

VIRGINIA TECH magazine

SUMMER 2018



VISIONARY PRESIDENT
Community mourns Charles W. Steger

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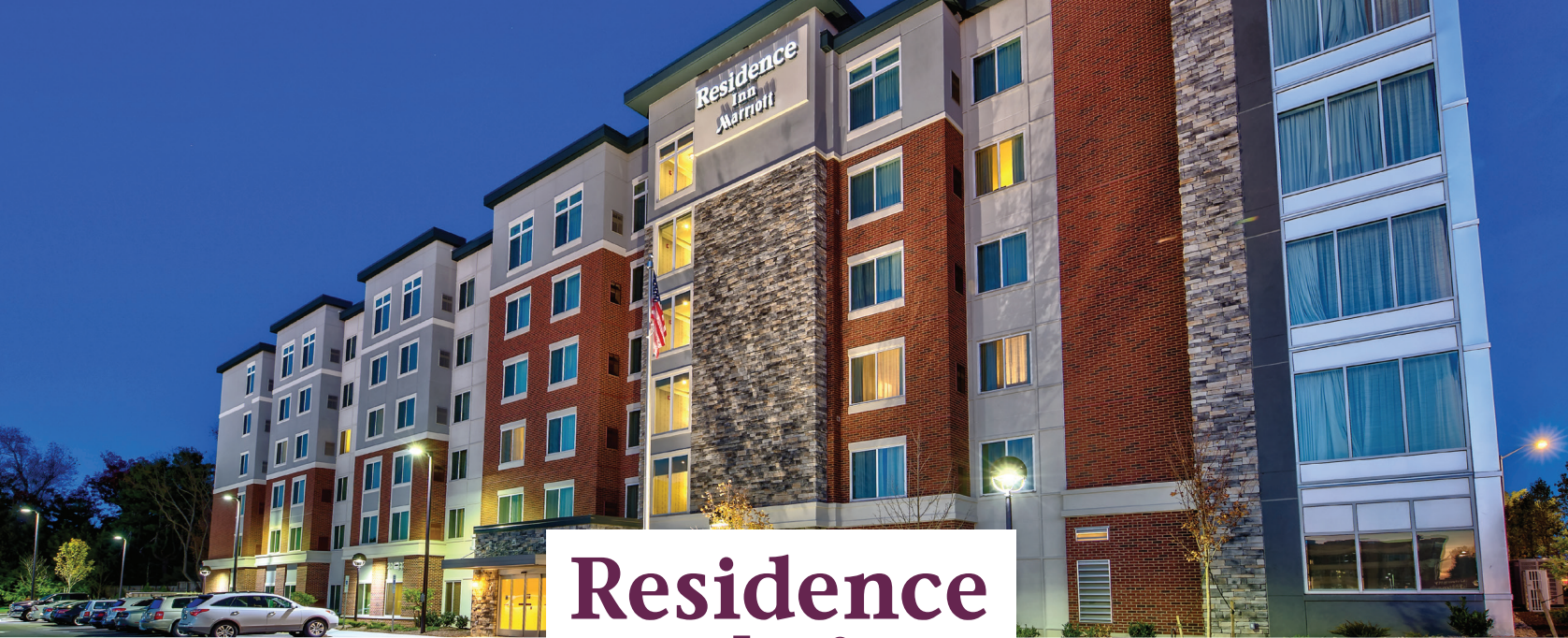
TOP HONORS
David Calhoun '79 invests
in the Virginia Tech advantage

MASTERFUL METHODS
Alumnus values deep engagement



ON THE RIGHT TRACK

ROANOKE



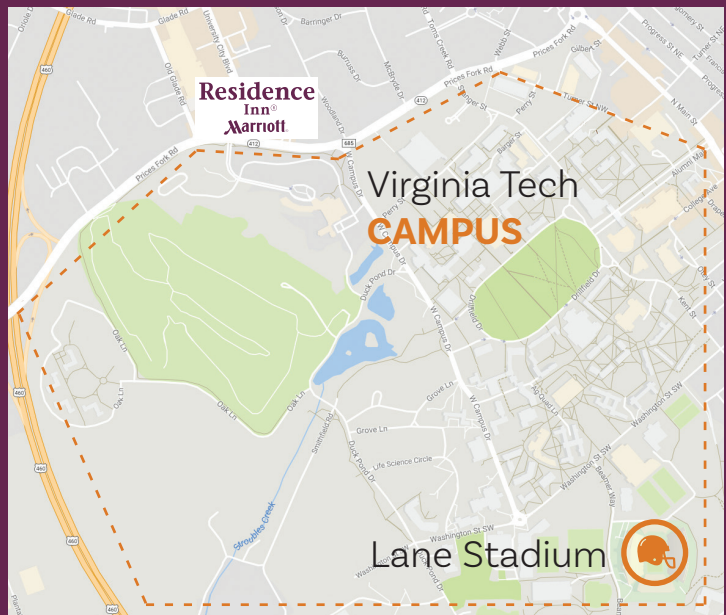
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VTC

Virginia Tech Carilion

Educating today's physicians and conducting world-class research, the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine and Research Institute is a unique public-private partnership, collectively called Virginia Tech Carilion (VTC). This summer, the medical school will be integrated as the university's ninth college. The formal process represents a monumental moment in Tech's engagement with Roanoke, western Virginia's largest metro area.

DAVID HUNGATE

FEATURES

26 INVESTING IN OPPORTUNITY

A game-changing gift from David Calhoun '79 benefits the Virginia Tech Honors College.

30 ON THE RIGHT TRACK

Once known as a thriving hub for the railroad industry, Roanoke has become a world-class destination for health sciences and technology. Virginia Tech's engagement in the region has helped fuel the 21st-century transformation from train city to brain city.

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ON THE COVER: The sunrise offers an inspiring reminder of the evolution of the Star City, thanks in part to the development of Virginia Tech's Health Sciences and Technology Campus. (at right) Maria Jernigan, 2018 Undergraduate Student of the Year, a Calhoun Scholar, and graduate of the Honors College, demonstrates a virtual reality headset that she uses as part of her research.

CHRISTINA FRANUSICH





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

STAGE PRESENCE: Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam, who delivered the 2018 spring commencement address, and Virginia Tech President Tim Sands share the stage during graduation. Sands' contract was recently extended through 2024 by a unanimous vote of the Board of Visitors.

MILESTONE MOMENTS

In May, more than 4,800 undergraduate students were awarded degrees during Virginia Tech's 2018 commencement ceremony, a milestone for each new graduate and for me.

In 2014, I arrived in Blacksburg along with many of these students. Like them, I was inspired by the opportunities at Virginia Tech and eager to become a Hokie. We've shared many experiences and had opportunities to lead, learn, and serve. Four years later, we are part of a vibrant community with a sense of purpose, committed to moving our university and our world forward.

The evidence of our commitment extends beyond Blacksburg. A decade ago, Virginia Tech leaders, together with visionaries from Carilion Clinic and representatives from the greater Roanoke community, envisioned a plan for a Health Sciences and Technology Campus that would create a dynamic academic and research environment in Roanoke.

Today, newly constructed state-of-the-art facilities, a competitive medical school, and discoveries through funded research studies highlight the success of that vision. On July 1, the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine will become our ninth college, another milestone for our university and for our Roanoke partners.

Our partnerships support innovation and contribute to economic, academic, and social growth. Creating such connections is part of our mission and will advance our efforts to become a top-100 global university.

Joining forces with business leaders, elected representatives, and community officials creates mutually beneficial opportunities for students, faculty, and alumni. In turn, alumni, who generously help students seeking internships and return to campus as mentors, are our ambassadors beyond Blacksburg.

Generous philanthropists support these efforts and fuel our future. A \$20 million gift from David Calhoun '79 will provide scholarships and support the Honors College. And earlier this year, thousands of donors made the first-ever Virginia Tech Giving Day an incredible success.

As we look to the future, we recognize that our success is built on the strength of our founding principles and visionary leaders like President Emeritus Charles Steger, who, sadly, passed away in May. We miss him greatly and will honor his legacy by working hard and making progress every day.

Thank you for all that you do to make me—and my fellow members of the Class of 2018—proud to be Hokies. ■

Tim Sands is Virginia Tech's 16th president.

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LETTERS

TO THE EDITOR

TRAIN TALES

I am writing in reference to the article about Virginia Tech, railroads, and New York (spring edition, page 46).

I was a freshman at Tech in 1955. Several times that year I traveled by train from my home in Portsmouth, Virginia, to Blacksburg. Back then one could do that. I don't recall the exact route, but it seems the trains simply headed west from Norfolk. The train passed through several college towns. I recall meeting students from Randolph-Macon, Longwood, and Washington and Lee, among others.

Most days the train went only to Christiansburg, and it was a bus ride to Blacksburg. However, once a week, the Huckleberry connected with the Norfolk and Western and carried passengers to Blacksburg.

According to my memory, on one trip west I remarked to the conductor that the train was moving right along—uphill. He took me to a conductor's compartment and showed me a speedometer. The train was going 90 miles per hour. Those were the glory days of train travel—frequent trains going many places, fast trains, great service. So, I hope those who travel between Blacksburg and New York have some trips as memorable as mine. Glad to know such travel is still possible in a few places.

*Richard Leary '59
Springfield, Illinois*

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

I recently received our copy of the Virginia Tech Magazine and read the article about President Sands' challenge to "pick up the lunch pail." The story brought to mind the many ways that students at Virginia Tech give back through community organizations and volunteerism. As a Hokie parent, it makes me proud to know that the university encourages students and alumni to prioritize community involvement.

*Natasha Rocheleau
Alexandria, Virginia*



LET'S GO: Along with the above letter, Natasha Rocheleau shared this photo of her daughter, Julia Rocheleau (right), a rising sophomore studying clinical neuroscience, who joined a volunteer team from Mass General in Boston to provide education, primary health care, and community outreach services in Haiti.



SOMETHING TO SAY?

Send us a message at vtmag@vt.edu.



A MODEL FOR THE FUTURE: Virginia Tech architecture students Lindsey Blum and Dhawal Jain work with a site model of Mzuzu University's campus. The students are members of a team designing a new library for the university in Malawi, Africa.

AROUND THE DRILLFIELD

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NEWS

ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS DESIGN NEW CHAPTER FOR UNIVERSITY LIBRARY IN AFRICA

IN 2015, A FIRE DESTROYED THE LIBRARY AT MZUZU University in Malawi. Since then, an events hall has served as the university's makeshift library, filled with more than 40,000 books that were donated to the university, mostly through a book drive organized by Virginia Tech in 2016.

Three years later, Hokies are helping Mzuzu University open a new chapter. Seven students and an adjunct faculty member from Virginia Tech's College of Architecture and Urban Studies are creating the design for a new library for Mzuzu, a 4,000-student institution in the country's northern region and Malawi's second national university.

The library serves as an essential information gateway at Mzuzu because of the region's poor technology infrastructure. Less than 10 percent of the people in Malawi have electricity. Because only 20 percent of Mzuzu's students live on campus, the library is an important gathering place for those who live off campus, said Felix Majawa, Mzuzu University librarian. "When they come to campus, the library is their home." ■



A CULTURAL CELEBRATION: Dancing, drum performances, and song are integral elements of the intertribal powwow sponsored by Native at VT, a student organization.

VIRGINIA TECH HOSTS SECOND POWWOW

ON MARCH 31, THE SPRING 2018 Powwow, a traditional Native American celebration, was held at Virginia Tech. Organized by Native at VT, a student organization, the intertribal powwow, which was held for the second consecutive year, was designed to celebrate Native American culture and increase awareness of indigenous students at Virginia Tech.

The free event featured songs, drum performances, and dancing, along with arts, crafts, and jewelry vendors.

American Indian students comprise one of the smallest minority groups at Virginia Tech. There are 48 American Indian or Alaska Native undergraduate, graduate, and professional students, according to the university's 2017-18 enrollment profile. The powwow provides an opportunity to bring the campus and Blacksburg communities together to learn about Native American culture.

NEW LIVING-LEARNING COMMUNITY PLANNED

VIRGINIA TECH WILL LAUNCH A living-learning community (LLC) for students interested in understanding, supporting, and learning about the African-American experience. Ujima (oo-JEE-muh), which is expected to open in the fall, will become the university's 15th LLC.

"The Ujima LLC will help build and strengthen relationships across the larger university community and support discussions on identity, culture, and history," said Virginia Tech President Tim Sands. "It will be an important resource in developing our future leaders."

Ujima is the third principle of Kwanzaa and is defined as a culture of collective work and responsibility. The living-learning community will place a special emphasis on understanding the unique experiences of African Americans in society, including their experiences in higher education. With a focus on building and maintaining community and solving problems together, the community will be located in Peddrew-Yates Hall.



RICHARD RANDOLPH, OC

THE WHEELS OF CHANGE

A TEAM OF SEVEN VIRGINIA TECH mechanical engineering seniors used their senior design project to provide a boost to a wheelchair-using veteran.

The students developed a lift to elevate a wheelchair about two inches off the ground, allowing the wheels to be changed with one hand.

The project was sponsored by the Northern Virginia-based Quality of Life+, a nonprofit specializing in improving the lives of veterans with life-altering injuries. Virginia Tech is one of six universities to partner with the organization.

In March, the team introduced the QL+ Wheelchair Wheel Change Project to its target customer, Tammy Landeen, a resident of Caribou, Maine, who served 10 years with the U.S. Army before being injured in a nonmilitary-related horseback riding accident.

Project team member Colin Jones said the opportunity to enhance Landeen's independence motivated the students. "It's been nice for us because for all of the fall 2017 and spring 2018 semesters we, as a team, have known that what we are doing is going to directly impact Tammy's life in a positive way," Jones said. "And it also feels great to be able to give back to someone who has served our country."

The final product was featured at the Mechanical Engineering Senior Design Expo in April.



QUICK CHANGE : (top left) A team of seven engineering students, including Riley Allison '18, tests their senior design project, a tool to make changing wheelchair tires a little easier. (top right) The device, which is operated by a remote keychain fob, works like a hydraulic tire jack, pushing the chair off the ground at the axle to allow for easier wheel replacement. (above) Tammy Landeen, of Caribou, Maine, expresses joy after performing a successful wheel change independently.

MATT GENTRY | THE ROANOKE TIMES; COLIN JONES, MATT GENTRY | THE ROANOKE TIMES



EXTENDED FAMILY: Dave Perks '95, his wife, Sara Perks, and their children, Evie and Jayme, were named the 2018 Virginia Tech Family of the Year to recognize their commitment to creating a home away from home for Virginia Tech students.

2018 STUDENT AFFAIRS FAMILY OF THE YEAR

"FAMILY" CAN MEAN MANY THINGS, from biological parents, siblings, or foster families to multigenerational households and other close, personal relationships.

The Virginia Tech Family of the Year award is presented annually by Student Affairs to acknowledge the people who are students' biggest supporters. This year's award was presented during the Spring Game to the Perks family of Blacksburg: Dave '95 and Sara, their children

Jayme and Evie, and their six nominators, all Virginia Tech students.

As part of the Blacksburg Baptist Church Family Ties program, Dave and Sara Perks opened their hearts and home to cadet Joshua McGuire, of Franklin, Tennessee, a senior majoring in international studies with minors in Chinese and leadership. They got five of his friends as well. This unusual Hokie family has shared adventures, home-cooked meals, and struggles, as well as celebrations. ■

NEW POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM LAUNCHES IN INDIA

IN JUNE, THE VIRGINIA TECH, INDIA, Postgraduate Program in Business Analytics will launch with courses held online and on the campus of the program's first partner, the N.L. Dalmia Institute of Management Studies and Research.

Under the yearlong program, students in India will earn a Virginia Tech certificate in business analytics, designed to prepare them for careers in government or industries that operate in big-data environments.

The program offers a dozen courses, including classes in data security, big-data technologies, cloud application development, machine learning, and advanced statistics. Portions of the coursework will be online so students who've begun careers can continue working at their jobs. ■



GLOBAL BUSINESS: Tarun Sen (left), professor emeritus of accounting and information systems and managing director of the Virginia Tech, India, Postgraduate Program in Business Analytics, and Guru Ghosh, vice president for Outreach and International Affairs, participate in a campus tour after the memorandum of understanding signing ceremony for the new program.

MAPPING THE OCEAN FLOOR

NINETEEN TEAMS WENT IN AND only nine—including Virginia Tech's own DEEP-X—came out of the first round of a global competition to build autonomous vehicles that can rapidly map the mostly unknown ocean floor.

The DEEP-X team, led by Dan Stilwell, professor of electrical and computer engineering and director of the Virginia Tech Center for Marine Autonomy

and Robotics, earned a spot in the second and final round of the \$7 million Shell Ocean Discovery XPRIZE.

The international competition intends to spur the development of cutting-edge autonomous underwater vehicles that can quickly capture high-resolution maps of the ocean floor, the surface of which is less understood than that of Venus or Mars. ■



DEEP DIVE: Stephen Krauss, a graduate student studying electrical engineering; Jack Webster, a graduate student studying ocean engineering; and Dan Stilwell, professor of electrical and computer engineering and director of the Virginia Tech Center for Marine Autonomy and Robotics, are members of the DEEP-X team that ventured to Panama City, Florida, for the first round of the competition.



NEWSWORTHY

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VIRGINIA TECH MOURNS PRESIDENT EMERITUS

When Charles William Steger Jr. was installed as president of Virginia Tech in 2000, his inaugural speech appraised the existing position of the university and set the stage for what would become a period of unprecedented growth and historic transformation.

"As we enter a new period of challenge and change, we are fortunate that Virginia Tech enjoys a great deal of positive momentum," Steger said in that first speech. "... Now we must capitalize on this momentum to reach a new level of excellence and service."

Steger went on to do just that, guiding the university into the 21st century as its 15th president. On May 6, Steger died at his home in Blacksburg, Virginia. He was 70.

Steger '69, who served as president from 2000 to 2014, began his professional career as an architect, and he brought that discipline's blend of art and science to the office of university president, developing and executing a vision for the future that made him one of the most influential presidents in Virginia Tech's 146-year history.



INNOVATOR: On Nov. 11, 2016, the building that houses the Biocomplexity Institute of Virginia Tech was dedicated and renamed in honor of President Emeritus Charles W. Steger.

President Tim Sands said of his predecessor, "His legacy will continue, as strong and as enduring as the Hokie Stone around us."

Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam called him "the man who was the architect of what we know as the modern-day Virginia Tech."

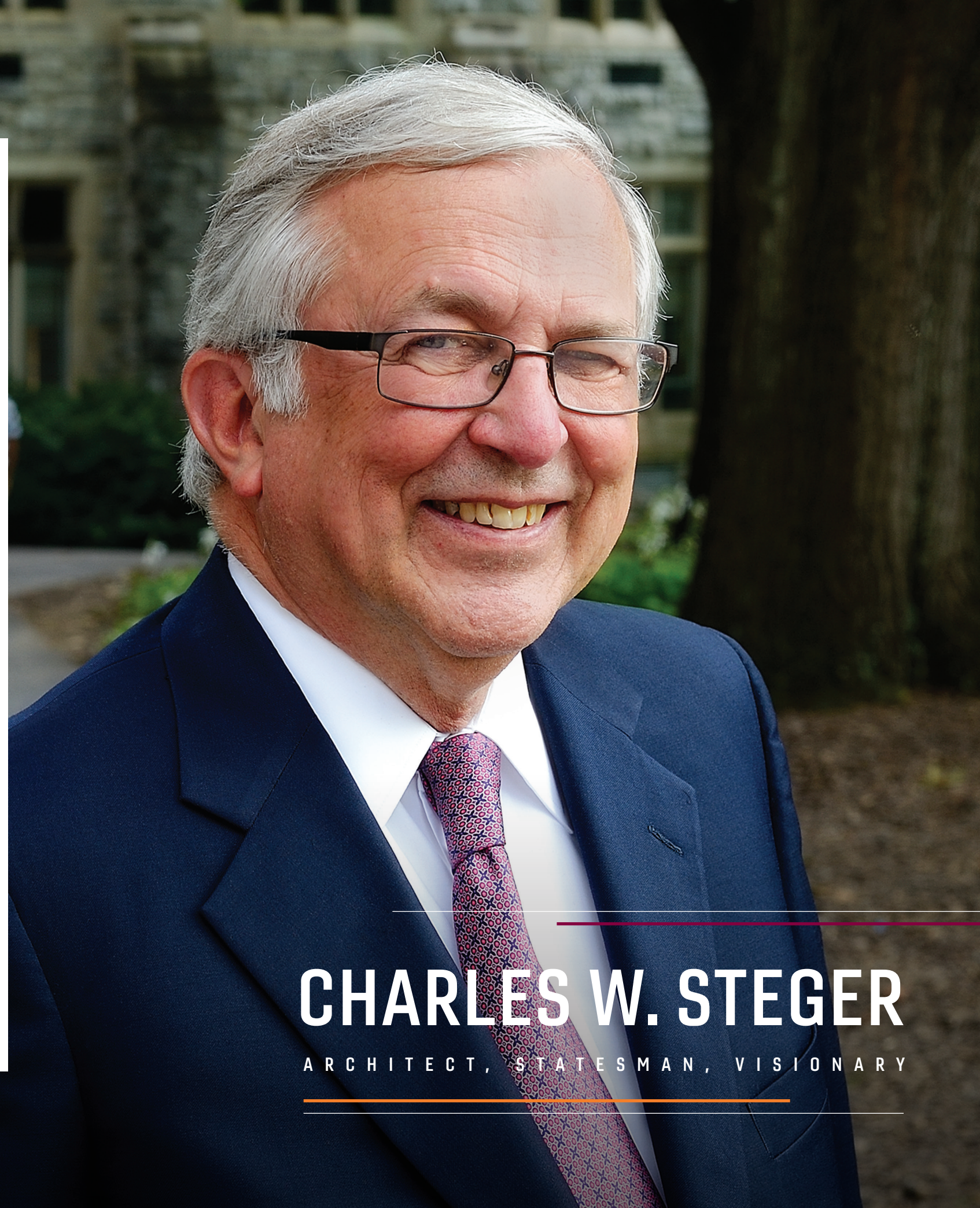
U.S. Sen. Mark Warner, whose term as Virginia's governor overlapped with Steger's presidency, said, "Charles Steger knew what was best for Virginia Tech and, importantly, best for Virginia, and he took that plunge without hesitation or reservation."

A Fellow in the American Institute of Architects, Steger earned three Virginia Tech degrees: a bachelor's in 1970 and a master's in 1971, both in architecture; and a Ph.D. in environmental sciences and engineering in 1978. He left a private-sector career in 1976 to pursue his passion for teaching at Virginia Tech. ■ MA



IN MEMORIAM

To read more about Virginia Tech's 15th president, visit vtmag.vt.edu.



CHARLES W. STEGER

ARCHITECT, STATESMAN, VISIONARY



HOW TECH TICKS

FINDING THE RIGHT MATCH

IMAGINE THE CELEBRATORY FEELINGS OF COMMENCEMENT, ADD THE EXCITEMENT OF A PRO SPORTS DRAFT DAY, AND MIX IN A GENEROUS ARRAY OF PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL DREAMS, AND YOU HAVE THE MAKINGS OF MATCH DAY, THE PINNACLE OF THE VIRGINIA TECH CARILION SCHOOL OF MEDICINE EXPERIENCE.

MATCH DAY IS THE CULMINATION OF YEARS OF STUDY AND PREPARATION, AS STUDENTS IN THEIR FINAL YEAR OF MEDICAL SCHOOL ARE MATCHED TO RESIDENCY PROGRAMS, THE HANDS-ON TRAINING REQUIRED FOR BOARD CERTIFICATION LEADING TO THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRACTICE MEDICINE.

DEPENDING ON THEIR SPECIALTY, RESIDENTS TRAIN FOR THREE TO SEVEN YEARS AS PART OF A TEAM WITH OTHER HEALTH PRACTITIONERS. SOME CHOOSE TO COMPLETE A FELLOWSHIP IN A SUBSPECIALTY.

FOLLOWING RESIDENCY, PHYSICIANS MUST OBTAIN A STATE LICENSE. ONCE A PHYSICIAN HAS BEEN CERTIFIED AND EARNS A LICENSE, HE OR SHE MAY BEGIN TO PRACTICE. ■ MA

“

MAY YOU HOLD FIRM TO THAT WHICH HAS GOT YOU THIS FAR, AND MAY YOU LET LOOSE FROM THAT WHICH CONSTRAINS YOU.”

from a celebratory toast by Aubry Knight, senior dean for student affairs, Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine

FROM STUDENT TO DOCTOR

1. Earn a bachelor's degree
2. Take the MCAT
3. Earn a medical degree
4. Complete a residency
5. Obtain a license

APPLYING FOR RESIDENCY

Over the course of their studies, students choose a specialty based on personal interests and talents. During the final year of medical school, students apply to and interview with programs through a process facilitated by the National Resident Matching Program. Then, applicants and programs rank each other in a process with strict rules. An algorithm analyzes the rank order lists and “matches” students to programs. Because there are more applicants than spots available, some students do not successfully match.

The process is more complex if two medical students choose to match as a couple.

100% All 41 members of VTCSOM's Class of 2018 matched, maintaining the school's 100 percent match rate.

Members of the class advanced to programs representing: **15 specialties**, **16 states**, and **30 academic health centers**

DESTINATIONS INCLUDED:

- Baylor University
- Carilion Clinic
- Dartmouth College
- Drexel University
- Duke University
- Johns Hopkins University
- Mayo Clinic
- Stanford University
- University of Southern California
- Vanderbilt University

The most represented specialties in the Class of 2018 include:

- general surgery
- obstetrics and gynecology
- internal medicine
- radiology

2 students will stay in Roanoke and another will spend a preliminary year with Carilion Clinic, bringing the total number of students who have done part or all of their residencies in Roanoke to **27**.

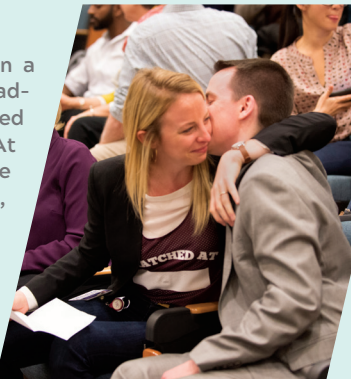
The 2018 Match Day took place at noon on March 16, 2018, at medical schools across the country.



In Roanoke, students and their loved ones gathered for the ceremony. Shortly before noon, the crowd made its way to receive celebratory champagne.



Each student, clad in a basketball jersey reading “VTCSOM,” received a sealed envelope. At noon, the students tore open the envelopes, and the auditorium erupted with a mixture of emotions.



At 12:30 p.m., the group reconvened. One by one, each of the students shared where he or she was headed and in what specialty, and placed a corresponding pin on a map of the United States.





ATHLETICS

NET RESULTS

JAILA TOLBERT COULD EAT CHIPOTLE every day, every meal. But then she's also a big fan of Turner Place, Owens, and the West End Market. Oh, and D2.

Fortunately for Virginia Tech and the university's varsity volleyball team, the right-side hitter from Minneapolis is just as adaptable—and passionate—when it comes to her studies and role on the team, an attitude that has helped lead to a growing list of awards and firsts.

In April, the rising senior learned she had become the first-ever Virginia Tech volleyball player picked for one of three U.S. Women's Collegiate National Teams. Before that, she was the first-ever Hokie student-athlete named as an ACC representative to the NCAA convention.

Not bad for a Minnesotan who knew nothing about Virginia Tech before becoming a late recruit.

"At first, I was very cautious about Virginia Tech," Tolbert said. "After going through the whole process, we (Tolbert and her family) realized that Virginia Tech had everything—it had family, it had the academics to match, and the level of volleyball was no question."

At Tech, the 6'1" middle front faced stronger competition and had to learn a new position as right-side hitter. "You come here and you get knocked down a lot, so it shot my confidence. But it also really helped my resilience," Tolbert said.

Then, in 2017, the whole team had to adjust to a new coaching staff led by Jill Wilson. "I've been really appreciative of this group because they've been so open-minded and adaptable," Wilson said.

Tolbert has shown the same willingness to adapt in her studies. She started in the Pamplin College of Business, realized math was not her strength, and switched to international studies with a business concentration and a minor in Chinese.

"I came here to get the world-class education Virginia Tech has to offer," said Tolbert.

Tolbert has always tried to be a vocal leader on the court, but during her sophomore year she started looking for leadership roles off court, as well. She joined Tech's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), was subsequently named one of two Hokies to the ACC SAAC, and earlier this year was the ACC's sole student-athlete representative on the Division I SAAC at the NCAA national convention.

Tolbert was excited to learn in April that she had made the USA team, but she was equally disappointed that her teammate, setter Rhegan Mitchell, didn't.

As Tolbert points out, volleyball is a team effort.

"I think the most important thing that I've learned from playing volleyball is the relationship building," Tolbert said. We're not going to play volleyball forever." ■ *RL*

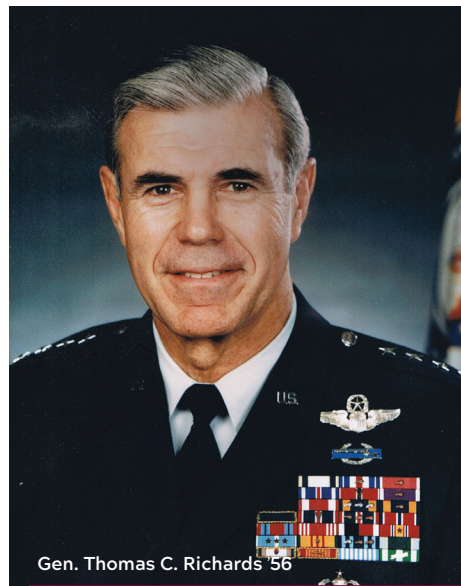
OVER THE TOP: Senior Jaiila Tolbert stretches her limits to develop strong leadership skills on and off the court.



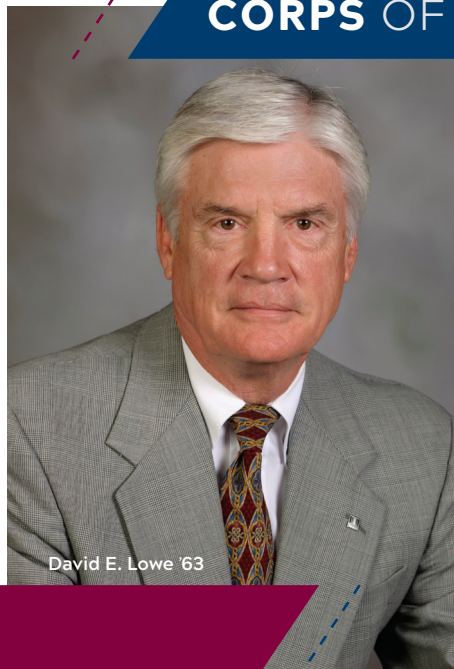
DIG IT

To watch a video about Jaiila Tolbert, go to vtmag.vt.edu.

CORPS OF CADETS



Gen. Thomas C. Richards '56



David E. Lowe '63

Lowe organized and chaired the operating board for the Pete Dye River Course from 2002 to 2014, guiding the facility from an idea to the signature course it is today. He is an honorary lifetime board member of the Virginia Tech Alumni Association. The Class of 2013 honored him as its class ring namesake, and he was awarded Virginia Tech's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2013.

"His passion for community, his critical thinking skills, and his character and ethics provide a shining example of what leadership is all about for today's cadets," Larkin said.

Richards amassed more than 4,700 flying hours, including 624 combat missions in Vietnam, and went on to command positions with the Air Force Academy, the Basic Military Training School, 8th Air Force, and Air University.

He earned his fourth star as deputy commander in chief of the U.S. European Command in Germany and, after retirement from the military, went on to lead the Federal Aviation Administration.

In 1990, Virginia Tech awarded Richards the University Distinguished Achievement Award. The Class of 1992 dedicated its class ring collection to him.

"[Richards'] command assignments and leadership allowed him to shape future military leaders, and his experience continues to inspire our cadets today," Larkin said. ■

Shay Barnhart is the communications director for the Corps of Cadets.



PURPOSE-DRIVEN

To watch biographical videos about the award winners, go to vtmag.vt.edu.

ALUMNI HONORED

TWO ALUMNI WERE HONORED THIS spring with the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets' first-ever Distinguished Alumni Awards.

Although Air Force Gen. Thomas C. Richards '56 and David E. Lowe '63 followed two different paths, the routes led each to a successful career and included a strong commitment to community service.

Lowe built a career with C&P Telephone Co. of West Virginia, which became Bell Atlantic and, eventually, Verizon. Richards is the first four-star general among the corps' alumni, and he illuminates the idea of selfless service.

The Distinguished Alumni Award formalizes the corps' long tradition of honoring the men and women who graduated from its ranks and are the inspiration and mentors to current cadets, said Col. Patience Larkin '87, the corps' alumni director.

Corps alumni can make nominations to honor living alumni who were enrolled in the corps for a minimum of two years (four semesters or eight quarters).

"These two recipients epitomize both the Military-Leader Track and Citizen-Leader Track that our corps provides today's generation of cadets as they become the kind of global, ethical leaders that are needed now, more than ever," said Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart, commandant of cadets.

In addition to his career in the telecommunications industry, Lowe served in the U.S. Air Force and has a history of leading community, educational, and economic development activities.

At Virginia Tech, he is a champion for long-range and strategic planning efforts and a guiding force on the board of directors of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Inc.

WHAT'S IN IT?



A LOOK INSIDE THE CHEATHAM HALL

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

HIDDEN AWAY ON THE FIRST FLOOR of Cheatham Hall are thousands of animals, each one a carefully catalogued specimen in Virginia Tech's own natural history collection.

The natural history museum is managed by the College of Natural Resources and Environment's Carola Haas, a professor of wildlife ecology who initiated a course focused on basic vertebrate identification and natural history when she joined the university in 1993. The collection is an integral part of student coursework in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation as well as a resource for research.

"Having a specimen collection made it possible to give students hands-on exposure and to teach the basic identification skills," Haas said.

George Brooks, a third-year Ph.D. student, has helped oversee the collection since 2015. He manages undergraduate staff and coordinates museum maintenance. "It's a balancing act of preserving the collection for posterity and making the specimens available for teaching and research," said Brooks.

The Cheatham Hall collection includes approximately 3,000 bird and mammal skins; more than 1,000 fish, reptiles, and amphibians; and more than 1,000 skulls. The museum also features an egg collection with specimens dating back to the 1800s. More than half of the mammal skins and skulls and a third of the bird skins were collected in Virginia. About 25 percent of the specimens were collected before 1940, 86 percent before 1970.

According to the museum's curators, animals from Southwest Virginia are not well-represented in the collections of most major museums.

"Having a series of animals collected here in Southwest Virginia over time can allow us to see how they might have changed as invasive species moved in, as certain contaminants were released in the area, or as forests regrew and the area became more heavily wooded," Haas said.

Several classes, including herpetology, ichthyology, mammalogy, ornithology, and wildlife field biology, use the specimens in their teaching. Different departments collaborate in the museum for research, and the specimens are available to K-12 groups and organizations for outreach events. ■ OC



DID YOU KNOW: (above) Students in the College of Natural Resources and Environment benefit from experience with living and preserved wildlife specimens. (below) The Cheatham Hall museum includes a broad scope of specimens, ranging from skins and skulls to eggs, preserved reptiles, and historic field documents.



SAM HENTSCHEL: A DEFINING MOMENT

20/20 CYBERVISION

SAM HENTSCHEL ALWAYS SAW himself serving his country, but his vision challenged the focus of that service.

Born with a genetic condition known as ocular albinism, Hentschel never let his limited eyesight—once tested at 20/800—prevent him from pursuing his passions.

“I grew up with the mentality that you shouldn’t use your problems as a crutch; you should try to work around them, be resilient, and don’t ever let anyone tell you that you can’t do something,” said Hentschel, who graduated with a bachelor’s degree in computer science in May.

After enrolling at Virginia Tech, Hentschel joined the Corps of Cadets, taking what he expected would be the first steps toward a career in U.S. Navy, but his plans soon derailed.

“They said in my medical review, ‘your vision is too bad, and we can’t get you a waiver [for the military],’” Hentschel said.

Disappointed, Hentschel believed that his dreams of a career of service would remain unfulfilled. He immersed himself in his studies and began to focus more on his participation in the university’s Cybersecurity Club. The shift opened his eyes to new opportunities.

“It didn’t really click until the last year or so that the people who supply them [the military] and give them the intel they need to operate are serving, too,” Hentschel said.

Hentschel was awarded a Cybercorps Scholarship for Service, and he began working toward a new goal, preparing for a federal career as an information assurance professional.

David Raymond, director of the Virginia Cyber Range and deputy director of Virginia Tech’s IT Security Lab, is Hentschel’s mentor.

“Sam has had to fight through a pretty significant challenge with his eyesight. Virginia Tech does a lot to help students with these kinds of physical challenges, but it is still very difficult to do well in that situation,” Raymond said.

“Sam is obviously very passionate about his education, and he focuses much of that energy into the Cybersecurity Club,” Raymond added, pointing out that Hentschel had served as the club’s vice president and had taken responsibility for the club’s network infrastructure.

“The infrastructure task is a big one—it includes several servers running in a virtualization environment, and it is a critical piece of the Cybersecurity Club’s annual Cybersecurity Summit Capture-the-Flag Competition, attended this year by over 100 college students from Virginia, Tennessee, and West Virginia,” Raymond said.

Hentschel’s no-nonsense approach also impressed Aras “Russ” Memisyazici, Virginia Cyber Range network architect.

“I appreciate it when I meet a fellow security engineer who can interpret a problem without discussing all the unnecessary cruft [virtual junk]. His attention to detail is admirable and, in my opinion, he would be a great asset to any team he works on or leads,” Memisyazici said.

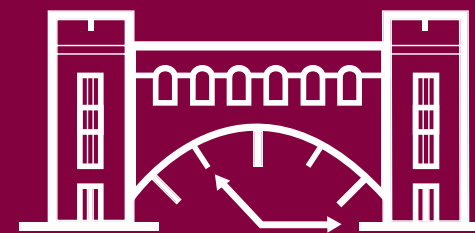
For Hentschel, the computer science program and the Cybersecurity Club have helped facilitate a way to combine his life-long interest in computers and his passion for service.

Hentschel was young when computers first piqued his interest, but when a friend in high school introduced him to cybersecurity, he discovered a passion for the work.

“That’s really where the whole dork thing started,” he said. “In cybersecurity, there is no one solution, so that makes it an interesting problem. And there’s something kind of pure about it because they’re all just zeros and ones.”

He said he believes that Tech helped him develop the mindset necessary to make the most of that interest. “Your enemy isn’t going to follow the rules to breach your computer, so you have to have that same mindset to solve the problem,” Hentschel said. “The courses [at Virginia Tech] make you think differently like that.” ■ *TW*

TRAVIS WILLIAMS



GIVING DAY VIRGINIA TECH

5,283 GIFTS
\$1,626,389 RAISED
4,313 INDIVIDUAL DONORS
2,799 ALUMNI DONORS

COURTNEY FLICKINGER’S PARENTS divorced when she was a high school junior, and afterward, she moved into a small Maryland apartment with her mother and twin brothers.

Money was tight. Flickinger knew paying for college would be difficult.

She received a scholarship for out-of-state students to help fund her first year at Virginia Tech. That, plus financial aid and another scholarship, are helping Flickinger afford her education.

“I appreciate that there are people out there who still feel like helping someone,” said Flickinger, a rising senior.

Judging from Virginia Tech’s first Giving Day in March, there are thousands who want to support the university and help students like Flickinger.

More than 4,000 donors participated in the 24-hour fundraising challenge from noon on March 20 to noon on March 21. Combined, they gave more than \$1.62 million.

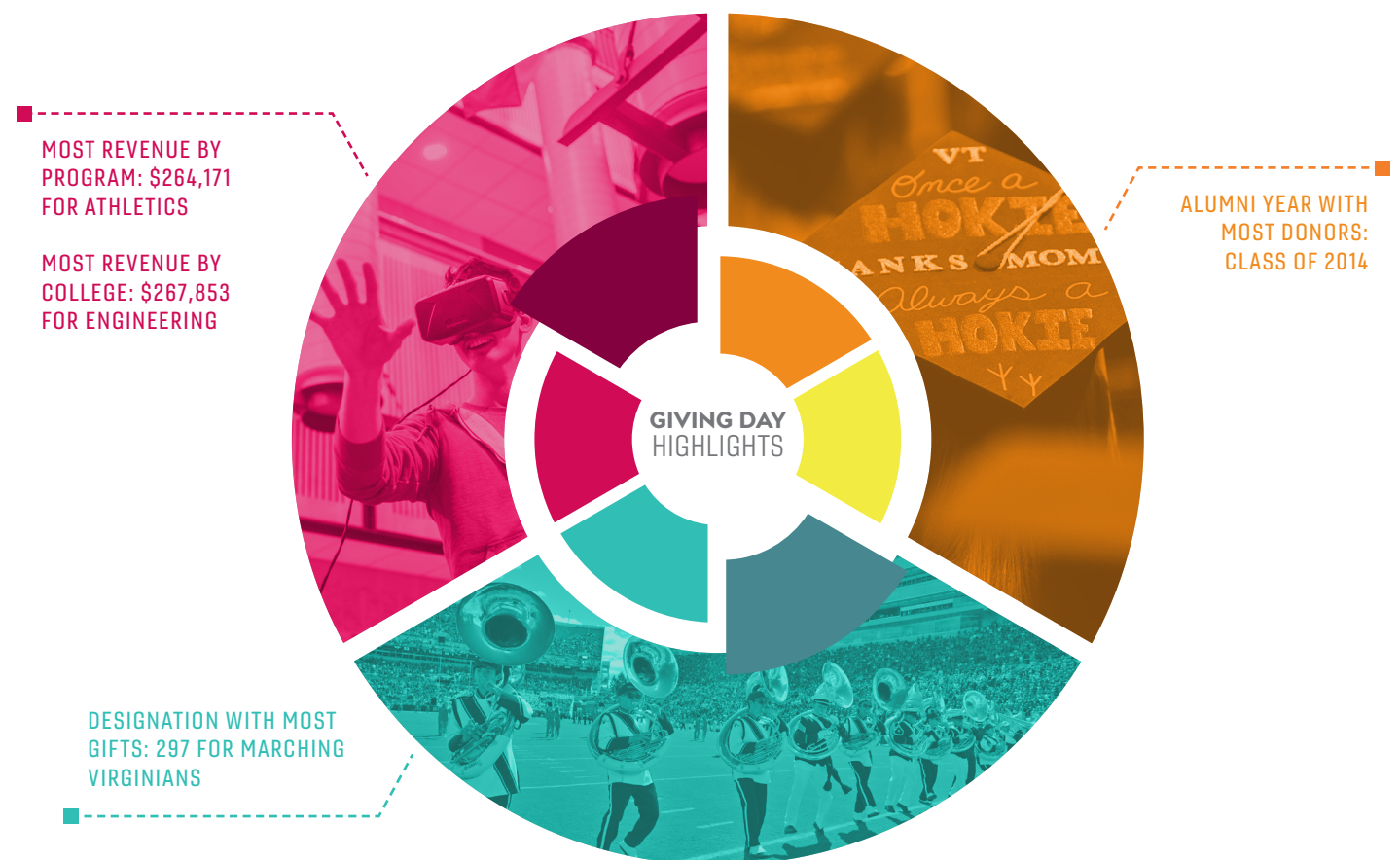
Giving Day returns in 2019 on March 19, when thousands will come together, once again, to make a difference.

Making gifts, on Giving Day or other days, is one way that Hokies around the world are living *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve).

By giving back, they are helping today’s students, including Uyen My Ngo Dao, who moved to the United States from Vietnam 11 years ago and is the first in her family to attend college.

Dao’s parents speak limited English, and she had to track down ways to pay for her education.

“It’s really helpful for those like me who come into a university not knowing they could take care of themselves,” said Dao, a rising senior who received financial aid and scholarships. “They can find a future here.” ■ *JB*



KEVIN MAUEL, JIM STROU

TAKING A BIG-DATA APPROACH

HOW A HOKIE IS WORKING TO IMPROVE CRITICAL INCIDENT RESPONSE

DATA ANALYTICS IS JASON

Dominiczak's thing—his job, his life's work, and his plain-old, free-time fun. And the world may be a better place for it.

By day, Dominiczak '16 works for the University of North Carolina at Charlotte designing data-driven computer programs to sync university services, from acceptance letters to diplomas—the kind of back-end IT endeavors that go unnoticed, unless, of course, they don't work.

"I enjoy being a part of the 'grand plan' to make better student services a reality," said the graduate of Virginia Tech's online Master of Information Technology (MIT) program. "I love analyzing problems and building solutions."

But the problems of higher-education operations aren't the only ones Dominiczak is looking to solve.

On April 16, 2007, Dominiczak was the first tactical medic on scene at the Virginia Tech tragedy. At the time, he was a senior and captain of the Virginia Tech Rescue Squad, the second-oldest, all-volunteer, student-led campus EMS agency.

And while passion is an easily over-used word, it's the only fitting way to describe Dominiczak's ongoing drive to improve response in critical incident situations.

"Leading the rescue squad was a life-changing experience," he said. "Understanding how to learn from a bad situation and make things better became very important to many of us."

In 2017, Dominiczak established a non-profit enterprise working to pull out actionable data and create evidence-based guidelines that can improve medical response in high-threat situations. Known as the Barger Street Group (in honor of the rescue squad's Blacksburg address), the endeavor has three goals: save lives, lessen severity, and take power from perpetrators.

As part of the Committee on Emergency Casualty Care (a civilian corollary to a Department of Defense committee), the Barger Street Group is applying data analytics to improve training, equipment, and protocols for first responders. Dominiczak brings big-data skills to a table that includes physicians, first responders, and tactical medical personnel from around the country.

"I want to give back. I want us to be able to provide better care," he said. "But it has to be data-driven, not anecdotal. I'm hoping to bridge that gap."

After college, Dominiczak spent five years with the Virginia Tech Police Department as a patrol officer, SWAT operator, tactical medic, public safety diver, and firearms instructor. He has taught tactical medicine courses to thousands of federal, state, and local medics and physicians.

At a crossroads during his tenure with the police force, he enrolled in Virginia Tech's MIT program. Coursework in decision sciences and health IT further strengthened his desire to look at available



Jason Dominiczak '16

data and formalize the best practices for medical responses.

This spring, Dominiczak's research on applying data analytics for improved patient safety in the ICU was published in the Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety, an influential accreditation body in healthcare quality and patient safety. The final paper was co-authored with Lara Khansa, associate professor of business information technology and associate dean in the Pamplin College of Business.

"Our research is evidence of Jason's fervor for evidence-based decision-making," said Khansa. "It provides a framework for marrying real-time analysis of vast amounts of data with the necessary human

controls to ensure more informed decision-making and better care in the ICU."

Dominiczak's research was born of a graduate assignment and a few beers shared with fellow rescue squad alums Colin Whitmore '06 and Mike Russell '77.

"We were talking about how medicine is still learning how to make maximum use of available data—in this case information generated by hundreds of ICU pumps and monitors. I started thinking about aviation and the flight simulators I loved as a kid. Working with Dr. Khansa, we explored how to apply the same data-aggregating methodologies to medicine."

Dominiczak credits Khansa and his MIT studies with fostering that interdisciplinary mindset.

"One of the most valuable things for me was to put myself outside my comfort zone and try topics that weren't related to what I was doing," he said. "That diversity of exposure has made all the difference in shaping the way I attack problems and seek solutions."

Oh, and here's the free-time fun part: Dominiczak and his brother are avid competitors on Kaggle, an online platform where participants apply machine-learning tactics to some of the world's most intractable problems—like predicting who will win March Madness or optimizing Santa's gift delivery. "Wherever there's a problem," said Jason, "there's an answer in the data." ■

An advertisement for Virginia Tech's Online Master of Information Technology (MIT) program. The background is a blurred image of a graduate in a black cap and gown. The text is overlaid on the image. At the top, it says "We know I.T." in large white letters. Below that, it says "Get your online master's degree from a university that knows I. T." in smaller white letters. A teal banner contains the text "Online Master of Information Technology" and a list of course offerings. At the bottom, it says "Ranked #2 by U.S. News & World Report Best Online Graduate Computer Information Technology Programs" in white letters.

We know I.T.

Get your online master's degree from a university that knows I. T.

Online Master of Information Technology

- Analytics and Business Intelligence
- Big Data
- Business Information Systems
- Decision Support Systems
- Health Information Systems
- Networking
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- Software Development

Ranked #2 by U.S. News & World Report
Best Online Graduate Computer Information Technology Programs

NANCY PIERCE



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WHAT'S INSIDE ▾

8
classrooms and meeting spaces

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8.4 million
eBooks

1.6 million
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2,000
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in Special Collections

5,200+
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prospective employer follows

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items in VTechData, the research
data of the university community

64,000
scholarly works by faculty,
students, and staff in VTechWorks

IN A WORLD OF DIGITAL DOWNLOADS,
streaming media, and ebooks, the library
is no longer the quietest spot on campus.

The former repository has transformed,
taking on the role as the university's hub
for knowledge-sharing—where people
come together to collaborate, create, and
innovate.

There are three library locations in
Blacksburg: the Carol M. Newman
Library, which is the main facility, and two
branches, the Art and Architecture Library
and the Veterinary Medicine Library.
In the National Capital Region, Virginia
Tech's Northern Virginia Center offers a
branch in Falls Church, Virginia. ■

*Ann Brown is the director of strategic com-
munications for the University Libraries.*



VIRTUAL LEARNING: (above) In the Virtual Environments Studio, library visitors can experience virtual reality technologies for gaming, education, art, and other applications. (at right) Athenaeum, a collaboration with the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, is a suite of spaces and services in Newman Library dedicated to cultivating digital research skills through collaborative, hands-on experiences.

BEYOND BOOKS

To learn more about the libraries at Virginia Tech, visit vtmag.vt.edu.



CREATIVE COLLABORATION: (far left) Free 3D printing, workshops, and consultations are available for all library patrons. (left) A variety of spaces and resources to facilitate effective group study and encourage collaboration are available at the University Libraries.

CREATE, COLLABORATE, INNOVATE, SHARE

THE 21ST-CENTURY LIBRARY



SIX STUDIOS ▾

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helps researchers transform, recover, curate, share, archive, and fully understand the life cycle of data

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helps researchers visualize research data in new ways

VIRTUAL ENVIRONMENTS STUDIO

teaches visitors how to create new worlds at the Blackbox virtual environments theater

FUSION STUDIO

a flexible collaboration space designed for undergraduate researchers



investing in OPPORTUNITY

\$20 MILLION GIFT TO HONORS COLLEGE STRENGTHENS THE VIRGINIA TECH ADVANTAGE

By Richard Lovegrove

To succeed, businesses need individuals who are able not only to share from their own knowledge, but who understand how others contribute to the end goal and who can work together to blend varying skill sets to solve problems and grow ideas.

Traditionally, it's taken years of experience and significant workforce investment to develop people who excel at this sort of collaborative innovation.

But what if industry didn't have to wait years? What if a university could produce graduates who are ready to discover solutions to complex problems—because their education prepared them in advance?

David Calhoun '79, senior managing partner for the private equity firm Blackstone, former CEO at Nielsen, and a former vice president of GE, announced in March that he is investing \$20 million in the Virginia Tech Honors College in hopes of giving Hokie graduates exactly that collaborative edge.

"Throughout my business life in the big systems engineering world ... one of the most difficult challenges is the development of people who understand different disciplines and know which to bring to bear on projects," Calhoun said. "If students graduate from college with some of that agency and have some of that

ability to bring a variety of disciplines to solve a problem—and they have practiced that—then they will come into companies ready and raring to contribute."

Of Calhoun's \$20 million gift, \$15 million goes to a scholarship endowment that ultimately will benefit 200 Honors College students annually. The Calhoun Honors Discovery Program will debut with 50 scholars in 2019.

The remaining \$5 million supports the launch of the Calhoun Honors Discovery Program, a pilot model of collaborative



David Calhoun '79

“I’m lucky to often be asked how things can improve in our economy and lives, and I always come back to one thing: education.”

David Calhoun '79



EXCEPTIONAL OPPORTUNITY: *Founded in the 1970s, the Virginia Tech Honors College, which is housed in Hillcrest Hall, provides an intimate environment for learning.*

CULTURAL IMMERSION

Taylor Allen '16 had been to the Dominican Republic, Sri Lanka, Morocco, Turkey, and South Africa before she even graduated from Virginia Tech. Since then, she's studied in China and returned to South Africa.

The injustice Allen witnessed during these international experiences led her to complete an internship in Washington, D.C., with the International Justice Mission, a Christian nonprofit that fights human trafficking, slavery, and violence around the world.

A Calhoun Honors College scholarship paired with other financial aid helped make all that possible.

"My family and I weren't in a position to financially support me going to college," said Allen.

Allen, who is from Atlanta, Georgia, majored in human nutrition, foods, and exercise and minored in 21st-century studies. She earned her master's in global health through Duke Kunshan University in China.

"My study-abroad experiences at Tech opened a door of opportunities to travel the world and explore topics I'm passionate about," Allen said. "I value cultural immersion and any opportunity to travel and partner with local communities."



taylor ALLEN

learning within the Honors College that will connect the specialized knowledge students gain in their majors to foundational concepts from other disciplines, as well as the Calhoun Center for Higher Education Innovation.

"This is a game-changing gift for Virginia Tech and the Honors College students who will have the opportunity to develop skills that are essential for success," said university President Tim Sands.

Interim Provost Cyril Clarke said, "This program has implications throughout our university and beyond. We plan to collaborate across colleges and disciplines and to form deep partnerships with industry. We expect to create a model that other universities will follow."

Design of the Discovery Program pilot initiative began more than a year ago.

"An initiative this ambitious would not be possible without extensive collaboration across our university," said Paul Knox, dean of the Honors College. "I appreciate all the partners who are helping make this possible. That includes Dave Calhoun. His generosity makes it possible for us to launch this project at a much larger scale than we could ever have done without him."

Before investing in the vision, Calhoun vetted the details, even asking friend John Tracy, retired chief technology officer of Boeing and now a senior advisor to the Discovery Program, to attend an early design meeting to give his opinion on the experiment.

"The more I learned about this program from leaders like Thanassis Rikakis (who will head the Calhoun Center) and Paul Knox, the more I wanted to help support it," Calhoun said. "I consider this to be an experiment, and it's going to be an

enriching experience for all the students who enter it. The students will be true co-developers of the program. In some ways, we're teaching discovery. That, for me, is very exciting."

Calhoun, of Sunapee, New Hampshire, and his wife, Barbara, are among the most generous donors in Virginia Tech's history. Both are members of the President's Circle within the Ut Prosim Society of donors. He is on the Pamplin Advisory Council and has served on the Virginia Tech Foundation Board. Calhoun delivered the University Commencement address in 2005, co-chaired the university's past fundraising campaign, and received the 2015 Alumni Distinguished Service Award.

BLACKSBURG in his blood

"The most significant thing that happened in my life in terms of developing the confidence to succeed was graduating from Tech," said Calhoun, who earned his bachelor's in accounting from what is now the Pamplin College of Business. "I always felt advantaged because of it. I'm lucky to often be asked how things can improve in our economy and lives, and I always come back to one thing: education. This gift is a combination of my love of the school and interest in doing something good on the education front."

Following graduation, Calhoun joined General Electric, beginning what would become a distinguished 26-year tenure, during which he worked his way to the role of vice chairman of GE and chief executive officer of GE Infrastructure. He moved from GE to transform Nielsen into a global information and measurement company and then to Blackstone, one of the world's leading investment firms, where he is a senior managing director. He also serves on the boards of directors for the Caterpillar and Boeing companies.

Along the way he learned vital lessons. An early one came from Larry Bossidy, a GE vice chairman who was the father of nine children and generally left work in time for dinner.

"He had found this wonderful balance," said Calhoun, the father of four. "He clearly told me how imbalanced I was. ... That was a defining moment in who I became as a person."

Another important lesson grew from learning to recognize the value of diversity. That drive is reflected in the Calhoun Scholars program at Virginia Tech. The program provides scholarship awards ranging from \$1,000 to full tuition, fees, room, and board for Honors College students who are first-generation or from an underrepresented group. ■

POETIC LICENSE

When she was 18, Emily Blair made it clear she planned to teach composition at a college or university in the South.

Now, at age 25, this first-generation college student who grew up in rural Fort Chiswell, Virginia, is doing just that, thanks in part to a Calhoun scholarship.

"As a poet from a working-class background, this opportunity was incredible," Blair said. "I knew I would be able to attend college without incurring student loans ... taking a full four years to pursue my interests instead of rushing through the degree to save money."

At Virginia Tech, Blair, an English major with an American studies minor, explored peace studies and violence prevention, Appalachian studies, history, and more; traveled overseas; saw her poetry published online and in undergraduate literary publications; and twice took third in the Virginia Tech Steger Poetry Prize competition.

Since graduating in 2015, Blair earned an M.A. in English from the University of Louisville and continues to pursue a writing career while teaching. Her first chapbook, a small collection of poetry, is being published this summer.



emily BLAIR



RETURN ON INVESTMENT

To watch an exclusive video of Calhoun and to learn more about his gift and the Honors College, visit vtmag.vt.edu.

R



ON THE RIGHT TRACK

By Mason Adams

From 1913 until 1971, the Virginia Tech football team traveled to Roanoke on Thanksgiving Day to play its annual game against Virginia Military Institute, usually on the banks of the Roanoke River at Maher Field. For decades, the annual Military Classic of the South was Virginia Tech's only real presence in Roanoke.

Today, Maher Field still hosts sporting events, but the rest of the flood plain around it has changed dramatically. Rising up across the street is the Virginia Tech Carilion (VTC) School of Medicine and Research Institute, which replaced an aging industrial district with a burgeoning academic health center that in just 10 years has transformed Roanoke and the larger region.

Roanoke stands as a model of reinvention for struggling mid-size cities around the country, driven in large part by Virginia Tech's engagement since the early '80s. The university's partnership with the city to restore and expand the Hotel Roanoke stimulated growth through the '90s while providing a blueprint for private developers to reinvent the downtown housing market in the '00s. That in turn has attracted economic advances, inspiring a wave of young residents who have injected new energy into the Star City. In the five years from 2010—the year the VTC complex opened—to 2015, Roanoke gained more young adults than it lost during the previous two decades.

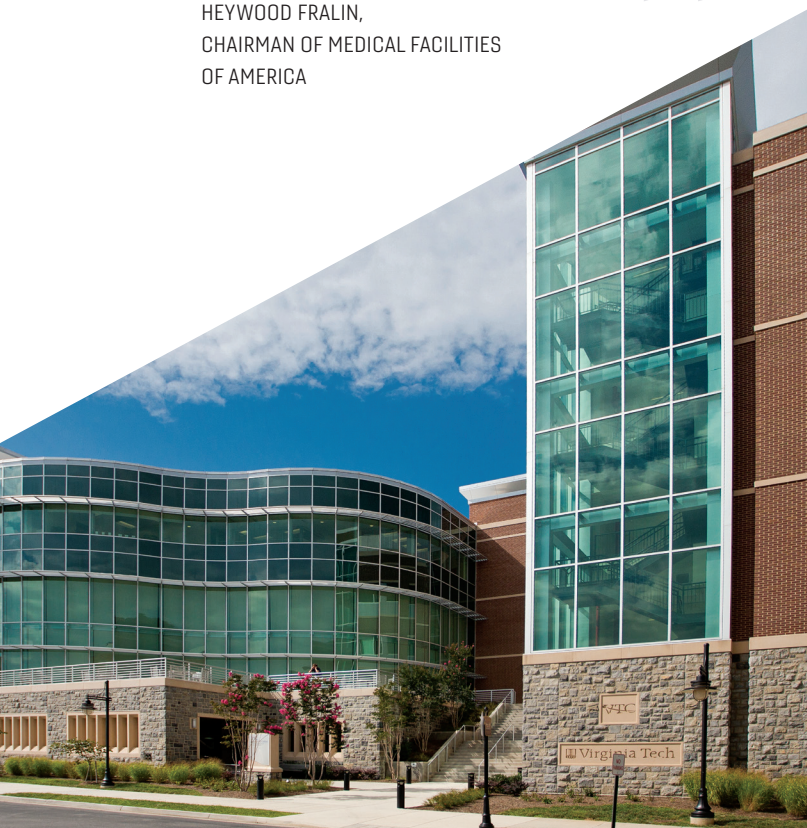
◀ RAILROAD ROOTS: For nearly a century, the railroad industry influenced economic growth and development in the Roanoke Valley. Today, health sciences and technology are shaping its future.



Virginia Tech is a very strong university, and Carilion is a strong health-care provider in the region, but neither will be as great as they can be without developing the academic health center that is a partnership between the two of them.



HEYWOOD FRALIN,
CHAIRMAN OF MEDICAL FACILITIES
OF AMERICA



“The research that is happening in Roanoke is important, not just because it elevates the university and our partnership with Carilion Clinic, but because it has the potential to change people’s lives,” said Virginia Tech President Tim Sands. “Our VTC Health Sciences and Technology Campus in the Roanoke Innovation Corridor is attracting talent, resources, and partners from around the world to Roanoke.”

Over the past 25 years, Roanoke transitioned from its roots as a railroad hub into a tech-savvy, millennial-pleasing, craft beer-soaked outdoor mecca. It’s difficult to overstate the effect of Virginia Tech’s involvement on this transformation. The university’s partnership with Carilion Clinic accelerated Roanoke’s reinvention, turning it, in the words of former city manager Chris Morrill, from a train city into a brain city.

The center of that brain activity is VTC, where a growing community of students, instructors, researchers, physicians, and other professionals work out of three—soon to be four—multistory buildings that teem with activity. The medical school’s preparation of the next generation of physicians and the research institute’s cutting-edge explorations have proven to be a powerful regional talent magnet, attracting both individuals and businesses. This summer, the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine will become even more tightly bound to the university as it is formally integrated as Virginia Tech’s ninth college.

These three structures are only the beginning: More buildings are planned, and businesses that have emerged from VTC’s research already are taking root in the Jefferson Street corridor that connects the Riverside complex with downtown Roanoke. Across the street, apartment complexes and commercial businesses have sprouted, reshaping the skyline of South Roanoke and inspiring a surge of creative energy.

“If I had the ability to come back 30 years down the road, I probably would not recognize the skyline,” said Heywood Fralin, a longtime supporter of Virginia Tech, chairman of Medical Facilities of America, and an outspoken advocate for greater regional cooperation. “It won’t be just the buildings that are built, or the operations of the clinic, or the school of medicine, or research institute. It will also be the companion businesses and clusters of activity that are created as result of the academic health center. And the most exciting part of it is the growth in the realm of high-paying jobs, which will raise the income levels of everyone in the region.”

That growth is gaining momentum and attracting people.

◀ EXTRAORDINARY CLASS: (top) Students in the School of Neuroscience view surgery. (bottom) The Health Sciences and Technology Campus houses the School of Medicine and the Research Institute.

“You can feel the change,” said Carilion President and CEO Nancy Howell Agee. “This is a place that people want to come to.”

Virginia Tech and Carilion are spurring the creation of new, high-paying career opportunities beyond the biomedical sector. The increasing numbers of individuals relocating to the region to fill these positions have prompted the growth of related services and amenities.

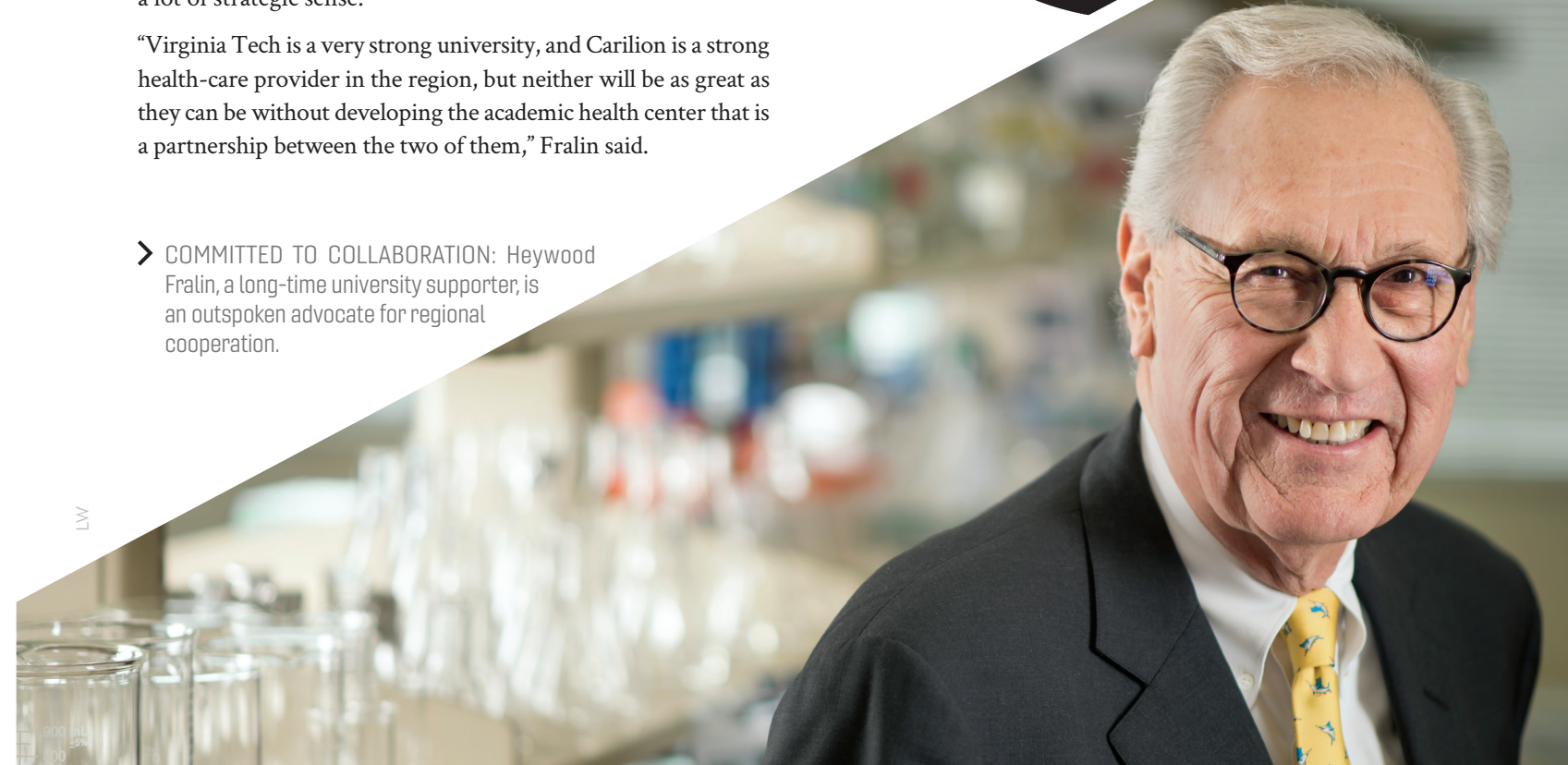
“In the next 10 to 15 years, Virginia Tech Carilion could be one of the major medical research facilities on the East Coast,” said Roanoke Mayor Sherman Lea. “I’m not just thinking about Roanoke or the New River Valley, but receiving national attention. That’s an opportunity that can really make a difference in our community.”

The partnership has broad ramifications beyond Riverside: Virginia Tech and Carilion’s efforts are bringing the Roanoke and New River valleys together in a way that benefits both and opens the door for collaboration that will make western Virginia more competitive in the global economy.

The Roanoke and New River valleys have long functioned as geographically adjacent but divided metro areas. They belong to different watersheds, with one draining into the Atlantic Ocean and the other into the Gulf of Mexico. Although a steady stream of commuters travel between the two, until recently each region emphasized its independent identity. In an increasingly competitive global marketplace, however, working together makes a lot of strategic sense.

“Virginia Tech is a very strong university, and Carilion is a strong health-care provider in the region, but neither will be as great as they can be without developing the academic health center that is a partnership between the two of them,” Fralin said.

➤ COMMITTED TO COLLABORATION: Heywood Fralin, a long-time university supporter, is an outspoken advocate for regional cooperation.



STEVEN MACKAY, DAVID HUNGATE

LW

“When we talk about the main campus of Virginia Tech, we aren't talking about it being divided between the New River and Roanoke valleys. It encompasses both Roanoke and Blacksburg.”

JOHN DOOLEY,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER,
VIRGINIA TECH FOUNDATION

FROM RADIO WAVES TO HOTEL STAYS

Virginia Tech wasn't always so engaged in the Roanoke Valley. For much of the 19th and 20th centuries, its active participation was limited to the annual Thanksgiving football game.

That changed in the early '80s, when Virginia Western Community College sought to find a buyer for WVWR-FM, its National Public Radio station. The Virginia Tech Foundation stepped up, purchasing the station in 1982 and changing its call letters to WVTF. The station itself remained in Roanoke, creating the first formal, ongoing connection between Virginia Tech and the valley. That connection was reinforced many times daily in the station identification messages.

“The station identification message created a daily public recognition of Virginia Tech being involved in Roanoke for those who listened to the station,” said Ray Smoot, former chief executive officer of the Virginia Tech Foundation, who was instrumental in securing the deal. “The radio audience heard every day, many times if they were listening for any length of time, that this was a public service of Virginia Tech, but coming from Roanoke.”

WVTF has experienced significant growth since Virginia Tech took over, much of it under the purview of long-time general manager Glenn Gleixner, who was named interim manager in 2000 and took over permanently the following year. Gleixner announced his retirement earlier this year and is being succeeded by Roger Duvall, general manager and director of Kentucky's WEKU since 2007.

The university's acquisition of WVTF marked the first substantive step in a relationship that expanded during the late '80s, when Norfolk Southern Railway began to dispose of its real-estate holdings in downtown Roanoke. The deteriorating Hotel Roanoke had not kept pace with modern developments and was losing money, so the railroad decided to leave the hospitality business. The decision sparked fear about the future of the hotel, which had served as a symbol of the city's prosperity since its opening in 1882.

“The city was quite concerned about what was going to happen to Hotel Roanoke and had visions of it lurking up on the hill with chain link fences around it, dark and deteriorating,” Smoot said.

The city approached Virginia Tech; the university had purchased

WVTF, so why not the hotel? Many Hokies were incredulous at first, but foundation officials recognized the potential of the project.

“Virginia Tech's response to Roanoke was that if you, Roanoke, will build a large, state-of-the-art conference center, then we, Virginia Tech, will take over the hotel,” Smoot said.

In 1989, Norfolk Southern transferred the hotel to Virginia Tech (see related story on page 58), which, in partnership with the city, embarked upon an ambitious fundraising initiative. The success of the campaign fueled the restoration of the Hotel Roanoke and construction of the adjoining conference center.

The Hotel Roanoke reopened in 1995. Over the next 20 years, its economic impact was estimated to be \$616 million.

“By all metrics, it has been a very successful venture,” said Virginia Tech Foundation CEO John Dooley. “Indeed, it set the pathway for this cross-understanding between the Roanoke and New River valleys. I like the way that Tim Sands has articulated this relationship. When we talk about the main campus of Virginia Tech, we aren't talking about it being divided between the New River and Roanoke valleys. It encompasses both Roanoke and Blacksburg.”

The collaboration also paved the way for restoration of another building owned by Norfolk Southern, which became the Roanoke Higher Education Center. The building was donated in 1997, and the center opened three years later. Today, Virginia Tech is one of 11 institutions offering workforce training and graduate programs at the centrally located facility.

The significance of the partnership between Virginia Tech and the city extended beyond cementing Tech's role in Roanoke or preserving an iconic downtown building at a time during which an increasing number of structures were being vacated. The relationship pioneered the use of state and federal historic tax credits for building restoration. A decade later, those tax credits would prove crucial as private developers sought to transform a series of downtown industrial and professional buildings into apartments, resulting in an entirely new neighborhood that has grown to more than 2,000 residents in just 12 years.

The collaboration on the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center turned out to be a game-changer for the city, but it was just a small step compared to what lay ahead.

◀ THE PATH TO PARTNERSHIP: The restoration of the Hotel Roanoke and construction of the adjoining conference center paved the way for future collaborations that would span the Roanoke and New River valleys.

JIM STROUP



A VISION FOR INNOVATION

In the late '90s, then-Virginia Tech President Charles W. Steger's goal to develop the university's position as a leading research institution led to the early conversations with then-Carilion CEO Ed Murphy that ultimately resulted in the university and health center collaboration.

"If you look at the top 30 research universities, all but two have medical schools and related medical research," said Smoot, who is also a member of the Carilion board. "Having at least an affiliation with the medical system seemed very helpful and necessary to building this larger research presence."

The vision and proven track record of the two partners proved to be a powerful persuader. In Richmond during the mid-'00s, then-Gov. Tim Kaine and Lacey Putney—the legendary, 52-year delegate and chairman of the budget-writing Virginia House Appropriations Committee—forged a deal to pass a \$1.5 billion plan to finance college and state building projects, including the Virginia Tech Carilion venture. Putney, who died in 2017, called its passage "probably the most significant piece of legislation that I've been associated with."

A decade later, VTC's initial success has exceeded expectations in terms of its transformative power, not just for Roanoke but for Carilion and Virginia Tech.

In fiscal year 2017, nearly 1,700 people worked at the VTC campus. By 2026, that number is expected to rise 85 percent to 3,147, according to a study conducted by the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service's Center for Economic and Policy Studies.

From 2006 through 2016, Virginia Tech, Carilion Clinic, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the City of Roanoke invested a combined \$375 million into the academic health center, with \$147 million of that coming from the university. Through 2027, university analysts expect to see another \$193 million in capital investment, \$300 million in grant expenditures, \$187 million in additional medical school expenditures, and another \$1.5 billion in economic impact.

Total spending at the Health Sciences and Technology Campus is estimated to climb to \$190.3 million in 2026—a 350 percent increase from 2017. The campus' economic output in the state, which includes money generated through the VTC enterprise and its employees, is projected to reach \$465 million in 2026. In 2017, economic output was \$214 million.

◀ **GROUND BREAKING CHANGE:** (top) The School of Medicine will become Virginia Tech's ninth college this summer. (left) In fall 2017, VTC broke ground on the Biomedical Research Expansion building.

These figures don't account for Virginia Tech's involvement with Hotel Roanoke or WVTF. Nor do they factor in the cumulative effects of the more than 7,500 Tech alumni living in the Roanoke Valley. Taken as a whole, Virginia Tech's impact on the region is tremendous.

"The Virginia Tech of today is not the Virginia Tech of 20 years ago or even 10 years ago," Agee said. "The vision that Charlie Steger had of being a top-tier research university was a huge leap into the future, and they're there. That would not have been possible without the partnership between Virginia Tech and Carilion."

If not for the partnership, Agee said, "in terms of research, Virginia Tech's then-aspirational goal would have been unlikely. It would not be getting as much funding from NIH [National Institutes of Health]. For Carilion, we've brought in several hundred new physicians and providers, many of whom came because we captured this vision. They wanted to be part of Virginia Tech as well as Carilion."

In October 2017, Virginia's governor joined local and regional elected officials and a crowd of nearly 100 to participate in the ceremonial groundbreaking for the center's fourth building, the 139,000-square-foot Virginia Tech Carilion Biomedical Research Expansion. The facility will provide additional research laboratories organized around interactive research themes and infused with experiential learning environments.

The expansion was funded in part by a \$2.2 billion state bond package in 2016, a product of the work of a Republican General Assembly and Democratic Gov. Terry McAuliffe. Soon after that agreement had been reached, during the signing of a ceremonial bill, McAuliffe said that VTC would catapult Virginia into national prominence in brain research.

ARTIST RENDERING: AECOM

DAVID HUNGATE

▶ **HEALTHY GROWTH:** The 139,000-gross-square-foot Biomedical Research Expansion will provide additional state-of-the-art research laboratories organized around interactive research themes and infused with experiential learning environments.



“ If you look at the top 30 research universities, all but two have medical schools and related medical research. Having at least an affiliation with the medical system seemed very helpful and necessary to building this larger research presence. ”

RAY SMOOT,
FORMER CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER,
VIRGINIA TECH FOUNDATION



We are putting our marker down. Right here at Virginia Tech Carilion, we really can become the brain state with the great work that is being done here.



TERRY MCAULIFFE,
FORMER VIRGINIA GOVERNOR



CREATIVE DOG MEDIA

“We are putting our marker down,” McAuliffe said. “Right here at Virginia Tech Carilion, we really can become the brain state with the great work that is being done here.

Expected to open in spring 2020, the \$90 million research facility reflects the continued growth of the Roanoke Innovation District. Students, trainees, and faculty members with diverse talents, along with Carilion clinicians, will come together to perform research studies in a real-world context, reaching across boundaries to solve complex health problems.

“The future that I see is a new economy for the Roanoke and New River valleys that is technology-based, with a significant driver being health and life sciences,” Dooley said. “I see the vibrancy of downtown Roanoke expanding. I see the creation of new companies that come out of the research enterprise of Virginia Tech Carilion. I see companies relocating to the region to be close to this exciting venture. I see other companies that have services that might be related to the companies relocating here. I see the creation of new jobs related to amenities that would support the types of retail and service that a new generation requires and desires. And long-term, I see new transportation modes between Roanoke, Blacksburg, and the National Capital Region to help facilitate smooth transitions and the movement of talent to Southwest Virginia.”

VTC’s work will be amplified through another collaboration between the Virginia Tech Foundation and Carilion Clinic. The \$15 million VTC Innovation Fund will support late-seed and growth-stage companies to commercialize groundbreaking science and research as well as innovative products and solutions. The initiative accelerates moving research conducted at VTCRI into real-world applications.

◀ **A 21ST-CENTURY TRANSFORMATION:** Virginia Tech’s efforts in the Roanoke Valley have helped spur the economic development needed to promote the region as a prime destination for talented, ambitious individuals.

BACK ON THE RAILS

Virginia Tech’s growing role in Roanoke has helped transform the city into a 21st-century destination for talented and ambitious individuals. With many of the initiatives still in their early stages, there remains unbridled potential for the future.

“In my opinion, this can be as great as all of us want it to be,” Fralin said, but it will take continued buy-in from the Hokie Nation. As an example, he pointed to the fundraising effort to support the restoration of the Hotel Roanoke.

“You could go into any restaurant, into any business, and people were talking about and excited about the renovation and reopening of the Hotel Roanoke,” Fralin said. “That’s exactly the type of enthusiasm and type of backing this effort is going to have to have. It’s going to be successful no matter what, but it’s going to be far more successful if you have that kind of support and buy-in. It will require both financial contributions and human capital contributions by everybody, and they have to be greater than they’ve ever thought of before for this to be as successful as everyone wants it to be.”

The university’s engagement has progressed, moving from a decades-old athletic tradition that played out annually on Maher Field to the present, encompassing a vital academic health center and research institute with an eye on the future.

Today, students and instructors provide care at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital, and researchers make discoveries that fuel growing numbers of start-ups in the Roanoke Innovation Corridor. Virginia Tech’s intervention helped reverse the negative direction of an iconic hospitality business, establishing in its place the thriving Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center, an attraction for tourism and business that also served as a cornerstone for the downtown reinvention that reversed decades of decline.

Although still in its early stages, the Virginia Tech Roanoke partnership is laying the new tracks that will carry the city and the university far into the future.

AN INTERVIEW WITH

CYNDA ANN JOHNSON

By Alison Matthiessen

Cynda Ann Johnson, founding dean of the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, is retiring after more than a decade of leading the school that will become Virginia Tech's ninth college this summer. Upon her 10-year anniversary as dean and before her retirement, Johnson reflected on her experiences and what she had learned at the helm of what was at the time the country's newest medical school.

WHAT LED YOU TO ROANOKE?

I was looking for a new adventure, and it was essential that I join an organization with strong leadership. I wanted to feel good about who I would be working for. I was impressed with the superb founding leadership team of President Charles Steger, [Carilion CEO] Ed Murphy, Nancy Agee [who succeeded Murphy], and [Carilion Chief Medical Officer] Mark Werner. Today that team has changed a bit, but President Tim Sands, Nancy Agee, Cyril Clarke, and Patrice Weiss continue to be strong.

HOW DID YOU CREATE A MEDICAL SCHOOL THAT EMPHASIZES RESEARCH?

The first thing we needed to do involved Senior Dean for Academic Affairs Rick Vari. Leadership wanted us to have a five-year, problem-based, research-intensive curriculum. We had a retreat within weeks of my arrival where I got most everyone to agree to a four-year school, instead of five, which would have increased cost and time for students. We designed a compelling model for a four-year integrated education program. Soon after Rick arrived, we decided on our four value domains—basic science, clinical science, research, and interprofessionalism.

Some of my primary care and family medicine colleagues wondered why I would start a school that was research intensive. It's been very important to me to teach people that research and primary care are not opposite ends of the spectrum. In fact, there is no spectrum at all. It's a way of learning and thinking critically. The skills we learn by doing research are applicable to all specialties.

CAN YOU SPEAK TO THE PROCESS OF RECRUITMENT, AND HOW STUDENTS SHAPE THE MEDICAL SCHOOL?

Recruiting the first class produced much anxiety. I thought, "What if no one applies?" When we saw a good number of applicants, that was a relief, but then we worried no one would come. When we seated our first class of 42 students, they were such good students, I almost couldn't believe it. They were a class of entrepreneurs in that they actively helped us build the program. Sometimes their evaluations were critical, and those were agonizing for us. We were trying every single thing for the first time. That was really hard.

The students helped us define our personality, and we were so thankful for that. The charter class made it a focus to have their own night of volunteering at Bradley Free Clinic, which, beyond student volunteers, requires recruitment of faculty to oversee them. But, they made it happen, and it is a tradition that continues to this day.

Our 100 percent match really gets prospective students' attention. It doesn't take students long to figure out that you can get into medical school, but you can't complete your training if you can't get into residency.

Three things our students like best—and I do, too—are our small classes, the problem-based learning experience, and the research component. We think these pieces are special because they fit into our mission to develop physician thought-leaders. A personal concern of mine is that physicians have not traditionally been the philosophical leaders of the discipline. We want students to acquire the skills to be able to take the lead—leadership, intellect, and critical thinking.

HOW HAS WORKING WITH CARILION CLINIC SHAPED THE SCHOOL AND ITS GRADUATES?

The fact that we have a dedicated health system that supports the school means everything. This is not only important for the students when they begin the clinical rotations in various specialties, but also because physicians are involved in teaching our students. The relationship between our students and Carilion physicians was great from day one.

WHAT WILL THE VTC COMPLEX LOOK LIKE IN 10 YEARS?

I think I won't recognize it, both in terms of how many buildings and also how many people are here. This campus will be indistinguishable from Virginia Tech and Carilion. I think the complex will continue to move into the community, and we'll see increasing technology transfer between VTC and other businesses.

I predict we will branch out to try things like rural or satellite campuses. I'd also like to see us become a bigger part of Virginia Tech and to more fully participate in the life of a land-grant university and the activities of the Cooperative Extension as part of a health-based initiative. I also expect expansion of our current partnership with Jefferson College of Health Sciences as it looks to integrate with Radford University. This will be critical for aspirations to become an academic health center.

When I first came here, there was talk about the anxiety of having two valleys: Roanoke and New River. They just couldn't come together because of the 42 miles and the mountains, the different cultures. I think that dream of bringing the two valleys together is happening and will be realized in the next 10 years.

While dean here, I was recruited for other jobs, but I didn't consider any in-depth. None could match the experience I have had starting a new medical school—it was the opportunity of a lifetime. I plan to stay active on community boards and boards of professional organizations and with my family. My husband, Bruce, and I love to travel, but we intend to keep our condo in downtown Roanoke. Every year the medical students hold a pingpong tournament to raise money for one of our scholarships, so my secret goal is to practice more and come back to win the tournament!



R



Cynda Ann Johnson

DAVID HUNGATE



UNABRIDGED

Read the full interview with Cynda Johnson at vtmag.vt.edu.



Michael Friedlander

RESEARCH MATTERS

By Mason Adams and John Pastor

When the Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute launched in 2010, its founders faced a significant challenge: how to rapidly position a new institution to compete for global talent with academic health research powerhouses that had been operating for decades, if not centuries. Despite the daunting goal, Founding Executive Director Michael Friedlander and a dynamic team of world-class researchers have made substantial progress.

“People are doing extremely well, punching way above our weight class in success for such a young organization,” Friedlander said. “I’m not sure what’s happened here could have happened many other places at this particular time in our nation’s history.”

Credit this to the talented researchers recruited to VTCRI—drawn by a combination of factors that include the new facility, the city’s location amid the Blue Ridge Mountains, and the opportunity to work closely with colleagues at Virginia Tech and physicians at Carilion Clinic.

AT A MOLECULAR LEVEL

VTCRI researchers operate on the leading edge of neuroscience, cardiovascular sciences, rehabilitation and repair, immunology, and cancer. The scientists compete successfully for federal grant funding and partner with the private sector to develop the next wave of medical advances, bringing their work from the lab to the patient. VTCRI scientists sometimes flip that concept, working to understand the molecular, behavioral, and computational mysteries underlying successfully applied clinical care.

That’s what Deb Kelly, an associate professor, is doing with cancer cells. Her team examines the structure and interaction of molecules, such as breast cancer-susceptibility proteins.

“We want to understand the secrets, find what’s missing, and learn by looking at things differently and better,” Kelly said. “Much of our lab is focused on how the proteins in cancer cells look and behave. If we can understand how they differ from normal cells, we might discover clues that help us attack them better.”

Using the high-powered cryo-electron microscope in her lab, as well as substrates and technologies manufactured by partner company, Protochips Inc. of North Carolina, Kelly has identified a visible mutation on the protein that signifies the onset of cancer. She and her team have altered parts of the mutated protein so that it returns to a normal appearance and behaves normally. The hope is that the technique can be incorporated into cancer treatments.

MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICES

Warren Bickel, another early recruit, studies addiction science.

Bickel collaborates with Matt Hulver, who heads the Department of Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Their research on decision-making focuses on people with obesity, diabetes, and diseases caused or aggravated by poor lifestyle choices.

Bickel’s research includes the study of “immediacy bias,” or why people sacrifice future well-being in favor of short-term gratification; the development of an international quit-and-recovery registry, which collects data from self-identified addicts; and the creation of an experimental tobacco marketplace to examine smokers’ purchasing habits.

“Alcohol, heroin, sex, food—it’s all immediate stuff with great impact right in the moment. That’s what people get hung up on,” Bickel said. “No one screws up their lives or careers or families because they’re saving more for the future. If you have a short

window, the only thing with value for you are those brief, intense, powerful reinforcers. That’s what we see with drug-dependent people. They forego or hurt relationships with parents, loved ones, a job, the law, because they’re not worried about that; they’re worried about getting high. What we’re showing with our data is that, if we can increase their window, their drug valuation decreases.”

Some of Bickel’s research findings are being incorporated into a small business known as BEAM Diagnostics. “What we’re doing is seeing if we can take some of these ideas about this temporal window to develop a quick and easy diagnostic device based on how much you value the future and value your brief intense reinforcer,” Bickel said.

The potential applications for managing the opioid crisis are striking. Yet Bickel’s work with other substances has even greater potential for saving lives: According to the CDC, about 64,000 Americans died from opioid overdoses during 2016, but 88,000 Americans die from alcohol-related causes, and 480,000 die from tobacco-related causes annually.

SETTING THE PACE

Capitalizing on professional connections during recruitment, Friedlander reached out to former student and then-colleague, Read Montague, as well as former colleagues Craig and Sharon Ramey.

A trailblazer in computational psychiatry, Montague invented real-time interactive multisite brain imaging and computational methods—basically giant computer simulations—to simplify the complexity of human interaction and study the biology of decision-making. Friedlander said, “Dr. Montague’s work has truly revolutionized our understanding of the biological and computational underpinnings of how we sense rewards and adjust our behaviors and decisions accordingly.”

Meanwhile, Craig and Sharon Ramey, accomplished developmental psychologists who had co-founded the Georgetown University Center on Health and Education, were contemplating retirement. After visiting Roanoke, the pair chose instead to begin another professional endeavor.

“The excitement at VTC was undeniable,” said Sharon Ramey, professor and VTC Distinguished Research Scholar. “It was so thrilling, and the mix of people brave enough to come here was about as creative and exciting a group of investigators as we have ever known.”

The Rameys cited Virginia Tech's land-grant mission as part of its appeal, and, as so often seems to be the case, the pair also joined a growing list of individuals imbued with a strong service ethic who are drawn to the university to further its motto of *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve).

"We came to realize it was possible to carry out in Roanoke the kind of research and service that could be potentially transformative for the local population," said Craig Ramey, also professor and VTC Distinguished Research Scholar.

The Rameys' research prioritizes school readiness and educational excellence, pregnancy outcomes, and new treatments for children with disabilities.

The Rameys have partnered with Roanoke City Public Schools, where 87 percent of students are eligible for free and reduced lunch, compared with a statewide average of 44 percent. Teaming up with Roanoke Public Libraries and more than two dozen other partners, they have been involved with the Star City Reads project, as well as early literacy, family literacy, and summer learning programs.

INNOVATION IN ACTION

Recruiting "entrepreneurial" faculty who secure funding for research, make fundamental biomedical discoveries, publish in top peer-reviewed journals, translate findings into applications to improve human health, and commercialize the work has helped VTCRI advance its mission quickly.

Consider Rob Gourdie, who describes himself as an "intrapreneur." Work in Gourdie's lab led to the formation of FirstString Research, a company to create treatments for wound-healing, and the startup Acomhal Research Inc., which he founded in Roanoke with VTCRI colleague Samy Lamouille to develop approaches to fight brain cancer. FirstString Research earned recognition from the U.S. Small Business Administration for innovation, and Acomhal Research has won federal Small Business Technology Transfer funding.

"I work within the university, but try to take discoveries beyond the lab bench, and that involves a different kind of thinking than is traditionally associated with the publish-or-perish motivation of academia," Gourdie said.

In just eight years, VTCRI has attracted world-class faculty, won numerous NIH grants, laid the foundation for a regional biomedical industry, brought the *Ut Prosim* ethic to low-income children, and built partnerships across the Roanoke Valley and beyond.

But the work is really just beginning. ■



A WINNING STRATEGY

Learn more about how VTCRI is beating the odds in research and recruitment at vtmag.vt.edu.



AROUND THE HOKIE NATION

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MASTERFUL METHODS

OF ALL THE WAYS TO MEASURE ACHIEVEMENT, DAVID Dechman's accolades certainly stand out: CEO and co-founder of an investment firm that oversees more than \$12 billion. One of the world's 12 most influential photography collectors, who guides the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA). The first openly gay partner at Goldman Sachs, whose vision and advocacy for equality is national in scope and impact.

There are also the character traits: The museum trustee who answers questions with "Oh, I'm still learning." The rising star at Goldman who told Harvard Business School students that he was chosen for the recruiting event only because he was "conveniently located in the Boston office." The advocate whose friend, in 18 years, has never once seen him angry or upset.

And there are the methods by which Dechman, who earned a chemical engineering degree from Virginia Tech in 1982, became the person standing so calmly in a Summit Rock Advisors conference room a dozen stories above New York City's bustling West 57th Street. He employs a pattern of thinking derived from his undergraduate program: unbundling the pieces of a problem, identifying the most critical factors, and explaining solutions to clients whose home base isn't finance. Said Dechman, "That's chemical engineering at its core—to take a stream of raw oil and break it up into pieces and then put it back together in an optimized way."

"That's what we all try to do. He just happens to be better at it than most of us," said Tim Gill of the Gill Foundation, which Dechman, a former board member, advises.

AT THE SUMMIT: David Dechman '82, one of the world's leading photography collectors, appreciates the work of Lee Friedlander (displayed on the conference room wall behind him) for how the photographer captures the beauty and complexity of everyday life.

Former MoMA chief photography curator Peter Galassi saw the same qualities in Dechman. Said Galassi, “It is about mastering an information flow, constantly judging what’s more important and less important. His ability to clarify his thinking, and to observe and digest and make judgments, has made him a great investor—and the ideal supporter of a cultural institution in this country.”

THE INSPIRATION

The oldest of three sons, Dechman grew up mainly in Texas and Connecticut. Inclined toward math, problem-solving, and quantitative analysis, and influenced by his father’s career as a chemical engineer for Union Carbide, he was attracted to Virginia Tech’s reputation and the immersive campus environment.

Dechman described himself as a focused, achievement-oriented student. He served as president of Phi Delta Theta fraternity, earned an engineering scholarship created by former Virginia Tech President T. Marshall Hahn Jr., and saw Europe for the first time thanks to a study abroad scholarship created by the Allied Corp.

Dechman worked as a chemical engineer for three years before beginning the MBA program at Harvard Business School, where the case method—studying real-life problems—allowed him to experience different roles and find one, in finance, that he knew he would enjoy for decades to come. “If you’re in the right job, you’re swimming downstream and you go faster than everyone else,” Dechman said. “If you’re in the wrong job, you’re swimming upstream and you work really hard and don’t go very far. Both people are good swimmers, but one is swimming the wrong direction.”

In 1987, Dechman began a 16-year stint at Goldman Sachs. His last position was co-head of the private wealth business

for the U.S. and Latin America, overseeing \$220 billion for about 10,000 investors.

Away from his professional life, during his early 20s, Dechman struggled with his sexual identity. “I chewed up a lot of angst and discomfort for many years while I processed: ‘What does it mean? What should I do? Who should I tell? And in retrospect, if that was a five-year period, I should’ve made it a five-week period.’”

In the late 1990s, as the senior-most gay person at Goldman Sachs, Dechman found that his openness allowed others—not only in the LGBTQ community, but also women and people of color, he said—to feel accepted and empowered in the workplace. “There’s always a fear of negative outcomes from coming out, especially in that period. That’s life; people won’t like you for various reasons, fair or unfair. But by not being open, you miss out on the opportunity to have more authentic relationships and to deepen your positive relationships.”

THE ADVOCATE

Dechman has been influenced by an expectation, prevalent in the U.S. and at Goldman Sachs, that he values. “As you become more successful, you’re expected to be involved in making the world a better place, in the community or a non-profit you care about or an organization that’s been helpful to you.”

In his selected pursuits, he commits for the long term. “I like doing a small number of things deeply. It’s not about quick-hit, instant gratification. The satisfaction is about the depth of engagement,” he said.

For nearly 20 years, first as a board member and now as a financial advisor, Dechman has worked with the Gill

Foundation. Led by software entrepreneur and philanthropist Tim Gill, the organization seeks to advance non-discrimination efforts for the LGBTQ population and equality and social justice for all people.

“We intend to never let him go,” Gill said of Dechman. “He has such a calm way of analyzing things, looking at the alternatives and the pros and cons, that is incredibly refreshing. I have never seen David get angry or upset. It must happen, but I’ve never seen it.”

Dechman defines diversity as “fairness, acceptance, and opportunity” for all people. For society to evolve, universities and other institutions must lead by creating environments that foster inclusion and interaction, he said. “The shared experience teaches you about each other, and you appreciate the common purpose and common spirit of all people. Then you start to appreciate diversity.”

THE COLLECTOR

In the mid-2000s, after Goldman Sachs and before Summit Rock, Dechman stepped away from business and finance to grow in other areas, educating himself on photography and philanthropy. Today, he sits on the MoMA Board of Trustees and chairs the photography committee, where he interacts with artists, museum curators, dealers, and collectors from around the world.

MoMA builds its collections through committees grouped by discipline. Dechman partnered with Galassi, the museum’s photography curator, to develop an acquisition strategy that paired volunteers with staff members to identify artists, defend the choices, and pursue artwork. Dechman was the diplomat and cheerleader who motivated the staff and helped fellow volunteers feel more engaged and inclined to

financially support the acquisition efforts. Said Galassi, “It was a brilliant way of building the collecting program.”

When MoMA honed in on Bill Brandt, the great 20th-century British photographer, Dechman led the way. “As a result, MoMA has, I think, the best collection of Brandt anywhere in the world, including the British institutions,” Galassi said.

Dechman’s personal collection is no less remarkable. In June 2015, he was named among the world’s 12 most influential photography collectors by artnet.com, a resource for the international art market.

Dechman brings judgment, generosity, and character to MoMA and his other ventures. “Our cultural institutions survive only because of people like David,” Galassi said. “It starts with generosity, but it draws upon all of the human qualities that make people valuable members of their communities. I find it astonishing how consistent and untroubled David’s involvement with the museum is. You can’t have a career like he’s had without enormously hard work, without ambition and ego—but you don’t you ever see that ego displayed.”

THE ANCHOR

Nancy Donohue finished her Harvard Business School MBA in 1992, five years behind Dechman, and joined Goldman Sachs. “We knew David to be a pacesetter,” Donohue said. “He embraced the transparency of the metrics-based business, produced spectacular results, and wasn’t showy. We all knew who he was, and we admired him for his accomplishments.”

In 2007, Dechman and Donohue co-founded Summit Rock Advisors, an independent firm that provides financial advice and portfolio management to U.S.-based families and charitable institutions.



ARTFULLY ENGAGED: David Dechman, an avid photography collector, serves on the board of trustees of the Museum of Modern Art in New York City.

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, DESIGNED BY YOSHIO TANIGUCHI. ENTRANCE AT 53RD STREET. PHOTO ©2011 TIMOTHY HURSLEY

“The firm has a double bottom line, in the sense that we’re a for-profit company, but we’re also helping charitable people and charitable entities have more money,” Dechman said. “This idea of being financially successful but also being a force for good in the world is motivating to me personally, and it’s also motivating to the people who work here.”

Summit Rock’s 36 clients aggregate more than \$12 billion—a figure that, according to Investment News, ranks 12th among U.S. registered investment advisors.

Dechman’s success “comes from the day-in, day-out application of focus and concentration,” Donohue said. “I think he’s the Roger Federer of private wealth management. He really has an elegant, refined touch on the game.”

THE LEGACY

Calling Goldman Sachs his first chapter, Dechman said he’s in the middle of the second chapter, with the third chapter in the future being a “rebalancing” to create more free time. He and partner Michel Mercure, together for 22 years, share a life of philanthropy, art, travel, advocacy, and more. The owner of a printing company, Mercure balances Dechman. “I’m careful, slow, and thoughtful; he’s adventurous, faster, and intuitive,” Dechman said.

Understated and reserved, Dechman said he simply wants to “leave things better than I found them” in all of his endeavors, from a one-on-one mentoring conversation to changing a discriminatory law on a national level. “I’m trying to make a difference for as many people as I can. I want to have an impact.” ■ JT

BIG CITY DREAMS



METRO-MINDED: (above) Bashar Masri was recognized in a 2018 Forbes listing as one of the world's 50 greatest leaders. (top) Today, Rawabi, which in Arabic means "hills," is home to 4,000 full-time residents and welcomes nearly 10,000 visitors daily.

WATCHING AS HIS FELLOW PALESTINIANS shopped for brand-name jeans was a dream come true for Bashar Masri '83.

In spring 2017, as the first purchases rang up at the commercial center in Rawabi, a city Masri founded in the occupied Palestinian territory of the West Bank, the moment marked a milestone in a decades-long quest to construct the first new Palestinian city in 1,000 years.

"You know, I never doubted it would come to life, but it wasn't until I saw people all over the place in the commercial center—eating, shopping, working—that it was like, 'Wow, this is my dream right here,'" Masri said.

Masri and his partners broke ground on the 1,557-acre, \$1.4 billion project in 2010, and construction began on housing for a projected 40,000 residents two years later.

"Rawabi is the largest project ever in the history of Palestine," said Masri.

Masri spent his early years in the turbulent climate of the West Bank city of Nablus, where he often found himself in conflict with the soldiers who enforced Israeli rule. He immigrated to the United States in 1977, and Tech's engineering program lured him to campus for a visit.

"Blacksburg is just stunningly beautiful," Masri said. "I said, 'This is the place for me.' And I was not wrong."

After graduating, Masri began a career in real estate in the Middle East. When the Oslo agreement was signed in 1993, he returned to his native country, where he founded Massar International.

Masri believes that Rawabi is his way to better Palestine.

"Building a nation is not just getting recognized in the U.N., it's also having a sustainable nation," Masri said. "This is one great stone block in building that nation." ■ TW

COURTESY OF BASHAR MASRI

CLASS NOTES

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'49

CAREER Jack Victor Hattem, Laguna Woods, Calif., has authored several books about the life and death of Marilyn Monroe.

'65

CAREER Grayson William Marshall Jr., Larkspur, Calif., received the 2018 Irwin D. Mandel Distinguished Mentoring Award from the American Association for Dental Research.

Osie "Mack" McCoy Sawyer Jr., Virginia Beach, Va., was recognized for surpassing 2,000 hours of volunteer service at the Military Aviation Museum in Virginia Beach, Va.

'66

CAREER Richard Alan Kluender, Russellville, Ark., retired as dean from the School of Forestry and Natural Resources at the University of Arkansas and was inducted into the Arkansas Foresters Hall of Fame.

John Austin White Jr., Rogers, Ark., was honored with a Distinguished Alumni Award from the College of Engineering Education at The Ohio State University.

'67

CAREER Robert Allison Boynton, Richmond, Va., was appointed chair of the American Institute of Architects National Ethics Council.

'68

CAREER Vinod Chachra, Blacksburg, Va., was honored with the naming of a laboratory at Radford University in recognition of his financial support for the Innovative Mobile Personalized Accelerated Competency Training program.

'70

CAREER Robert Patrick Wray, Corvallis, Ore., authored his first novel, "Gift of the Grenadier."

'71

CAREER H. Pat Artis, Blacksburg, Va., received the 2017 Sporn Award for outstanding teaching of undergraduate engineering.

Charles Taylor Drumheller, Swoope, Va., was named Outstanding Forage Producer of the Year by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

'72

CAREER Richard Philip Chiacchierini, Gaithersburg, Md., received the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award from Marquis Who's Who.

'73

CAREER Linda Flournoy Barnett, Chesterfield, Va., retired from Dominion Energy after 43 years of continuous service. She received the 2017 Nuclear Electric Insurance Limited Quentin Jackson Mutuality Award.



PLAY BALL

Clifton "Boogie" Davis '51 threw out the ceremonial first pitch to open the Virginia Tech baseball game against Duke University on April 28. Davis pitched for the Hokies from 1948 to 1950, following service in the U.S. Air Force.

The youngest of 14 siblings, Davis earned a degree in agronomy and after graduation returned to the family farm in New Kent, Virginia, where he worked through the late 1960s before being named the agricultural Extension agent for New Kent County. He retired from that position in 1989 and returned to farming alongside his son, Paul Davis, who earned a bachelor's in integrated pest management in 1981 and a master's in plant pathology, physiology, and weed science in 1986, both from Virginia Tech.

VIRGINIA TECH ATHLETICS

Shelby Leland Spradlin Jr., Lynchburg, Va., received the Presidential Field Forester Award from the Society of American Foresters.

— '74 —

CAREER **June St. Clair Atkinson**, Raleigh, N.C., joined the UNC Institute of Politics as a visiting fellow, engaging with undergraduates and encouraging them to pursue careers in public service.

Gerald Alan King, Midlothian, Va., retired after 46 years of selling home furnishings.

— '75 —

CAREER **Thomas Franklin Lester**, Colonial Heights, Va., retired after 47 years as a bridge engineer with the Virginia Department of Transportation.

Angela Edwards Roberts, Richmond, Va., was named one of seven Strong Men and Women in Virginia History by the Library of Virginia and Dominion Energy.

— '77 —

CAREER **Danny L. Gray**, Marietta, Ga., was reappointed as a member of the National Coal Council.

Stephen Earley Scarce, Richmond, Va., was named managing director at the law firm of Parker, Pollard, Wilton & Peaden, P.C. in Richmond.

— '78 —

CAREER **Sandra Shelton Brewer**, Fort Mill, S.C., retired from General Motors Company as staff environmental engineer with over 38 years of service.

Robert Nathan Rector Jr., Danville, Va., retired with 28 years of service in long-term care.

— '79 —

CAREER **Leslie Roberts Gregg**, Blacksburg, Va., exhibited her work "Keepers of the Tradition" at the Lewis Miller Gallery at the Montgomery Museum.

Joseph Phillip Harner III, Saint George, Kan., was inducted into the Rural Builder Hall of Fame during the 2018 Frame Building Expo.

William Carl Wingfield Jr., Roanoke, Va., was named to the Board of Open Standards Consortium for Real Estate International.

— '80 —

CAREER **Diana Guerrant Jenkins**, Fairfax, Va., is director of the preschool at Fairfax United Methodist Church.

Elizabeth Jones Reed, Houghton, Mich., received Michigan Technological University's 2017 Distinguished Teaching Award.

Curry Alan Roberts, Richmond, Va., was elected chairman of the board of directors for Southern States Cooperative.

— '81 —

CAREER **Michael Allen Flanders**, Fort Myers, Fla., is president and CEO of Edison & Ford Winter Estates.

Paul Reynold Lawrence, McLean, Va., was nominated by President Trump to serve as undersecretary for benefits for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Robert Everette Middlebrooks, Chesapeake, Va., joined the American Institute of Architects Senior Leadership Team, leading the Contract Documents and Risk Management Team.

Wayne Robert Sass, Fullerton, Calif., was appointed adjunct professor of health administration in the University of Southern California Sol Price School of Public Policy's Executive MHA program.

Thomas James Straka, Pendleton, S.C., was named the Forest Landowners Association's 2017 Extension Forester of the Year.

Robert Joseph Wittman, Montross, Va., participated in Bring Your Legislator to School Month by reading to pre-K and kindergarten classes in the Washington District Elementary School.



SAVE THE DATES

Sept. 7-8
Chapter Officers Forum

Sept. 8
Accounting and Information Systems Tailgate

Sept. 15
Pamplin College of Business Tailgate

Sept. 14-15
Corps of Cadets Reunion

Oct. 6
Vet Med Tailgate and Class of '98 Reunion

Oct. 25-27
Virginia Tech Alumni Association Board Meeting

Oct. 25
College of Architecture and Urban Studies Tailgate

➤ **Nov. 3-4**
Homecoming Weekend featuring:
Class of 1968 50th Reunion
Highly-Tighty Reunion
Young Alumni Terrace Party
College of Engineering Tailgate
College of Natural Resources and Environment Tailgate
College of Science Tailgate

Nov. 17
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Tailgate

College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences Tailgate

For more information, including details about other future events, visit alumni.vt.edu/events.

— '82 —

CAREER **Ellen Marie Fitzsimmons**, Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., joined SunTrust Banks Inc. as general counsel and corporate executive vice president.

George M. Hopper, Starkville, Miss., received the 2017 Southern Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors ESS Excellence in Leadership Award.

Gregory Neil Killough, Bowling Green, Va., retired from Roanoke County Schools as superintendent.

— '83 —

CAREER **William Gareld Landes Jr.**, Brightwood, Va., retired after 30 years of service with the Central Intelligence Agency and the Office of Naval Intelligence.

Newton S. Lee, Tujunga, Calif., is chairman of the California Transhumanist Party.

Leonard William Varner III, Palos Verdes Peninsula, Calif., was appointed to the board of directors at Novetta, an advanced analytical technology firm.

— '84 —

CAREER **Michael James Mankosa**, Erie, Penn., was elected to the National Academy of Engineering.

D. Andrew Bonham, Potomac, Md., was appointed president and CEO of Tarkett North America.

— '85 —

CAREER **Jeffrey Alois Babione**, Colleyville, Texas, was named vice president and general manager of Advanced Development Programs at Lockheed Martin.

Susan Phillips Bari, Raleigh, N.C., published her memoirs, "An Extraordinary Ordinary Life."

Lynne Martin Doughtie, Powhatan, Va., was named Most Influential Virginian by Virginia Business.

— '86 —

CAREER **Michele Zamarra Givens**, Fairfax, Va., was a representative for Virginia in the 2017 USA Petite Mrs. beauty pageant.

Bettina Kay Ring, Keswick, Va., was selected to serve as secretary of agriculture and forestry by Gov. Ralph Northam.

— '87 —

CAREER **Mark Gerard Unterkofler**, Clifton, Va., is a senior structural engineer for Dewberry in the Fairfax office.

James Nobles Spain, Columbia, Mo., was named interim provost and executive vice chancellor for the University of Missouri.

Lawrence L. moved to vice president and senior associate of TranSystems.

Raja Nassim Saliba, Mc Lean, Va., co-authored a book, "The Essential Case Law Guide to PTAB Trials."

WEDDING **Jeffrey B. Trollinger** and **Thomas D. Rimington**, Gum Spring, Va., 3/25/17.

— '88 —

CAREER **Robert Harrison Cary**, Chester, Va., was appointed chief deputy commissioner for the Virginia Department of Transportation by Gov. Ralph Northam.

Peter Andrew D'Anieri, Wellesley, Mass., is natural resources consultant at James W. Sewall Company.

Bret Preston, South Charleston, W.Va., retired from the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources.

— '89 —

CAREER **Stephen Kenneth Polacek**, Waxhaw, N.C., has joined Movement Mortgage as chief credit officer.

Karen Absher Vines, Blacksburg, Va., was named assistant professor of agricultural, leadership, and community education in the Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

— '90 —

CAREER **Scott Copko Asbury**, Longmont, Colo., is program director, Spaceflight Hardware Programs for All Aerospace.

— '91 —

CAREER **Joyce Agnes Cacho**, Edwards, Colo., is a member of the board of directors for Sunrise Banks.

David Alan Groeschl, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, was appointed acting director of the Idaho Department of Lands.

John Randolph McKnight, Lexington, S.C., was named chief operating officer for Consolidated Glass Holdings.

Nandita Rastogi Mishra, Rochester, Mich., was promoted to senior associate for TMP Architecture Inc.

PREGAME HOKIETALKS

Start your game day off right, and join us for HokieTalks! During football season, we host a pregame lecture series featuring faculty, researchers, and notable alumni. The talks are free, open to the public, and begin at 9:30 a.m. (for Saturday games) at the Holtzman Alumni Center.

To learn more, visit alumni.vt.edu/hokietalks.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR SUMMER 2019

We're holding our summertime reunion weekend June 6-9, 2019. Experience campus, connect with classmates, and celebrate class anniversaries from 1974 to 2014. Learn more at alumni.vt.edu/reunion2019.





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Aug. 11-19
Village Life:
Around the Italian Lakes

Sept. 29-Oct. 11
Easy Company: England
to Eagle's Nest

Aug. 14-23
Majestic Great Lakes

Oct. 1-9
Alpine Countries Oktoberfest

Aug. 16-27
Majestic Frontiers of Alaska

Oct. 15-26
Pathways of the Peninsula

Sept. 9-17
Wines of the Pacific Northwest

Oct. 26-Nov. 5
Cuban Tropical Rhythms

Sept. 13-23
Autumn Inspiration:
Canada and New England

Dec. 30-Jan. 4, 2019
Rose Parade New Year's Eve

Oct. 26-Nov. 5, 2018
Cuban Tropical Rhythms

\$2,599 (airfare included from select cities)

Spend a week in the Caribbean Sea during a cruise beginning in Miami.

Take The Sirena to Great Stirrup Cay before visiting the southeastern cultural hub of Santiago de Cuba, home to Desi Arnaz, Bacardi Rum, and the Battle of San Juan Hill.

From there, visit the bayside city of Cienfuegos, a former French settlement that remains a paragon of 19th-century urban planning. Explore Havana before cruising to Cozumel to enjoy extraordinary reefs, ancient Mayan ruins, and expansive beaches.

MICHAEL KRAKOWIAK

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For more information about Alumni Association travel tours, go to alumni.vt.edu/travel.

PROTECTING PINNIPEDS: Claire Simeone examines the health of a harbor seal.



ALL IN A DAY'S WORK

FROM SAVING SEALS TO TALKING TED

FORGING A PATH TO A FULFILLING career usually takes time, but occasionally a childhood passion provides the inspiration. For as far back as she can remember, Claire Simeone was always taking care of the animals around her neighborhood.

Today Simeone's neighborhood is the Pacific Ocean.

A 2011 graduate of the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech, Simeone is a conservation medicine veterinarian at The Marine Mammal Center, which is headquartered in Sausalito, California. Recently, she was named director of Ke Kai Ola, the center's Hawaiian monk seal hospital in Kailua Kona, Hawaii.

"I love that I get to be a part of the team at the forefront of helping marine mammals and saving species," said Simeone.

Earlier this year, Simeone fulfilled another dream when she became the first veterinarian ever to be named a TED Fellow. Since 2009, 20 new TED Fellows have been selected annually for a total of 453 fellows from 96 countries. The designees range from scientists and doctors to artists and activists. Each Fellow receives a year of mentorship and is required to present a four-minute talk at the annual conference.

"Virginia Tech is basically where everything started," she said. "I'm so grateful for the education I received there and the training. It's such a versatile degree."

A native of Maryland, Simeone came to Virginia Tech after completing a bachelor's degree in physiology and neurobiology at the University of Maryland.

"When I went down for my first visit, it just felt like home," Simeone said. "I love Blacksburg."

Simeone enrolled in the public and corporate veterinary medicine track. Students who pursue this track seek careers outside the traditional realm of private clinical practice.

"To the best of my knowledge, we're the only veterinary college in the United States that has full-time faculty overseeing a track devoted to students interested in this broad area of veterinary medicine," said Valerie Ragan, director of the college's Center for Public and Corporate Veterinary Medicine.

While pursuing her veterinary degree, Simeone spent summers involved with such programs as Envirovet Summer Institute and participating in externships at the San Diego Zoo and the marine research station in St. Barthelemy in the West Indies. Her willingness to go the extra mile for her studies was something Jacque Pelzer, director of admissions and student support, found noteworthy.

"From the get-go, she understood how difficult a path it was going to be to achieve her goal," Pelzer said. "Her dedication is what impressed me. She gave up a lot of her private life to achieve this dream."

Simeone eventually landed a one-year joint internship between SeaWorld San Diego and San Diego's National Marine Mammal Foundation. These experiences cultivated Simeone's love for marine mammals and led her to work with the Marine Mammal Center. Her current role emphasizes rebuilding the endangered Hawaiian monk seal population, which is currently hovering around 1,400.

"My work revolves around the message that marine mammals are sentinels of the ocean, and there's so much they can tell us," Simone said. "We need to be listening to what they have to say." ■ TW

Retro

Hotel Roanoke



SNOW BEAUTIFUL: An image from the 1940s offers a wintery perspective of the iconic Tudor Revival-styling of the Hotel Roanoke.



A HISTORY OF HOSPITALITY

THE HOTEL ROANOKE AND CONFERENCE Center has stood at the social center of Roanoke since its construction around the same time that the city's name changed from Big Lick. Built by the Norfolk and Western Railway, the hotel welcomed its first guests on Christmas Day in 1882.

Despite a kitchen fire that forced a brief closure in 1898 and the economic hardships associated with the the Great Depression, the hotel thrived. Following a renovation in 1938 that introduced the Tudor Revival-styling, the facility continued to grow through the '40s and '50s.

By the late '80s, with the building in disrepair and occupancy rates on the decline, the railroad abandoned the hospitality business. In 1989, the Norfolk Southern Corp. (formerly Norfolk and Western Railroad) gave the facility to the Virginia Tech Real Estate Foundation.

After a successful fundraising campaign, the renovated hotel and a newly constructed adjoining conference facility reopened in 1995. The project included expanding and upgrading Wells Avenue along with improvements for the adjacent Gainsboro community.

The use of historic tax credits to help finance the changes also laid the groundwork for a new wave of redevelopment that transformed downtown and launched Roanoke's new era.

In April, the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center was awarded a four-diamond rating by AAA, and in June, the venue was recognized with a 2017 Hilton Mobley Top Performer Award. ■ MA

HOTEL ROANOKE: (top) An exterior image of the hotel, circa 1917. (middle) The Palm Room, circa 1917. (bottom) A promotional photograph of the Fountain Room, circa 1940.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF NORFOLK SOUTHERN CORPORATION

Brian Keith Felder, Savannah, Ga., is managing principal of the architectural firm that received the ENR Southeast's Award for Merit.

David John Santoro Jr., Belmont, Sutton, Surrey, joined EY's Financial Assurance Advisory Services' practice in London as a partner.

Edward Victor Sayadian, Oakton, Va., is president at Crown Consulting Inc. in Arlington, Va.

'92

CAREER John Marchington Altman Jr., Hopewell, Va., was appointed city manager for Hopewell, Va.

Scott Christopher Groom, Cooperstown, N.Y., is senior vice president/chief information officer at Huntington Hospital in California.

Matthew Charles Valenti, Morgantown, W.Va., was named an Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Fellow.

'93

CAREER Keith Thomas Ferguson, Fairfax, Va., published a board game, "Santa's Workshop," through Rio Grande Games.

CHILDREN Wesley T. Harrison, Leesburg, Va., a daughter, 8/13/17.

'94

CAREER Vincent S. Hart, Westminster, Colo., was promoted to executive vice president for Carollo Engineers Inc.

Kevin William Keith, Bassett, Va., was recognized as the 2018 Forest Stewardship Field Forester by the U.S. Forest Service's Forest Stewardship Program.

Jane S. Tidwell, Atlanta, Ga., was promoted to senior associate at Stevens & Wilkinson Architecture.

'95

CAREER William E. Ensign, Marietta, Ga., received the Council on Undergraduate Research Biology Division Mature Career Mentor Award.

Raymond P. Kaczmarek, San Marcos, Calif., was appointed president of Nitto Avecia Pharma Services Inc.

CHILDREN Neil S. Pennington and Sarah "Beth" Lovejoy Pennington '01, Richmond, Va., a son, 1/14/17.

'96

CAREER Anil Kumar Doradla, Wilmette, Ill., was appointed chief financial officer for Airgain Inc.

George C. Palmer, Bedford, Va., was named 2017 Fisheries Biologist of the Year by the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

Robert J. Petrie, Marcellus, N.Y., had architectural illustrations featured in "Hands On," a monograph of work of Locati Architects.

Philip S. Rhodes, Broadway, Va., is the public works director for Rockingham County, Va.

'97

CAREER Christopher Joseph Forstner, Ellicott City, Md., was elected partner at Troutman Sanders LLP.

Frank James Pisano, Canton, Ga., joined BrightSign as vice president of sales.

Stephanie D. Balderson Scruggs, Vienna, Va., joined the Intellectual Property Practice Group at Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP in Washington, D.C.

'98

CAREER Shana D. Harris, New Orleans, La., owns and operates Pinky's Café and is part owner of Bayou Throws, a custom Mardi Gras beads and necklace operation.

Josh Larsen, Centreville, Va., was appointed chief revenue officer for Fornetix LLC.

Paul A. De Santis, Chicago, Ill., was promoted to partner with Goettsch Partners, an architecture firm.

'99

CAREER Patrick H. Brindle, Oakdale, Penn., was appointed vice president of project management for Piedmont Lithium Co.

Robyn Ilyse Dubick, Columbia, Md., is associate principal at CRGA Design, an architectural, interior design, and planning firm.

Trevor H. Flanery, Winston-Salem, N.C., is executive director of Forsyth Futures, a nonprofit community data research organization.

Steven K. Kuntz, Haymarket, Va., is manager of Dewberry's in Fairfax, Va.

Robert Jesse Austin, Portsmouth, Va., is a representative on the U.S. Meat Export Federation's Executive Committee.

Scott E. Sink, Blacksburg, Va., was recognized for five years of service on the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors.

'00

CAREER Barry R. Bickmore, Orem, Utah, authored a book, "Restoring the Ancient Church: Joseph Smith and Early Christianity."

Kevin Deegan, Morris Plains, N.J., is director of Hunt Mortgage Group's affordable housing/FHA.

Stephen Joseph Korving, Chesapeake, Va., was honored as one of the Hampton Roads Inside Business 2017 Top 40 Under 40.

Frances T. Norge, Chesapeake, Va., authored a book, "Redneck's Wife: A Novella."

'01

CAREER Robert Taylor Drumheller, Swoope, Va., received the Outstanding Forage Producer of the Year award from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Mitchell A. Housenick, Ocala, Fla., is associate professor and director of the College of Central Florida Radiography Program.

Azadeh "Azy" Kokabi, Washington, D.C., co-authored a book, "The Essential Case Law Guide to PTAB Trials."

Frederick Charles Malik, Vero Beach, Fla., was promoted to a senior position with the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety in Tampa, Fla.

Jaret C. Riddick, Aberdeen, Md., is director for the Vehicle Technology Directorate at the U.S. Army Research Laboratory.

CHILDREN Ali Christopher Mostafavi, New York, N.Y., a son, 3/9/18.

Bret Aaron Steele, Chesapeake, Va., a son, 8/25/17.

'02

CAREER Christopher M. Ensey, Baltimore, Md., is chief operating officer of Riot Blockchain Inc.

Matthew Steven Haas, Charlottesville, Va., is superintendent of Albemarle County Schools.

Christopher Matthew Harris, Midlothian, Va., was named deputy county administrator for finance and administration for Chesterfield County.

Michael James Stanton, Washington, D.C., returned to National Automobile Dealers Association as chief operating officer.

CHILDREN Lauren Duvall Heisey, Arlington, Va., a son, 12/14/16.

'03

CAREER Daniel James Larimer, Christiansburg, Va., an adopter of bitcoin and other blockchain technologies, was featured in various publications for excellence in the field.

Michael Lloyd Winter, Brentwood, Tenn., was named principal and serves as chief operating officer for Diversified Trust in Nashville, Tenn.

WEDDING Crystal Crockett Jefferson and Travis Jefferson, Christiansburg, Va., 6/22/17.

CHILDREN Joseph Moore Hammerstrom, Arlington, Va., a daughter, 12/9/17.

Jay C. Hagerman and **Jaimee Mancuso Hagerman '04**, Charlotte, N.C., a son, 8/25/17.

'04

CAREER Guillermo Fernando Trincado, Blacksburg, Va., was named director of Chile's National Simulation Model Project.

WEDDING Andrea Andersen, MBA '08, and **Ted Andersen '08**, Troutville, Va., 10/14/17.

CHILDREN Matthew P. DuBose, Charlotte, N.C., a daughter, 3/1/18.

FROM VIRGINIA TECH TO THE MARINE CORPS

PILOTING *UT PROSIM*

THREE VIRGINIA TECH ALUMNI WHO followed their studies in Blacksburg with careers as pilots in the Marine Corps have found themselves together thousands of miles away from Virginia.

Maj. John Stuart, Capt. Evan Slusser, and Capt. Andrew Thornberg fly the F-35B Lightning II out of Iwakuni, Japan, with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 121. Flying with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) aboard the USS Wasp during Spring Patrol 2018, all three participated in this year's historic first operational deployment of the F-35B with a MEU.

The 31st MEU, based out of Okinawa, Japan, is a forward-deployed, flexible air-ground-logistics team capable of accomplishing a wide range of military

operations in support of U.S. Pacific Command.

"The fact that three of us end up being pilots in the Marine Corps, who end up flying the F-35, who end up in the same squadron in Japan—the chances are pretty wild," said Slusser, who graduated in 2011 with a degree in international studies.

According to Thornberg, the opportunity to connect with the Virginia Tech community on the other side of the world in Japan is unique. The Hokies even get together to watch televised Tech sports.

"When I think of Virginia Tech and Blacksburg, I think of home," said Thornberg '07. "I'm very grateful to the Virginia Tech community. It has shaped my life and made me who I am today. I will always be a Hokie at heart."

Thornberg, who earned a degree in international studies, volunteered with the Virginia Tech Rescue Squad. He was a first-responder on April 16, 2007.

Stuart '04 was a member of the Student Engineer's Council and the Virginia Tech Motocross Club. He has a degree in industrial systems engineering.

"Virginia Tech didn't just feel like home, Virginia Tech *was* home to me," said Stuart. "My best friends in life, even to this day, went to Virginia Tech."

The Hokies aboard the USS Wasp are committed to their training at sea and to the Marine Corps, but they do have plans for the future.

"From my first day to the last, it was one of the best times of my life," said Slusser. "The people there are amazing; the place itself is amazing. I would love to retire and end up living somewhere near that school." ■

Adapted from a story by Cpl. Bernadette Wildes, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, that appeared online at Defense Visual Information Distribution Service on April 15, 2018.

HIGH-FLYING HOKIES: In March 2017, three Virginia Tech alumni, Evan Slusser, John Stuart, and Andrew Thornberg, participated in the first operational deployment of the F-35 with a Marine Expeditionary Unit.



COURTESY OF DEFENSE VISUAL INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION SERVICE

Crystal Morgan Fraser and Brian Fraser '08, Aldie, Va., a son, 2/18/18.

Justin Kenneth Leiter, Rockville, Md., a daughter, 2/28/18.

James Joseph Pembridge and Lindsay Moss Pembridge '09, Port Orange, Fla., a daughter, 12/28/17.

Miles P. Shifflett and Melisa Lasken Shifflett, Lynchburg, Va., a daughter, 10/25/17.

'05

CAREER Derrick Thomas Hogan, Albany, N.Y., was promoted to partner with Tully Rinckey PLLC.

William Andrew Meece, Axton, Va., was named senior finance officer for Carter Bank & Trust.

Seth Westfall Pesek, Charlotte, N.C., is a founding partner, senior vice president, and chief financial officer of Valeo Groupe.

CHILDREN Kristin L. Maglia McKernan, Simpsonville, S.C., a daughter, 2/12/18.

'06

CAREER Kevin Michael Cox, Richmond, Va., received his Virginia professional engineering license.

Francis B. Homer, Vienna, Va., received the 2017 Arlington Economic Development 40 Under 40 Award.

Adam Gabriel Lipkin, Verona, N.J., is a partner with Sobel & Co., a certified public accounting firm.

Jason John Lynch, Arlington, Va., was appointed to the board of directors for the Center for Job Order Contracting Excellence.

Carmen Louisa Sanders, Seat Pleasant, Md., was selected as Educator of the Year, a Virginia Tech Influential Black Alumni Award.

CHILDREN Eric Frederic Detweiler and Katherine Olson Detweiler '09, Forest, Va., a son, 11/28/17.

Jaime Karen Lanier Gill, Reisterstown, Md., a daughter, 2/25/17.

'07

CAREER Zachery Lee Brown, Claudville, Va., made a feature film, "Hard Surfaces," which earned Best Screenplay at the Downtown L.A. Film Festival.

Justin Alan Lemkul, Blacksburg, Va., was named assistant professor of biochemistry in the Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

WEDDING Chris Noack and Kelly Jamieson Noack '09, Henrico, Va., 6/24/17.

CHILDREN Richard Louis Anderson and Courtney Cecil Anderson, Charlotte, N.C., a son, 4/7/17.

Joseph Michael Derlaga and Anna Pearl Blevins Derlaga '09, Yorktown, Va., a son, 5/16/17.

Robert Ryan Radspinner, Virginia Beach, Va., a son, 3/3/18.

Richard Allen Ruckman Jr. and Amanda Mitchell Ruckman '09, Aldie, Va., a son, 5/25/17.

Cody Thomas Stepp and Emily Yeiser Stepp '11, Leesburg, Va., a daughter, 2/17/18.

'08

CAREER Inès Blal, Lausanne, Switzerland, is the first woman and youngest person appointed executive dean at Ecole Hôtelière de Lausanne in Switzerland.

Amine Chigani, Danville, Calif., was appointed chief technology officer of Sentient Science.

Larry Christopher Kiser, Tifton, Ga., is associate professor of forest resources in the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources at Abraham Baldwin Agriculture College.

Charles Obuya Sabatia, Blacksburg, Va., joined the Westervelt Company as a forest biometrician.

Megan Wyatt Beavers Underwood, Atlanta, Ga., is an information assurance leader in the Cyber Security Division at Delta Air Lines.

WEDDING Rachael Leigh Spruill Willard and Nelson D. Willard, Wellesley Hills, Mass., 9/22/17.

'09

CAREER Kristy Jones High, West Chester, Ohio, co-authored "Peter's Perfect Pipes," a children's book about living with asthma.

Javan William Rasnake, FPO, AE., was selected as the Hokie Hero for the football game against University of Pittsburgh.

Marcus Drew Wiles, Arnold, Md., is an associate with CRGA Design, an architectural, interior design, and planning firm.

CHILDREN Kristen Teufel Moore, London, a son, 4/21/17.

'10

CAREER Shannon Louise Auth, Westcliffe, Colo., is a Colorado State University Extension agent in Custer County.

Hamdy Fayez Farahat Mahmoud, Blacksburg, Va., is assistant professor in the Department of Statistics at Virginia Tech.

CHILDREN Danielle Kathleen Lindstrom Blaser and Joseph Brian Blaser '11, Middletown, Md., a daughter, 11/17/17.

Andrew Michael Puhl and Megan LeAnna Byrne '09, Seattle, Wash., a daughter, 12/7/17.



HOKIE TO HOKIE

Whitley Johnson '09, Holly Baynham '84, Jennifer Tardy '04, and Lee Murphy Jr. '10 participated in the student and alumni networking event at the 2018 Black Alumni Reunion this spring.

More than 400 Hokies returned to campus for the reunion. The memorable weekend was a chance to see friends, celebrate milestones, and reconnect with the university. We're already planning for the next one!

Learn how you can play a role at alumni.vt.edu/bar2020.

Meredith Hawkins Shuman, Roanoke, Va., a son, 11/6/17.

'11

CAREER Erica Lynne Critzer, Quinton, Va., was named to the 2017-18 20 in their 20's list by the Professional Convention Management Association.

Teresa Nichole Gallegos, Russellville, Ark., was a candidate for the special election in Arkansas State Senate District 16.

Taylor Chase Giebner, Johnson City, Tenn., joined the Johnson City Tree and Landscape Board.

Holly Elizabeth Kays, Waynesville, N.C., authored a novel, "Shadows of Flowers."

Claire Alden Simeone, D.V.M., Sausalito, Calif., was the first veterinarian named a TED Fellow.

WEDDING Garrett DiPietro and Caroline Boulanger '12, Chantilly, Va., 12/30/17.

CHILDREN Andrew Joseph Ickes, Roanoke, Va., a son, 12/25/17.

'12

CAREER Barbara Ann Dameron, Newport News, Va., is finance director for the City of Williamsburg, Va.

Katharine Alanna Fritz, Annapolis, Md., is executive director for the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay.

Erik Gatenholm, Riner, Va., was named to the Forbes 30 under 30 listing.

Caroline Christina Illig Murphy, Ashburn, Va., was featured on CNBC's "The Job Interview."

Christopher Branch Sturgill, Forest Hill, Md., was selected as the Hokie Hero for the football game against University of Delaware.

WEDDING Edwin Joseph Willis and Caroline Rudolph Willis '13, Richmond, Va., 9/16/17.

CHILDREN Peter Firey and Lauren Lemieux Firey '13, Arlington, Va., a daughter, 6/28/17.

'13

WEDDING Mireya Dino Pasa and Richard Storzaker, Reston, Va., 11/10/17.

'14

CAREER Alexander Gray Smythers, Annapolis, Md., leads a customer service team supporting proprietary database platforms for nonprofits and government agencies.

Kelly Megan McFadden, New York, N.Y., joined DXA as a junior architect.

'15

CAREER Andrew John Neiderer, Lynchburg, Va., is director of special operations at MontVue Capital Management in Lynchburg, Va.

WEDDING Ashley Marie Nelson Dustin and James Dustin, Los Angeles, Calif., 7/29/17.

'16

CAREER Leslie Joanne Frazier, Richmond, Va., was appointed assistant secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs by Gov. Ralph Northam.

Paul Stetson Rice, Norfolk, Va., is building the events division at Amplified IT, serving K-12 school district administrators in North America.

David Andrew Mills Scurry, Brooklyn, N.Y., joined DXA studio, an architectural firm in New York, as a junior designer.

Ashley A. Thompson, Lincoln, Neb., is on Oregon State University's Mid-Columbia Horticultural Extension faculty.

Casie Christine Venable, Boulder, Colo., was honored as the 2018 New Face of Civil Engineering by the American Society of Civil Engineers.

'17

CAREER Paul Lawrence Dean, Burke, Va., was named an associate at Dewberry in Fairfax, Va.

Daniel Brian Pinard, Salem, Va., leads the Norton Rally, working with the town of Dungannon as a community-builder.

MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

THE VIRGINIA TECH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTED TWO NEW MEMBERS:

CAMILLE M. DADAMIO, ROYAL OAK, MICHIGAN



DaDamio serves on the Student Affairs Young Alumni Board and is active with the Southeast Michigan Alumni Chapter. A design release engineer for General Motors Corp., she earned a bachelor's in industrial and systems engineering in 2011 followed by a master's degree in engineering from the University of Michigan.

As a student, DaDamio was selected as Virginia Tech's 2011 Undergraduate Woman of the Year and Greek Woman of the Year.

RANDY M. LUCAS, CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA



The principal consultant for Lucas Tax and Energy Consulting, Lucas earned a bachelor's in accounting in 1991 and a master's in 1992. He has served as a member of the Pamplin Advisory Council, Department of Accounting Advisory Board, Black Cultural Center Advisory Board, and the Pylon Society.

As a student, Lucas served as president of the Black Organizations Council and also was involved in Accounting Society, Black Student Alliance, and Order of the Gavel.

Four incumbents will serve an additional three-year term. They are Thomas J. Fast '06, Deborah Barackman Filippo '83, Brian Sullivan '93, and Claudia K. True '81, D.V.M. '86.

HOKIE BUSINESS SHOWCASE

Premier homes, Blue Ridge views... less than an hour from Blacksburg.

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JIM STROUP, LW



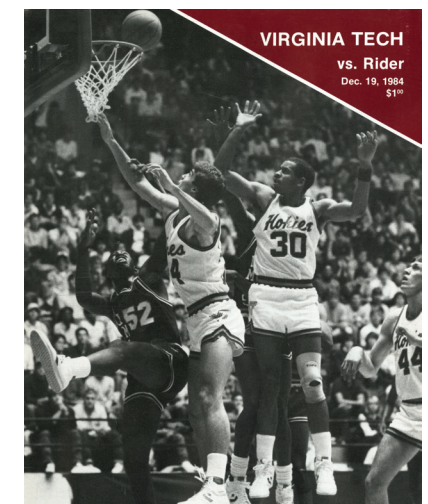
FOR REBECCA WILLIAMS, WORKING in Newman Library's Special Collections meant traveling through time to meet her parents as mid-'80s college students.

On her first day, Rebecca sought out a copy of "The Bugle" to search for her mom, then-Vicki Higginbotham, the engineering, baton-twirling majorette, and her dad, Philip Williams, a forward on the men's basketball team from 1983 to 1987. She quickly found Vicki '86, M.S. '88 and Philip '88, the middle generation of a Hokie family that also includes Vicki's mother, Betty Higginbotham, who has worked in the Department of Statistics for nearly a half-century, and Philip's father, Associate Professor Emeritus in Residence Clayton Williams in the Department of Physics.

Rebecca, who earned her bachelor's in history in 2015, followed by her master's in 2017, worked in Special Collections for another two years, and in early 2018, while organizing boxes, she made an unexpected discovery. "I came across a couple of boxes marked 'basketball programs,'" she said. "I opened them and found programs from '84 to '86. I started flipping through covers and found [my dad]."

Philip Williams was featured on one cover by himself and shared another with Dell Curry, an all-time Cassell Coliseum-banner legend who went on to a successful NBA career.

HOKIE TIME TRAVEL



FACE TIME: (top left) Rebecca Williams with her father, Philip Williams. (above) A 1984 program cover with Philip Williams and Dell Curry.

Rebecca laughed as she flipped through photos of Philip posing next to his stats. Finding the archived basketball programs helped Rebecca connect faces with the stories she's heard through the years.

"The [story] she shared in her blog post is a good one," said Philip. "It involved our superstar, Dell Curry. During practice one day in the middle of the season, there was some typical tussling and scrapping over a rebound. In that struggle, I accidentally dislocated Dell's shoulder. This is the middle of the season; you can imagine that was fairly shocking and traumatic for me in particular, because I was the one who did it. There were two things that were fortunate about that. Number one, Dell was very flexible in his shoulders, so that helped prevent for him what would have been a serious injury for someone else. We also we had our trainer and med staff right there to pop it back in immediately."

Curry was well enough to play the next game, and he went on to a long career in the NBA, but the moment left an impression on Phillip Williams, who has been telling it since: "I hurt the best player in Tech history and almost dramatically altered our team's fortunes that year."

Rebecca Williams finished her position at Special Collections in early April, and she is beginning the next stage of her life. But she's taking with her the memory of finding that box and making

new connections to further strengthen an already tight-knit family.

"Even when I'm working in unfamiliar collections, I find that I'm surprised by the connections I can make based on my own. That's the joy of working in Special Collections: Even the most rudimentary tasks have the potential to lead to the greatest discoveries." ■ MA

PAST AND PRESENT
Read Rebecca Williams' blog at vtspecialcollections.wordpress.com/2018/02/05/family-among-the-files.

FAMILY

1 “My parents surprised us with an appearance by the HokieBird, and it was absolutely perfect.” —Kelly Jamieson Noack '09, who married Chris Noack '07, Henrico, Virginia, 6/24/17.

2 “The rivalry really heated up when I married Sarah Stoneham, a UVA graduate, on March 18, 2017.” —Marvin Boyd '00, '01, Ashburn, Virginia.

3 “And then there were four. Big brother Milo meeting his baby brother, Auggie—the best birthday present a boy could ask for.” —Katie Olson Detweiler '09, who along with Eric F. Detweiler '06, Forest, Virginia, welcomed a son, August, 11/28/17.

4 “We met at Virginia Tech and are excited to raise little Hokies.” —Caroline Rudolph Willis '12, who married Edwin Willis '12, Richmond, Virginia, 9/16/17.

5 “We got married in our favorite place, our front porch overlooking our garden, surrounded by the people we love most. It was a beautiful day for us!” —Jeffrey Bruce Trollinger '87, who married Thomas Dean Rimington, Gum Spring, Virginia, 3/25/17.



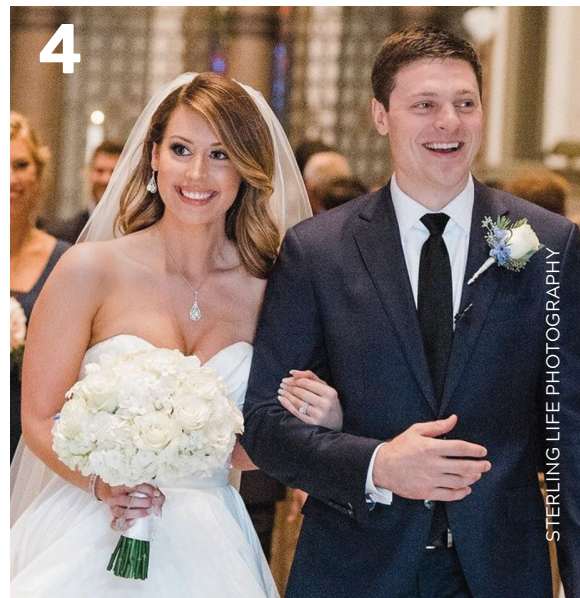
JAMIESON-NOACK



CONCENTRIA STUDIOS



KATIE DETWEILER



STERLING LIFE PHOTOGRAPHY



JUSTIN LOWENHAGEN



LAUREN FIREY



MR. ANTHONY'S FIRSTWORKS PHOTOGRAPHY



CANDICE ADELLE PHOTOGRAPHY



WESLEY HARRISON



ELIZABETH ALLISON PHOTOGRAPHY

6 “This little one has already learned Hokies Respect!” —Lauren Lemieux Firey '13, who along with Peter Firey '12, Arlington, Virginia, welcomed a daughter, Maeve Addison, 6/28/17.

7 “We met in Blacksburg, dated across Virginia, and got married in our new hometown. There was no better way to celebrate our marriage than with our closest family, friends, and the HokieBird himself by our side.” —Caroline Boulanger '12, who married Garrett DiPietro '11, Chantilly, Virginia, 12/30/17.

8 “When Travis first laid eyes on me in the fall of 1999 at Virginia Tech, it was love at first sight. For me ... not so much. But, Travis continued to pursue me until I gave in.” —Crystal Crockett Jefferson '03, who married Travis Jefferson, Christiansburg Virginia, 6/22/17.

9 “It’s a baby Hokie Girl.” —Wesley Tuck Harrison '93, Christiansburg, Virginia, who welcomed a daughter, Brooke Kathryn, 8/13/17.

10 “Celebrating the birth of our second daughter. Hat and shoes courtesy of my aunt, who has a son currently attending Tech.” —Kristin Maglia McKernan '05, Simpsonville, South Carolina, who welcomed a daughter, Josephine Rose, 2/12/18.

IN MEMORIAM

Listing includes notices shared with the university between Oct. 1 and Dec. 31, 2017.

'41

Ruth Snow Alden, Charlotte, N.C., 10/17/17.

'43

Emmett G. Taylor Jr., Temperanceville, Va., 11/17/17.

'44

Philip Robinson Compton, Warrenton, Va., 11/21/17.

Fitzhugh Mayo, Winchester, Va., 11/11/17.

Frank Herman McFadden, Salem, Va., 10/13/17.

'45

Joseph Charles Hild, La Grange, Texas, 9/21/17.

Charles E. Trumbo, Durham, N.C., 11/18/17.

'46

Charles David Easter, Blacksburg, Va., 10/3/17.

John W. Kimman Jr., Fredericksburg, Va., 10/28/17.

Robert Irvin Wilkerson, Brevard, N.C., 9/23/17.

'47

William L. Phalen Jr., Marietta, Ga., 9/19/17.

'48

James Madison Cole, Abingdon, Va., 9/15/17.

Elsie Brubaker Jefferson, Millington, Tenn., 10/21/17.

Ide Roy Lane Jr., Charlottesville, Va., 11/6/17.

John Willard Thomas Jr., Rocky Point, N.C., 10/26/17.

Robert E. Wickes, Simpsonville, S.C., 9/7/17.

'49

Elmer F. Brogdon, Bethlehem, Pa., 11/23/17.

Dewey C. Crockett, Wytheville, Va., 10/14/17.

Alexander Duncan Watson, Aberdeen, Md., 10/7/17.

'50

Walker Anderson, Louisville, Colo., 9/28/17.

Gene Lamar Crim, Stevensville, Md., 11/10/17.

Claiborne H. Cummins, Springfield, Va., 9/28/17.

Howard Edward Jones, Virginia Beach, Va., 9/22/17.

Robert Stewart Kilbourne, Abingdon, Va., 8/23/17.

Robert Carter Kluge, Richmond, Va., 11/7/17.

James Nelson Sheppard, Buffalo Junction, Va., 9/25/17.

Leon V. Talmage, Garnet Valley, Pa., 8/2/17.

Joseph Terrence Walbert, Gainesville, Fla., 10/24/17.

Robert Henry White, Roanoke, Va., 11/22/17.

'51

William Ronald Cocke Jr., Erie, Pa., 11/11/17.

Donn R. Hobbs, Hudson, Ohio, 11/20/17.

John Richard Plymale Jr., Harrisonburg, Va., 9/19/17.

James E. Smith III, Harrisonburg, Va., 11/4/17.

'52

Donald Nelson Bodell, Blacksburg, Va., 11/8/17.

'53

Horace B. Fitchett, New Bern, N.C., 10/10/17.

Harry Alexander Shannon Jr., Roanoke, Va., 10/2/17.

'54

Robert Oswald Ferrell, Poquoson, Va., 10/5/17.

James Rosati Jr., Largo, Fla., 9/15/17.

Hayden Judson Silver Jr., Williamsburg, Va., 9/28/17.

'55

William Puller Hundley Jr., Richmond, Va., 10/18/17.

'56

Raymond Frank Burmester, Fairfax, Va., 9/15/17.

Lyman Richard Comey, Chesapeake, Va., 10/17/17.

John Alex Hash, Memphis, Tenn., 10/14/17.

William H. Vipperman Sr., Daleville, Va., 10/28/17.

'57

Stanley A. Jacobson, Miami, Fla., 8/7/17.

Peggy Brooks Loyd, Chambersburg, Penn., 9/3/17.

'58

James Henry Patterson, Blacksburg, Va., 9/18/17.

H. Thomas Shreve, Richmond, Va., 11/1/17.

Robert Louis Wood, Lynchburg, Va., 11/27/17.

'59

Richard F. Ashton, Richmond, Va., 10/26/17.

Robert Schmidt Fulghum, Greenville, N.C., 11/25/17.

Richard N. McGuire, Christiansburg, Va., 9/14/17.

David C. Musick, Castlewood, Va., 10/14/17.

Arthur Richard Soderberg, Basking Ridge, N.J., 10/11/17.

'60

Robert A. Norman Jr., Winchester, Va., 10/20/17.

Stephen L. Sanders, Blacksburg, Va., 11/14/17.

William J. Story III, Waverly, Va., 7/14/17.

'61

Murray S. Boris, Potomac, Md., 9/19/17.

Rothermel McLean Duke Jr., Midlothian, Va., 10/31/17.

Kenneth Leslie Garner, Norco, Calif., 9/19/17.

Donald E. Simkins Jr., Smithfield, Va., 11/17/17.

'62

Robert Sidney Barrett Jr., Raleigh, N.C., 11/22/17.

James Hubbard Bradley Sr., Danville, Va., 6/3/17.

Asghar Hasan, Burlington, N.J., 9/22/17.

Robert L. "Chuck" Murray Jr., Yorktown, Va., 11/21/17.

Richard Wallace Williams Jr., Annapolis, Md., 9/15/17.

'63

Lawrence William Akers, Raleigh, N.C., 9/15/17.

Edward Darwin Breitenbach, Ivins, Utah, 10/23/17.

Carl Reid Carr, Midlothian, Va., 10/22/17.

Charles Daniel McArthur, Houston, Texas, 10/5/17.

John Franklin Reppert, Saint Albans, W.Va., 9/30/17.

Charles A. Trainum Jr., Fredericksburg, Va., 10/7/17.

'64

Richard Leon Dishman Sr., Troutman, N.C., 8/23/17.

Marvin Wilson Parker Jr., Newport News, Va., 9/1/17.

'65

George Steele Gillis, Atlanta, Ga., 9/21/17.

Evangeline Coker Swain, Keswick, Va., 12/4/17.

Terrell A. Wright, Alexandria, Va., 7/31/17.

'66

William Allan Bowerman, Berryville, Va., 10/8/17.

Robert William Earley, Sugarloaf, Pa., 9/25/17.

Claude Earl Messamore Jr., Saint Petersburg, Fla., 9/18/17.

'67

James Edward Carlton, West Point, Va., 10/3/17.

William Thomas Dickson, Luray, Va., 9/28/17.

George Antal Grozdits, Somerset, Ky., 11/20/17.

'68

Gerald Delmont Clarke, Sebastian, Fla., 10/17/17.

Larry R. Coke, Lansdale, Pa., 9/27/17.

Joseph Wayne Freeman Sr., Alexandria, Va., 10/28/17.

Jackie Norman Hardy, Danville, Va., 10/28/17.

William E. Perkins Jr., North Chesterfield, Va., 10/24/17.

'69

Roger Ashby, Roanoke, Va., 11/16/17.

John Conrad Pendleton, Pensacola, Fla., 10/18/17.

James William Smith III, Ashland, Va., 10/28/17.

'70

William Crawley Kreye, Richmond, Va., 11/13/17.

Gary D. Spidell, Home, Pa., 9/21/17.

Gregory Edward White, Chesterfield, Va., 11/9/17.

'71

Larry John French, Columbus, Ohio, 11/14/17.

Allen Ovid Keene, Portsmouth, Va., 11/16/17.

Harriet Hawkins Miller, Sterling, Va., 9/24/17.

'72

Charles Edward Fraker Jr., Richmond, Va., 7/27/14.

Patrick M. Phipps, Fairmont, W.Va., 10/15/17.

'73

Stephen Louis Bendl, Charlotte, N.C., 11/21/17.

Deborah Sempsrott Reed, Pottstown, Penn., 11/25/17.

'74

Ronald Martin Gilliam, Pembroke, Va., 11/2/17.

Barbara Stone Klotz, Richmond, Va., 11/11/17.

'75

Robert Ernest Burgin, Ellenboro, N.C., 10/4/17.

Julian Lavern Hicks, Turbeville, S.C., 9/12/17.

Leslie Adam Kelley, Christiansted, U.S. Virgin Islands, 10/27/17.

Robert C. Seroka Jr., Clayton, N.C., 11/7/17.

Roy Clifton Sutton III, Virginia Beach, Va., 10/23/17.

'76

Ruth Lackey Chamberlin, Georgetown, Texas, 10/15/17.

Edith Barb Glover, Bristol, Va., 10/18/17.

Therese Thatcher Minter, Virginia Beach, Va., 11/21/17.

James Robert Sirry, Colonial Heights, Va., 10/7/17.

Nell Duty Woodrum, Grundy, Va., 10/28/17.

'77

Moses Archie Clements, Emporia, Va., 9/23/17.

Betty Martin Henry, Fairlawn, Va., 9/13/17.

'78

Deane H. Hundley, San Antonio, Texas, 10/22/17.

'79

David Alan Cairnes, Canton, N.C., 11/28/17.

Suzanne Marie Flavin, Chicago, Ill., 9/8/17.

Henry Shields Hewitt Jr., Studley, Va., 8/27/17.

Thomas Rush Jennings, Blue Ridge, Va., 10/26/17.

Steven Daniel Simmons, White Stone, Va., 10/23/17.

Gail Elaine Tompkins, Fresno, Calif., 11/1/17.

Richard Charles Waldorf, Englewood, Colo., 11/6/17.

'80

William Jerome Worrell Jr., Draper, Va., 11/20/17.

'81

Kenneth Lee Bohannon Jr., Ringgold, Va., 10/24/17.

Ronald Raney Clary, Roanoke, Va., 6/24/17.

Donna M. Harris, Goodyear, Ariz., 10/2/17.

Beverly Lane Nicholas, Springfield, Va., 11/13/17.

Evelyn Sears Peevy, Norfolk, Va., 11/9/17.

— '82 —

Joseph A. Wiencko Jr., Winchester, Va., 11/16/17.

— '83 —

Stephen John Comber, Bristow, Va., 10/13/17.

— '84 —

Richard Wolfgang Eby, Laurence Harbor, N.J., 9/15/17.

Mark Anthony Newman, Riner, Va., 10/28/17.

Bobbie Jean Primus-Cotton, Daytona Beach, Fla., 9/25/17.

— '85 —

Betty Powell Hannon, Winston-Salem, N.C., 11/16/17.

Kelly Eugene Quillen, Greensboro, N.C., 9/10/17.

— '87 —

Richard Keith Goodwin, Rochester, N.H., 11/6/17.

— '88 —

John Harvey Stadler, Poquoson, Va., 10/18/17.

— '89 —

Scott Carlton Farr, Fairfax, Va., 11/5/17.

James Christopher Pugh, Salem, Va., 11/10/17.

— '90 —

Rana Qubain Goodrich, Boones Mill, Va., 10/27/17.

Mark Tirona, Reston, Va., 11/21/17.

— '91 —

Carl Cale Johnson, Auburn, Calif., 10/19/17.

— '94 —

Robert F. Rhinehart, Edmonds, Wash., 7/20/17.

— '95 —

Michael Alexander, Richmond, Va., 11/8/17.

— '00 —

Daniel K. Yardley, Roanoke, Va., 11/24/17.

— '02 —

Noelle C. Loving, North Chesterfield, Va., 9/13/17.

— '04 —

Patricia Scott Morgan, Amelia Court House, Va., 11/4/17.

— '09 —

Ryan Frank Hubbard, Christiansburg, Va., 9/9/17.

— '14 —

Dylan Foushee Patterson, Baltimore, Md., 9/21/17.

— '15 —

Benjamin Murphy Wenger, Annandale, Va., 9/16/17.

— '16 —

Catherine Ellen Poindexter, Severna Park, Md., 9/21/17.

— '17 —

Anna Sophia (née Alan Jonathan) Tesh, Forest, Va., 11/21/17.

VIRGINIA TECH'S C O L U M B A R I U M

A columbarium is a room, building, or other structure with niches for funeral urns. The columbarium at Virginia Tech offers niches for alumni and others connected with the university to be interred on campus.

Located in view of the Duck Pond, along a grassy knoll just beyond Holtzman Alumni Center Terrace, each Hokie Stone structure houses 60 niches, which can be purchased for the interment of an individual or a couple. The niches are granite, on which names can be engraved and filled with gold lettering.



THE PERFECT NICHE

Learn more about the columbarium at alumni.vt.edu/about/holtzman-center/columbarium.



OBITUARIES

Herman Doswald, a professor and dean emeritus, who served in the College of Science and the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, died on Jan. 8. During his career at Virginia Tech, Doswald served as a professor, department head, and dean. Doswald served as a professor of German until his retirement in 1996.

Dennis John Kilper, professor emeritus in the School of Architecture + Design in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies, died on Jan. 14. A member of the Virginia Tech community since 1975, Kilper retired in 2009, and he was honored as T.A. Carter Professor Emeritus by the Board of Visitors.

Dwight (Kreg) Kregloe died on Feb. 16. He was employed with Virginia Tech for 29 years. Prior to his retirement in 1996, he worked in human resources as a senior compensation analyst.

Judith Lynn “Judy” Midkiff, of Midlothian, Va., died Feb. 21. Midkiff had been employed by Virginia Tech through Virginia Cooperative Extension since 1987.

Larry Moore, professor emeritus of business information technology, died Feb. 14, 2017. A member of the Virginia Tech community since 1970, Moore served on more than 200 departmental, college, and university committees during his 37-year career.

Wayne Purcell, alumni distinguished professor emeritus of agricultural and applied economics in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, died Feb. 17. Purcell began his faculty role at Virginia Tech in 1978 and retired in 2005.

Daniel J. Schneck, professor emeritus of engineering science and mechanics, died Nov. 26, 2017. He held the W.S. “Pete” White Endowed Chair from 1999 until his retirement and was designated as faculty emeritus in 2001, after 28 years of service.

Henry W. Tieleman, professor emeritus of engineering science and mechanics, died Jan. 12. His research on wind behavior and its effects on structural integrity was funded by NASA and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. Tieleman retired from Virginia Tech and was designated as faculty emeritus in 1997.

Col. Thomas Owen “T.O.” Williams III, chairman emeritus of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets alumni board, died March 10. He served in the U.S. Air Force for 27 years and retired with the rank of colonel in 1986. Williams worked as director of personnel for the Montgomery County Public Schools, as director of programs in the Office of University Development at Virginia Tech, as associate director for the Virginia Tech Alumni Association, and as director of development for the Virginia Tech Alumni and Conference Center Campaign.

MICHAEL T. KIERNAN



HELP US TELL OUR STORY

WE KNOW THERE IS POWER WHEN Hokies gather together. Just look at what we are accomplishing in the Star City.

What's happening in Roanoke is transformative.

Virginia Tech is growing the School of Medicine, increasing its undergraduate presence, and making an annual economic impact that will approach \$2 billion every decade.

We are growing as an institution in Roanoke, but the story of our impact is also being driven by individuals throughout the Roanoke community. More than 7,400 alumni live in Roanoke. They are an engaged and energetic group.

Almost half of those alumni have graduated in the past two decades, including 1,133 in just the past five years.

Almost 3,000 Roanoke Hokies graduated from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, 1,369 are alums of the College of Engineering, and 1,799 hail from the Pamplin College of Business. The graduates from those three colleges account for 80 percent of our alumni in Roanoke.

Our growing Roanoke Valley Alumni Chapter recently held its Second Annual Cornhole Tournament to raise scholarship money for local incoming freshmen. The group also joined 40 chapters across the country volunteering as part of the Big Event. It is the second year in a row the chapter volunteered at Mill Mountain Zoo.

Earlier in the spring, during Virginia Tech's first Giving Day, the local chapter gave 208 gifts totaling \$66,918.65.

University and community leaders had a vision for Roanoke, and members of the Hokie Nation were a meaningful part of seeing that through. The result has been progress for our community and our alumni.

Hokies are transforming Roanoke in so many ways, but alumni everywhere have a role to play in Virginia Tech's future.

Find Hokies in your community and help us tell our story. ■

Matthew M. Winston Jr. '90 is senior associate vice president for alumni relations.

BILL PETROS PHOTOGRAPHY



STILL LIFE

BUZZING AROUND: Carly Estes '17 demonstrates pollinator care during a final exam in her spring 2017 beekeeping class, taught by James Wilson MS '12, Ph.D. '16, Extension apiculturalist. Estes earned a degree in horticulture and is pursuing graduate studies in Kansas.

According to Wilson, Virginia Tech is home to between 30 and 70 hives, depending on the season and roster of research projects. The university supports three apiaries, which are located at Kentland Farm, Moore Farm, and Prices Fork Research Station, and currently has three researchers focused on bees.

For more pictures and information about bees at Virginia Tech, visit vtmag.vt.edu.



END NOTE

TRADITIONS AND TRANSITIONS



AS I WRITE THIS, I'VE JUST SPENT MY weekend participating in one of Virginia Tech's greatest traditions—Ring Dance! I was humbled and honored to have been asked to be the Class Sponsor this year. Now completing my sixth year as vice president for student affairs, I remember all too vividly welcoming this class to the university not so long ago.

Each year during my orientation address, I talk about how quickly time passes from orientation to graduation, bookends of the collegiate journey. I explain that everyone will have a Virginia Tech experience (an exceptional one, I hope), but my greater hope is that all students truly experience Virginia Tech.

I can now say without hesitation that Ring Dance is an incredible time-honored tradition that exemplifies that experience. I've found our alumni will frequently and nostalgically wax poetic about it. In fact, the entire ring tradition at Virginia Tech is revered, and I've learned so much more about the history of this great institution from my involvement this year. In reflecting on my

experience, words like history, tradition, pride, and admiration are present and strong.

I've also reflected on what makes Virginia Tech unique among its peers and the other institutions where I've worked. What I know, unequivocally, is that Virginia Tech is a special place—not perfect, but really and truly special. It's community, a family—the Hokie Nation—linked by shades of maroon and orange; a beloved, albeit unorthodox, mascot; and an affinity as solid as Hokie Stone.

I've also considered the ways in which higher education and the collegiate experience have changed in my 30-year career.

As I look back, it's clear that I've always loved learning. My parents recognized my inquisitive nature and encouraged it from a very young age. It was their support and my own curiosity and insatiable quest for understanding that rendered me the first to graduate from college from the Perillo family (significant, given I have seven siblings and 80 first cousins). I've carried my experiences as a first-generation student with me throughout my career. I know the significant and transformational difference that just one person can make in the lives of our students, whether it is a resident advisor, housekeeper, professor, Student Affairs staff, donor, or family member.

I find myself also looking forward, perhaps because this summer we welcome the Class of 2022. This is an incredibly special incoming class, but

perhaps neither they, nor you, know why. The Class of 2022 is not only our first Y2K birth year cohort (shocking, right?), but they are also the university's sesquicentennial class. That's right, Virginia Tech will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2022.

From our beginnings as Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College to the Virginia Tech we know today, we are at once the same and so very different. We value our heritage and humble beginnings, and we desire to reignite our mission as a global land-grant university. We take pride in our Corps of Cadets and our senior military college status (one of only six in the country) while offering a citizen-leader/non-commission track. We seek to embrace *Ut Prosim* as a way of life, while defining "That I May Serve" in myriad ways. We expect students will graduate with a degree, and we also hope they graduate with a much better sense of who they are because we have helped them understand that well-being and lifelong thriving is more than merely a job or career.

Our history is foundational to our identity. We are earnest, tenacious, and proud. Our future is bright and full of possibility. We strive toward inclusivity, social justice, and courageous leadership, while being adaptable, agile, and relevant. The common link—past and future, you and me, the 250,000-plus living alumni, and the Class of 2022—is a shared Hokie experience. ■

Patty Perillo is the Student Affairs vice president.

┌ A FAMILY FIRST: (opposite page, bottom) Patty Perillo (first row, far right), pictured with her seven siblings, was the first person in her family to graduate from college. ┐

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE

In August, Virginia Tech will welcome a new class of Hokies. Many of these students will graduate with the Class of 2022, during Virginia Tech's sesquicentennial, or 150th, anniversary, a historically significant moment for the entire Hokie Nation.

The fall edition of Virginia Tech Magazine will introduce you to these new students.

Many of the careers for which today's university students are preparing did not exist a decade ago. Virginia Tech Magazine will take readers into classrooms where students are learning how to develop innovative solutions for real-world integrated security challenges. The feature story will also highlight regional, national, and international competitions where university students expand their knowledge and learn through their rivalries.

Also, readers will learn how Hokie alumni are using their skills to shape the craft beer industry, from growing barley to the brewing process.

Look for these stories and more in your next issue.

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At Virginia Tech, we're dedicated to connecting diverse backgrounds, perspectives, and beliefs. Why? We know that real change is rooted in empathy and driven by embracing differences.

Our role in creating that change is to empower courageous and compassionate leaders for our ever-evolving world.

Learn more at vt.edu/inclusivemt

