called Guardian Angel that rescues girls kidnapped to be sex slaves.

More information is at [janetjames.org](http://janetjames.org).



## A REMINDER OF HOME

Alumnus Amanda Morgan '99 and husband, Justin, attended the Virginia Tech Alumni Association's Hokies in London event in June. She says she loves how these alumni events bring "a refreshing piece of Blacksburg to town."

You are always welcome home, Amanda!  
Go Hokies!

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

J. Pearson '87, Chairman, VTCCA

Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart, Commandant of Cadets

Col. Patience Larkin '87, Alumni Director

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Front cover: Cadet Christopher Johnson '22 walks across campus. Photo by Dan Mirolli.

Back cover: Gregory Guard Commander Peter Szwerz '19 stands at the *Ut Prosim* Pylon. Photo by H. Pat Artis VT'71.

Correction: In the Spring 2018 edition, Robert R. Bacon '71 of Lady Lake, Florida, was mistakenly listed as deceased.

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LEADER.  
DAUGHTER.  
SISTER.  
FRIEND.  
ENSIGN.  
**NEVER  
FORGOTTEN.**

In a rainy and somber ceremony, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets dedicated the engraving of the name of U.S. Navy Ensign Sarah Mitchell '17 on the *Ut Prosim* Pylon during a ceremony Nov. 9.

Mitchell, of Feasterville, Pennsylvania, died July 8 during a Naval training exercise in the Red Sea. She was 23 and leaves behind a large loving family and a fiancé, Dave Collins.



Sarah Mitchell '17

Mitchell's is the 432nd name added to the Pylons and the first woman.

Cadets remember her as a hands-on and charismatic young leader.

During her senior year, she commanded Alpha Company and was a Naval ROTC platoon commander.

"When I came to Alpha Company as a sophomore, she insisted on sitting down to have a meal with every new member of the company, making a conscious effort to get to know us as individuals," said Cadet Daniel Grigg '19. "This was characteristic of her sleeves-rolled-up, ownership-based approach to leadership, and it inspired all of those around her."

She commissioned in May 2017 and reported to the guided-missile destroyer USS Jason Dunham as a surface warfare officer that June. The destroyer was on deployment to the Middle East.

"Sarah Mitchell was the best friend that I could ever ask for. We had so many memorable times together throughout college and after that I could never recount them all," said Andrew Shivers '17. "Sarah was the type of person that would never hesitate to



Alpha Company Commander Mark McVeigh '19 marches his cadets into the ceremony. As Mitchell's company, Alpha stood at the front of the regiment, closest to the Pylons. (Photo by Cadet Charlie Alexander '19.)



Virginia Tech President Tim Sands gives his condolences to Mitchell's family before the ceremony.

help someone out or take on a task that needed to be done."

Members of Mitchell's family joined the regiment and several hundred observers at the ceremony.

"The Corps was a huge part of Sarah's life. She loved being part of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets and felt honored to serve her country," the Mitchell family said. "Sarah viewed the Pylons as sa-

cred ground, and we are proud of Sarah and her sacrifice to our country. It is fitting that Sarah's name will be inscribed on the *Ut Prosim* Pylon and an honor that Sarah will be the first woman to be added to the Pylons."

The Pylons are etched with the names of every student and graduate who died defending our nation's freedom, beginning with World War I.

# THE X O S



Sandy Siegrist '85



Joelle (Pond) Payne '18

By Col. Patience Larkin '87, U.S. Air Force (retired), alumni director

In 1984, Sandy Siegrist '85 became the first female cadet to hold the position of regimental executive officer (XO).

She paved the way for many young women who followed and who continue to aspire to hold top leadership roles in the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets (VTCC).

An alumna of E-Frat, Siegrist has had a hugely successful and varied career. She is a certified public accountant, has an MBA in finance from California State University, and has a master's degree in banking administration from the Pacific Coast Banking School at the University of Washington.

She held leadership positions at

KPMG, Bank of America, Microsoft, and Expedia and now owns her own business.

This year marks the 45th year since the first women were permitted to enroll in the VTCC. While many things have not changed — the honor code, rat belts, and saluting the Rock — a lot has. We thought it would be interesting to compare Siegrist's experience with that of U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Joelle (Pond) Payne '18, the regimental XO for the spring 2018 semester.

Pond is a transportation officer for the 18th Fires Brigade (18th Airborne Corps) at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. She is slated to move to a new position

**THIS YEAR MARKS THE 45TH YEAR SINCE THE FIRST WOMEN WERE PERMITTED TO ENROLL IN THE VTCC.**

soon and hopes to stay in the Army as long as possible. She said she enjoys the military lifestyle and is honored to serve our nation.

**Q: What made you decide to**



Siegrist with one of her horses, Field Artillery AKA Tillie.



Siegrist at Microsoft headquarters in 2005.

**attend Virginia Tech and join the VTCC?**

**Siegrist:** I wanted the Corps of Cadets experience and attended Virginia Tech on a four-year Army scholarship. The Corps was the reason I attended Virginia Tech!

**Payne:** I decided to join Virginia Tech when I was offered a four-year Army ROTC scholarship here. I decided to look into the Corps of Cadets program and did a spend the night with a former regimental XO, Tiffany Borden '17, and knew this was the place for me.

**Q: Which VTCC unit(s) did you belong to and what Corps positions did you hold before being selected as the regimental XO?**

**Siegrist:** E Squadron, Eager freshman and sophomore, staff sergeant for the regimental S-1 [adjutant]

**Payne:** I ratted Alpha my freshman year and was shuffled into Hotel Company, where I served as a fire team leader, platoon sergeant, first sergeant, and company commander.

**Q: Was regimental XO a position you aspired to attain before your senior year?**

**Siegrist:** When I was called for the regimental commander selection board, I knew I wanted the XO position and presented that desire to the board. I wanted the day-to-day leadership, training, and staff management experience afforded by that position.

**Payne:** I was not very familiar with the regimental XO position. I had wanted to be Hotel commander since I shuffled into the company. I wanted to be involved in the Flaming VT, a Hotel tradition at homecoming, which inspired me to become company commander.

**Q: How did you become regimental XO?**

**Siegrist:** At that time, there was a regimental commander selection board, and all senior leadership positions were selected from that group. I did not think that either the cadets or the alumni were prepared for a female regimental commander. And I preferred the experience offered by the XO position with internal focus instead of the regimental commander position, who was the Corps' representation to the community and university. So when I met with the board for my interview, I had a prepared

speech spelling out why I would be the best XO for the VTCC, why I thought that the Corps and alumni and university community were prepared to accept a female in that role, and why I wanted that position.

**Payne:** [2nd Battalion Deputy Commandant] Capt. [Jim] Snyder asked if I was seeking out battalion- or regimental-level positions, and I told him I was interested in an ROTC [cadet] position but would consider it. I was interviewed by the commandant and was later offered the position.

**Q: How did your daily life change once you became the regimental XO?**

**Siegrist:** The most notable change for me in those years was the housing situation and interaction with the commandant and his staff.

During my freshman year, we had the first co-ed floor in the history of the university. There was a door between the female section and male section, and all females were in Brodie Hall. My sophomore year, we moved into both Brodie and Rasche halls. But no female had yet lived on regimental staff hall next to the commandant's office. Lt. Gen. [Howard]



Payne, at right, in Lane Stadium during her senior year with her sister, Nicole Pond '21, at left, and now husband, Army 2nd Lt. Jacob Payne '18.



From left are John Tully '18, Nicholas Masella '18, Robyn Schneider '18, and Payne on their graduation day. Payne calls them "some of the most impressive and influential people I have met during my four years in the Corps. Their never-ending commitment to our community and nation motivates me daily, and I am blessed to call them my best friends."

Lane asked at the end of my junior year where I wanted to live (along with Christy (Burr) Nolta '85, also on regimental staff) during my senior year. I'm not sure what he had to do to negotiate that with the vice president for student affairs, but he made it happen!

The regimental commander and I met with General Lane and the assistant commandants early every morning. That was an amazing experience that I cherish to this day. What a fabulous learning environment!

**Payne:** I loved working with such high-caliber cadets. We had a great staff, and it was an honor working with them on a daily basis. It was different from fall semester in that I didn't have a group of freshmen to help train, but instead I had such a high-caliber staff that led the regiment.

**Q: What additional challenges (if any) did you face by being a woman in this position?**

**Siegrist:** There was probably a little bit of culture shock with the cadets and alumni at first. But once the work began, I felt fairly well accepted. The only issue was the housing situation already noted. The two females were not permitted to utilize the head and shower facilities on regimental staff hall — we had to hike up to the third floor to the female section. But nothing insurmountable.

**Payne:** I have received comments about getting this position by being a female and the Corps needing "diversity." However, I have pushed the comments to the side to prove that this organization and the military is a meritocracy.

**Q: What was your proudest achievement as the regimental XO?**

**Siegrist:** Being the first female to hold the position.

I instituted a policy that after the freshman cadets were "turned" in the fall, they still did not fraternize with the senior cadets until the beginning of spring quarter. I wanted the freshman training program to resemble the fraternization policies in the services.

We brought the Skipper back into operation that year after the accident several years prior — the Skipper crew reported to the XO at the time.

**Payne:** I was proud to help our staff plan and prepare a well-executed Platoon Tactical Challenge event that was revamped from the previous year from scratch.

**Q: What was your greatest challenge as regimental XO?**

**Siegrist:** Being the first female to hold the position...

**Payne:** My greatest challenge was working with varying leadership perspectives and integrating our different aspects into planning and executing.

**Q: What was the funniest thing that happened during your tenure as regimental XO?**

**Siegrist:** Oh my. Maj. Gen. [Randal] Fullhart won't like that story — VMI was involved. I had best employ the "Thumper Theory" here and keep my mouth shut.

The story I can tell involves the meeting I held with all female freshmen during cadre week. After I spoke with them about what it was like to be a woman in the VTCC, I opened the floor for questions. One



Siegrist, at left, and Col. Patience Larkin '87 at this year's homecoming football game.



Payne, at far left, stands with the regimental staff during a parade on the Drillfield in 2018.

brave young lady asked haltingly, “Do we have to get our hair cut as short as yours?” Even then my haircut resembled something Ollie North would wear. Poor kid was terrified that she was going to have to get her long locks trimmed almost as short as the crew cuts their male counterparts had received on day one.

**Payne:** One morning right before formation, I was meeting the regimental staff in the hallway and came out in the wrong uniform but had to run back and “superman” change into the correct uniform a few minutes before formation.

**Q: What surprised you most during your tenure as regimental XO?**

**Siegrist:** General Lane was such a perfect Southern gentleman — in a way that was sometimes uncomfortable for me and sometimes comical. When I accompanied him to meetings on campus or presentations with alumni, he would often step ahead to open a door for me instead of me doing that for him. It became something of a fun joke between us, but it always felt odd that this lowly cadet had a flag officer opening doors for her.

When we had our daily early morning meetings, General Lane had a coffee pot in his office. Deputy Commandants Col. Dutch VanderPyl and Col. Gene

Wilson would enter the room, and General Lane would ask them if they wanted a cup of coffee. And the regimental commander, as well, was offered coffee. Not me. The first time I attended that meeting at the end of my junior year after change of command, he stood when I came into his office and very kindly and in an almost grandfatherly way asked, “Can I get you a cup of cocoa?” Yes, always the polite Southern gentleman.

And what a great lesson — being an intensely human leader.

That lesson came to fruition many times in my tenure, but none quite so intensely as the second day of cadre week. I don't recall the cadet's name, but we received a phone call that this young lady's father had unexpectedly passed away. Notifying her and supporting her and working to get her home — what a horrific life experience for her. I remember thinking that everything we did for her and said to her was so very important — and I didn't want to make any mistakes. And after she was on her way home the next day, the first phone call I made was to my own father to tell him how much I loved him.

**Payne:** After having many conversations with the commandant [General Fullhart], I learned that he is a passion-

ate Disney fan. Driving back with him and [Regimental Commander] Cadet [Mairead] Novak '18 from Richmond, Virginia, Novak and I got to read one of his Walt Disney World books that tells about all the tips and tricks to a great trip to Disney.

**Q: What advice would you give to future regimental XOs?**

**Siegrist:** Oh my — there were so many. Being a fair, firm and compassionate leader. And I was always intensely appreciative of the amazing leadership lab that is the VTCC. Every day I was honored to be in the XO position — and every day since.

**Payne:** I would highly encourage future regimental XOs to be as involved as they can with interacting with all cadets and commandant staff members. I have gained so much information from them and will take away all the invaluable lessons I have learned.

One quote [3rd Battalion Senior Enlisted Advisor] Sgt. Maj. [David] Combs shared with me is that “You can't be an ‘A’ in everything.” It is imperative to balance out the missions from your job, your relationship and family life, and your personal and spiritual life. That is one of the greatest lessons I learned.

IT'S RAINED A LOT THIS FALL, AND THE THREAT OF HURRICANE FLORENCE FORCED THE CANCELANATION OF THIS YEAR'S CORPS REUNION. BUT IT HASN'T DAMPENED OUR SPIRITS ONE BIT.



Alumni and friends of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets prepare to greet families during New Cadet Move-In on Aug. 11.



Regimental Commander John Holland '19 leads his staff during the New Cadet Parade on Aug. 18. Cadets marched in MCUs because of the threat of rain and very muddy field conditions.



At left, Commandant of Cadets Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart removes the weathered heraldry from Lane Hall. At right, university workers replace it with a new Corps shield done in metallic colors.



Cadets say thank you to local first-responders who participated in a silent formation marking the anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001.



U.S. Air Force Capt. Hope Mills '13 and U.S. Navy Cmdr. Nick Meyer '02 spoke about their experiences since graduation during the Sept. 13 Gunfighter Panel. This was the only Corps Reunion event that wasn't canceled by Hurricane Florence.



Runners leave the start line on Upper Quad during the Toughest Hokie competition on Oct. 28. The event, a multi-mile, multi-obstacle, multi-challenge course, was sponsored by the Corps and Virginia Tech Recreational Sports.

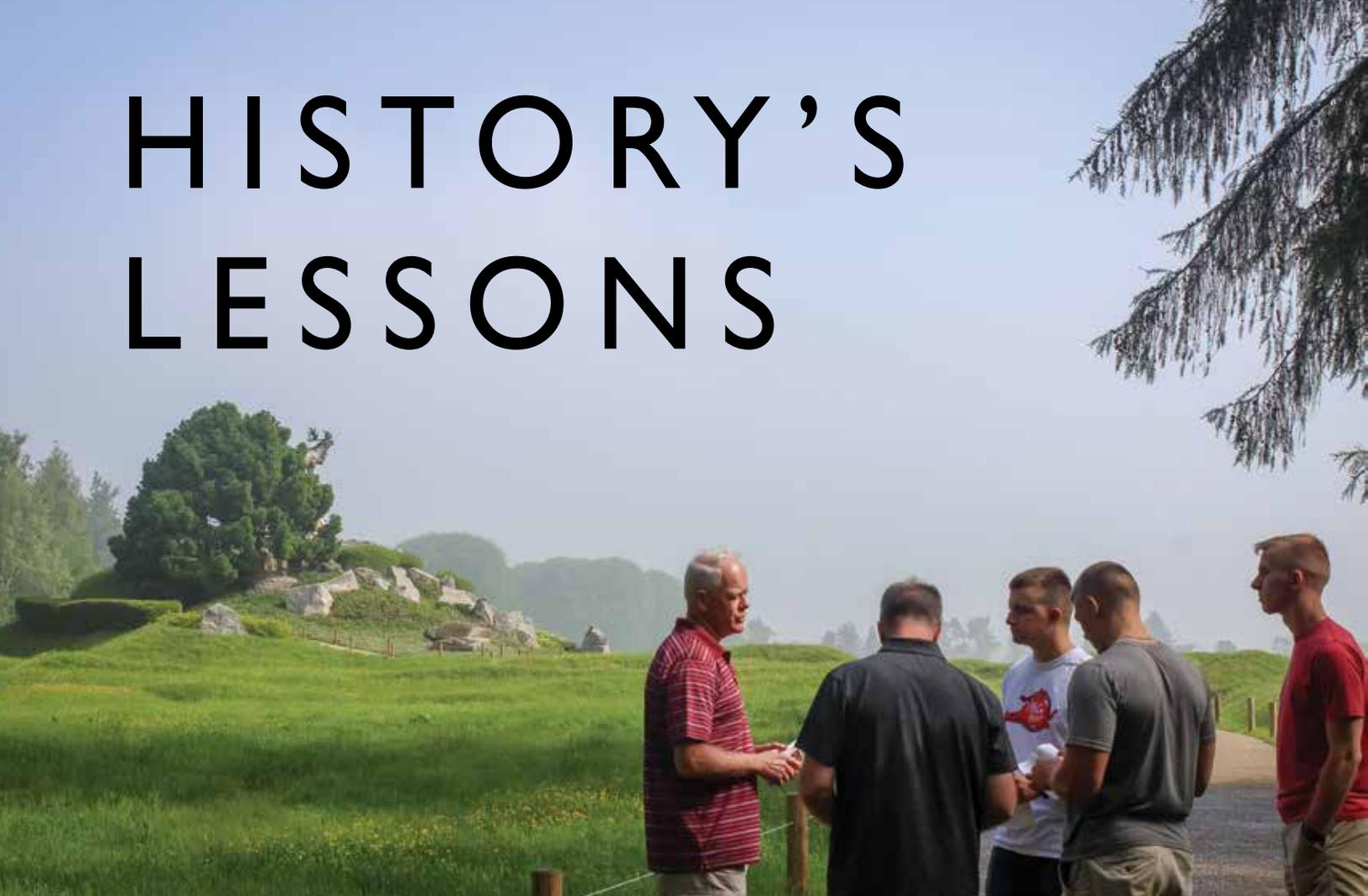


This football season, Virginia Tech began recognizing military alumni at the start of each home game. Here, U.S. Air Force Capt. Lauren and Jimmy Callen '13 wave to the crowd at the Georgia Tech game on Oct. 25.



The wreath is placed on War Memorial Court during the Veterans Day Remembrance Ceremony on Nov. 12.

# HISTORY'S LESSONS



The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets' Global Scholars Program reached a major milestone in 2018 with a second field of study and overseas experience for cadets focused on key battles of World War I.

Both the original section on the Allied invasion of Normandy during World War II and the new section include a three-credit hour seminar during the spring semester followed by a week-long trip to the battle-grounds.

Much of the seminar is led by the cadets, who each take a deep dive into a specific topic, share their research and findings, and apply lessons learned to today's world events. In Europe, they walk in the shadows of those early soldiers, sailors, and airmen. They see the battlefields and the modern culture surrounding them and lead similar discussions on leadership and decision-making.

Donor support is critical to our ability to grow this experience that enables cadets to develop a more in-

formed world view. For many, this also marks their first opportunity to travel outside the United States.

This study abroad program is funded almost entirely by the Corps. Your generosity pays for lodging, flights, and ground transportation for the group.

The next cohort is already chosen for the 2019 program and a new expansion. Twenty-one cadets will travel on three trips: the World War I section, the Normandy section, and a new World War II section exploring the battles that followed D-Day, including Operation Market-Garden, the Battle of Hürtgen Forest, and the Battle of the Bulge.

Your investment in this program will allow us to continue to expand both the number of trips and the number of cadets who are able to learn about leadership in this unique and highly lauded experience.

Please help us expand this opportunity by making a donation at [givingto.vt.edu/corps](http://givingto.vt.edu/corps) or by calling 540-231-2892.

Above: Third Battalion Deputy Commandant Lt. Col. Charles Payne talks with cadets at the Beaumont-Hamel battlefield, located in the British sector along the Somme.

# CADETS VISIT BATTLEFIELDS OF THE GREAT WAR

By Lt. Col. Charles Payne, U.S. Army (retired), deputy commandant for 3rd Battalion

This year, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets (VTCC) Global Scholars Program added a second program of study to explore the battlefields of World War I. Five cadets traveled to France, Luxembourg, Belgium, and Germany in May to visit select locations following a semester of coursework.

“I have done many things and learned a lot in the years I have spent in the VTCC, but this program has by far been one of the best experiences and will without a doubt stick with me for the rest of my life,” said Cadet Peter Szwerz ’19, a mathematics major in Navy ROTC.

“The program as a whole was an unforgettable experience that I will strive to learn from for the rest of my life. It showed me the importance of being a global leader, and it provided me the foundation that I will need to truly become one,” said Cadet Elijah Moats ’19, a marketing major in Air Force ROTC.

Inspired by and modeled on the Normandy course devised by Lt. Col. Don Russell, deputy commandant for the Citizen-Leader Track program, Lt. Col. Charles Payne, deputy commandant for 3rd Battalion, designed the World War I program as another avenue of professional growth for cadets, while further elevating the Corps’ prestige in the academic arena.

Similar to the Normandy program now entering its fourth year, the World War I study consisted of a three-credit



Cadets walk the restored trench system at Massignes, France. This trenchline changed hands three times during the war. Cadets were most impressed by what they saw at Massignes.



Payne discusses a machine gun position located in a German trenchline in the St. Mihiel Salient.



The group stands in front of the World War I Chateau-Thierry American Monument. It is on a hill 2 miles west of Chateau-Thierry, France, and commands a wide view of the valley of the Marne River. It commemorates the sacrifices and achievements of the Americans and French before and during the Aisne-Marne and Oise-Aisne offensives.

hour course taught during the spring 2018 semester by Payne. Classroom work provides cadets with an overview of the war, to include all theaters and major participants, while focusing on the military systems of each major power.

Particular discussion involved the cataclysmic battles of Verdun and the Somme, and a lengthy summary of the creation, development, training, and introduction to the Western Front of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF). Cadets also analyzed the battles of Belleau Wood and Chateau-Thierry, the AEF's first large-scale deployments into combat against German forces.

We placed special emphasis on the first-time employment of a wholly independent American army on foreign soil during the AEF offensives in the St. Mihiel Campaign and the Meuse-Argonne Campaign — the largest offensive campaign undertaken by the U.S. Army in its history to date.

Sgt. Maj. David Combs, the 3rd Battalion senior enlisted advisor, joined in

this effort and traveled with the class. In addition to Szwerc and Moats, the participating cadets were Cadet Katherine Hoef '20, Austin Kassman '20, and Eryn Wolfe '20.

The group traveled for eight days. Stops included the Beaumont-Hamel battlefield in the Somme region, the Great War Museum in Meaux, Chateau-Thierry, Belleau Wood, the St. Mihiel Salient, the Meuse-Argonne region, and Verdun.

The group joined 6,000 attendees at the annual commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Belleau Wood. This ceremony is held each year at the Aisne-Marne American Cemetery to mark Memorial Day while commemorating the Belleau Wood battle and the AEF's operations in the Aisne-Marne region during World War I.

Among the destinations that the cadets found particularly riveting was a restored trench line just outside the small French village of Massignes. These trenches are truly off the proverbial

beaten path and unknown by many tourists.

These frontline trenches provide an authentic look at the realities of World War I warfare. The cadets spent considerable time walking through them, exploring dugouts, bunkers, command posts, and saps, as well as viewing countless artifacts found.

For two days, the group was fortunate to have a local tour guide, Florence La Mousse, a French citizen who is both an employee of the American Battle Monuments Commission and a licensed historical tour guide.

La Mousse is an absolute goldmine in terms of knowledge. She guided cadets as they visited the St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne battlefields, providing immense commentary and taking the cadets to some places most tourists never see.

One such visit was to Troyon Fort, a key French installation defending the Woëvre Plain at the beginning of the war. Demolished by German artillery in September 1914, the fort is private prop-

erty today and cannot be visited without special provisions.

One of the most meaningful events of the trip occurred one afternoon as the group was heading back to the hotel. La Mousse had quietly arranged to have the cadets lower the flags at the St. Mihiel American Cemetery and Memorial outside the town of Thiaucourt. As the van pulled into the cemetery at the end of a long day, just as it was closing, we announced to the group their mission: “You will fold both flags in the cemetery, and do so with precision and due solemnity.” Observed and coached by Combs, the cadets proceeded to do just that.

“I learned from my family members — after posting a few pictures of the trip to social media — that when I had the honor of lowering the flag at the St. Mihiel American Cemetery and Memorial, I was lowering the flag at the same cemetery where my great-grandfather is buried,” Hoeft said.

After a week on the road, the group headed to Trier, Germany, for a different cultural experience and a day of rest and recreation. Established by the Romans in the 1st century BC and considered the oldest city in Germany, Trier has several extant Roman ruins, including a gladiatorial arena.

The World War I course was a terrific success in every regard. The over-



The first site visit during the World War I trip was to the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme, a memorial to 72,337 missing British and South African servicemen who died in the Battles of the Somme of the First World War between 1915 and 1918, with no known grave.

seas portion was the capstone event that allowed the cadets to see and experience the reality of the war in a way that was tangible, personal, and sobering. All came away more mature, more committed to their development as leaders, and prouder as Americans.

“I think that this changed the way that I think of leadership and how I plan to conduct myself as a leader because it put a whole new level of responsibility on the meaning of serving my country,” Wolfe said.

“Seeing our flag flown in a foreign country, being celebrated for our actions

and remembered for our countrymen lost made me realize that this country is special, this country is appreciated, and this country has a lot of responsibility,” she said.

“I know that I will most likely never run the United States, but it made me realize that as a representative of the leadership of the U.S. armed forces, I hold some of that responsibility,” Wolfe said. “I am in part responsible for making sure that our country remains respected, appreciated, useful, and so is everyone that graduates from Virginia Tech and the Corps of Cadets.”

“ I THINK THAT THIS CHANGED THE WAY THAT I THINK OF LEADERSHIP AND HOW I PLAN TO CONDUCT MYSELF AS A LEADER BECAUSE **IT PUT A WHOLE NEW LEVEL OF RESPONSIBILITY ON THE MEANING OF SERVING MY COUNTRY.** ”



## WE STAY BUSY YEAR ROUND

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

“So what did you do this summer?”

That’s a question I often get asked.

People sometimes think that summer on a university campus is down time. That’s not really the case anymore, especially at Virginia Tech. No sooner do we get cadets on the road going home and get rooms on the Upper Quad cleaned and new people are moving in.

The university plays host to many groups over the summer, and, because our two residence halls are the newest and best, we see a lot of traffic. Among the visitors were a youth basketball camp followed by over 500 high-school Junior ROTC cadets here for a science and technology camp. These young cadets also used our obstacle course and rappelling tower, along with receiving information about the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets and what it has to offer.

Starting right after the Fourth of July, the university and the Corps shift into summer orientation gear. All incoming students, including our new cadets, come to campus for two days of briefings, meetings, and signing up for classes.

For our new cadets, the sessions include a briefing from me, meetings with ROTCs, and a visit to the Tailor Shop, where they are fitted for their uniforms. The seamstresses and cadet staff take those measurements to create the uniforms that will be waiting in the new

cadets’ rooms when they arrive for New Cadet Week.

Again, because of the location and quality of our residence halls, that meant that every day we were welcoming nearly an entire building’s worth of students — they alternated between Pearson and New Cadet halls — for over a month!

This continued into early August when, on the same day the last orientation students were checking out, our upper-class cadre began moving in to start their week of preparation training. Then the following Saturday, new cadets arrived followed a week later by the rest of the Corps. And then we started classes!

So, let’s see, that was July and August. What about end of May and June?

Our Global Scholars Program is one of the crown jewels in our efforts to produce graduates with a global perspective by using historic military and cultural venues with a focus on leadership at the strategic, operational, and tactical levels.

This year, my wife, Kathy, and I took part in the academic classes associated with one of our Global Scholar cohorts made up of 12 cadets. The particular venue was the efforts leading up to and the execution of the D-Day invasion.

Under the leadership of Lt. Col. Don Russell, deputy commandant for the Citizen-Leader Track, with the assis-



A long line of soon-to-be first-year students — and a few new cadets — check into Pearson Hall during the first week of Virginia Tech’s New Student Orientation sessions.



Cadet Megan Dennis '20, a multimedia journalism major in Army ROTC, describes to her 2018 Global Scholars cohort the precise tactical execution of a glider infantry assault at Pegasus Bridge by members of the British 6th Airborne Division, that kicked off D-Day.

tance of Gordon Rudd, whose experience includes being a West Point history professor, instructor for Marines at Quantico, and conducting classes on D-Day at the University of Virginia, we spent the spring semester in class learning about the various key leaders, their actions, and the intricate details of how this historic operation would take place.

In May, the team came together at Dulles International Airport for an all-night flight that would arrive in Paris early the next morning. After clearing customs, we immediately embarked on a bus to the Normandy area, where we began at Pegasus Bridge — the place where, before the action on the beaches occurred, gliders landed in the middle of the night with troops that secured the bridge to prevent German reinforcements from arriving and ensure an exit route for Allied forces coming inland.

Over the course of the next several days, we would visit Omaha and Utah beaches, Point du Hoc, and Arranches to learn about the unique challenges

of logistics and offloading leaders faced.

Of course, no learning experience could be complete without a visit to the American Military Cemetery at Normandy, where cadets placed Corps flags at the base of the crosses of the several alumni of Virginia Tech, including Medal of Honor recipient Jimmie Monteith.

Our route back to Paris included stopping at the famous Falaise Pocket, where we learned how good and bad decisions affected the local outcome as well as the timing and course of operations in the coming months.

In Paris, the cultural learning continued with visits to the Army Museum, where Napoleon's tomb is prominently displayed, to understand the military role of the Eiffel Tower and to walk on the streets where hundreds of thousands of Allied soldiers marched having replaced Hitler's occupying forces.

At each stop, the cadets who researched specific subjects in the classroom extended their presentations at the actual locations where the action took

place. It truly is one of the most impactful programs we have, not only for the cadets directly involved but for the many other cadets who learn from their experience. That includes all first-year cadets who visit the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Virginia. The Global Scholar cadets travel with them and conduct classes on the buses based on their learning experiences.

Needless to say, the demand for this program is high and is supported by generous donations we receive, including through the Global Scholars Annual Program option on the Corps' giving webpage.

So that's what our summer was like. How about yours?

Now, we are busy with the largest Corps since 1966. We welcomed 397 new cadets, bringing the total Corps to 1,127. We used lounges for bedrooms, added extra beds in some other rooms, and still turned people away.

Perhaps that's another story for another day.



Michael Schoka '17 addressed first-year cadets after the Fall Caldwell March, a 13-mile march that ends the first phase of new cadet training.

# A CALL TO SERVICE IS ANSWERED

By Cadet Leeann Jones '19

"I love that." Michael Schoka '17 said with a chuckle as he saw a line of first-year cadets dragging down the hall, sounding off to upper-class cadets. "I forgot how much I miss this place."

Returning to Virginia Tech is a great experience for any alumnus, even a recent graduate. In December 2016, Schoka obtained a degree in mathematics and a minor in leadership studies. A member of Lima Company, Schoka served as first sergeant his junior year and regimental commander in fall 2016. He used his experiences to lead others to excellence, earning him the Douglas MacArthur Award and the Division of Student Affairs Aspire! Award for self-understanding and integrity.

Today, he is a police officer for the

Prince William County (Virginia) Police Department.

In his senior year of high school, Schoka felt drawn to a life of service. "I decided I wanted to join the military," he recalled. "I felt like the Lord had put a calling on my life to join the military and serve my country."

His brother, Andrew Schoka '16, had gone through his first year in the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets, and Michael was intrigued by the program. He wanted the full experience: the best education he could get combined with a military training environment. It also helped that his girlfriend at the time, now his wife, decided to attend Virginia Tech. "That also kind of persuaded me a little bit," Schoka said. "I applied, clicked

the cadet button, and that was the start of an awesome journey."

That journey wasn't without obstacles. While home from winter break during his first year, he was diagnosed with celiac disease, an autoimmune disorder in which eating gluten damages the small intestine. He tried to stay positive, adjusting to the new dietary restrictions and physical regime while he waited for a waiver from the Air Force.

The waiver never came. Schoka lost his scholarship and had to leave the Air Force ROTC program.

He switched to the Citizen-Leader Track and finished what he started as a cadet. "If it weren't for VPI Battalion, I wouldn't have been able to be in the Corps," Schoka said. "It was definitely a

big change, something that was challenging because I saw all my classmates and good friends that I was either in ROTC with or in a company with, and they were doing basically what I wanted to be doing. I'm very thankful that I was able to see the value of this program even without the promise of a commission at the end of it."

Schoka immersed himself in the VPI Battalion and the Corps. He strived to learn anything and everything he could.

"I tried to still encourage people to see the value of the program even if it doesn't mean getting a commission, but just to better yourself as a leader and as a person," he said. "The Corps has a habit of making solid people rock solid and just fine-tuning bits and pieces of your life that you didn't realize needed improvement, making them razor sharp. Really, some of the brightest and best students at Virginia Tech are in the Corps."

Schoka looked for another way to answer the call to service that motivated him. It came in the form of an internship with the U.S. Department of Justice. He worked with the FBI for two summers and intermittently throughout the rest of his time at Virginia Tech. This experience introduced him to the law enforcement profession and gave him a new path to follow.

The last semester of his senior year, Schoka received a phone call after a math class offering him a job at the Prince William County Police Department.

"It's a great department. The officers I work with are phenomenal," he said. "It's nice to be surrounded by people that have committed their lives, their time and their careers up to this point to serving and protecting."

Schoka is a patrol officer. His job requires him to manage many different



Today, Schoka is a patrol officer with the Prince William County (Virginia) Police Department.

things at once, from responding to calls to doing paperwork. He compares the time-management skills needed at the department to those he learned as regimental commander.

He specifically recalled Commandant of Cadets Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart's piece of advice, "If you can get something done in two minutes, do it now," as a rule he still follows today.

"There's little things like that, moments you'll remember and look back on and just be grateful that you had such great mentors and staff," Schoka said. "Everyone is just so invested in helping you become the best person you can be."

Virginia Tech has one of the highest commissioning rates among the nation's senior military colleges, but through the Corps' Citizen-Leader Track, students like Schoka are able to continue their journey of service outside of a military career.

"I don't think there was anything else I could have done at Virginia Tech to prepare myself better for my career, or for any career, than going through the Corps," said Schoka.



Third Battalion Deputy Commandant Lt. Col. Charles Payne prepares Schoka on the rappel tower during Schoka's New Cadet Week training.

His advice to cadets is simple. "If you spend time trying to help other people reach their goals, you'll often find that you surpass the ones you set for yourself. Gifting someone your time and energy and just showing that you are concerned and invested in their development is something that will help you tenfold down the road."



From left are U.S. Marine Corps Col. James Davis (retired), U.S. Marine Corps Gen. John Sheehan (retired), Virginia Sen. John Edwards, and Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart. (Photos by Cadet Melissa Gabriel '19)

## CADETS LEARN ABOUT A SPECIAL LEADER

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

The Major General W. Thomas Rice Center is working to facilitate the fulfillment of our mission to develop “Global, Ethical Leaders... Now More Than Ever!” The Corps Lab curriculum, the leadership minor, attendance of our cadets at leadership conferences, and the participation of distinguished guests for our Cutchins Leadership Lecture Series continue to be front and center.

The decision to make Corps Lab optional for the juniors and seniors enabled us to provide those cadets who are fully engaged in our program an opportunity to enhance their leader development.

With the position of quality over quantity, the cadets are getting very special experiences such as Virginia Tech basketball Coach Buzz Williams and Assistant Coach Jamie McNeilly addressing the seniors about self and team leadership. Additionally, we are recognizing

these cadets for their higher level of engagement by giving them first chance to raise their hand to attend dinners with our guest speakers and to represent the Corps at leadership conferences. The cadets have been very supportive.

We also hosted the first COL Fox: The Man Behind the Medal dinner and

lecture for the first-year cadets on Oct. 1 to remember Medal of Honor recipient, U.S. Marine, and former deputy commandant Col. Wesley L. Fox, who died in 2017.

His widow, Dotti Lu Fox, honored us by joining Virginia Sen. John Edwards, U.S. Marine Corps Gen. John J. Sheehan (retired), and U.S. Marine Corps Col. James D. Davis (retired) as our guests. Commandant of Cadets Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart led the conversation as everyone shared personal and professional stories.

While we will continue to use Fox’s book “Six Essential Elements of Leadership” for Corps Lab, we plan to host this event annually for future classes to ensure that they know and fully appreciate Fox’s noteworthy service to our country and our Corps. He will never be forgotten!

SENIOR CADET COMMANDERS, FALL 2018

REGIMENTAL COMMANDER **JOHN HOLLAND**



Cadet Col. John Holland is pursuing a dual degree through the honors college in corporate finance and business management with a minor in leadership studies. Upon graduation he will begin working as a management consultant for RSM US in McLean, Virginia. He has held multiple leadership positions in the Corps and across

campus. In the Corps, he served as 1st Battalion sergeant major and then as the regimental sergeant major. Across campus, he serves the Class of 2019 and the Corps as cadet member at large, and he is a Hokie ambassador, an orientation leader, and an Aspiration fellow. He is the recipient of an Emerging Leader Scholarship.

FIRST BATTALION COMMANDER

Removed at the request of the alumnus.

SECOND BATTALION COMMANDER **KEVIN THOMPSON**



Cadet Lt. Col. Kevin Thompson is pursuing a degree in industrial and systems engineering with minors in green engineering and naval leadership. He plans to the commission into the U.S. Navy and become a submarine officer. In the Corps, he has served as a cadre sergeant, pla-

toon sergeant, and first sergeant for Golf Company. He has served as chief petty officer and master chief petty officer in the Naval ROTC Battalion. He is a recipient of a Navy ROTC scholarship and an Emerging Leader Scholarship.

THIRD BATTALION COMMANDER **JACOB DAVIS**



Cadet Lt. Col. Jacob Davis is pursuing a degree in industrial and systems engineering with a minor in naval leadership. He will commission into the U.S. Navy Submarine Force upon graduation. In the Corps, he served as the Band Bravo Company first sergeant and the 3rd Bat-

talion sergeant major. In Naval ROTC, he served as the Alpha Company chief petty officer and the battalion operations officer. Davis is a Highty-Tighty and a recipient of a Naval ROTC four-year scholarship and of the Emerging Leadership Scholarship.

*Note to readers: Because the Corps of Cadets changed portrait photographers this year, most of the Quad Angle photos were taken during the cadets' junior year.*

## COMMAND STAFF, FALL 2018



Regimental Executive Officer  
Hanna Kobayashi  
Human Development  
Navy



Regimental Adjutant  
Benjamin Scholz  
Civil Engineering  
Navy



Regimental Public Affairs  
Officer  
Melissa Gabriel  
Public Relations and Political  
Science  
Army



Regimental Operations Officer  
Nathanael Wilson  
Finance  
Air Force



Regimental Supply and Finance  
Officer  
Kelley Crennan  
Psychology  
Army



Regimental Academics Officer  
Nathan Bolha  
Electrical Engineering  
Air Force



Regimental Sergeant Major  
Eryn Wolfe  
Natural Resources  
Conservation  
Army



Regimental Inspector General  
Catie Rendon  
Meteorology  
Citizen-Leader Track



Regimental Alumni Liaison  
Officer  
Eleanor Franc  
Political Science  
Citizen-Leader Track



Exec Committee Chairman  
Antonio Marrero  
Economics  
Air Force



VPI Battalion Commander  
Gregory House  
Civil Engineering  
Citizen-Leader Track



Army Battalion Commander  
Patrick Rives  
Political Science  
Army



Navy Battalion Commander  
Abel Solomon  
Biochemistry  
Navy



Air Force Wing Commander  
Noah White  
Political Science and  
Economics  
Air Force



Growley Handler  
Sarafina Ramalho  
Political Science  
Army



Alpha Company Commander  
Mark McVeigh  
Civil Engineering  
Air Force



Bravo Company Commander  
Harry Crosby  
Ocean Engineering  
Navy



Charlie Company Commander  
Logan Grow  
Psychology  
Army



Delta Company  
Commander  
Austin Hill  
Criminology  
Navy



Echo Company Commander  
Gavin Moore  
Aerospace Engineering  
Navy



Foxtrot Company Commander  
Amber Shea  
Psychology  
Air Force



Golf Company Commander  
Brett Smith  
Physics  
Air Force



Hotel Company Commander  
Jake Clarence  
Russian  
Air Force



India Company Commander  
Peter Szwerc  
Mathematics  
Navy



Kilo Company Commander  
Clayton Satterfield  
Aerospace Engineering  
Air Force



Lima Company Commander  
Tana Jane Putnam  
History  
Army



Band Commander  
Paul Huemme  
Building Construction  
Navy



Band Alpha Commander  
Colleen Pramenko  
Meteorology  
Air Force



Band Bravo Commander  
Djamila Lou  
Nanoscience and Russian  
Air Force



Drum Major  
Parker Treubert  
Aerospace Engineering  
Air Force

# CLASS NOTES

## 1950s



In April, the Rotary Club of Christiansburg-Blacksburg awarded its 2018 Citizen of the Year Award to **Dick Arnold '56**. After a career with Union Carbide, he returned to Blacksburg and became president of the Blacksburg Sports Club and was inducted into the Virginia Tech Athletics Hall of Fame. He is a member of the College of Engineering Academy of Engineering Excellence and the German Club and provides mission work for the United Methodist Church overseas. He is pictured with his wife, Dawn Musser.

## 1980s



**Scott Sturgill '84** represents the Hokies at the Aug. 31 College Colors Day at The Villages, Florida.

## 1990s



**Capt. Rich Davis '90**, at right, retired from the U.S. Navy after 28 years of service. Davis is a naval aviator and flew the SH-2F Seasprite and the SH-60B Seahawk. His sea assignments included Helicopter Antisubmarine Light Squadron (HSL) 32 on the USS Thomas C. Hart and the USS Josephus Daniels; HSL-44 on the USS Halyburton, USS Briscoe, and USS Doyle; flag lieutenant to the George Washington Battle Group; and department head with HSL-44 on the USS Underwood. Ashore, Davis served as a flight instructor and plank owner with HSL-40. He was an Afghanistan action officer, Southeast Asia action officer, and executive assistant on the Joint Staff, Strategic Plans and Policy Directorate before taking command of the World Famous Swamp Foxes of HSL-44. Davis next served as anti-submarine warfare and aviation section head in the Surface Warfare Directorate on the Navy Staff and airborne intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance section head on the Secretary of Defense staff. His final tour was as the Navy chair and assistant professor at the Eisenhower School at

National Defense University. He and his bride, the former Bonnie Gail Kraus VT'90, will live in Roanoke.



**Rich Holland '93** has a new teaching position as assistant professor of philosophy at Grand Canyon University in Phoenix.



**Matt Cosner '97** was a team recipient of the 2018 Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisition) Dr. Delores M. Etter Award for work supporting Navy integration and interoperability. Cosner is an operations research analyst at Naval Air Systems Command, Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Maryland.

## 2000s

On July 3, U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. **Frank A. Theising HT'01** assumed command of the 375th Communications Squadron at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. In his new role, he leads a squadron of over 320 military, civilian, and contract personnel, delivering command, control, communications, computer, and information services



to 12,000 base personnel and over 100 Department of Defense locations across the continental United States. He is at right in the photo above.



U.S. Air Force **Maj. Sarah Bowles '05**, at right, assumes command of the 325th Logistics Readiness Squadron commander on July 20 at Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida. Before her current assignment, Bowles served as the director of operations for the 51st Logistics Readiness Squadron at Osan Air Base, South Korea.



U.S. Navy Lt. **Cmdr. Robert Perris '06**, at left, and **Lt. j.g. Perry Artz '07** pose for a photo on the USS Maryland.



U.S. Coast Guard **Lt. Ned Burgwyn '08**, at left, and U.S. Navy **Lt. Lou Marie (Ortega) Chew '08** attend the USCGC Washington Change of Command Ceremony on July 6 at Naval Base Guam. Burgwyn completed a successful two-year tour as commanding officer of the 110-foot island-class patrol boat that performs search and rescue, law enforcement, and defense readiness missions around Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, and the Western Pacific. Upon relief, Burgwyn transferred to the First Coast Guard District staff in Boston. Chew is currently stationed at Naval Base Guam.

## 2010s



**Josiah Jeffers '16** ran into **Capt. Wallace Rollins '09** in southern Af-

ghanistan. Both men were executive officers for Ranger Company during their time in the Corps.



U.S. Army **1st Lt. Brett A. Romig '16** poses with his outgoing battalion commander **Lt. Col. David S. Diaz HT'98** after his Change of Command Ceremony on April 30. Romig served as a tank platoon leader under Diaz in Berserker Company, 1-9 CAV.



U.S. Army **2nd Lt. Tiffany (Borden) Reuss '17** is deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Spartan Shield. She's a maintenance platoon leader in the Forward Support Company of the 92nd Engineer Battalion.

SUBMIT YOUR DEPLOYMENTS, JOB AND RANK CHANGES, HONORS, PHOTOS, AND OTHER NEWS AT [VTCC.VT.EDU/CLASSNOTES](http://VTCC.VT.EDU/CLASSNOTES).

# HIGHTY-TIGHTY REUNION AND VIRGINIA TECH HOMECOMING WAS NOV. 3.



Drum Major Lori Keck-Beach '92 leads the alumni band through downtown Blacksburg during the homecoming parade.



Highty-Tighty Alumni President Emeritus Bert Kinzey '68 awards the Jim Schaeffer Memorial Scholarship to Cadet Brendan Guthrie '21.



Members of the Class of 2018 (plus one from the Class of 1968) pose for a picture before the football game begins.



U.S. Navy Cmdr. Stacy Uttecht '00 talks with cadets in front of one of the two F/A-18F Super Hornets that would fly over Lane Stadium at the start of the football game.



Highty-Tighties of all generations prepare to begin the pregame show.



# LET'S REINVENT OUR ALUMNI BOARD

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

Virginia Tech recently announced its 10-year plan. The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni (VTCCA) board of directors decided we should look at our board's strategic plan as well.

David Lowe '63 has taken on the task of leading our reinventing of the alumni board.

Our original mission was to save the Corps when the VTCCA was formed in the 1990s. Now that the Corps is at its highest enrollment in 50 years, we believe it is time to look at our role again.

Our Corps started this fall with 1,127 cadets. We even had to turn down some applicants this year due to lack of bed space. Can you believe that?

We have had two strategic planning meetings so far. The committee's members represent a variety of class years and backgrounds. David has done a great job keeping us focused and on track.

We have recognized that we need to engage, advise, and advocate. We also have concluded that we must maintain and grow the momentum that our Corps has achieved. Our basketball coach, Buzz Williams, always says, "The arrogance of success is to think that what you did



David Lowe '63, at left, talks with Commandant of Cadets Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart while volunteering during New Cadet Move-In.

yesterday will be good enough for tomorrow."

Commandant of Cadets Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart believes that retention and recruiting are the top reasons for our wonderful success.

The staff is doing a great job and so are the Corps alumni. We understand that we must compete every day to get the best students in our program.

David and the committee will finalize their recommendations and present them to the full board in spring 2019. I will publish our decisions in my report for the spring Corps Review.

Our fall events were canceled because of Hurricane Florence. Please come back to campus and participate in our spring events.

Our cadets always appreciate it.

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

# OLMSTED CADETS TRAVEL TO PANAMA

In May, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets and Olmsted Foundation Undergraduate Scholars traveled to Panama to experience the country's culture, history, and people.

The George and Carol Olmsted Foundation, based in Falls Church, Virginia, has long supported educational

programs that give active-duty military officers, along with cadets and midshipmen at the U.S. senior military colleges, such as Virginia Tech, a better understanding of foreign cultures.

"Going to Panama reminded me not to get stuck in a small bubble of my life because there is so much more this

world has to offer us. And even more important are the opportunities we shouldn't miss to help the world. Knowledge can help us connect, understand, and relate more to the other cultures because we're not too different from them," said Jazmine Lewis '18.



For their service project, cadets provided extra hands to the Sisters of Mercy children's center in Colon, cleaning up toys, moving food and water supplies, and doing whatever other tasks were needed.



Above, cadets pause for a photo while visiting the Panama Canal Commission. From left are Taja Page, Kayla Culbreath, Fallon Fulgenzi '18, Jonghyuk Park '19, Brett Smith '19, Chris Brown '18, Rebecca Reynolds '18, and Jazmine Lewis '18. At right, Cadets took in the view of the Panama City skyline.



A member of the Embera tribe took cadets to a rock formation so they could jump into the Chagres River.





First-year cadets take a break during the fall Caldwell March.

## HOW ARE WE DOING WITH RECRUITING?

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

I ask myself this question quite frequently, and others ask me the same thing quite frequently. I usually resort to my line that I borrowed from former Commandant of Cadets Lt. Gen. Howard Lane many years ago: “We have done well, and we can do better.”

The reason I fall back to this is that you can drive yourself crazy chasing numbers and trying to build trend lines that may or may not actually exist. Variables that are well beyond the control of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets make recruiting predictions a guessing game.

Each year, the applicant pool for Virginia Tech sets, or at least moves the needle, on the numbers of students offered admission to the university. That one variable can enormously help or hurt all the good work of the cadets and alumni recruiters.

Mix in variables such as the effectiveness of our printed material, our website, the number of college fairs we can

reach, even the number of conversations we have with potential cadets, and you have the formula for nothing more than a hazy picture of the future.

The best advice I can share with alumni recruiters is stick to it and keep telling the Corps’ story. As we have discussed in this column before, every year stands separate and alone.

My friend Charlie Cornelison was right all those years ago when he likened recruiting to the Huckleberry — the train pulls in at mid-August and drops off the new cadet class and then leaves Blacksburg completely empty. It is up to the Corps, the commandant’s professional recruiting staff, and alumni recruiters to fill those cars between August and the deadline for regular decision admissions, which is Jan. 15, 2019 – five months!

This year, Virginia Tech’s Admissions Office asked Corps alumni for help with college fairs with a new electronic format for signing up. If you were pay-

ing attention to your email, you may have seen a “tail wag” from the Corps’ canine ambassador Growley II headlining the need for alumni recruiters.

The campaign was highly effective. In a matter of a few weeks, the number of Corps alumni supporting college fairs far exceeded the volunteer level of individual alumni chapters, and this semester we helped with more college fairs in one semester than we did in the entire previous year. Keep your eyes open for future emails as the spring out-of-state college fair season will begin to heat up after the first of the year.

My thanks to all of you who faithfully tell the Corps’ story year after year. To those of you who want to get involved, please do so.

So how did we do this year? We had 397 freshman cadets and a Corps that started the year at an enrollment of 1,127 — the largest the university has seen since 1966. We did well, very well.

# ARMY ROTC NEWS

While others were sleeping in and playing video games this summer, members of the New River Battalion were training.

Eighty-five cadets attended Cadet Summer Training (CST) at Fort Knox, Kentucky. This is a 30-day leadership development and assessment course that uses infantry tactical scenarios and prolonged field conditions (19 days). Cadets attend the summer before their senior year.

Twelve cadets attended the Army's Airborne, Air Assault, and Master Fitness Trainer courses, competing for top honors alongside active duty soldiers.

These weren't traditional classroom-based courses — these cadets parachuted from aircraft in flight and rappelled from Blackhawk helicopters! They took part in internship programs at a Louisiana broadcasting company, the National Security Agency, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Lincoln Lab, where innovative defense technologies are researched and tested.

Fourteen Virginia Tech cadets traveled to Army installations in the continental United States, Hawaii, and overseas to experience the day-to-day life of soldiers in the Cadet Troop Leader Training program. Twenty-nine cadets traveled to 14 countries to take part in the Cultural Understanding and Leadership Program, fostering a closer relationship between the United States and our allies. Another 13 cadets traveled to four countries with Project Global Officer to further their foreign language skills.



Maj. Gen. John Evans, commanding general of U.S. Army Cadet Command, at left, congratulates Cadet Nathan Markley '19 for earning the coveted RECONDO Award at Cadet Summer Training.



Cadet Davronbek Zaynetdinov '19 hikes the Kuliouou Ridge Trail in southern Oahu, Hawaii.



Our Army 10 Miler team outside the Pentagon on Oct. 7. The team placed seventh of 96 ROTC teams.

Below you will get a sampling of the summer experiences of our cadets.

### NATHAN MARKLEY '19

My time at Cadet Summer Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, was memorable with lots of new learning experiences and adversity. We were thrown into a platoon of 40+ cadets and expected to not only live and work together, but also to get along with each other. It was definitely something new for me! I believe that coming from a program like the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets and Virginia Tech Army ROTC truly prepared me for camp and allowed me to excel above my peers. While at camp, I received the RECONDO Award, which is given to those who completed all basic soldiering tasks at an advanced level. One of the biggest lessons I learned there was to not give up on yourself. I did not expect to earn the RECONDO badge because I believed that I scored less than the required 90 percent on one of the earliest tests. Instead of just getting the minimal standards from that point on, I strove to get the highest scores possible. Only in the very end did I learn that I

scored high enough on all the tasks at camp to receive the award. I earned the RECONDO badge because I never quit on myself and always tried to do the best I possibly could. *(Note to readers: Only one or two cadets per 600-person regiment earned RECONDO.)*

### DAVRONBEK ZAYNETDINOV '19

During my Cadet Troop Leader Training experience, I traveled to the 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, to observe a platoon leader of a mounted reconnaissance platoon. I was able to participate in a team-level situational training exercise, an eight-mile dismounted insertion followed by reconnaissance patrols, observation post establishment, and Fast Rope Insertion and Extraction System training. I shadowed a variety of officers with various specialties to further develop my understanding of the Army profession. I was introduced to new concepts and was physically tested and mentally challenged. This experience better prepared me to lead my own platoon in the future by providing me with more tools to



The Latvian platoon of Cadet Kevin Leinberger '19 falls back to another defensive position under the cover of smoke during Operation Saber Strike. The exercise was the highlight of Leinberger's Cultural Understanding and Leadership Program mission.

make me successful. I am thankful for all the mentorship and first-hand experience this opportunity provided.

### KEVIN LEINBERGER '19

I took part in Operation Saber Strike in Latvia, along with a number of other ROTC cadets, as part of a Cultural Understanding and Leadership Program mission. We were integrated into a Latvian light infantry company with two American cadets per squad. I was assigned as the assistant machine gunner to my new Latvian friend, Andrejs Podans. I learned that, despite having a small army, Latvian soldiers are extremely professional and highly motivated to defend their homeland against any aggressor. I think the greatest moment of my trip occurred during a defense-in-depth, when my squad delayed the forward movement of an enemy platoon of Slovakian armored vehicles so the rest of our unit could move to our next defensive line. As I approach my commissioning date, I will take comfort in knowing that I will be part of a multi-national force composed of NATO nations who fight for a common cause.



At center from left, Midshipmen Jacob Gray '20, Austin Kassman '20, and Chase Liddon '20 coordinate the details while executing the annual Battalion Field Meet. (Photos by Cadet Abby Averna '20)

# NAVAL ROTC NEWS

By Cadet Abby Averna '20

Each year in Blacksburg, Virginia, the Corps of Cadets welcomes more than 300 new students to the Virginia Tech family. This year, the entering class of 2022 saw 98 new freshmen, or midshipmen fourth class, begin their four-year journey with the Naval ROTC (NROTC) Battalion, which works in conjunction with the Corps to commission officers in the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps. We graduate 40 to 50 new officers each year.

The midshipmen fourth class who joined the NROTC this year come from all walks of life, some with military family legacies and others who will be the first in their families to serve. In the words of Rear Adm. Jesse Wilson, the commander of Naval Surface Forces Atlantic and a special guest of the NROTC this fall, "These midshipmen stand on the shoulders of giants." From Virginia Tech's seven Medal of Honor recipients to Ensign Sarah Mitchell '17 who lost her life in the service of our country this past summer, Virginia Tech's motto, *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve), is a cornerstone of the moral, mental, and physical development they will undergo.

## MIDSHIPMEN FOURTH CLASS

For the NROTC Battalion, August is a time of excitement and apprehension. For the midshipmen fourth class, this time represents the first of many new challenges and experiences devoted toward a higher sense of purpose. Applying the concept that "great leaders begin as great followers," they are accountable for themselves and also their squad mates. They are expected to constantly assess the environment; observe their squad leaders, company staff, and the active duty staff to absorb leadership lessons; and prepare themselves for a career of service and leadership.

This first year introduces the concepts of teamwork and team goals. Events such as the annual Battalion Field Meet in September highlight these concepts. During it, midshipmen from all four Navy-option companies and the unit's single Marine-option company competed against each other in five events that focused on teamwork, physical fitness, critical-thinking skills, and esprit de corps in the face of adversity. The 46 Marine-option midshipmen of Raider Company emerged

victorious, earning bragging rights until the next Battalion Field Meet. Additionally this fall, the NROTC Battalion sponsored community-outreach service projects, focusing on team-building within the unit and engagement with the local community.

## MIDSHIPMEN THIRD CLASS

The newly minted sophomores, or midshipmen third class assumed the reins as squad leaders, earning their first formal opportunities to practice the leadership skills and techniques they observed throughout their freshman year. The midshipmen third class mentor the freshmen, teaching appropriate standards and expectations not only of the NROTC, but of the Corps of Cadets and the university. Squad leader is a key position and arguably one of the most essential tests of mentorship and leadership that a billet can offer within the battalion.

Small-unit leadership drives daily action not only within the battalion, ensuring every midshipmen is contributing and progressing in his or her development as well as in the fleet. Authentic leaders who take an active role in their subordinates' lives are essential for our Navy and Marine Corps, and these skills are practiced daily by Virginia Tech's midshipmen.

## MIDSHIPMEN SECOND CLASS

Next in the midshipman hierarchy come the juniors, or midshipmen second class. This is the year they take on organizational leadership roles, running the battalion from a different perspective. With over two years of experience and perspective as midshipmen, they take on roles such as midshipman petty officer, in which they are entrusted with guiding half of a company, roughly 25 to 30 midshipmen, in discipline and professionalism matters.

Additionally, midshipmen second class occupy battalion staff positions, ensuring effective communication and coordination between the companies, the unit staff, and the Corps of Cadets. This is where plans and goals are placed into action.

## MIDSHIPMEN FIRST CLASS

For the senior class, or the midshipmen first class, fall marks the pinnacle of their efforts in the unit. They are entering their fourth year of education and development, carrying the full load of battalion leadership and preparing for service assignment. This is when all their hard work begins to bear fruit. At service assignment this October, the midshipmen first class earned 15 pilot billets, nine surface warfare billets, eight submarine billets, three special warfare (SEAL) billets, two



Midshipmen from Naval ROTC Bravo Company volunteer at Virginia Tech's School of Public and International Affairs to package books to be shipped to Mzuzu University in Malawi Africa.

naval flight officer billets, and one special operations billet. This marked Virginia Tech as the top producer of special warfare officers for the second consecutive year and of submarine officers for the fifth consecutive year out of the nation's 77 NROTC units.

This exceptional production rate highlights the quality of our Virginia Tech graduates — the hard work and sweat equity they place into bettering themselves and their shipmates each and every day — as well as the symbiotic officer development relationship between the NROTC Battalion and the Corps of Cadets.

As these newly assigned seniors continue to maintain a high level of performance in the final countdown to graduation and the closing of their college careers, they are constantly looking forward to their service careers that lie ahead.

When it comes time to be fitted for fleet uniforms in the spring, a symbolic passing of the torch occurs to the junior classes — Brotherhood, Honor, Leadership, Sacrifice, Service, Loyalty, Duty — the pylons of Virginia Tech's core values all focused on the goal, *Ut Prosim*.

Our midshipmen truly stand on the shoulders of giants — alumni of Virginia Tech and veterans of our great military services — and they proudly enrich the tradition of the Corps of Cadets and the university every day, keeping the torch alive for the generations yet to come.



Cadets from Detachment 875 joined cadets from other detachments at field training this summer.

# AIR FORCE ROTC NEWS

By Cadet Kyle Bassett '21

The cadets have stayed busy since the spring semester ended, as Air Force ROTC Detachment 875 continues to strive for success at all levels and prepare cadets for their Air Force futures.

This summer, 56 cadets attended field training at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, where they were evaluated on their leadership abilities. Upon their successful completion of training, they transitioned into upper-class cadet roles with Detachment 875. Eleven cadets were recognized at the end of their training: Nine earned cadet training assistant recommendations, and two were selected as distinguished graduates in the nationwide training.

Under the leadership of the wing commander, Cadet Noah



Cadets pose for a picture after arriving in Ohio for the Air Force Marathon.

White '19, cadets have been tasked with holding each another accountable for self-improvement with goals of attaining a wing Physical Fitness Assessment average of 96 or higher, as well as an academic goal of a grade point average of 3.3 for the semester.

“In order to lead a life of excellence in all that we do, it is important for everyone to know their purpose and to know their reason for getting up in the morning. With their purposes in mind, the wing is striving to produce the best second lieutenants for the United States Air

Force,” White said in explaining his vision and goals for the term.

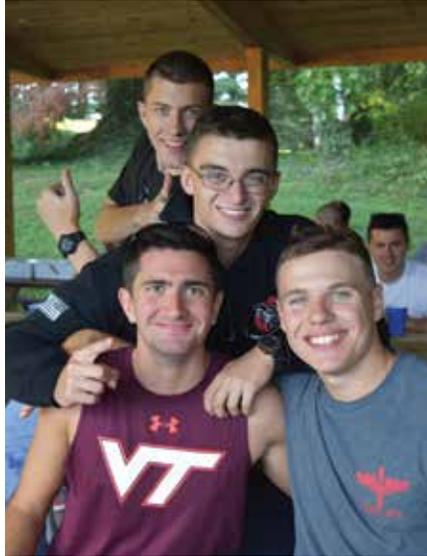
At the start of the fall semester, 41 cadets were sworn in

with the Oath of Enlistment as they committed formally to service to the Air Force after graduation. Thirty-three cadets received Air Force ROTC scholarships to pursue journeys of continued academic excellence in a variety of majors such as engineering, meteorology, and national security studies.

We are excited to welcome our newest members of the Detachment 875 family as they assumed their roles in helping support our growing detachment. We welcome Col. Eric Dorminey '90 as our new detachment commander and senior instructor, as well as Capt. Jacob Drinkard as the instructor for the sophomore cadets.

To kick off the year, the annual wing picnic was held at Blacksburg Municipal Park. Field training success was celebrated, and another cadet was contracted on scholarship. It was a great day for returning cadets to reconnect and for the newest cadets to be welcomed into the unit.

On Sept. 11, the detachment held the annual 9/11 workout at Lane Stadium



Cadets Michael Bopp '20, Tyler Pakish '21, Dominic Angelo '20, and Vincent Stevens '21 at the Welcome Back Picnic in August.

in memory of the innocent lives lost on Sept. 11, 2001. Each cadet aimed to climb a total of 2,996 steps in remembrance of those who died as a result of the attacks 17 years ago.

After the workout, Dorminey reminded cadets to always be aware of the leadership path they are undertak-

ing as they carry about their day-to-day activities, a movement toward refining themselves as future leaders across the globe, and that they will be in charge of ensuring our country's freedom.

On Sept. 13, 35 cadets traveled to Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, to compete in the Air Force 10K, half marathon, and marathon. Cadet Andrew Bonavita '21 led the way and finished the marathon in 3 hours 32 minutes, taking first place in his age group. Numerous other cadets set personal records in time and distance ran.

Once a year, Detachment 875 honors a leader from Virginia Tech's alumni for contributions to the field of aviation. In September, cadets welcomed back Maj. Gen. John McMullen VT'85, who served 31 years in the Air Force, as he was inducted into the Virginia Tech Air Force Wall of Fame.

As we continue to train, all cadets are staying busy as they strive to do their best at each and every challenge ahead.



Cadets stand with the 2018 honoree, Maj Gen John McMullen VT'85, at the Air Force Wall of Fame at the Virginia Tech Montgomery Executive Airport.

The Aviation Wall of Fame is an annual event honoring a Virginia Tech alumnus who has made significant contributions to the field of aviation. The Robert Femoyer Service Squadron selects one awardee each year.

Make your nomination at [af.vt.edu](http://af.vt.edu).



Regimental Commander John Holland '19 addresses new cadets after the Fall Caldwell March.

# BE PART OF THE CORPS' MOMENTUM

By Sandi R. Bliss, chief advancement officer

With a record number of cadets, your investment in the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets is more important than ever! However you chose to give to the Corps, we are grateful for your partnership and would be honored to assist you.

## WAYS TO GIVE

Endowments are a powerful investment in the future of the Corps. They provide a dependable, perpetual source of funding.

Endowed gifts are invested, and each year a percentage of the return is made available to the university to support critical Corps initiatives. The distribution amount is approved by the Virginia Tech Foundation board each year. Endowments can be created with a minimum gift of \$100,000.

Annual gifts of any amount can make an immediate impact. They can be made one time or arranged to be made on convenient, recurring basis. Gifts to the Commandant's Priority Fund of \$500 or greater automatically sponsor a first-year cadet on the fall or spring Caldwell March.

- Give online at [givingto.vt.edu/vtcc](http://givingto.vt.edu/vtcc)
- Text to give to 41444 and reply VTCC

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

- Securities such as stocks, bonds, and mutual funds
- Real estate, including both present and future interests
- Gifts-in-kind of tangible property, such as works of art or historic memorabilia

## IN MEMORY / IN HONOR

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

## EMPLOYER MATCHING GIFTS

Many Corps donors are employed by companies that encourage donations to higher education. Donors who wish to support the Corps often can provide more substantial support with the assistance of a matching gift company.

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

## GIFT PLANNING OPTIONS

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

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

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

Some of these are:

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

- Using a gift model such as a charitable gift annuity, charitable remainder annuity trust, charitable remainder unitrust, charitable lead trust, or IRA rollover

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

## OTHER WAYS TO BE INVOLVED

- Become a Class Champion

- Help create a cadet internship opportunity

- Host an alumni event at your home or business

- Keep your contact information current

*For more information about any of these opportunities, please contact the Corps of Cadets advancement team at 540-231-2892 or VTCC@vt.edu.*



## We need your nominations for the 2019 Distinguished Alumni of the Corps

We have long recognized and celebrated our alumni in various ways, and now we have formally established an annual award for Distinguished Alumni of the Corps.

A committee made up of members of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Inc. board, a member of the commandant's staff, and a member-at-large from the university will review nominations and select each year's recipient. The honoree, along with family and friends, will be invited to a recognition reception and ceremony, generally held during the spring semester.

Nomination packages will be held for each individual for five years. If an individual is not selected for the award, her or her nomination package may be updated and renewed for consideration in a subsequent year. Nominator's names will not be disclosed without their permission.

You may mail or email nominations. Details and forms are at [vtcc.vt.edu/alumni](http://vtcc.vt.edu/alumni).

Nomination packages are due Jan. 7, 2019.

IN MEMORY



**CECIL PERCY BALDERSON '32**

**1912 - 2018**

Cecil P. Balderson died July 17 at the age of 105. He was born in Warsaw, Virginia, on Oct. 2, 1912. He attended Virginia Polytechnic Institute from 1930 to 1932, serving in Company H. After college, he worked as a desk clerk at the Hotel William Byrd in Richmond, Virginia, then as a sales representative for Texaco and the Balcrank Corporation. In 1936, he married Violet Bush. They were married for 71 years, until her death in 2007. He visited Virginia Tech several years ago and was honored as the oldest living alumnus at that time. He is survived by a son.



**CARL N. WALLNAU JR. '41**

**1919 - 2018**

Carl N. Wallnau Jr. died June 29 at the age of 99. He paid for his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute by playing trumpet in his jazz ensemble, Styles by Lyles. He served in the U.S. Air Force under both Gen. George S. Patton and Gen. Jimmy Doolittle in Tunisia, Naples, Sicily, and Paris. He retired as a major. He attended night school and earned a law degree from Brooklyn Law School while working a day job in sales and marketing for Standard Oil. In 1964, he accepted a position at Meenan Oil, eventually serving as vice president and acquisition specialist. He is survived by a daughter and two sons.



**PAUL MITCHELL FLETCHER '42**

**1920 - 2018**

U.S. Army Col. Paul Fletcher (retired) died on May 29 at the age of 97. A native Virginian, he commissioned in 1942 after graduating from Virginia Polytechnic Institute with a bachelor's degree in agriculture. He served 32 years during World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. Among his many awards, he received four awards of the Legion of Merit for meritorious performance of duty. After his retirement in 1974, he worked for eight years as a clerk with the Washington Alcoholic Control Board. He is survived by his wife, Barbara, and two daughters and three sons.



**WILLIAM DUNCAN POLLARD SR. '53**

**1932 - 2018**

William "Bill" Pollard Sr. died May 12. He served his country in the U.S. Army and was an alumnus of Virginia Tech, where he played on the tennis team and was a cheerleader. He was a professional engineer and retired from Commonwealth Gas after 41 years of service. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Joan Brooker Pollard, and two sons.



## **HAROLD W. ROLLER '53**

**1931 – 2018**

Harold W. Roller died July 22. He was born in Broadway, Virginia, on Dec. 20, 1931. He attended Virginia Tech, where he was active in the Dairy Club, Alpha Zeta honorary fraternity, and the Highty-Tighties. He earned a degree in dairy science and was commissioned into the U.S. Army. He served as assistant county agent in Frederick County, Virginia, in 1953, then served in the Army for two years during the Korean War. He married Carolyn Myers in 1954. He became the first country dairy specialist in Loudon County, Virginia, in 1956 and then Augusta County in 1959. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn, two sons, and a daughter.



## **GEORGE WARREN SWIFT '53**

**1929 – 2018**

George W. Swift died May 28. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army. He earned his bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees in engineering at Virginia Tech, where he taught in the Department of Engineering, Science, and Mechanics for over 30 years. He was a longtime member of Blacksburg Baptist Church. His love of God guided his life every day. He was an avid kayaker and runner, and he loved to spend time at his beloved farm "Sugartree." He is survived by a daughter and son.



## **DURWOOD "ADRIAN" MCKINNEY SR. '55**

**1933 – 2018**

Durwood A. "Adrian" McKinney Sr. died Aug. 9 in Marion, Virginia. He was born July 9, 1933, on Tams Mountain, West Virginia. His life was full of family and adventure. A 1955 graduate of Virginia Tech, he served in the U.S. Army Reserve. He worked as a professional engineer for Slab Fork Coal Company. In 1959, he married Joyce Lee Orman and enjoyed 53 years with her. Survivors include five daughters and a son.



## **FRANKLIN DEWEY "FRANK" BROWN '56**

**1933 – 2018**

Franklin D. "Frank" Brown died Aug. 24. He graduated from Virginia Tech with a bachelor's degree in animal husbandry. He was a proud four-year member of the Virginia Tech football team coached by Frank O. Moseley, as well as a member of the Corps of Cadets and the German Club. After graduation, he served as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. His professional banking career led him to work in the Virginia areas of Abingdon, Charlottesville, Blacksburg, and Roanoke. He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Pamela K. Brown, and two sons and three daughters.



## **WILLIAM EDWARD DUGGER JR. '58**

**1937 - 2018**

Bill Dugger Jr. died May 26. He grew up in Brodnax, Virginia. He received his bachelor's degree from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and was a member of the Corps of Cadets and the Highty-Tighties. He taught at various institutions, including The Ohio State University, Western Kentucky University, and, from 1970 to 1994, at Virginia Tech. He was an emeritus professor for the College of Human Resources and Education at Virginia Tech and authored many books. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Carrie Briscoe Dugger; two daughters; and a son



## **JAMES RANDOLPH STEELE '62**

**1940 - 2018**

U.S. Air Force Maj. James Randolph Steele (retired) died Aug. 17. He was born March 11, 1940, in Carroll County, Virginia. He earned a bachelor's degree in engineering from Virginia Tech, where he was in D Company in the Corps of Cadets. He commissioned as an officer in the Air Force and retired as a major. He then worked for defense contractor SAIC. Survivors include his wife, Carol Davis Steele, and a daughter.



## **GEORGE ELLIOTT FOX '64**

**1942 - 2018**

George E. Fox died July 2 in Englewood, Florida. He was born Aug. 1, 1942. He earned his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Virginia Tech and was a member of A Squadron. He, along with friends Homer Hickam and Ben Harper, conceived the idea of a ceremonial cannon. The three of them saw the project through, with the end result being the now beloved Skipper. He served in the U.S. Air Force as a captain during the Vietnam War. He retired to Florida in 1999 after 30 years as a manager at GE Power Systems in Schenectady, New York. Survivors include his beloved wife, Jeanne; two sons; and a daughter.



## **JAMES GRAY NEALE JR. '65**

**1942 - 2018**

James "Jim" Neal Jr. died May 30. A graduate of Virginia Tech, he served in the U.S. Air Force. While in the Corps of Cadets, he served on the regimental staff and the German Club. He was elected to Omicron Delta Kappa and received the Society of the Cincinnati Medal, which is awarded to the senior cadet officer who best exemplifies the citizen-soldier characteristics of Lucius Quinctius Cincinnatus. He is survived by his wife, Ann Morton DeMuth Neale, and their four daughters.



## **EDWARD NILS RESIO '65**

**1943 – 2018**

Edward N. Resio died April 20. He was born and raised in Falmouth, Virginia. He was an All-American athlete and graduated from Virginia Tech. An Air Force veteran, he eventually retired as the deputy director of public works at Naval Surface Warfare Center, Dahlgren. One of his passions was fly fishing. Survivors include his cherished wife of 52 years, Beckie Birt Resio, and their son and daughter.



## **MICHAEL JOSEPH BOGESE JR. '68**

**1946 – 2018**

Michael J. Bogese, Jr. died April 24. As an Army cadet at Virginia Tech, he served on the Gregory Guard, Color Guard, and was vice president of the Class of 1968. After graduating with a bachelor's degree in building construction, he served in the U.S. Army and did a tour of duty in South Korea. He joined Bogese Inc., the family construction and development business, serving as a principal. He was a Bronze Benefactor of the Virginia Tech Hokie Club, a member of the Ut Prosim Society, and a former member of the board of directors of the Virginia Tech Foundation. He is survived by his two daughters and a son.



## **STEPHEN WILLIAM PAVLIK '69**

**1948 – 2018**

Stephen W. Pavlik died April 11. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Virginia Tech in accounting. As a member of the Corps of Cadets, he commanded S Squadron his senior year. He joined the U.S. Air Force, and while stationed at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Mississippi, he met his future wife. He began his professional career as a CPA in 1978. He had a long career with Crom Corporation, a large engineering and construction firm, retiring after 25 years as the CEO in 2005. He is survived by his wife, Patricia Pavlik; two daughters; and a son.



## **SARAH JOY MITCHELL '17**

**1994 – 2018**

U.S. Navy Ensign Sarah Mitchell died July 8 during a training exercise in the Red Sea. She earned a degree in biochemistry with minors in chemistry and leadership studies. During her senior year, she commanded Alpha Company and served as a platoon commander for the Naval ROTC. She commissioned in May 2017. Friends and classmates say they will remember her drive and energy, but more importantly her positive attitude and constant smile. She was looking forward to marrying the love of her life and best friend, Dave Collins. She is survived by her parents, John and Betsy Mitchell, and two brothers and two sisters.

## LEST WE FORGET

Joseph Kyle Scott '37, Hagerstown, Maryland, 5/30/18  
John C. Higginbotham III '44, Greensboro, North Carolina, 8/14/17  
John Rayne Cropper Jr. '45, Fair Oaks, California, 7/3/18  
Robert B. Fetter '45, Vero Beach, Florida, 7/15/18  
Tandy Jack Fleming '45, Boise, Idaho, 1/15/17  
Douglas D. Shelton Jr. '45, Miami, Florida, 7/29/17  
William P. Maddy '46, Springfield, Missouri, 4/4/18  
Kearney F. McQuilkin '46, Annapolis, Maryland, 5/15/18  
James M. Bacos '47, Bethesda, Maryland, 6/6/18  
William Buchanan Coffman '47, Silver Spring, Maryland, 5/30/18  
Bernard C. Meredith Jr. '47, Panama City, Florida, 4/30/18  
John Thomas Walmsley '47, Tinley Park, Illinois, 8/10/17  
Harold A. Oldroyd Jr. '48, Long Branch, New Jersey, unk  
Robert Chester Jennings '49, Wytheville, Virginia, 5/21/18  
Ray Steger Jones '49, Blackstone, Virginia, 7/2/18  
Truman L. Sayre '49, Ghent, West Virginia, 5/6/18  
Preston H. Andrews '50, Altavista, Virginia, 7/19/18  
William Allison Headley Jr. '50, Orlando, Florida, 7/20/17  
James Don Isley '50, Kingsport, Tennessee, 5/17/18  
Walter Harris Pogue Jr. '50, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 5/9/18  
Franklin R. Taylor '50, Millersville, Maryland, 8/12/17  
Carl J. Arnold '51, Clinton, South Carolina, 5/15/18  
Roger M. Bottoms '51, Sterling Heights, Michigan, 8/1/16  
Norman H. Burns '51, Roanoke, Virginia, 12/20/2016  
Walter Lambert Jr. '51, Richmond, Virginia, 8/18/17  
Richard L. Martin '51, Collierville, Tennessee, 6/22/17  
Robert E. Mauzy Jr. '51, Blue Grass, Virginia, 5/14/18  
Robert L. Moore '51, Haymarket, Virginia, 4/28/18  
S. Clyde Watkins '51, Lakeland, Florida, 6/2/18  
Gerald M. White '51, Lexington, Kentucky, 8/6/17  
Edwin Newsom Griffin '52, Montgomery, Alabama, 10/25/2016  
Carl Graham Hodnett Jr. '52, Clemmons, North Carolina, 7/22/18  
Oley S. Poer Jr. '52, Greensboro, North Carolina, 7/11/18  
Donald F. Simpson Sr. '52, Alexandria, Virginia, 5/14/18  
William B. Allen Jr. '53, Atlanta, Georgia, 6/8/18  
Thomas W. Barham '53, Fairfax, Virginia, 5/13/18  
Everett A. Huffman '53, Lanham, Maryland, 8/19/17  
William L. Jenks '53, Emporia, Kansas, 7/9/18  
William C. Kellner '53, Monterey, California, 6/28/18  
Theodore A. Magnusdal '53, Richmond, Virginia, 6/25/18  
Charles A. Miller Jr. '53, Richmond, Virginia, unk  
William A. Peery '53, Tucson, Arizona, 12/31/2017  
William P. Radtke '53, Leawood, Kansas, 8/16/17  
Walter J. Reynolds '53, Blacksburg, Virginia, 7/21/18  
Russell Ford Stebar '53, Morgan, Utah, 7/17/18  
James D. Swan Jr. '53, Brandy Station, Virginia, 5/30/18  
Edwin Surber Bolen Jr. '54, Lynchburg, Virginia, 4/23/18  
William F. Keehne Jr. '54, Roanoke, Virginia, 7/14/18  
Joseph T. Sowell Jr. '54, Palmdale, California, 6/16/17  
Stephen E. Whitney '54, Ashburn, Virginia, 8/18/17  
William Edward Cox '55, Raleigh, North Carolina, 8/10/17  
John Willis Muncy '55, Bland, Virginia, 5/27/18  
Philip C. Holladay Jr. '56, Richmond, Virginia, 6/13/18  
Frank Gordon Christian Jr. '57, Raleigh, North Carolina, 6/24/18  
Thomas M. Hall '57, Charles City, Virginia, 6/20/18  
David A. Hilton '57, Chesapeake, Virginia, 5/3/18  
Curtis E. Davis Jr. '58, Roanoke, Virginia, 8/2/17  
Parks Adolphus Deaton '58, Worthington, Ohio, 4/27/18  
Clarence Brown Givens '58, Blacksburg, Virginia, 8/22/17  
Thomas P. Johnson Jr. '58, Suffolk, Virginia, 6/22/18  
Daniel W. Pruitt '58, Blackstone, Virginia, 5/31/18  
John Fontaine Keeling Jr. '59, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 8/20/17  
Buddy W. King '59, Mechanicsville, Virginia, 5/24/18  
Raymond Stanley Kirchmier II '59, Henrico, Virginia, 5/18/17  
Vernon L. Seese '59, Norman, Oklahoma, unk  
Kenneth H. Sellers '59, Burke, Virginia, 4/20/18  
Thomas Branch Worsham Jr. '59, Edgefield, South Carolina, 7/13/18  
John L. Hood '60, Chesapeake, Virginia, 7/13/18  
Osco James Kennedy '60, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 5/22/18

C. Leslie Roberson '60, Spartanburg, South Carolina, 8/8/17  
Dennis Edward Hardy '61, North Tazewell, Virginia,  
4/23/18  
Fred L. Jennings '61, Fries, Virginia, 4/10/18  
Paul Davis Myers Jr. '61, Titusville, Florida, 8/4/17  
Elwood Gordon Ball Jr. '62, Heathsville, Virginia, 5/27/18  
Frederick Emerson Hughes Jr. '62, Richmond, Virginia,  
5/29/18  
Richard Magnus Monson '62, Vienna, Virginia, 3/10/18  
Daniel Boone Ramsey '62, Hot Springs Village, Arkansas,  
unknown  
Eugene Michael Schultz '62, Baltimore, Maryland, 8/23/17  
Thomas Guilford Sixbey '62, Salem, Virginia, 6/6/18  
Charles Strother Jr. '62, Delaplane, Virginia, 6/19/18  
Irving Wayne Swann '62, Mechanicsville, Virginia, 4/25/18  
Joseph Frederick Peters Jr. '63, Manning, South Carolina,  
7/1/18  
Samuel Reed Carter III '64, Salem, Virginia, 8/18/17  
Robert E. Doriot '64, Coppell, Texas, 7/27/17  
William Oscar Lipscomb III '64, Chiefland, Florida, 6/19/18  
James Alexander Mundy IV '64, Springfield, Massachusetts,  
5/3/18  
Donald William Mayberry '65, Salem, Virginia, 4/25/18  
Thomas Wilbur Otto Jr. '65, Springfield, Virginia, 7/22/17  
Edward Lisle Shackelford Jr. '65, Kansas City, Missouri,  
7/15/18  
William Rupert Elliott Jr. '66, Prince George, Virginia,  
8/17/17  
Byron Allen James '66, Fork Union, Virginia, 2/4/17  
Dean Ridgway Hanson '67, League City, Texas, 7/21/17  
David Ernest Sawyer '67, Chesapeake, Virginia, 8/20/17  
John Early Apostolides '68, Richmond, Virginia, 7/6/17  
Ronald Andrew North '68, West Dover, Vermont, 5/7/10  
Marlin Gordon Leatherman '69, Colorado Springs,  
Colorado, 3/6/17  
John Brown Bell Jr '70, Columbia, Maryland, 5/10/18  
Michael Joseph Santangelo '72, Iowa City, Iowa, 4/25/18  
Mark Edward Vermillion Sr. '79, Londonderry, New  
Hampshire, 5/4/18

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



Florida State game: U.S. Navy Lt. j.g. Perry Artz '15 is on patrol with the ballistic missile submarine USS Maryland.



Old Dominion game: U.S. Air Force Capts. Matthew and Candace Weiser, both '13, are deployed to Qatar.



William & Mary game: U.S. Air Force Capt. Jim Brooks '11 is deployed to Afghanistan.



Notre Dame game: U.S. Army 1st Lt. Ryan Montgomery '16 is deployed to Afghanistan.



Duke game: U.S. Army 1st Lt. Coleman Hostvedt '15 is deployed to Afghanistan.



Georgia Tech game: U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Brandon Mrvan '16 is deployed to Afghanistan.



Pittsburgh game: U.S. Navy Lt. j.g. Adam D'Amico '16 is on the submarine USS Pittsburgh.



Miami game: U.S. Air Force 1st Lt. Nick Tibbetts '15 is deployed to an undisclosed location.



North Carolina game: U.S. Air Force Maj. Christopher Callaway '04 is serving at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey.



Virginia game: U.S. Air Force Capt. Elizabeth Gentine '14 is deployed to Afghanistan.



Boston College game: U.S. Army 1st Lt. Zachary Bird '15 is deployed to Iraq.

**VTCC Alumni Inc.**

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Blacksburg, VA 24061

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