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How best to memorialize the horrific events that took place on April 16, 2007? By showing the nation and the world what “Hokie spirit” really means.

Nowhere is this sentiment better expressed than in the comments made by internationally known poet and Professor of English Nikki Giovanni at the April 17 convocation memorializing the victims of the tragedy. After heartfelt and moving comments from several speakers—including President George W. Bush, Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine, and President Charles W. Steger—Giovanni took her place behind the podium at Cassell Coliseum for a final tribute. There was fire in her voice and in her eyes, and her closing remarks moved a nation: “We will prevail. We *will* prevail. We will *prevail*. We are Virginia Tech.”

Giovanni’s words were met with thundering applause and a standing ovation. And then, entirely unexpectedly, students, faculty, staff, alumni, and parents alike began chanting, “Let’s go, Hokies!” until their voices rang through the rafters of Cassell. That spontaneous outburst embodies the university’s indomitable will and strength of character.

Today, the university’s tagline, “Invent the future,” is more applicable than ever. Now that the name of our beloved university has found its way into the history books in the most macabre manner possible, Virginia Tech must move forward, keeping its Hokie spirit alive for the victims, survivors, and their families. This Memorial Issue of *Virginia Tech Magazine* remembers those who were lost to us on April 16; presents some of the overwhelming support given to the university from around the world; and showcases the fortitude, resolve, and courage of the Hokie Nation.

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Cover: VT ribbon logo by David Stanley '95, words excerpted from Convocation remarks by Nikki Giovanni (see page 25).