HOW VIRGINIA TECH WAS WON

Fisticuffs, growing pains, and the Hokie way

Comfort Food
A resurgence in local foods and urban gardening

21st-century Extension
The enduring relevance of Virginia Cooperative Extension
By Charles W. Steger '69

Message from the President

Virginia Tech, A Job-Development Engine

Recently, the Commonwealth of Virginia deservedly garnered yet another award for its business-friendly policies and reputation. Organizations such as Forbes and CNBC, among others, have singled out Virginia for its strong job-creation climate. If universities were accorded such accolades, I suspect that Virginia Tech would be near the top of the list, too. Land-grant universities like Tech began in order to make America’s farms and factories more productive and so always have had strong programs linked to job development. Virginia Tech takes it a step further into the 21st century. We proudly cultivate our entrepreneurial culture and institutional focus on job creation.

Indicators abound. The Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center (CRC), the most visible manifestation of the academy/job linkage, just completed its successful 25-year build-out of the original concept. Now home to more than 140 companies in 1 million square feet of space and employing more than 2,200 people, the CRC is entering its next phase by creating facilities that will more than double the current research park’s size. The newly formed Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute already has snagged some of the nation’s leading scholars and scientists; its annual budget exceeds $20 million and grows rapidly with each new research contract. With the emergence of its institute’s partner, the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, as well as the fact that the CRC-based Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine graduates more than 200 doctors annually, this region is positioned to develop a significant medical technology infrastructure and biomedical clusters. We expect to see spin-offs or high-tech firms quickly attracted to this region.

Total tech-sector employment in the region approaches 40,000 jobs. From my standpoint, the RBTC study yielded this very important fact: Proximity to Virginia Tech and its talent was the most frequently mentioned factor for prompting businesses to locate to the region.

Alumni who have been gone for more than a few years might be surprised by the vibrant entrepreneurial business sector in Blacksburg and Southwest Virginia. There is a strong business-development infrastructure. Outside venture funds are taking notice and making headway. The CRC and VT KnowledgeWorks also serve as venture funds. VT KnowledgeWorks, a full-spectrum business acceleration center, currently is working with more than 60 firms at all stages of corporate maturity to launch them into the marketplace.

Additionally, the RBTC actively nurtures startups and promotes the region to attract tech companies. The Virginia Tech Foundation invests in venture funds, often with the proviso that the funds work with local businesses. Indeed, the foundation is engaged with many economic development venturers, too numerous to mention here. Virginia Tech Intellectual Properties maintains and markets a portfolio of university scholars’ inventions. [Editor’s note: In future issues, Virginia Tech Magazine will present a more in-depth picture of the university’s role as a catalyst of economic development.]

Actively inventing the future, your university is playing a vital role in creating the jobs of today and tomorrow. This short column just scratches the surface. Contact us for ways in which you can be part of the Virginia Tech job-development engine. 

14 | 5 Ways to Foil Online Thieves

Don’t draw a bull’s-eye on your (virtual) chest. Keep yourself protected when it comes to computer security. From Facebook no-no’s and password strength to the latest cyber-threats, Virginia Tech experts weigh in on an issue that won’t go away until the Farmville cows come home.

18 | Comfort Food: A resurgence in local foods and urban gardening

In response to a growing sense of disconnect between the consumer and the food producer and in the wake of food-related public health crises, local foods and urban gardening are taking root as safer, more transparent, and more sustainable approaches to food production.

24 | 21st-century Extension: The enduring relevance of Virginia Cooperative Extension

Extension has come far since it sprang from a few demonstration farms and corn and tomato clubs near the turn of the century. Almost 100 years later, Virginia Cooperative Extension weathered changes times and budget cuts, continuing to fulfill its mission of putting university knowledge to practice across the commonwealth.

30 | How Virginia Tech Was Won: Fisticuffs, growing pains, and the Holke way

An 1878 dispute over how Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College—now Virginia Tech—should be structured ended in a fistfight between President Charles L.C. Minor and the commandant of cadets, Gen. James H. Lane. The quarrel made headlines in its day—and brought to the forefront a debate that would shape the university community for years to come.

37 | Living Pylons: Why We Fight

Building a city from scratch is no easy task anywhere in the world, let alone in Pales
tine, where lasting peace is hard to come by. Yet Bashar Masri (chemical engineering ’83) isn’t worried about the obstacles—a resolve that’s indicative of his commitment to growth and development in his native country.

40 | Alumnus builds a city in the hills of Palestine

On the cover: The disputes between President Charles L.C. Minor and Gen. James H. Lane, the commandant of cadets, resulted in a fistfight at an 1878 faculty senate meeting and left an indelible impression on Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College. Illustration by Steven White ’92.

48 | Alumni Association News

page 49: Commentary
page 50: 2010-11 Alumni Association Annual Report
page 52: Alumni Association awards
page 54: 2012 Drillfield Series
page 55: Alumni travel tours
Letters to the Editor

Class Notes section. For advertising rates may promote their businesses in the throughout the magazine, and alumni (0102), Blacksburg, VA 24061, or sent Tech Alumni Association, Holtzman

Vice President for Alumni Relations

Larry Hincker ’72, M.B.A. ’94

Advertising opportunities are

Address changes and circulation

Contributors

Juliet Clifton, Georgi Fyfe ’91, Dave Hart, Richard Lovegrove, Albert Rabjohns, Inc.

Richard Lovegrove

Melissa Richards

Associate Vice President for University Relations

Larry Hitchens ’72, M.B.A. ’94

Vice President for University Relations

Tom Tiller ’69

Changes and circulation inquiries should be sent to Virginia Tech Alumni Association, Holton Alumni Center (0332), Blacksburg, VA 24061, or send email to alumni@vt.edu. Alumni notes should be mailed to Alumni Notes, Virginia Tech Alumni Association, Holton Alumni Center (0332), Blacksburg, VA 24061, or send email to notes@vtalumni.org.

Archive

The archive includes the magazine throughout the academic year with 500+ authors and editors from across the country. Sponsored by the Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute, the Distinguished Visiting Scholars Series will feature top experts from across the country throughout the academic year. Each visiting scholar will present two free lectures—one tailored to the public and a second, more technical one.

New lecture series brings medical science to life

The biology of the crimi-

Top 10 books and top 20

The tiniest tackling

My husband, Seth Milans (finance ’03), and I have two

Unsurprisingly, Seth had
to favor his head. He had
to adjust his DOC band 22 hours a day to rehouse his head. The band is a time-intensive, expensive process, but parents can have some fun with it by decorating the band. Seth and I had no doubts how we wanted to decorate Teddy’s DOC band—we made him a Hokie helmet!

Since he got the band in early April, he has turned heads and even gets “Go, Hokies!” cheers when we go into places like Target (and the grocery store). It taught us that Hokie pride, tenacity, optimism, and a parent’s love can blend together in the most unexpected ways. Everyday outings with Teddy became moments of laughter and smiles as VT’s tiniest tackling went about his day in Northern Virginia.

Teddy was a true Hokie football player throughout the process too; he was tough, unfazed, and threw his body around like he’d been playing lunch-pail defense since birth. We are so proud to say that Teddy finally graduated from his DOC band [in July], but that Hokie spirit will always exude from his beautifully shaped head.

Sarah Milans ’03

Hersdon, Va.

And the winner is...

The top 10 books and top 20

DVDs checked out from Newman

Library in the 2010-11 academic year give us a glimpse into the interests of the Virginia Tech community. We thought it would be fun to share our findings.

Top 100 books 1) “The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks,” Rebecca Skloot


3) “Dog and Bear: Two Friends, Three Stories,” Laura Vaccaro Seeger

4) “Catching Fire,” Suzanne Collins

5) “Never Let Me Go,” Kazuo Ishiguro

6) “Mockingjay,” Suzanne Collins

7) “The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo,” Stieg Larsson

8) “The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet’s Nest,” Stieg Larsson

9) “Freedom,” Jonathan Franzen

10) “The Hunger Games,” Suzanne Collins


Lists compiled by Mary Lucado, circulation supervisor

Letters to the Editor — Around the Drillfield

Virginia Tech Magazine Fall 2011, Vol. 34, No. 1

Sara Jane Yam
Assistant Editor
Denise Young
Editor
Robin Dewey
Graphic Designer
Tiffiny Proctor, David Stalmyr
Creative Services Manager
Glen Duncan
Graduate assistants for the magazine
Rommel Giray, Olivia Kasik, Chad O’Kane M.A. ’11
Copy Editors
Juliet Clifton, Richard Lovegrove
Editors
Juliet Clifton
Contributors
Juliet Clifton, Georgi Fyfe ’91, Dave Hart, Richard Lovegrove, Albert Rabjohns, Inc.

Michael Kiernan, John Roszak ’71, Michael Chad O’Kane M.A. ’11, Sarah Milans ’03

Editor
Harriman Cowgill, whose

In the time before and after World War II, the Department of Architectural Engineering was on the top floor of Patton Hall. There we were assigned a desk and a stool.

Students in the studies would bring radios to play while pursuing their creativity. But that would disturb classes below. Hence, radios were not to be played except after supper. One student was particularly deaf to the rule. Professor [Clinton Harriman] Cowgill, whose office was at the other end of the hall, heard the sound. Consequently, he went to the

In the summer edition of V

The article “The Raw Materials of Creativity” in the summer edition of Virginia Tech Magazine was of considerable interest to me. I [earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees] in architectural engineering in 1942 and was on the faculty of the department from 1947-59.

In the time before and after World War II, the Department of Architectural Engineering was on the top floor of Patton Hall. There we were assigned a desk and a stool.

To that, we brought our drafting equipment, papers, and art supplies needed to engage in creative work. By contrast, today, computers have programs that allow one to produce a three-dimensional image that can be put through changes as one wishes. And that can be done while relaxing in an office chair!

And the winner is...

The top 10 books and top 20

DVDs checked out from Newman

Library in the 2010-11 academic

year give us a glimpse into the inter-

ests of the Virginia Tech community. We thought it would be fun to share our findings.

Top 100 books

1) “The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks,” Rebecca Skloot


3) “Dog and Bear: Two Friends, Three Stories,” Laura Vaccaro Seeger

4) “Catching Fire,” Suzanne Collins

5) “Never Let Me Go,” Kazuo Ishiguro

6) “Mockingjay,” Suzanne Collins

7) “The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo,” Stieg Larsson

8) “The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet’s Nest,” Stieg Larsson

9) “Freedom,” Jonathan Franzen

10) “The Hunger Games,” Suzanne Collins

Top 20 DVDs

1) “Battlestar Galactica: The Complete Series”

2) “Star Trek: The Next Generation: The Complete Series”

3) “Le Fabuleux Destin d’Amélie Poulain” (Amélie from Montmartre)

4) “Cidade de Deus” (City of God)

5) “Juno”

6) “No Country for Old Men”

7) “Avatar”

8) “Up”

9) “The Hurt Locker”

10) “The Departed”

11) “Up in the Air”

12) “Mad Men, Season Three”

13) “Mad Men, Season Two”

14) “WALL-E”

15) “Gladiator”

16) “V for Vendetta”

17) “Pineapple Express”

18) “The Hangover”

19) “The Bank Job”

20) “Chuck Norris’ War”

Lists compiled by Mary Lucado, circulation supervisor

Virginia Tech Magazine | Fall 2011

www.vtmagazine.vt.edu

Architecture memories

The article “The Raw Materials of Creativity” in the summer edition of Virginia Tech Magazine was of considerable interest to me. I [earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees] in architectural engineering in 1942 and was on the faculty of the department from 1947-59.

In the time before and after World War II, the Department of Architectural Engineering was on the top floor of Patton Hall. There we were assigned a desk and a stool.

To that, we brought our drafting equipment, papers, and art supplies needed to engage in creative work. By contrast, today, computers have programs that allow one to produce a three-dimensional image that can be put through changes as one wishes. And that can be done while relaxing in an office chair!

Students in the studies would bring radios to play while pursuing their creativity. But that would disturb classes below. Hence, radios were not to be played except after supper. One student was particularly deaf to the rule. Professor [Clinton Harriman] Cowgill, whose office was at the other end of the hall, heard the sound. Consequently, he went to the drafting room, picked up the radio, and tossed it out the window.

Bertram Y. Koezy Jr. ’42
Blackburg, Va.

The tiniest tackling

My husband, Seth Milans (finance ’03), and I have two young children. Our baby, Teddy, had torticolis, which caused him to favor looking to his right and created a noticeable flat spot on the right side of his head. He had to wear a DOC band 22 hours a day to rehouse his head. The band is a time-intensive, expensive process, but parents can have some fun with it by decorating the band. Seth and I had no doubts how we wanted to decorate Teddy’s DOC band—we made him a Hokie helmet!

Since he got the band in early April, he has turned heads and even gets “Go, Hokies!” cheers when we go into places like Target (and the grocery store). It taught us that Hokie pride, tenacity, optimism, and a parent’s love can blend together in the most unexpected ways. Everyday outings with Teddy became moments of laughter and smiles as VT’s tiniest tackling went about his day in Northern Virginia.

Teddy was a true Hokie football player throughout the process too; he was tough, unfazed, and threw his body around like he’d been playing lunch-pail defense since birth. We are so proud to say that Teddy finally graduated from his DOC band [in July], but that Hokie spirit will always exude from his beautifully shaped head.

Sarah Milans ’03
Hersdon, Va.
Reaping the harvest of W.B. Alwood

On Oct. 14, one of the most recognizable landmarks on Virginia Tech’s campus—the bur oak in front of Burruss Hall—was dedicated to W.B. Alwood, one of Virginia Tech’s most famous scientists and the man who planted the tree around 1900.

Alwood, a faculty member from 1888-1904, was an internationally recognized scientist, a reputation that was solidified when he became director of the Virginia Experiment Station and laid the foundation for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Today, because of his efforts, Virginia Tech students are able to study horticulture, plant pathology, and entomology. In 1927, he donated his vast personal library to the university—a collection that is still used today. Former university President Julian Burruss noted that Alwood should forever be remembered for what he did to assist the university in its early days.

For more information on Alwood and his legacy, visit http://ext.vt.edu/museum-of-pest-management.

Student teaches officiating to service members abroad

From July 18-23 in Europe, a Virginia Tech Recreational Sports intramural sports graduate assistant instructed and trained military personnel to officiate flag football games. Jeff Feldhaus, a second-year graduate nursing student at the College of Natural Resources and Environment, was part of the 2011 U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza Flag Football Official Clinic team. The team hosted the weekend clinic in Wischeswan, Germany, followed by another clinic in Vicenza, Italy, with the help of such Italian Army Morale, Welfare, and Recreation program. At the end of training, each service member in attendance was certified to be a flag football official. Some participants were also certified to be clinicians so they can teach the clinics at their respective bases.

Accepting Pittsburgh and Syracuse, ACC expands to 14 members

In September, the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) Council of Presidents voted to accept the University of Pittsburgh and Syracuse University as new members. The invitation followed the submission of letters of application from both universities, according to the ACC’s website.

“The ACC has enjoyed a rich tradition by balancing academics and athletics and the addition of Pittsburgh and Syracuse further strengthens the ACC culture in this regard,” said ACC Commissioner John Swofford in the conference’s announcement. “Pittsburgh and Syracuse also serve to enhance the ACC’s reach into the states of New York and Pennsylvania and geographically bridges our footprint between Maryland and Massachusetts. With the addition of Pittsburgh and Syracuse, the ACC will cover virtually the entire Eastern seaboard of the United States.”

For more information on the ACC report, see page 29 at http://bit.ly/5SY6H6. For further information on starting salaries and where Hokies are employed after graduation, see Virginia Tech Career Services, http://www.career.vt.edu/PostGraduationSurveyReport/PostGrad.html.

Researchers hurry to gather quake data ahead of Hurricane Irene

The College of Engineering’s James R. Martin II, a renowned expert on earthquakes, was asked Aug. 26 to lead an investigative team of U.S. scientists and engineers to document aftereffects of the Aug. 23 East Coast earthquake centered near Mineral, Va. With Hurricane Irene hitting the East Coast, Martin and his team will collect data from seismographs, GPS equipment and vertical reference stations set up in Middleburg, Virginia, and Harrisonburg.

Scientists awarded $1 million grant to study origin of life

New molecule tested as a delivery vehicle to image, kill brain tumors

Hokie robots dominate soccer challenge

Virginia Tech’s Robotics and Mechanisms Laboratory (RoMeLa) dominated the RoboCup 2011 soccer competition—winning the grand prix Louis Vuitton Humanoid Cup, and taking first in the Adult-Size Robot and Kid-Sized Robot divisions—in July 2011 in Istanbul, Turkey. Winning the cup was a first for the United States. “This (win) has a significant symbolic meaning, showing the shift in the leaders in humanoid robotics in the world,” said Dennis Hong, associate professor of mechanical engineering and director of RoMeLa.

Doctoral student Jeakweon Han anxiously stands by as CHARLI 2 kicks a ball.

Hokie Camp encourages smooth transition to college for new students

Susan Wyche receives Skype grant for human-computer interaction research

For these stories and more, check out VT News at www.vtnews.vt.edu. For a regular dose of news, sign up for the Virginia Tech Daily Email at the site.
Irene making landfill Aug. 27, his investigative team had to move fast to take samples, create maps, and photograph regional damage to subsurface and infrastructure locations. The earthquake measured 5.8 on the Richter magnitude scale and was felt not only across Virginia, but as far south as Georgia and as far north as New Hampshire, according to myriad news reports and social media status updates.

Tech establishes cooperative research center to focus on cybersecurity

In cooperation with L-3 Communications, Northrop Grumman, General Dynam- ics Advanced Information Systems, and Verisign Labs, Virginia Tech has received a five-year continuing grant to establish a National Science Foundation Industry/Uni- versity Cooperative Research Center site for cybersecurity. Initial topics of research for the center include secure computing architectures, cloud computing security, visualization tools for cyber defense, securing critical infras- tructure, wireless security, and malware detection and mitigation. The new cybersecurity site joins the Security and Software Engineering Research Center, which is led by Ball State University and includes a primary site at Iowa State University and now Virginia Tech.

Student awarded grant to study diabetes, obesity

Stephanie Nicole “Nikki” Lewis, a graduate student in Virginia Tech’s interdiscipli- nary doctoral program in genetics, bioinformatics, and computational biology, received the prestigious Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award for Predoctoral Research from the National Institutes of Health. The award is for her study of a cellular signaling receptor that is associated with chronic inflammatory diseases such as diabetes, obesity, and inflam- matory bowel disease. Because current drugs result in adverse side effects, the search for drugs targeting the receptor is urgently needed.

Tech receives high marks for sustain- ability

Virginia Tech was named one of 16 colleges on The Princeton Review’s 2012 Green Rating Honor Roll. The honor means that Virginia Tech achieved the highest possible score in its Green Rating tally. The survey of 768 schools measured three key areas whether the school’s students have a campus quality of life that is healthy and sus- tainable; how well the school is preparing its students for employment and citizenship in a world defined by envi- ronmental challenges; and the school’s overall commitment to environmental issues. In addition, the university achieved a Silver Rating from the Association for the Advancement of Sustain- ability in Higher Education (AASHE) for performance in the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS) Program. Virginia Tech received an overall score of 61.94, approx- imately three points short of the Gold Rating.

In spring 2011, Virginia Tech announced its participa- tion in the STARS rating system in order to measure progress made toward achieving targets outlined in the Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment and Sustain- ability Plan adopted by the board of visitors in 2009.

Green500 list shows more super- computers going green

The newly released Green500 List shows a con- tinuing rapid improvement in environmentally friendly supercomputers around the world, according to Wu Feng, associate professor of computer science and electrical and computer engineering at Virginia Tech. Founded by Feng and Kirk W. Cameron, associate professor of com- puter science, the Green500 List has ranked the energy efficiency of the world’s 500 fastest supercomputers since debuting in 2007, serv- ing as a complement to the well-known supercomputer industry marker TOP500. The list is released twice a year, in June and in November.

Public health center formed at Tech

The Institute for Society, Culture, and Environment at Virginia Tech announced the formation of the Center for Public Health Practice and Research, to be directed by Kathy Flossig, associate professor of population health sciences. Formerly the Institute for Community Health, the new center was created in response to the increase in health-related research across campus and the new master of public health program. The center’s mission is to foster interdisciplinary, collaborative public health practice and research activities at Virginia Tech and among external public health agencies, organizations, practitioners, and researchers.

Students’ hybrid vehicle wins EcoCAR competition

Virginia Tech’s Hybrid Electric Vehicle Team (HEVT) won the EcoCAR Challenge, a three-year design competition that sought to inspire science and engineering students in the United States and Canada to build more energy-efficient vehicles. In all, the team of College of Engineering graduate and undergraduate students won 14 awards. Approximately 66 stu- dents—oversaw by mechanical engineering Professor Doug Nelson—re-engineered a 2009 General Motors crossover SUV into a hybrid electric ve- hicle that boasts the equivalent of 82 miles per gallon.

Prestige, cash prizes, and trophies were not the only benefits of the competition. Ninety percent of the grad- uating students on the 2010-11 list found jobs right out of school because of their exposure to industry-leading soft- ware and hardware tools. “It was an intense 2.5 years for me, but in the end I am a far better engineer because of the experience that EcoCAR and HEVT provided me,” said Patrick Walsh, who earned a master’s degree in mechanical engineering in spring 2011 and is now a research engineer at Argonne National Labora- tory in Chicago.

In a three-year competi- tion that started this fall, Nelson is now leading a new student team on EcoCAR 2.
University expands its research accessibility

BY SUSAN TRULOVE

A new center and an applied research initiative are making Virginia Tech’s broad research capabilities even more accessible.

The Virginia Tech Research Center—Arlington opened its doors at 900 N. Glebe Road with a Meet the Scientists event on June 17, a ribbon-cutting ceremony on June 24, and an open house on June 26 for the surrounding community, which includes high-technology companies and many of the federal government’s leading science and research agencies.

The building is among the best-connected research facilities in the world, incorporating next-generation Internet with direct fiber access to National LambdaRail, Internet 2, and multiple federal networks. Such connectivity links the center to the Blacksburg campus and other major universities and facilities worldwide, and provides a secure data center for high-performance computing-based research.

The highly visible facility expands the university’s research portfolio in the National Capital Region and brings together a number of established research centers and institutes, including the Advanced Research Institute; Arlington Innovation Center: Health Research; Center for Geospatial Information Technology; Center for Technology, Security, and Policy; Computational Bioinformatics and Bioimaging Laboratory; Institute for Science, Culture, and Environment; Hume Center; Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science; Virginia Bioinformatics Institute; and Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute.

The Virginia Tech Applied Research Corporation (VT-ARC), headquartered in Blacksburg, is a private nonprofit corporation affiliated with Virginia Tech. VT-ARC was established to foster applied research and development and to manage large contract-research projects.

“We created the Virginia Tech Applied Research Corporation as an important feature in Virginia Tech’s rise as a world-class research institution,” said Virginia Tech President Charles W. Steger. “VT-ARC will leverage Virginia Tech’s research toward solving some of our nation’s most critical challenges in intelligence, cyber and IT, national security, health, and energy. As our affiliate, VT-ARC will partner with us to extend the brand and impact of Virginia Tech in new ways and new places. It is my vision to see VT-ARC as the portal to the power of Virginia Tech for government and industry.”

Virginia Tech President Charles W. Steger at the Virginia Tech Research Center—Arlington grand opening (below), and the center’s visualization room, which features a 3-D display wall (above).
Far below the big-picture view of the grand enterprise that is Virginia Tech, the education of individual students moves forward incrementally. Sometimes the learning is tied up in knots. From various corners of campus, the people who know knots have much to share.

**Knot: Clove-hitch knot**
**Use:** Mist nets
**The knot in action:** In the College of Natural Resources and Environment’s (CNRE) Conservation Management Institute, Mike St. Germain deploys mist nets to capture and study birds and bats. To tighten the nets, he slides a clove-hitch knot (left) up the pole. “To increase tension, it’s simple geometry,” St. Germain said.

**Knots:** Double fisherman’s loop, overhand knot, Schwabisch knot
**Use:** Arboriculture
**The knot in action:** Elsewhere in CNRE, urban forestry students have their heads in the clouds—and rightly so. To inspect, research, and maintain trees, arborists need a bird’s-eye view. At the beginning of the semester, an arboriculture course (right) sent students into the trees with the help of a variety of knots. The overhand knot keeps the double fisherman’s loop from unrolling, while the Schwabisch knot provides rope-grabbing friction.

**Knot: Loblolly pine**
**Use:** In lumber, knots reduce the lumber’s grade and value.
**The knot in action:** University Distinguished Professor Harold Burkhart developed a mathematical model of knot shape and volume in loblolly pine trees. Knowing the quantity, locations, and sizes of branches, the CNRE professor can estimate where the knots reside, thereby estimating the wood’s grade and value.

**Knot: Tom fool’s knot**
**Use:** Animal restraint, Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine
**The knot in action:** At a bovine restraint laboratory in late August, veterinary medicine students practiced cutting cattle, es bringing them to the ground, using ropes and tom fool’s knots. The middle of a thick rope was draped across a cow’s neck; and the rope’s two ends were draped under the front legs, over the back, and underneath the hind legs. Then, the students pulled, four at a time, tug-of-war style, until the cow lay down. The tomfool knots are used to secure the front and rear limbs to a fixed object, which allows a veterinarian to perform surgery on the animal.

**Knot: Slip knot**
**Use:** Crocheting—and now, architecture
**The knot in action:** To learn the modeling software architects use, Alexander Woodden (master of architecture ’11) taught himself to crochet. Why? No longer are architects modeling with tangible forms, but with computer-based, curvilinear forms that react to each other. While studying real forms, Woodden found in a lace doily a physical example of how digital forms can warp without tearing. As you pull [a crocheting piece] and stretch it, the knots reconfigure and transform into a different system. He was immediately hooked, and is one of only a few people worldwide who have applied crocheting knots to architecture. One of Woodden’s digital renderings appears at left.

**Knots:** Square knot, butterfly coil
**Use:** Rappelling, Corps of Cadets
**The knot in action:** In the Corps of Cadets, rappelling is all about the knots. A bowline knot anchors the end of the rope, a square knot (below) connects ropes of equal diameter while under tension, a two-loop figure-eight knot forms two adjustable fixed loops, and a butterfly coil (modeled by Landon Perez, a construction engineering and management major) readies the rope for carrying.

Go to www.vtmagazine.vt.edu to see a photo gallery of knots around campus.
In the spring 2011 semester, students in Johnson’s gender course voted to read a type of Japanese graphic novel called manga. In proposing one sub-genre of manga—“yaoi,” translated as “boy’s love”—Johnson explained to the class that they would explore alternative representations of gendered stereotypes and sexuality because the plots focused on love between two male androgynous characters. Together they would hypothesize as to why French female teenagers were devouring these stories and how they might be constructing the term’s notions of love and desire. “The lesson on [manga] was quite interesting because it allowed us to see and analyze representations of gender in a context distinct from any other presented in the course,” said Michael Kozar (French and biochemistry ’11). “I found it really helpful to learn about gender using texts that were not purely academic.”

Cross-cultural exchange is central to Johnson’s teaching philosophy. With French colleagues, she developed the Images, Myths, and Realities Across Cultures program, where, by analyzing images and texts pertaining to France and the United States, students shared ideas on selected themes and contemporary cultural issues. The director of Tech’s study-abroad program in Paris, Johnson was also influential in the creation of the French business program, a joint venture between the foreign languages department and Pamplin College of Business.

Johnson was first exposed to the French language after watching a television show, “Chez Hélène,” as a child. Then, in second grade, Johnson’s elementary school introduced French to the curriculum. By age 14, she was determined to study abroad in France. She approached her parents with a heavily researched presentation of potential programs and then went on her first study-abroad experience to Straubourg, France, the following year. During that first trip, Johnson recalls seeing two women, standing near their bicycles, speaking in French. The image impressed upon her that French, more than language confined to a classroom, is a way of life. The trip taught Johnson that the cultural and social experiences she had in her hometown of Bloomfield Hills, Mich., were not the norm worldwide.

Johnson continued to visit France whenever possible, learning the joy of embracing her autonomy and taking pleasure in solitude. “France showed me a different way to be a teenager. It gave me a strength and internal fortitude. I feel indebted to France for a lot of my moral and psychological fiber, as well as my intellectual development,” Johnson said.

While in Paris, Johnson visited the University of Wisconsin at Madison, her hometown, and became so selflessly invested in her education.”

After 31 years of teaching, Johnson knows that the secret to inspiring and engaging students lies in the balance of demanding their very best and genuinely caring for their success.” No student slips through the cracks once they are my student,” said Johnson.

Johnson takes language instruction well past vocabulary lists and verb drills. In addition to guiding her students through the intricacies of the French language, she teaches courses on many of her research interests, including 19th- and 20th-century literature; gender studies; art history; literary, legal, and medical discourses; cross-cultural pedagogy; and business. The courses are designed to help students analyze complex cultural, societal, and psychological issues and make connections across disciplines.

Sharon Johnson
French Twist

Walking into a room of students eagerly conversing in French about their first week of classes, the professor quickly joined the discussion. She moved excitedly around the classroom throughout the lesson, even fast-pumping after a correct response. In the final minute of Associate Professor Sharon Johnson’s Advanced French for Business class on the Friday afternoon before the first weekend of the fall semester, students refrained from the normal rustling of papers and remained attuned to their professor’s last words.

Johnson’s ability to engage her students is only one of the reasons she earned the university’s 2011 William E. Wine Award for excellence in teaching. Since joining the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures in 1998, she has been an active member of the Virginia Tech community. In addition to serving on countless committees and participating in university workshops, seminars, and conferences, Johnson has been instrumental in the development of Tech’s French program.

“Dr. Johnson’s passion for the French language and her deep concern for her students as individuals really pushed me to be the best student I could be during my last year at Virginia Tech,” said Lenise Phillips (French and English ’11), one of Johnson’s teaching assistants. “I wanted to be a good student for her, make her proud of me, and ultimately somehow repay the favor she gave me the moment she became my professor.”

Johnson’s ability to engage her students is only one of the reasons she earned the university’s 2011 William E. Wine Award for excellence in teaching. Since joining the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures in 1998, she has been an active member of the Virginia Tech community. In addition to serving on countless committees and participating in university workshops, seminars, and conferences, Johnson has been instrumental in the development of Tech’s French program.

“Dr. Johnson’s passion for the French language and her deep concern for her students as individuals really pushed me to be the best student I could be during my last year at Virginia Tech,” said Lenise Phillips (French and English ’11), one of Johnson’s teaching assistants. “I wanted to be a good student for her, make her proud of me, and ultimately somehow repay the favor she gave me the moment she became my professor.”

Johnson continues to visit France whenever possible, learning the joy of embracing her autonomy and taking pleasure in solitude. “France showed me a different way to be a teenager. It gave me a strength and internal fortitude. I feel indebted to France for a lot of my moral and psychological fiber, as well as my intellectual development,” Johnson said.

Just as France encouraged her growth as an individual, Johnson’s enthusiasm is a source of inspiration for her students. “It’s [where] is for [Johnson],” I probably would not have graduated with a B.A. in French and would not be pursuing the career I am now,” said Stephanie Dunatan (French and political science ’09), who dreams of working in international adoption focused in Africa, where her French skills may be put to good use. “It was her encouragement and passion that pushed me. … I know that many years down the road, she will be the professor that I credit for my success.”

Olivia Kasik, a senior majoring in professional writing and psychology with a minor in philosophy, is an intern with Virginia Tech Magazine.
Phishing scams—where hackers ask for personal information such as passwords, birthdates, and social security numbers—have a better success rate than one might think. About 10 to 15 percent of people still respond to these scams, said Randy Marchany, information security officer in Virginia Tech’s Information Technology (IT) Security Office and a nationally recognized computer-security expert. Many users like to think that they’re safe, surfing the Web while shielded by anti-virus software. Most of us think we know the basics to protect ourselves from identity theft. We safeguard our ATM PINs and don’t download random files from strangers. But how safe are we, really?


1. **Choose a strong password.**

   Marchany recommends that users change their passwords regularly, at least once a year. At Virginia Tech, password changes have become mandatory. All Tech account users were required to change their passwords by July 1 and must continue to change them at least annually.

   “You’ll never make [the password] so that it’s uncrackable, but most programs are looking for the easiest ones they can get,” Marchany noted that a strong password will contain letters, numbers, and symbols. He encourages users to choose a phrase, composition title, or a line from a poem or to randomly string family and friends’ names together. Then, choose a syllable from each word in the phrase, and change a letter to a symbol or number: “Jumpin’ Jack Flash” might become jump!nj@ckf1@sh.

   “Your password is your first line of defense,” said Marchany. Once a hacker gains access to your password, he or she is the new you online. If a user has one password for multiple accounts, a great deal of data is at stake. Marchany stresses a few basic concepts. One: Email providers will never—repeat, never—ask users for their passwords via email. Those emails that ask you to confirm your password or change it? Not legit.

2. **Guard your passwords.**

   Marchany recommends that users change their passwords regularly, at least once a year. At Virginia Tech, password changes have become mandatory. All Tech account users were required to change their passwords by July 1 and must continue to change them at least annually.

   “You’ll never make [the password] so that it’s uncrackable, but most programs are looking for the easiest ones they can get,” Marchany noted that a strong password will contain letters, numbers, and symbols. He encourages users to choose a phrase, composition title, or a line from a poem or to randomly string family and friends’ names together. Then, choose a syllable from each word in the phrase, and change a letter to a symbol or number: “Jumpin’ Jack Flash” might become jump!nj@ckf1@sh.

   “Your password is your first line of defense,” said Marchany. Once a hacker gains access to your password, he or she is the new you online. If a user has one password for multiple accounts, a great deal of data is at stake. Marchany stresses a few basic concepts. One: Email providers will never—repeat, never—ask users for their passwords via email. Those emails that ask you to confirm your password or change it? Not legit.

3. **Be aware of what information is no longer ‘secret.’**

   Many people now make so much information about themselves public and accessible via social-networking sites that common and simple passwords, as well as secret questions—often used to confirm user identities should a user forget his or her password—are thin barriers between an account and hackers.

   Consider many of these common answers to “secret” questions: mother’s maiden name, the name of your elementary school, your hometown, or your anniversary. Much of this information is now available on Facebook, posted by you, a family member, or a friend. “If you post it on Facebook, don’t make it your secret question,” Marchany said.

4. **Be cautious about how much data you share and with whom.**

   Janine Hiller, a Pamplin professor specializing in Internet law, noted that, in an increasingly connected society, people are far more willing to give away information about themselves. “The one danger that we just don’t recognize is that we’re being numb to giving away our information,” added Belanger, the IT security expert. “We’re asked to compromise between security/privacy and convenience/advantage.” For example, users can set credit card information and addresses on retail websites, adding ease of use for future purchases and opportunities for discounts and special deals. Belanger advises consumers to remember that, in some situations, they can choose security over convenience.
Both Belanger and Marchany agree that updating software on a regular basis is one of the best forms of prevention. Indeed, you don’t even have to click on a link or download a file to have your machine infected with viruses or malware.

“A more popular method of infecting machines these days is for hackers to attack the webcode for advertisements on legitimate sites,” said Marchany. A user visits a trusted website, such as The New York Times, but some of the information on that site is actually advertisements being pulled from advertiser code. Hackers replace legitimate ads with their own code, and the user’s machine is infected simply by viewing the page.

Once on the machine, the virus or malware takes effect, recording keystrokes to capture usernames and passwords or searching for credit card or social security numbers. The best prevention for these attacks, said Marchany, is to keep all software up to date and download all patches regularly.

The best prevention for these attacks, said Marchany, is to keep all software up to date and download all patches, which will ensure that any known vulnerability in a computer’s operating system or software is dealt with.
At Jason Pall’s (geography ’06) Glade Road Growing farm in Blacksburg, Va., a new-old approach to food production is taking shape.

Pall refers to it as “intercropping,” and while the term might sound 21st century, the idea is hardly new. Crops like buckwheat, a cover crop that improves soil health, border rows of summer squash, peppers, and tomatoes. Chickens in portable cages that Pall refers to as “chicken tractors” feast in the grassy areas between plots of various crops.

Glade Road Growing is a vision: a small farm in a small town, a sign of a growing demand for locally produced food. The sight isn’t one of endless waves of grain, but rather an ecosystem of interconnected crops thriving in harmony. Fragrant flowers provide nectar, sustaining the predatory insects that will prey on “bad insects,” those that attack the vegetable plants.

During a farm tour, Pall, who runs the farm with his wife, Sally Walker (biological systems engineering ’07, M.S. ’09), details the reasoning behind the setup of an already bountiful first-year farm. “We believe in diversifying,” Pall says. “It’s all one system, not just one-dimensional.”

Using intercropping, Pall expects his yield, per square foot, to be three times what a large-scale farm can achieve. “The more land you manage, [the more you] cut down your quality.” He sells his produce at the Blacksburg Farmers Market and hopes someday to branch into home delivery using a pickup truck that’s been converted to electric.
Happy meals: Local foods are more than mere sustenance

“The real interest spiked a couple years ago with the tomato and peanut-butter crises. People began wondering, ‘Where is my food coming from? What am I eating? And one way to know that is to seek out local growers … [to] buy directly from the producer, establish a relationship, and see the production process,’” said Sheri Dorn, a Virginia Cooperative Extension agent in Roanoke, Va.

The answer is simple, natural, and local—at least to hear Joel Salatin, of family-owned and -operated Polyface Farms, explain it. “As we have lengthened the chain of custody [of our food], we have increased opaqueness. As a result, we have a tremendous amount of corner-cutting—manure contamination, chemical use. Local food offers a transparency that’s impossible to obtain otherwise,” said Salatin, author of eight books about farming and food production.

Food
to and peanut-butter crises. People began wondering, ‘Where is my food coming from? What am I eating? And one way to know that is to seek out local growers … [to] buy directly from the producer, establish a relationship, and see the production process,’” said Sheri Dorn, a Virginia Cooperative Extension agent in Roanoke, Va.

The answer is simple, natural, and local—at least to hear Joel Salatin, of family-owned and -operated Polyface Farms, explain it. “As we have lengthened the chain of custody [of our food], we have increased opaqueness. As a result, we have a tremendous amount of corner-cutting—manure contamination, chemical use. Local food offers a transparency that’s impossible to obtain otherwise,” said Salatin, author of eight books about farming and food production.

Farmers markets and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) systems are the primary venues for purchasing local products, though natural and health foods stores or co-ops often stock locally produced goods. CSAs allow consumers to buy “shares” to a farm; in return, they receive a box or basket of produce each week.

Such programs don’t just feed consumers. Eating local also stimulates a vibrant economy by retaining local dollars. “If each household in Virginia devoted $10 of their weekly budget to Virginia farm products, it would have a direct economic impact of $1.65 billion [per year],” noted Eric Bendfeldt, a community viability specialist with Virginia Cooperative Extension.

Bendfeldt added that it’s not simply local food that’s important. He encouraged consumers to buy food produced in the region instead of processed food, which travels an average of 1,500 miles. “A local food system is about four times as energy-efficient as a global system, but a regional food system is 17 times more energy-efficient than a global food system,” said Bendfeldt, citing research by Iowa State University and the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture. “Therefore, it is important to find a balance and know the context for local, regional, national, and global markets.”

Having an abundance of fresh food readily accessible can mean good things for nutrition and the battle against obesity. Carmen Byker (Ph.D. human nutrition, foods, and exercise ‘11) noted that simply having access to fresh produce fosters better nutrition. “Many times, farmers markets provide a greater proportion of fresh foods than processed foods. The customer is likely to find an abundance of fresh fruits and vegetables, meats, and dairy products. Baked goods are available too, but highly processed foods laden with chemicals are less likely to be available.” During her time at Tech, Byker served on the Blacksburg Farmers Market board of directors and started a program that provided fresh produce to the families of Head Start children.

On a sunny afternoon at the Blacksburg market, a thriving microcosm of the new shape of food production, distribution, and consumption presents itself. Customers talk face-to-face with the people who grow their food. Vibrant rows of newly harvested zucchini and summer squash, containers of freshly picked peaches and blueberries, and made-from-scratch pastries await marketgoers. Behind each booth stands a food producer, ready to answer questions about farming methods, pesticide use, or freshness of produce. Vendors eagerly offer tips on anything from the best way to store or prepare produce to starting your own garden.

And the tone is different from your average grocery store. No shouting of carts, blare of music, or shouts to grab produce. Occasionally, musicians ramp up the casual atmosphere. The scene is more of a social gathering than a shopping experience.

“We’re bringing it back to the basics,” said Ellen Stewart, director for the Blacksburg Farmers Market, of the experience. “[People are] able to build a relationship of trust with the person producing [their] food.”

The social atmosphere, the contributions to the local economy, and the accountability aren’t the only perks to eating local. There’s also what one might call the ‘fresh factor.’

“We take pride in going to pick the fruit the night before the farmers market,” said Ron I-Holden, a vendor at the Blacksburg market. “You’re not going to go to Kroger and find a peach that was picked the night before.”

Many local farmers open their fields to consumers. More than growers, they are educators and entrepreneurs, continually studying and improving their methods.

One might even call them trendsetters.

The 21st-century ‘Victory Garden’: Urban gardening gains ground

People are moving closer to their food sources as they try their own hand at growing.

“You’re not going to go to Kroger and find a peach that was picked the night before.”

Many local farmers open their fields to consumers. More than growers, they are educators and entrepreneurs, continually studying and improving their methods.

One might even call them trendsetters.

The 21st-century ‘Victory Garden’: Urban gardening gains ground

People are moving closer to their food sources as they try their own hand at growing.

“You’re not going to go to Kroger and find a peach that was picked the night before.”

Many local farmers open their fields to consumers. More than growers, they are educators and entrepreneurs, continually studying and improving their methods.

One might even call them trendsetters.

The 21st-century ‘Victory Garden’: Urban gardening gains ground

People are moving closer to their food sources as they try their own hand at growing.

“You’re not going to go to Kroger and find a peach that was picked the night before.”

Many local farmers open their fields to consumers. More than growers, they are educators and entrepreneurs, continually studying and improving their methods.

One might even call them trendsetters.
Virginia Tech experts offered some guidance for people interested in starting their own backyard or patio garden.

Start small.

“It’s very easy to get overwhelmed,” cautioned Dorn. “Gardens are a lot of work. You put a lot of time and energy into it, especially when you’re first starting out.”

For those thinking of starting a garden, fall, not spring, can be a great time to start your plan, according to Dorn. “Start with a soil test,” she said. “November is a great time to test your soil because soil-testing facilities don’t have as much demand.”

If you find you need to adjust the soil’s pH level, applying lime or sulfur in the fall will give you six months for the changes to occur.

In December, January, and February, seed catalogs come out, and it’s time to make a garden plan. Do your homework: Find out which plants grow well in the region, plan crop rotation, and look for cultivars that will provide insect and disease resistance. Then, in the spring, you’ll be starting out on the right foot.

Growers considering container gardening should buy patio or bush varieties of plants. Tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, and squash can be grown in containers, along with greens like lettuce, spinach, kale, and many herbs, such as basil. Hanging baskets are also an option.

Most of all, don’t be afraid of failure. “If there’s one thing I always say, it’s that if it’s worth doing, it’s worth doing poorly the first time,” said Salatin. “At the end of the day, it’s a skill that’s worth learning. Don’t expect a bumper crop the first time.”

Don’t over- or under-fertilize.

Over time, gardeners learn to tell when a plant has sufficient fertilizer, said Joyce Latimer, professor of horticulture. “Gardeners know when a plant is happy. There’s this green vibrancy. When a plant is not fertilized enough, it starts to look unhappy, with yellowing or lower leaf death.”

“It’s not as complicated as people make it,” Latimer said. “Always follow the guidelines. More is not better. In many cases, more is harmful.” You can also buy controlled-release fertilizers “so you don’t have to remember to do it once a month.”

State Master Gardener Coordinator Dave Close cautioned against adding nitrogen-based fertilizer when a plant is close to producing fruit or ready to harvest. Adding fertilizer promotes root and leaf growth, and at this stage, the focus should be on producing fruit or ready to harvest. Adding fertilizer promotes root and leaf growth, and at this stage, the focus should be on producing fruit or ready to harvest. For backyard gardens, too, excess fertilizer can lead to runoff of phosphorus and nitrogen, polluting waterways. Experts also urge novice gardeners to keep in mind that their plants will likely be easily accessible to pets and children.

Generally, limit contact with treated plants until the application has dried. Read the product labels for specific warnings.

Close also had some advice about pesticides. “The less pesticide you have to use, whether organic or conventional, the better it is, from a financial or environmental standpoint. It means that things are healthy on their own without additional help. You should just use [these products] as a last resort.”

Water frequently.

Dorn offered a rule of thumb for determining if a plant needs to be watered. “One method of determining if your plants have enough water is to lift the pot, to know what it feels like when it’s fully watered. If it’s light the next time you lift it, you know you need to water it. If you can’t lift [the container], stick your fingers down in the soil, but that’s only a reasonable guess because the surface will dry more quickly and the roots are deeper.”

Plants should be watered before they reach the wilting point. “If you don’t keep plants evenly watered, you can run into nutrition and plant health issues.”

If gardeners want to ensure a bountiful harvest, watering plants consistently is the best bet.

Web extras

For tips on anything from gardening and plant care to soil testing, fertilization, and composting, or to contact a Master Gardener in your local Virginia Cooperative Extension agent, visit www.ext.vt.edu. To read about the Gardens Growing Families program, where Henrico County families grow their own food, visit www.vtmagazine.vt.edu.

Generally, limit contact with treated plants until the application has dried. Read the product labels for specific warnings.

Close also had some advice about pesticides. “The less pesticide you have to use, whether organic or conventional, the better it is, from a financial or environmental standpoint. It means that things are healthy on their own without additional help. You should just use [these products] as a last resort.”

Water frequently.

Dorn offered a rule of thumb for determining if a plant needs to be watered. “One method of determining if your plants have enough water is to lift the pot, to know what it feels like when it’s fully watered. If it’s light the next time you lift it, you know you need to water it. If you can’t lift [the container], stick your fingers down in the soil, but that’s only a reasonable guess because the surface will dry more quickly and the roots are deeper.”

Plants should be watered before they reach the wilting point. “If you don’t keep plants evenly watered, you can run into nutrition and plant health issues.”

If gardeners want to ensure a bountiful harvest, watering plants consistently is the best bet.

At Glade Road Growing, it’s easy to imagine that the consumer’s relationship with food is taking on a new shape. “Is small farming or organic farming going to feed the world?” Pall asked, holding a tomato, picked mid-tour, in his hand. “Maybe one day. It’s one step.”

Perhaps it’s not a new face, after all, but a throwback to a more holistic approach to the environment—working with the land, rather than against it. “Nonlocal sourcing is the tip of a huge severance that has broken down the connection between us and our umbilical,” said Salatin. “Never before have so many people lacked a deep understanding of the way their food is grown and produced, he lamented.”

Pall puts it more directly. “Food is important,” he said. “Food is your medicine.”

If you think our defense works hard, you’ll really enjoy our workforce.
Virginia Cooperative Extension reaches all Virginians, whether they know it or not.

Carl Stafford (left), an Extension agricultural and natural resources agent, visits with dairy producer Terry Ingram about forage management strategies.

Virginia Cooperative Extension has assisted farmers and communities for the better part of a century, from the first demonstration farms and corn and tomato clubs of the early 1900s to the innovative educational and outreach programs of the 2000s. While a tough economy in recent years has spelled trouble for Extension programs in Virginia and elsewhere, the goals of the organization remain the same.

"When Extension began nearly 100 years ago, its purpose was to help people take research developed at a university and other places and put it into practice on the land and in the home," said Edwin Jones, director of Virginia Cooperative Extension. "Can we still do that today? I believe so."
An evolving mission
Since the Smith-Lever Act in 1914, Virginia Cooperative Extension—a partnership of Virginia Tech and Virginia State University (VSU)—has grown to include a network of faculty at each university, 106 county and city offices, 12 agricultural research and Extension centers, and six 4-H educational centers.

For decades, Extension focused its mission on helping farmers and addressing economic problems in the home, but now its reach extends to an array of economic, environmental, and social concerns. Recent decreases in federal and state public resources for Extension programs have caused administrators to rethink what programs are offered and how they are delivered. Even so, Jones (M.S. fisheries and wildlife ’79, Ph.D. ’83) said the organization has two advantages over other state agencies. First, Extension focuses on education, influencing behavior on, say, nutrition and obesity rather than addressing only the aftereffects. Second, Extension transfers research-based knowledge from land-grand universities directly to Virginia residents.

Take, for example, the Virginia Potato Disease Advisory. Developed by Extension agents, the advisory relies on research at Extension sites to issue weekly bulletins sharing fungicide recommendations and information about potato diseases. In 2010, Eastern Shore potato growers saved $300,000 through reduced fungicide applications by using recommendations from the advisory.

The issue is one of many that Extension agents have helped to address. From prevention of foodborne illnesses through food-safety training to leadership development through its 4-H programs, Extension has evolved to meet the needs of Virginians in the 21st century. [Editor’s note: For a look at Extension’s economic impact, see the sidebar on page 28.]

Despite reaching more than 1.8 million Virginians in 2010, Extension has seen its one-on-one interactions with members of Virginia communities come into question and make headlines in recent years. In the four years from fiscal year 2008 to fiscal year 2012, Virginia Cooperative Extension and the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station have seen a cumulative reduction of $10.3 million in state funds, or about 15.9 percent less than the 2008 amount. In fall 2010, Extension responded to a General Assembly request for a new strategic plan and a restructuring proposal to reduce costs yet maintain a local presence throughout the commonwealth.

By early 2011, as lawmakers and the university fielded public reaction, the organization withdrew its proposed restructuring plan. Extension leaders refocused on listening to stakeholders and partners and gathering input about how, with the current level of resources, Extension can best deliver high-impact programs that align with the needs of its clientele, Jones said. Extension is searching for unique ways to increase its capacity, including collaborative training programs with other states and the use of new technology, while maintaining a visible presence in communities.

Pooling resources
To address the decline in public resources, Virginia Cooperative Extension has taken new approaches and sought our partnerships to make its programs more effective.

The organization’s four program areas—agriculture and natural resources, family and consumer sciences, 4-H youth development, and overall budgets are being cut. Like Virginia Tech, as a land-grant university, generating knowledge that’s paired with outreach and engagement is a part of our heritage and mission at K-State. It’s something that’s very important to us and something we will continue to value.”

Such heritage is as important as ever, Scholz said. “Helping people improve their lives with research-based knowledge won’t ever lose its relevancy. With the vast discoveries that researchers are finding, it’s important that we capitalize on the benefits of these findings by bringing them to the people and industries that can use them.”

Whether partnering with large agricultural associations, such as the Virginia Agribusiness Council or the Virginia Farm Bureau, or educating local communities, Extension has the unique ability to bring together those from all sides of an issue. “Our greatest strength—and one that we do very, very well—is our ability to bring different perspectives from various audiences into discussions,” Jones explained. “We bring the latest information we have, without a stake in the issue.”

Training future leaders
Perhaps nowhere in Extension’s diversity in disseminating knowledge more visibly than in its 4-H programs, which teach youth about a wide range of issues, from agriculture to public speaking, all while honing their skills as future leaders.

“Virginia 4-H provides hands-on learning experiences for youth at all ages and addresses a number of societal issues, from raising the next generation of community and civic leaders, to teaching about nutrition and physical fitness as a way to address the growing problem of childhood obesity, to encouraging children and teens to pursue careers in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics [STEM] fields,” said Cathy Sutphin, associate director of Virginia Cooperative Extension’s 4-H youth development program. “Our programs not only change behaviors to ensure that Virginia’s youth are productive members of society who contribute to their local communities, but also increase their academic performances, therefore, their economic potential.”

“The mission of 4-H is to build leaders and help them develop life skills. I believe that is exactly what 4-H has done for me,” said Brandon Pierce, now a Virginia Tech senior majoring in agricultural and applied economics and Spanish. Pierce has served in Virginia Tech’s 4-H Cabinet, including one year as president; on the National 4-H Planning Com-
An economic boost for the commonwealth

Virginia Cooperative Extension continues to have a significant impact on the commonwealth’s economy. Here are a few examples of how Extension benefits citizens from across the commonwealth:

- Extension’s strong agriculture and natural resource programs sustain the profitability of agricultural and forestry production—Virginia’s largest industry, with an annual economic impact of $75 billion—and protect the quality of Virginia’s land and water resources.
- The Virginia Quality Assured Feeders Program has consistently given Virginia beef producers higher prices compared to traditional livestock sales. Cash receipts for program participants are higher than weekly market values, creating an economic stimulus valued at more than $508,000 in 2010.
- Extension agents developed the Virginia Potato Disease Advisory, which, in 2010, saved Eastern Shore potato growers $300,000 through reduced fungicide applications.
- Thanks to Extension’s forage-based nutrition management planning program, farmers in the Piedmont region of Virginia now use poultry litter for fertilizer. Because poultry litter costs less than commercial fertilizer, farmers saved an average of $42 per acre on fertilizer over a three-year period.
- Extension addresses emerging family and consumer sciences issues, such as obesity and diabetes, and their associated costs. Virginia spent more than $1.6 billion on obesity-related problems in 2003—approximately 5.7 percent of the state’s total medical expenditures. Foodborne illnesses cost Virginia up to $23 million annually. Last year, 2010, Extension agents trained more than 375 food handlers on food safety and foodborne disease prevention.
- Virginia’s six 4-H educational centers, which provide hands-on educational experiences for more than 16,000 Virginia youth in summer and year-round camps, have a major impact on the commonwealth’s economy. Employment, staff, purchasing food and supplies, and making capital improvements account for more than $6.3 million annually.
- Virginia’s land and water resources.
- The country’s economic engine was agriculture, and the majority of its population lived in rural areas to work on the land. Today, farmers account for only 1 to 2 percent of the U.S. population and more than half of Americans live in urban areas. Virginia is no different.
- New technologies and innovative approaches to production may have eliminated the need for a large farming population, but everyone still has a stake in agriculture, said Jones. Virginia Cooperative Extension invests its time and resources in all aspects of community food systems, whether growing a large agricultural operation in Southwest Virginia how to incorporate the latest integrated pest-management strategies, teaching Eastern Virginia residents how to grow their own community gardens, dealing with crop varieties or livestock programs, or addressing nutrition in schools and community centers.
- Every day, Extension agents are sharing knowledge, proving that the organization continues to fulfill a new version of an old mission: putting university knowledge and expertise into practice across the commonwealth.
- “The issues that the people of the commonwealth face are complex, and it behooves an organization like Extension to be involved in bringing a solution to those issues,” Jones said. “One of the great things about Cooperative Extension is that we are not an agency that gives out money, sets regulations, or enforces regulations. Instead, we help Virginians deal with issues, whether on the farm, in the home, or in the community.”

Formerly a writer for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Michael Sapton (communication ‘06) is now the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine’s public relations coordinator. To see a video of Edwin Jones explaining how Extension reaches you, go to www.vtmagazine.vt.edu.
Fisticuffs, growing pains, and the Hokie way

BY JULIET CRITCHTON

Charles L.C. Minor, the first president of Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College (VAMC), was hired from Sewanee, where he had taught Latin and led the preparatory school. Earlier the president of Maryland Agricultural College, he held a master’s degree from the University of Virginia and a doctor of laws and had served as a combat officer in the Confederate Army, reaching the rank of captain. “A fine-looking, robust man [with] a reputation of being an athlete and an excellent boxer,” notes the late Col. Harry D. Temple (industrial engineering ‘34) in “The Bugle’s Echo,” Minor had come to VAMC highly recommended by professional colleagues.

Gen. James H. Lane, commandant of cadets, had graduated second in his class at Virginia Military Institute, and earned a master’s degree at the University of Virginia and both a doctorate and a doctor of laws. Nicknamed “Gamecock,” he taught math and military tactics at his alma mater and then in Florida and North Carolina before entering the Civil War at its onset. Paroled in 1865 as a brigadier general, Lane had been wounded three times. Temple quotes a VAMC cadet describing the general as “a stern old disciplinarian [who] handled the cadets as if he were still fighting old Grant.”
Upon Virginia’s 1870 readmission to the union, some two dozen schools jockeyed to become the war-battered state’s new land-grant institute of agricultural and mechanical arts. Competition for the funding, made available by the Morrill Land Grant Act of 1862, was fierce; and legislative debate wore on for months, as it is wont to do, rankled by self-interests and conflicting ideologies.

In early 1872, Virginia Gov. Gilbert C. Walker signed the bill allocating two-thirds of the state’s grant monies to the Preston and Olin Institute in Blacksburg. The Methodist-affiliated “seminary of learning,” which had fallen upon hard times, would be reorganized into VAMC—today’s Virginia Tech.

Preston and Olin’s president, Thomas N. Conrad, who had fully expected to be appointed VAMC’s founding president, dealt with the oversight by launching a bitter campaign against the new school’s every move. As the editor of nearby Christiansburg’s Montgomery Messenger, he hounded VAMC administrators and board members alike, accusing them of partisanship and sectionalism at best, ignorance and incompetence at worst.

While other editors might have eschewed personal attacks for a more pragmatic assessment of the school’s programs and progress, it became evident that the entire affair pitted a state-college/state-control construct against a state-college/local-control one. In other words, the school’s growing pains were intense, if not historically significant.

In his school history, “The First One Hundred Years,” Professor Emeritus Duncan Lyle Kinnear notes that VAMC had opened its doors without “any clear-cut organizational plan of administration which could be used as a guide by either the faculty or the board.” Naturally, such impetuosity invited chaos on the small campus. Faculty had a direct line to board members. Disputes arose over the school’s curriculum. Political loyalties ruffled the faculty ranks. And at an 1878 faculty meeting, the president punched the commandant of cadets.

Thus a matter of public record played out in newspapers statewide, VAMC’s formative years hissed with dissension and discord better suited to Dickens or Dostoevsky.

Despite efforts to the contrary, VAMC continued to thrive, enrolling more than 250 cadets in just its fourth year and effectively outgrowing campus boarding facilities. Those cadets who lived off-campus, largely unintended, were prone to mischief, outgrowing the town’s patience in record time. Not only were cadets known to frequent a Main Street hotel that sold liquor, recurring acts of vandalism pointed to a student population gone wild.

After sufficient complaints had been lodged by the townspeople, the school’s administration set about devising a course of action to control the cadets. In broadest terms, Minor and his cohort favored a more relaxed, civilian environment, whereas Lane and his supporters believed that a military college should in fact be a military college with all the attendant routines and discipline, 24/7. From such structure would also come academic excellence, Lane maintained.

Although the board of visitors approved a Minor-submitted plan for administrative oversight of the school’s disciplinary procedures, faculty members, even those in Minor’s camp, balked at the newly introduced chain-of-command and responsibilities, preferring instead the complete autonomy they had enjoyed when no administrative guidelines had existed at all. Minor’s efforts as president notwithstanding, the pro-military faction continued to hold a solid line. No consensus for properly disciplining the young men could be reached; and in an already contentious climate, confrontation was imminent.

The Morrill Land Grant Act

The 150th anniversary of the Morrill Act will be celebrated on July 2, 2012. Sponsored by Vermont Rep. Justin Smith Morrill and signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln, the bill that granted states public land based on the size of their congressional delegations changed the educational landscape in the U.S. and funded the establishment of more than 70 schools to provide affordable, practical education. But the most powerful aspect of the Morrill Act was the commitment to support these schools.
After two years of simmering dissension on campus, the rift between Minor and Lane widened irreparably when, in March 1878, Minor insisted that Lane oversee all cadet discipline instead of delegating authority to cadet officers. Lane immediately requested a faculty meeting during which he presented a voluble speech that Minor was compelled to describe in his August 1878 president’s report to the board of visitors: ‘Gen. Lane spoke at some length urging his view of the matter, exhibiting much excitement and heat, and using language discourteous to me. More than once he spoke of my seeking to set myself up as the great I am of the College.’ Apparently exhibiting considerable restraint, Minor ‘said nothing touching the question under debate, but proposed a postponement.’

Two days later, at Minor’s request, the faculty again met to seek a resolution of the issue. Minor’s report indicates that ‘Gen. Lane again spoke at considerable length with similar excitement and heart.’ Upon taking the floor for rebuttal, Minor was repeatedly interrupted by Lane, who refused to desist, despite being “ruled out of order” by the meeting’s chair. ‘The character of his interruptions,’ Minor wrote about Lane, ‘may be judged from his words in answer to the presiding officer, very loudly and resentfully uttered: “Order, the devil, this is a question of veracity!” He rose from his seat and advanced on me, and demanded with loud offensive and threatening tones and gestures, whether I meant to impeach his veracity.’

Minor coolly responded to Lane that “if he would have it so, it must be so.” Then, Minor recounts, Lane “shook his fist in my face, grinding his teeth and crying aloud in rage and I struck him.” It was the punch heard ‘round the state—and the public was fit to be tied.

In the wake of vehement demands made by local leaders, the county sheriff hauled Minor and Lane into court. According to Kinneir, “after an abundant supply of dirty college linen had been aired in public, both men were found guilty of disturbing the peace.”

The board of visitors soon after announced a “dubious readjustment” to the board of visitors, Readjusters all, was appointed to serve their party. Called Readjusters, these politicians not only won control of the state legislature, but also carried as a result of the war and the ensuing reconstruction. Confident that Minor would find the military model objectionable, the board announced his removal from office without support, Lee insisted that such a plan would correct “a defective organization of the college and an inefficient system of discipline” that had, it was agreed, caused student enrollment to plummet more than 60 percent, from 255 cadets in 1875-76 to 160 in 1878-79. A proposal for reorganization was prepared and released before Thanksgiving.

Confident that Minor would find the military model objectionable, the board announced his removal from office before the year had ended. At the same time, political control of the state had shifted to a party-bull-bent on disputing the debt Virginia carried as a result of the war and the ensuing reconstruction. Called Readjusters, these politicians not only won control of the legislature, but also succeeded in electing a governor from their party.

In keeping with the new face of state politics, a new board of visitors, Readjusters all, was appointed to serve VAMC. The new president, John Lee Buchanan, promptly reorganized the college, notes Kinneir in his 1972 publication, “especially the military department, along lines which have survived to the present time.” Leaving Blacksburg, Minor resettled in Winchester, Va., where he purchased Shenandoah Valley Academy, later teaching in Baltimore and at Episcopal High in Alexandria, Va. He died in 1903 in Albemarle County, Va.

Lane, who would remain on as commandant of cadets through the next year, initiated changes in the military program to align it more closely with the program at Virginia Military Institute. In 1888, VAMC President Lunsford L. Lomax, a West Point graduate who had served the Confederacy as a major general, used a legislative appropriation to erect Barracks No. 1, now known as Lane Hall in a nod to the first commandant. The centerpiece of the Upper Quad, Lane Hall remains one of the oldest buildings on campus. Lane, who moved on to teach in Missouri and at Agricultural and Mechanical College of Alabama, died in 1907.
EPILOGUE

The commonwealth’s most comprehensive university and its leading research institution, today’s Virginia Tech educates more than 30,000 students annually, including cadets. Long beaked from the black eye dispensation by its fighting founding fathers, the university remains committed to its land-grant mission of service and sharing knowledge. Revealing an institutional mettle likely ingrained at its core, the little school in the wild Southwest took on change and flourished. One might even say Virginia Tech—and the Hokie Nation—earned the right to lean upon the trait that’s among its most valuable: that fighting spirit—minus the fists.

Rommelyn Conde, a graduate assistant with Virginia Tech Magazine, contributed to this story.

THE WILD, WILD SOUTHWEST

Home to Blacksburg and Christiansburg, Virginia’s Montgomery County was destined to be special. First settled in the mid-1700s by pioneers migrating west from the coast, the area later named Blacksburg offered good passage across the Allegheny Ridge, along with rolling expanses of fertile land and mountain springs. Near the county’s center, Christiansburg became a noted stop along the Wilderness Road and claimed Daniel Boone and Davy Crockett among the local color. The town was also the site of Virginia’s first rifle duel, the bloodshed of which helped spur the 1830 passage of the Barbour Bill outlawing the practice.

Living Pylons

The majestic Pylons stood watch over you as a Virginia Tech student, and they still do. The names of the Pylons—Brotherhood, Honor, Leadership, Loyalty, Service, Sacrifice, Duty, and Ut Prosim (That I May Serve)—embody the values that members of the Hokie Nation hold in highest regard.

In a series of alumni-penned essays, we want to share with readers the stories from your diverse academic, personal, and professional backgrounds that express how you live out these values. To be considered, select a Pylon value, and send a 100-word abstract to vtmag@vt.edu.

Virginia Tech TRIUMPHS with Quicken Loans

Quicken Loans is proud to partner with the prestigious Virginia Tech Alumni Association to offer you and your family a special $500 cash back offer when you close your mortgage with Quicken Loans.

Mortgage rates are at record lows for 2011.

Why wait to buy or refinance? Plus, we can take you through the mortgage process in as little as 30 days! As a Virginia Tech Alumni, you deserve the best. This is why it’s so important to our team that we make this your best mortgage experience ever.

Get $500 cash back when you close your mortgage with Quicken Loans.

Call Quicken Loans toll free at (888) 310-3152 today!

Virginia Tech Magazine | Fall 2011
WHY WE FIGHT:

Lunch pail holds significance for Echo Company Marines

BY GEORGE FLYNN ’01

I took command of Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines on Nov. 8, 2010. The battalion is stationed in Camp Pendleton, Calif., and its nickname since the Vietnam War has been “The Magnificent Bastards.” About a year before assuming command of a company of Marines, I began looking for ways to inspire them and build a strong sense of pride for the unit. The one thing I kept coming back to was how a lunch pail serves to inspire not only the greatest defensive scheme in all of football but also everyone who knows what it means to be a Hokie. It certainly has inspired me. With the lunch-pail idea in mind, I went on eBay and ordered an antique lunch pail and, when I had a chance to visit Virginia Tech in the spring of 2010, walked onto the Drillfield and put some grass inside, just to give the pail a piece of home. The lunch pail then sat on a shelf in my garage, waiting in the back, and put a Marine Corps sticker on the side. During my first field-training exercise with the company, I carried it with me wherever I went, and when I was teaching a class or simply talking to the Marines, I made it a point to have the pail nearby. Eventually, Marines started asking, “Sir, what’s up with the lunchpail?” After correcting them a few times and making sure they understood that it was a lunch pail, I teased out my idea.

I told them all about Virginia Tech and the football teams use of the lunch pail and how, after April 16, the names of the 32 victims were placed inside as remembrance. Based on that inspiration, I explained to the Marines that I wanted each of them to identify and truly understand what they are fighting for. I wanted to ensure that they took the time to truly grasp why they make the sacrifices that they make in the interest of serving this great country as U.S. Marines. My guidance was simple: Pick one thing with emotional significance and one that serves as an example of how great this country is. Each Marine would put a memento of both inside the lunch pail. They took ownership of the lunch pail. They took ownership by putting interesting, personal, heartfelt statements of themselves and what they care about into the lunch pail.

That lunch pail would come to house pictures of children, brothers, sisters, parents, friends, the American flag, and even some stories or descriptions of family traditions, favorite hangouts, or anecdotes that serve as an example of what it means to live in America.

In January, the company was en route to Bridgeport, Calif., to conduct three weeks of cold-weather training in the Sierra Nevada mountain range. About halfway into our trip, the buses stopped to allow the Marines to buy some snacks at a local grocery store. While in the store, I noticed the Marine who carried the lunch pail places it with the company guidon (the scarlet and gold flag) whenever the company is training. As Marines join the company, they are required to identify the two things for which they are willing to fight. Echo Company is now known throughout the battalion as the blue-collar company that carries the lunch pail. And I think I have made a few additional Hokie fans in the process.

The weekend after taking command, I took the lunch pail out of the box, spray-painted it black, painted “Win” on the front and “Echo” on the back, and put a Marine Corps sticker on the side. During my first field-training exercise with the company, I carried it with me whenever I went; and when I was teaching a class or simply talking to the Marines. I made it a point to have the pail nearby. Eventually, Marines started asking, “Sir, what’s up with the lunchpail?” After correcting them a few times and making sure they understood that it was a lunch pail, I teased out my idea.

I told them all about Virginia Tech and the football teams use of the lunch pail and how, after April 16, the names of the 32 victims were placed inside as remembrance. Based on that inspiration, I explained to the Marines that I wanted each of them to identify and truly understand what they are fighting for. I wanted to ensure that they took the time to truly grasp why they make the sacrifices that they make in the interest of serving this great country as U.S. Marines. My guidance was simple: Pick one thing with emotional significance and one that serves as an example of how great this country is. Each Marine would put a memento of both inside the lunch pail.

One of them finally said, “Sir, it is kind of like you are asking us to put our hearts into that pail, and so in a way, that lunch pail will signify the heartbeat of the company.” With that statement, my Marines took ownership of the lunch pail. They took ownership by putting interesting, personal, heartfelt statements of themselves and what they care about into the lunch pail.

That lunch pail would come to house pictures of children, brothers, sisters, parents, friends, the American flag, and even some stories or descriptions of family traditions, favorite hangouts, or anecdotes that serve as an example of what it means to live in America.

In January, the company was en route to Bridgeport, Calif., to conduct three weeks of cold-weather training in the Sierra Nevada mountain range. About halfway into our trip, the buses stopped for the Marines to buy some snacks at a local grocery store. While in the store, I noticed the Marine who carried the lunch pail places it with the company guidon (the scarlet and gold flag) whenever the company is training. As Marines join the company, they are required to identify the two things for which they are willing to fight.

Echo Company is now known throughout the battalion as the blue-collar company that carries the lunch pail. And I think I have made a few additional Hokie fans in the process.

Stationed in Camp Pendleton, Calif., Capt. George Flynn (business information technology ’01) is currently deployed in Afghanistan and has deployed three times previously in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.
Building a city from scratch is no easy task, but Bashar Masri (chemical engineering ’83) remains undaunted. In 2010, Bayti Real Estate, of which Masri is managing director, broke ground on a new and ambitious project in Palestine: Rawabi, a planned city that, in eight years, is expected to be home to 40,000 residents.

With a $1 billion budget, the private project is among the largest in Palestinian history. The city will cater to young professionals and families and will meet a crucial need for affordable housing. “We’re a nation of younger people,” said Masri, noting that 50 percent of the country’s population is below 21. From a police department and fire station to a pedestrian-only town center that will bustle with retail and commercial enterprises to a performing arts center and cafes, Rawabi—a name that means “hills” in Arabic—represents the potential of prosperity for the nation.

When Masri first conceptualized the idea in 2007, he faced skepticism from his senior staff and partners. “I threw the idea on the table, and they said, ‘You must be out of your mind.’” When staff members reminded Masri of the countless obstacles the project would face, he was undeterred. “I said, ‘Let’s go around the table and count them.’” The team counted a total of 102 challenges. Now two years into work on Rawabi, Masri and his team have overcome most of those obstacles.

“I felt it was time to come back and start building the Palestinian foundation.”

“It’s very hard for the private sector to establish a city anywhere in the world, let alone in a place like Palestine, where most of the West Bank is occupied by Israel,” said Masri. “There are a lot of difficult issues, but there are so many people from across the world who came out to help.” To date, the project has been featured by news organizations such as Time Magazine, New York Jewish Weekly, CNN, and Fox News.

That a grand-scale project like Rawabi has come so far is no surprise. Masri has a long tradition of championing economic development in Palestine. A native Palestinian, Masri grew up in turbulent times; in 1978, he arrived in the U.S. After three semesters at Richard Bland College in Petersburg, Va., Masri set his sights on Virginia Tech because of the school’s strong program in his intended field. Like many potential students, he was even more impressed with the university once he visited Blacksburg. “It’s easy to fall in love with Virginia Tech once you visit the campus.”

To those who knew him at Tech, Masri’s potential was already evident. “Although Bashar is strong technically, his true strength—and I believe his true love—is in his people skills,” said Joel Walukas (chemical engineering ’83), a classmate and longtime friend of Masri’s. “Bashar was active in clubs and political organizations on campus and often played the role of organizer. He was always in the know as to what was going on.”

After graduating, Masri landed a job with a Saudi Arabian company; management training in London preceded his work on new industrial projects in Saudi Arabia. In 1986, after a short stint overseeing production at a Saudi factory, Masri joined LMRC, a management consulting and lobbying firm in Washington, D.C. Though Masri started in a position focused on water and wastewater associations, he left in late 1993 as the company’s vice president. The Oslo agreement had been signed, and Masri had decided to return to his roots. “I felt it was time to come back and start building the Palestinian foundation,” he said. Today, Masri not only serves as general director and chairman of the board for Masar International, a company with 15 subsidiaries, including Bayti Real Estate, but he also runs a charitable organization that provides financial aid and Masar internships to promising young Palestinians.

Masri also sponsors a number of business-development efforts. He founded an organization that offers seed funds of up to $30,000 to budding entrepreneurs and offers training in how to run a small business. Additionally, he helped establish Palestine’s first private equity fund. Founded this year, Siraj—which
When completed, Rawabi will include a pedestrian-only town center, affordable housing for residents, and numerous spaces for retail and commercial enterprises.

means "oil lamp," symbolic of its focus on technology—has already raised $63 million, and Maadi expects the fund to top $80 million in October, including plenty of capital from foreign investors. "To someone in the U.S., these figures may look small," said Maadi, "but for Palestine, these are huge figures." Led by a management team that includes a number of Palestinian-Americans, the fund is already making its first investments.

He said his Hokie roots have had a lasting impact on his approach to business. "After I graduated, I realized how much my education meant. As an engineer, you don't have to reinvent the wheel. You could use best practices and implement them. I've learned a way of thinking, a process of thinking that was very important." The Virginia Tech experience, particularly as a member of Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity, also taught him leadership and service, he said.

Now Maadi is mixing together his passions, his skills, and his resources, providing opportunities for others and thinking on a grander scale. "Anyone who knew Bashar [as a student] would remember him as a passionate and tireless advocate for the rights of the Palestinian people," Walukas said. "So it does not surprise me at all that Bashar would be pouring those same energies into creating the Rawabi community."
Billion-dollar campaign to shape university for years to come

By Albert Raboteau

By some measures, The Campaign for Virginia Tech: Invent the Future is over. The university officially closed the books on the $1 billion initiative on June 30.

But in terms of impact, the effects of this eight-year fundraising campaign are only starting to be realized. For example, on July 5—just days after the university had stopped tallying donations toward a total it will formally announce Nov. 12—Virginia Tech opened a new Visitor and Undergraduate Admissions Center partly financed with donations made during the campaign. Four weeks after campaign-counting stopped, multiple students from Chesapeake, Va., were notified that they would get scholarships of more than $5,000 apiece for their senior year at Tech, thanks to a $1.29 million fund endowed during the campaign.

Over the coming months, years, and even decades, many more such examples will arise to demonstrate how the recently ended campaign is still helping Virginia Tech and those it serves.

Rae Goldsmith, vice president of advancement resources for the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, an international association of educational institutions, said campaigns have an important long-term impact on institutions. "Campaigns help build your long-term donor base, and that's going to serve any institution well for many years," Goldsmith said. "Many donors make bequests or give in some other way that defers gifts to a future point. And many gifts are endowed.

"Money from endowed gifts is invested. Because endowment earnings are spent and principal remains untouched, these gifts continue to provide funds, year in, year out, with no end date. By some measures, The Campaign for Virginia Tech: Invent the Future is over. The university officially closed the books on the $1 billion initiative on June 30. But in terms of impact, the effects of this eight-year fundraising campaign are only starting to be realized. For example, on July 5—just days after the university had stopped tallying donations toward a total it will formally announce Nov. 12—Virginia Tech opened a new Visitor and Undergraduate Admissions Center partly financed with donations made during the campaign. Four weeks after campaign-counting stopped, multiple students from Chesapeake, Va., were notified that they would get scholarships of more than $5,000 apiece for their senior year at Tech, thanks to a $1.29 million fund endowed during the campaign.

Over the coming months, years, and even decades, many more such examples will arise to demonstrate how the recently ended campaign is still helping Virginia Tech and those it serves.

Rae Goldsmith, vice president of advancement resources for the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, an international association of educational institutions, said campaigns have an important long-term impact on institutions. "Campaigns help build your long-term donor base, and that's going to serve any institution well for many years," Goldsmith said. "Many donors make bequests or give in some other way that defers gifts to a future point. And many gifts are endowed. Money from endowed gifts is invested. Because endowment earnings are spent and principal remains untouched, these gifts continue to provide funds, year in, year out, with no end date.

**Endowments ensure the future**

During the campaign, donors created 826 new endowments at Virginia Tech. Of those, 563 were arranged to fund scholarships. One such endowment created the Harry Bramhall Gilbert Meritorious Scholarship, which was issued for the first time this year and is expected to help dozens of graduates from the Chesapeake Public School division every year from now on.

Aspiring pediatrician Ying Chen, a biological sciences major, was one of the recipients. She became interested in medicine as a young girl while serving as translator for her parents whenever they took her younger brother to doctor appointments.

"I knew even when I was a little girl that whatever profession I did [pursue], I would want to help people," Chen said. "Now that I've been awarded this scholarship, I do plan to save even more money for medical school because, as we all know, medical school really does run your finances into the ground."

**Funding promising faculty**

Sixty-two new endowment funds from the campaign were crafted to help faculty members. These funds created named professorships or fellowships, set aside resources for specific research, or established faculty awards. Among those endowments was the Blackwood Junior Faculty Fellowship, created in 2006 by Mary (psychology '73) and Willis (business administration '72) Blackwood of Midlothian, Va., and first awarded in 2010 to Assistant Professor of Chemistry Webster Santos.

Santos heads a research group seeking to develop drug compounds able to disrupt the progression of diseases such as HIV/AIDS and cancer. He is the first in what will be a long line of faculty members to benefit from this fellowship.

"I want to be able to use my organic chemistry knowledge to solve problems in medicine—in reality," Santos said. "At the end of the day, I really want to be able to make a therapeutic drug." In keeping with his goal of creating treatments that are put to use, Santos is helping start Bringing Science to Market, a science-based entrepreneurial program being organized by Virginia Tech’s College of Science and Pamplin College of Business. One of the program’s first phases will begin this spring, when Santos and Professor of Biological Sciences Joseph Falkingham co-teach a course called Drugs, Germs, and Entrepreneurship. Money from the Blackwood Fellowship has already helped Santos travel to conferences and develop his expertise in the entrepreneurial side of drug development.

Endowments are not the only permanent benefits of a campaign. Campaigns help reshape campuses through capital projects, such as new buildings, renovations, or other improvements. Tech’s recent campaign was no exception, coinciding with a period of extensive campus construction. Private donations made during the campaign have helped with projects including the Visitor and Undergraduate Admis-
Enjoy an Alumni-only checking account and the chance to receive preferred CD and loan rates while providing financial support to Virginia Tech!

Switch to Virginia Tech Alumni Checking with just one call!

855-VTHOKIE

www.ItsStellarBeingaHokie.com

MEMBER FDIC

Your Virginia Tech Alumni Banking partner is StellarOne Bank, one of Virginia’s strongest regional banks. We stand ready to serve the over 212,000 Virginia Tech alumni.

Find out more! Go to ... ItsStellarBeingaHokie.com

With design competitions, YOUNG ENGINEERS HAVE A FOOT IN THE DOOR

BY ALBERT RABOTEAU

Like all seniors majoring in aerospace engineering at Virginia Tech, Victor Zamora will log many hours on a design project this school year. Unlike many of his classmates, the Mount Airy, N.C., native also benefited from similar experiences as a freshman, sophomore, and junior.

Throughout his college career, Zamora has participated on Virginia Tech teams in the Design Build Fly (DBF) competition, tackling a newly unveiled challenge each August.

Last year’s task was to build an unmanned aerial vehicle that could fit into carry-on luggage and fulfill military demands, such as being able to carry ammunition and medical supplies (simulated with metal bars and golf balls for the contest).

In April, Zamora’s team placed 19th out of the 82 teams that flew their vehicles in Tucson, Ariz. Virginia Tech’s other team finished 45th. Though he didn’t get a trophy, Zamora said he learned a great deal from the experience.

“It strengthened me as an engineer in the sense that I now have a much greater … skill set, and I also understand the material [from class] in a much more practical way. That is an advantage you can only have by being involved in flying an aircraft.”

Michael Philen, an assistant professor in the Department of Aerospace and Ocean Engineering and a faculty advisor to the team, also cited the educational benefits of participating.

“DBF is such a great experience for the student,” he said. “It provides them with a real, hands-on experience that [they] normally would not get in the classroom.”

DBF was one of several engineering teams that provided Virginia Tech students an extracurricular opportunity to put knowledge into practice last year.

Like the university’s other such teams—including one that won the U.S. Department of Energy’s EcoCar competition in June and another that won the international RoboCup robotics competition in July—the DBF team depends on corporate support to compete effectively. Companies that have sponsored the team in recent years include Lockheed Martin, MicroTech, SolidWorks, and Futaba Corp.

Supporting design teams like the ones at Virginia Tech is a way for companies to help prepare a future generation of workers. The partnerships also give companies an inside recruiting track.

William Mason, an emeritus professor who advised the university’s DBF team for many years, said members have gone on to work for some of the industry’s leading companies. And some have stayed involved in the contest as judges, “which makes them good contacts for [finding] a job,” he said.

By bridging the gap between the classroom and the field, such contests not only put theory into practice, but also create a vital connection between young engineers and companies in search of budding talent.

Albert Raboteau is a writer for University Development.
Our Impact on the University

For the Alumni Association, the 2010-11 academic year was perhaps our best yet in engaging alumni. More than 25,000 alumni participated in programs on campus or through our alumni chapter network and other on-campus events, resulting in a banner year for participation. Young alumni showed growing interest in chapter events, homecomings, and reunions, proving that the tradition of staying involved in the Hokie Nation remains strong. The new Drillfield Series events were successful, centered on themes designed to attract alumni back to campus for special weekend experiences. Four more Drillfield programs are planned in 2012. Another new initiative emphasized career resources and job networking for alumni. In an effort to engage alumni, we created more services, programs, and events than in any year in our past—and that effort paid off.

While celebrating the Alumni Association’s 135 years of service, we paused to reflect on how our association has evolved through the years and partnered with the university in so many ways. Thanks to all who made our work on behalf of the university so productive and rewarding.

As you’ll see in our annual report on the next four pages, we truly are having a beneficial impact.

Vice President for Alumni Relations

Tom Fidala, ’69
Serving alumni

More than 25,000 alumni and friends attended constituency programs, special events, chapter events, and reunions on and off campus.

Alumni chapters

The Alumni Association has approximately 71 active chapters and 35 active clubs with a total of 582 volunteers.

731 chapter and club events were held, including 70 university speaker events as well as student/family picnics, community service activities, job fairs, and networking events. Many chapter volunteers supported the university’s legislative advocacy efforts at Hokie Day in Richmond.

62 chapters awarded 173 freshman scholarships totaling $197,550.

Alumni tours

19 group tours and 12 individual tours ushered a total of 200 Hokies to locations around the globe, including Italy, Switzerland, and several Mediterranean locations.

Alumni awards

Since 1972, more than 110 alumni have been honored by the association for achievements in their careers and service to the Alumni Association, Virginia Tech, and their communities (see awards summary, p. 52).

Holtzman Alumni Center

Events held at the Holtzman Alumni Center and the Alumni Terrace included graduate fairs, an alumni open house during Homecoming weekend, a graduation celebration for seniors, a reception for graduating student leaders, and a wine festival. The Alumni Gallery provides space for receptions and features rotating art exhibits by alumni and local artists.

The Alumni Museum attracts many visitors throughout the year. Thousands of alumni and students participated.

Alumni Association in print and online

In addition to the Alumni Association section in each issue of Virginia Tech Magazine, the association continues to reach out to alumni through newsletter and event announcements, the association’s website, email communications, and social media sites, including Hokie Nation Network, Facebook, and Twitter.

Alumni Career Resources

Designed to assist Hokies seeking employment or considering a career change, a new program was established to offer career resources and make them available on a central website (www.alumni.vt.edu/career). The program includes job postings, interview and résumé tips, webinars, and seminars, and a career resource library. Several webinars were conducted as part of the new “Tuesday Evening Career Chat” webinar series, in which guest speakers provide presentations on career-related topics.

Alumni tours

Celebrating faculty

The association recognizes Virginia Tech’s leading professors with its Faculty Excellence Awards for teaching, research, advising, outreach, and Extension, and for international education, outreach, and research (see awards summary, p. 52). The Alumni Distinguished Professor program recognizes and rewards exceptional teaching and scholarship; 10 faculty members hold appointments as Alumni Distinguished Professors.

Virginia Tech faculty members regularly visit alumni chapters. Faculty and administrators speak at reunions, constituency homecomings, and other special events.

Engaging leadership

Hokie Nation Network

Hokie Nation Network (All figures reported are for 2010-11, unless otherwise noted.)

- More than 2,700 alumni attended class reunion weekends, college homecomings, a Corps of Cadets homecoming, a multicultural alumni reunion, and a Graduate School homecoming.
- 167 members of the classes of ’35 through ’60 attended the annual spring Old Guard reunion.
- Approximately 1,750 alumni and friends attended other special events, and more than 515 attended educational special events, such as the Drillfield Series, Civil War Weekend, and A Day in the Life of College Admissions.
- More than 165 alumni and their families attended three weekend programs for alumni and their families.
- 62 alumni chapters participated.
- Holtzman Alumni Center
- Approximately 160 alumni chapter volunteers from 43 chapters attended the Chapter Officers Leadership Forum, which included workshops, networking opportunities, and a focus on engaging alumni across generations. Other chapter training opportunities on various topics were offered through webinars and teleconferences.

Supporting students

The Student Alumni Associates organization, the cohesive-ness of classes, and student transition programs engage students, strengthen lifelong loyalty to the university, and raise awareness of Alumni Association services for students and young alumni.

The association scholarship endowment of approximately $2 million provides annual support for Diversity Honors students.

The 100th anniversary of the Virginia Tech class ring tradition was celebrated as the Class of 2011 dedicated their class gift, a large bronze Centennial Ring on display in the Squires Student Center atrium.

Reunions, homecomings, and special events

- More than 2,700 alumni attended class reunion weekends, college homecomings, a Corps of Cadets homecoming, a multicultural alumni reunion, and a Graduate School homecoming.
- 167 members of the classes of ’35 through ’60 attended the annual spring Old Guard reunion.
- Approximately 1,750 alumni and friends attended other special events, and more than 515 attended educational special events, such as the Drillfield Series, Civil War Weekend, and A Day in the Life of College Admissions.
- More than 165 alumni and their families attended three weekend programs for alumni and their families.
- 62 alumni chapters participated.
- Holtzman Alumni Center
- Approximately 160 alumni chapter volunteers from 43 chapters attended the Chapter Officers Leadership Forum, which included workshops, networking opportunities, and a focus on engaging alumni across generations. Other chapter training opportunities on various topics were offered through webinars and teleconferences.

Serving alumni

More than 25,000 alumni and friends attended constituency programs, special events, chapter events, and reunions on and off campus.

Alumni chapters

The Alumni Association has approximately 71 active chapters and 35 active clubs with a total of 582 volunteers.

731 chapter and club events were held, including 70 university speaker events as well as student/family picnics, community service activities, job fairs, and networking events. Many chapter volunteers supported the university’s legislative advocacy efforts at Hokie Day in Richmond.

62 chapters awarded 173 freshman scholarships totaling $197,550.

Alumni tours

19 group tours and 12 individual tours ushered a total of 200 Hokies to locations around the globe, including Italy, Switzerland, and several Mediterranean locations.

Alumni awards

Since 1972, more than 110 alumni have been honored by the association for achievements in their careers and service to the Alumni Association, Virginia Tech, and their communities (see awards summary, p. 52).

Holtzman Alumni Center

Events held at the Holtzman Alumni Center and the Alumni Terrace included graduate fairs, an alumni open house during Homecoming weekend, a graduation celebration for seniors, a reception for graduating student leaders, and a wine festival. The Alumni Gallery provides space for receptions and features rotating art exhibits by alumni and local artists.

The Alumni Museum attracts many visitors throughout the year. Thousands of alumni and students participated.

Alumni Association in print and online

In addition to the Alumni Association section in each issue of Virginia Tech Magazine, the association continues to reach out to alumni through newsletter and event announcements, the association’s website, email communications, and social media sites, including Hokie Nation Network, Facebook, and Twitter.

Alumni Career Resources

Designed to assist Hokies seeking employment or considering a career change, a new program was established to offer career resources and make them available on a central website (www.alumni.vt.edu/career). The program includes job postings, interview and résumé tips, webinars, and seminars, and a career resource library. Several webinars were conducted as part of the new “Tuesday Evening Career Chat” webinar series, in which guest speakers provide presentations on career-related topics.

Alumni tours

Celebrating faculty

The association recognizes Virginia Tech’s leading professors with its Faculty Excellence Awards for teaching, research, advising, outreach, and Extension, and for international education, outreach, and research (see awards summary, p. 52). The Alumni Distinguished Professor program recognizes and rewards exceptional teaching and scholarship; 10 faculty members hold appointments as Alumni Distinguished Professors.

Virginia Tech faculty members regularly visit alumni chapters. Faculty and administrators speak at reunions, constituency homecomings, and other special events.

Engaging leadership

Hokie Nation Network

Hokie Nation Network (All figures reported are for 2010-11, unless otherwise noted.)

- More than 2,700 alumni attended class reunion weekends, college homecomings, a Corps of Cadets homecoming, a multicultural alumni reunion, and a Graduate School homecoming.
- 167 members of the classes of ’35 through ’60 attended the annual spring Old Guard reunion.
- Approximately 1,750 alumni and friends attended other special events, and more than 515 attended educational special events, such as the Drillfield Series, Civil War Weekend, and A Day in the Life of College Admissions.
- More than 165 alumni and their families attended three weekend programs for alumni and their families.
- 62 alumni chapters participated.
- Holtzman Alumni Center
- Approximately 160 alumni chapter volunteers from 43 chapters attended the Chapter Officers Leadership Forum, which included workshops, networking opportunities, and a focus on engaging alumni across generations. Other chapter training opportunities on various topics were offered through webinars and teleconferences.

Supporting students

The Student Alumni Associates organization, the cohesive-ness of classes, and student transition programs engage students, strengthen lifelong loyalty to the university, and raise awareness of Alumni Association services for students and young alumni.

The association scholarship endowment of approximately $2 million provides annual support for Diversity Honors students.

The 100th anniversary of the Virginia Tech class ring tradition was celebrated as the Class of 2011 dedicated their class gift, a large bronze Centennial Ring on display in the Squires Student Center atrium.

Reunions, homecomings, and special events

- More than 2,700 alumni attended class reunion weekends, college homecomings, a Corps of Cadets homecoming, a multicultural alumni reunion, and a Graduate School homecoming.
- 167 members of the classes of ’35 through ’60 attended the annual spring Old Guard reunion.
- Approximately 1,750 alumni and friends attended other special events, and more than 515 attended educational special events, such as the Drillfield Series, Civil War Weekend, and A Day in the Life of College Admissions.
- More than 165 alumni and their families attended three weekend programs for alumni and their families.
- 62 alumni chapters participated.
- Holtzman Alumni Center
- Approximately 160 alumni chapter volunteers from 43 chapters attended the Chapter Officers Leadership Forum, which included workshops, networking opportunities, and a focus on engaging alumni across generations. Other chapter training opportunities on various topics were offered through webinars and teleconferences.

Serving alumni

More than 25,000 alumni and friends attended constituency programs, special events, chapter events, and reunions on and off campus.

Alumni chapters

The Alumni Association has approximately 71 active chapters and 35 active clubs with a total of 582 volunteers.

731 chapter and club events were held, including 70 university speaker events as well as student/family picnics, community service activities, job fairs, and networking events. Many chapter volunteers supported the university’s legislative advocacy efforts at Hokie Day in Richmond.

62 chapters awarded 173 freshman scholarships totaling $197,550.

Alumni tours

19 group tours and 12 individual tours ushered a total of 200 Hokies to locations around the globe, including Italy, Switzerland, and several Mediterranean locations.

Alumni awards

Since 1972, more than 110 alumni have been honored by the association for achievements in their careers and service to the Alumni Association, Virginia Tech, and their communities (see awards summary, p. 52).

Holtzman Alumni Center

Events held at the Holtzman Alumni Center and the Alumni Terrace included graduate fairs, an alumni open house during Homecoming weekend, a graduation celebration for seniors, a reception for graduating student leaders, and a wine festival. The Alumni Gallery provides space for receptions and features rotating art exhibits by alumni and local artists.

The Alumni Museum attracts many visitors throughout the year. Thousands of alumni and students participated.

Alumni Association in print and online

In addition to the Alumni Association section in each issue of Virginia Tech Magazine, the association continues to reach out to alumni through newsletter and event announcements, the association’s website, email communications, and social media sites, including Hokie Nation Network, Facebook, and Twitter.

Alumni Career Resources

Designed to assist Hokies seeking employment or considering a career change, a new program was established to offer career resources and make them available on a central website (www.alumni.vt.edu/career). The program includes job postings, interview and résumé tips, webinars, and seminars, and a career resource library. Several webinars were conducted as part of the new “Tuesday Evening Career Chat” webinar series, in which guest speakers provide presentations on career-related topics.
2010-11 Alumni Association Awards

ALUMNI AWARDS
William H. Ruffer Medal
John W. Bates III ’03
University Distinguished Achievement Award
Betty P. Chao ’83
Alumni Distinguished Service Awards
Sidney C. Smith Jr. ’63
John C. Watkins ’69
Graduate Alumni Achievement Award
Kirk H. Schulz ’86, ’91

GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS
Teaching Award
Serena Ciparis, entomology
Jacob Moore, engineering education
Service Award
Brendan Brink-Haloran, planning, governance, and globalization
Gregory Wilson, computer science (honorable mention)

OUTSTANDING RECENT ALUMNI AWARDS
Graduates of the past 10 years are eligible.
Lire Ersado ’96, ’98, ’01, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Brandon Craft ’05, College of Architecture and Urban Studies
Raheel S. Khan ’06, ’07, Pamplin College of Business
Darin Oduyoye ’00, College of Engineering
Charissa Morris ’99, ’06, College of Natural Resources and Environment
Brian Sutton ’03, College of Science
Felie Huang ’03, ’05, College of Science
Maureen Noftsinger ’01, Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine

AWARDS FOR FACULTY EXCELLENCE
Graduate Academic Advising
George W. Norton, agricultural and applied economics
Undergraduate Academic Advising
Jack Evans, biological sciences
Extension
J. Michael Goadley, crop and soil environmental sciences
Billie Jean Elmer, Surry County 4-H youth development
International Education
Sedki M. Riad, electrical and computer engineering
International Outreach
Charles L. Taylor, political science
International Research
Richard E. Wokutch, management
Outreach
Linda F. Tegarden, management
Outreach (Team Award)
Elizabeth T. Gilboy, Community Design Assistance Center
Andrew McCoy, building construction
Research
Naren Ramakrishnan, computer science
Judy S. Riffe, chemistry
Teaching
Richard Walker, biological sciences
Jessica A. Folkart, foreign languages and literatures
William E. Wine Awards in Teaching
Randall S. Billingsley, finance
Leo E. Piloren, physics
Sharon P. Johnson, foreign languages and literatures

OUTSTANDING CHAPTER AWARDS
Maureen Noftsinger ’01, Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine
Feihe Huang ’03, ’05, College of Science
Brian Sutton ’01, College of Science and Environment
Charisa Morris ’99, ’06, College of Natural Resources
Darin Oduyoye ’00, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences
Billie Jean Elmer, Surry County 4-H youth development
J. Michael Goatley, crop and soil environmental sciences
Jack Evans, biological sciences
George W. Norton, agricultural and applied economics

ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS
Albuquerque
Austin
Danville
Hilton Head
Las Vegas
New Orleans/
Baton Rouge
Northwest Ohio
Omaha
Phoenix
Pinehurst
Pittsburgh
San Diego

SUPERLATIVE AWARDS
Outstanding Chapter Event
First State Chapter and Philadelphia Chapter, An Evening at Longwood Gardens
Outstanding Community Service Project
Richmond Chapter, Hokies vs. Hoos Food Fight
Outstanding Fundraising Event
Charlotte Chapter, 2011 ACC Football Championship Tickets and Tailgate

GRADUATE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
FELLOWSHIP AWARD

Coverage provided and underwritten by Liberty Mutual Insurance Company and its affiliates, 175 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA. ©2011 Liberty Mutual Insurance Company. All rights reserved.

Did you know Liberty Mutual partners with more than 700 alumni associations to offer exclusive savings on auto and home insurance? Just by being a Virginia Tech alum, you could save hundreds of dollars on our quality coverage.*

*Savings available where state laws and regulations allow, and may vary by state. To the extent permitted by law, applicants are individually underwritten; not all applicants may qualify.

Show your school spirit! Visit coachoftheyear.com to vote for Coach Frank Beamer—and see how much you could be saving on auto and home insurance!

Save the Date! Black Alumni Reunion
March 15-18, 2012

VOTE FOR YOUR COACH AND SCORE WITH SAVINGS.

Liberty Mutual’s Coach of the Year Award celebrates college football coaches who best demonstrate the qualities of responsibility, integrity, and excellence. Four winning coaches each receive $20,000 for the school’s alumni association and $50,000 for the charity of his choice. So support your school and vote for your coach today!

Did you know Liberty Mutual partners with more than 700 alumni associations to offer exclusive savings on auto and home insurance? Just by being a Virginia Tech alum, you could save hundreds of dollars on our quality coverage.*

Show your school spirit! Visit coachoftheyear.com to vote for Coach Frank Beamer—and see how much you could be saving on auto and home insurance!

"Share a photo online or with your family and friends. Hillary Clinton and the Secretary of State will be voting for Coach Frank Beamer as Coach of the Year!"
2012 Drillfield Series

Food for Thought: Exploring Virginia Wine and Fine Cuisine
Feb. 3-5, 2012
Join us for elegant and informative presentations to learn about the wine industry, agriculture, tourism, and food and wine production from academic and industry experts. Stroll through tantalizing food stations, sample wine pairings, and dance the night away to the music of a live band—all while enjoying the beautiful Inn at Virginia Tech.

Focus on Photography II
May 2012, date to be announced
Do you want to take better pictures, but aren’t sure where to start? Our experts can help! Take your photography to the next level while you discover and capture stunning sights on Tech’s campus. Topics include camera modes and functions, aperture and shutter speed, exposure, and lighting and composition. Sample some of the latest in camera equipment and technology. This follows our popular session in 2011.

Specially reduced housing rates at the Inn at Virginia Tech are available. More details and registration information appear on our website at www.alumni.vt.edu.

Hokie Fitness, Health, and Wellness
June 1-3, 2012
Stimulate your summer as you learn about Tech programs that focus on healthy lifestyles. Topics include fitness and nutrition, healthy cooking, child development, functional living, and more. Enjoy special access and demonstrations at our student fitness center, and join the VT Venture Out staff to explore the great outdoors around the New River Valley.

HokieCation: Family-fun Vacation, Hokie-style
July 5-8, 2012
Join this special opportunity for singles, couples, and families to enjoy outdoor adventures, campus tours, and demonstrations. Experience what it’s like to be a junior gardener, and tour the Hahn gardens. Learn about healthy nutrition for the whole family. Try out our recreational sports facilities. Take a behind-the-scenes tour of Lane Stadium. Optional activities are available through the VT Venture Out program for canoeing, hiking, and biking.

Order football season tickets, splurge on a gourmet meal, or contribute to your kid’s college fund…whatever moves you most. As a Virginia Tech alum, you could save up to $343.90 on your auto insurance with Liberty Mutual. You could save even more by insuring your home as well. For more than 95 years, Liberty Mutual has been helping people live safer, more secure lives.

Life should be experienced and explored. Broaden your horizons and breathe in new adventures with other Hokies!

HokieZone revenue helps support student programs and scholarships.

Treasuries of Costa Rica
AHI Travel
Feb. 27-March 10 | $3,895*

Asian Explorations
Go Next (Oceania Cruises)
March 23-April 9 | $3,999* (air included)**

Waterways and Canals of Holland and Belgium
AHI Travel
April 20-28 | $2,495*

South Africa
Go Next
April 27-May 6 | $3,999* (air included)**

Waterways of Russia
AHI Travel
July 14-24 | $3,895*

Best of Australia
Continuum Education Travel
July 31-Aug. 11 | $5,300*

South Africa
Go Next
April 27-May 6 | $3,999* (air included)**

Living Abroad in Ecuador
AHI Travel
May 3-6 | $3,495*

Historic Reflections—Tuscany with Florence
AHI Travel
May 28-June 6 | $3,999* (air included)**

Treasures of Costa Rica
Go Next (Oceania Cruises)
June 16-27 | $3,999* (air included)**

Waterways of Russia
AHI Travel
July 14-24 | $3,895*

Asian Explorations
Go Next (Oceania Cruises)
March 23-April 9 | $3,999* (air included)**

Waterways and Canals of Holland and Belgium
AHI Travel
April 20-28 | $2,495*

Best of Australia
Continuum Education Travel
July 31-Aug. 11 | $5,300*

South Africa
Go Next
April 27-May 6 | $3,999* (air included)**

Living Abroad in Ecuador
AHI Travel
May 3-6 | $3,495*

Historic Reflections—Tuscany with Florence
AHI Travel
May 28-June 6 | $3,999* (air included)**

Waterways of Russia
AHI Travel
July 14-24 | $3,895*

Asian Explorations
Go Next (Oceania Cruises)
March 23-April 9 | $3,999* (air included)**

Waterways and Canals of Holland and Belgium
AHI Travel
April 20-28 | $2,495*

Best of Australia
Continuum Education Travel
July 31-Aug. 11 | $5,300*

South Africa
Go Next
April 27-May 6 | $3,999* (air included)**

Living Abroad in Ecuador
AHI Travel
May 3-6 | $3,495*

Historic Reflections—Tuscany with Florence
AHI Travel
May 28-June 6 | $3,999* (air included)**

Waterways of Russia
AHI Travel
July 14-24 | $3,895*

Asian Explorations
Go Next (Oceania Cruises)
March 23-April 9 | $3,999* (air included)**

Waterways and Canals of Holland and Belgium
AHI Travel
April 20-28 | $2,495*

Best of Australia
Continuum Education Travel
July 31-Aug. 11 | $5,300*

South Africa
Go Next
April 27-May 6 | $3,999* (air included)**

Living Abroad in Ecuador
AHI Travel
May 3-6 | $3,495*

Historic Reflections—Tuscany with Florence
AHI Travel
May 28-June 6 | $3,999* (air included)**

Waterways of Russia
AHI Travel
July 14-24 | $3,895*

Asian Explorations
Go Next (Oceania Cruises)
March 23-April 9 | $3,999* (air included)**

Waterways and Canals of Holland and Belgium
AHI Travel
April 20-28 | $2,495*

Best of Australia
Continuum Education Travel
July 31-Aug. 11 | $5,300*

South Africa
Go Next
April 27-May 6 | $3,999* (air included)**

Living Abroad in Ecuador
AHI Travel
May 3-6 | $3,495*

Historic Reflections—Tuscany with Florence
AHI Travel
May 28-June 6 | $3,999* (air included)**

Waterways of Russia
AHI Travel
July 14-24 | $3,895*

Asian Explorations
Go Next (Oceania Cruises)
March 23-April 9 | $3,999* (air included)**

Waterways and Canals of Holland and Belgium
AHI Travel
April 20-28 | $2,495*

Best of Australia
Continuum Education Travel
July 31-Aug. 11 | $5,300*

South Africa
Go Next
April 27-May 6 | $3,999* (air included)**

Living Abroad in Ecuador
AHI Travel
May 3-6 | $3,495*

Historic Reflections—Tuscany with Florence
AHI Travel
May 28-June 6 | $3,999* (air included)**

Waterways of Russia
AHI Travel
July 14-24 | $3,895*

Asian Explorations
Go Next (Oceania Cruises)
March 23-April 9 | $3,999* (air included)**

Waterways and Canals of Holland and Belgium
AHI Travel
April 20-28 | $2,495*

Best of Australia
Continuum Education Travel
July 31-Aug. 11 | $5,300*

South Africa
Go Next
April 27-May 6 | $3,999* (air included)**

Living Abroad in Ecuador
AHI Travel
May 3-6 | $3,495*

Historic Reflections—Tuscany with Florence
AHI Travel
May 28-June 6 | $3,999* (air included)**

Waterways of Russia
AHI Travel
July 14-24 | $3,895*

Asian Explorations
Go Next (Oceania Cruises)
March 23-April 9 | $3,999* (air included)**

Waterways and Canals of Holland and Belgium
AHI Travel
April 20-28 | $2,495*

Best of Australia
Continuum Education Travel
July 31-Aug. 11 | $5,300*

South Africa
Go Next
April 27-May 6 | $3,999* (air included)**

Living Abroad in Ecuador
AHI Travel
May 3-6 | $3,495*

Historic Reflections—Tuscany with Florence
AHI Travel
May 28-June 6 | $3,999* (air included)**
Excerpt discusses Mitchell’s reluctance to write essays, articles, or short stories. … Mitchell [turned down] offers from the Saturday Review of Literature, Entertainment Weekly, and USA Today, among others. For almost 25 years, he has published a quarterly newsletter, The Scarlet Letter, for “Gone With the Wind” fans and collectors.

This year, in conjunction with the book’s 75th anniversary, Wiley co-authored “Margaret Mitchell’s Gone with the Wind: A Bestseller’s Odyssey from Atlanta to Hollywood.” The following excerpt discusses Mitchell’s reluctance to play the celebrity game:

Whether Mitchell would be a celebrity, however, was not up to her. The public’s whim and fancy would make that determination, and from the way things were shaping up, it appeared she would be cast into a role and her husband could not simply shut their door and be left alone. And, more distressing was that some people might take offense and photographs. ... Seeing no reason to have her private business on display for the public consumption or to bare her face appear in the newspapers several times a week, she declined countless requests. … Mitchell [turned down] offers from the Saturday Review of Literature, Entertainment Weekly, and USA Today, among others. For almost 25 years, he has published a quarterly newsletter, The Scarlet Letter, for “Gone With the Wind” fans and collectors.

This year, in conjunction with the book’s 75th anniversary, Wiley co-authored “Margaret Mitchell’s Gone with the Wind: A Bestseller’s Odyssey from Atlanta to Hollywood.” The following excerpt discusses Mitchell’s reluctance to play the ‘celebrity game’:

Whether Mitchell would be a celebrity, however, was not up to her. The public’s whim and fancy would make that determination, and from the way things were shaping up, it appeared she would be cast into that role regardless of her desires. It was a startling realization to Mitchell that she and her husband could not simply shut their door and be left alone. And, more distressing was that some people might take offense...
Touch the future.

Robert Hemm's gift to Virginia Tech will touch the future — without touching his lifetime assets. Retirement from the world of business hasn't slowed Class of 1950 alumnus Robert Hemm's enthusiasm for the business of life as a pilot, photographer, and explorer. Bob's beneficiary designation will support Pamplin College of Business with a gift from his retirement account after he retires. At his December 1, 2012, celebration of his 80th birthday, Bob's beneficiary designation will support Pamplin College of Business with a gift from his retirement account after he retires. At his December 1, 2012, celebration of his 80th birthday.

To learn more about Planned Giving, please contact Paula Robertson at 540-231-9430 or medrec@vt.edu before Dec. 1.

Class Notes

Attention 2001 graduates: In January 2012, the Schiffert Health Center will destroy all photos. Please log in with your Virginia Tech PID and password. For assistance, dial 540-231-6285. www.vtmagazine.vt.edu/submit.classnotes.html.

For privacy reasons, all obituaries, we can post online photographs of weddings, babies, and spirited alumni. Mail photos to Virginia Tech Magazine, 105A Media Building, Blacksburg, VA 24061, or send them via email to givingto@vt.edu. For more information, call 540-231-6285.

mail@alumni.vt.edu
Outstanding Master’s Student for 2010-11 in Virginia Tech’s College of Engineering.

Graham T. Wasilson (BSE, AIA), Blacksburg, Va., received the Outstanding undergraduate student of the year award presented by the American Institute of Architects.

Alxena B. Bozak (OST), Kensington, Md., is a research scientist for Prince William County Department of Economic Development.

Dupee D. Flannery (HPEF), Woodbury Heights, N.J., received the doctor of osteopathic medicine degree from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Andrew P. McCoy (CSBM), Blacksburg, Va., was named the J. Willard sleeves for outstanding team achievement.

Andrew J. McKinley (ARCH), Alexandria, Va., has been named the J. William Sleeves for outstanding team achievement.

Jennifer Carpenter West (ARCH), Blacksburg, Va., received the 2011 Alumni Award for Outstanding Excellence in Advising.

Joyce A. Vest (ENT), Blacksburg, Va., received the 2011 Alumni Award for Excellence in Advising.

Jennifer Carpenter West (ARCH), Blacksburg, Va., received the 2011 Alumni Award for Outstanding Excellence in Advising.

Penelope A. Ribar Waugh (ESM, SOC '99), Blacksburg, Va., is a marketing manager for Yanmar America Corporation.

Michael J. Wright (WVTG), Richmond, Va., received his doctor of osteopathic medicine degree from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Michael P. Giaran (ARCH), Blacksburg, Va., received the Outstanding Undergraduate Student of the Year award from the American Institute of Architects.

Anthony Vincent Cucinello (PSLQ), Blacksburg, Va., is a research assistant for the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors.

Michael N. Schweizer Communi ty Services (ARCH), Blacksburg, Va., was named the J. William Smith and Kyle S. Mannaer Junior Faculty Fellow of Hospitality at the University of Virginia.

Dina P. Bato (ARCH), Blacksburg, Va., is the Department of Defense Admissions Program at the University of California.

Scott A. Postle (NCE), Blacksburg, Va., is engineering a research associate at the Virginia Tech’s College of Science.

Antonina L. Kspinowicz (ARCH), Blacksburg, Va., received an M.S. in industrial organizational psychology.

Outstanding Master’s Student for 2010-11 in Virginia Tech’s College of Engineering.

William J. Wright (WVTG), Richmond, Va., received his doctor of osteopathic medicine degree from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Michael P. Giaran (ARCH), Blacksburg, Va., is a research assistant for the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors.

Nils M. Schweizer Commu ny Services (ARCH), Blacksburg, Va., was named the J. William Smitty for excellence in counseling and recognition excellence in counseling and constructional terms.

Now based in the firm’s New York City offices, Colburn is applying his talents to a project close to his roots. He started working on the Center for the Arts at Virginia Tech in 2010.

In his short but distinguished career, Ian Colburn (architecture ‘03), a senior designer and project manager with Snøhetta, an international architectural firm headquartered in Norway, has had the opportunity to work on some dynamic projects. While based in oslo, Colburn built study and presentation models for the Norwegian National Ballet, a project that would go on to win the first place in Oslo, and then the second place at the Design Engineering Oscars.

Architecture alumni plies his trade close to home

BY CHAD O’KANE M.A. ’11

In his short but distinguished career, Ian Colburn (architecture ‘03), a senior designer and project manager with Snøhetta, an international architectural firm headquartered in Norway, has had the opportunity to work on some dynamic projects. While based in Oslo, Colburn built study and presentation models for the Norwegian National Ballet, a project that would go on to win the first place in Oslo, and then the second place at the Design Engineering Oscars.

Architecture alumni plies his trade close to home

BY CHAD O’KANE M.A. ’11

In his short but distinguished career, Ian Colburn (architecture ‘03), a senior designer and project manager with Snøhetta, an international architectural firm headquartered in Norway, has had the opportunity to work on some dynamic projects. While based in Oslo, Colburn built study and presentation models for the Norwegian National Ballet, a project that would go on to win the first place in Oslo, and then the second place at the Design Engineering Oscars.

Architecture alumni plies his trade close to home

BY CHAD O’KANE M.A. ’11

In his short but distinguished career, Ian Colburn (architecture ‘03), a senior designer and project manager with Snøhetta, an international architectural firm headquartered in Norway, has had the opportunity to work on some dynamic projects. While based in Oslo, Colburn built study and presentation models for the Norwegian National Ballet, a project that would go on to win the first place in Oslo, and then the second place at the Design Engineering Oscars.

Architecture alumni plies his trade close to home

BY CHAD O’KANE M.A. ’11

In his short but distinguished career, Ian Colburn (architecture ‘03), a senior designer and project manager with Snøhetta, an international architectural firm headquartered in Norway, has had the opportunity to work on some dynamic projects. While based in Oslo, Colburn built study and presentation models for the Norwegian National Ballet, a project that would go on to win the first place in Oslo, and then the second place at the Design Engineering Oscars.
As an actor often involved in stage combat, Neil Massey (theatre arts ’88) observed that the weaponry used on stage was either high quality and expensive or cheap and unrefined. In 1999, Massey decided to put his met- aholing skills and knowledge of stage combat to good use, forging a stage weaponry business, Rogue Steel, now considered to be one of the best in the industry. Massey makes about 20 to 30 weapons per week and usually has a backlog of two to three months. Like a blacksmith, Massey crafts all of his weapons by hand with the ex- ception of some blades, which he purchases from commercial manufacturers. Rogue Steel, in Beaufort, S.C., offers mainly European-style weapons, but Massey plans to expand into Eastern-style as well.

Eleven years since start- ing his business, Massey has established a strong reputation in the theatre community. Cara Rawlings, an assistant professor of movement and acting at Virginia Tech, considers Massey one of the best stage-weaponry makers in the world. Said Michael Harkins, professor of theatre at Regent University and one of Rogue Steel’s clients, “Neil has struck an impressive balance between studying utilitarianism and a stage-worthy, aesthetically pleasing look—and at an economical price.” Massey’s clients are primarily schools and universities with a stage combat aspect to their program, but individual the- aters and actors also turn to Rogue Steel. Massey’s weapons have even been used by actor John Malkovich.

In addition to running a business, Massey teaches stage combat and fight choreography at Roosevelt University. He is a certified teacher with the Society of American Fight Directors, which he said helps him craft better swords. “I am one of the few swordmakers out there that actually uses them. I’m a member of the Society of American Fight Directors, which he said helps him craft better swords. “I am one of the few swordmakers out there that actually uses them. I’m a member of the Society of American Fight Directors, which he said helps him craft better swords. The more I learned about it, the more I realized it was a viable career choice,” he said.

Said Michael Hill-Kirkland, professor of theatre at Regent University, “Neil Massey first came to Virginia Tech with aspirations to become a me- chanical engineer. I, however, theatre quickly moved from a hobby to a passion. “The more I learned about it, the more I realized it was an enduring career choice, so I made the switch,” said Massey. “Being at Virginia Tech—learning about the weaponry I made for the stage, the more I realized it was a viable career choice, the more I realized it was a viable career choice, the more I realized it was a viable career choice, the more I realized it was a viable career choice,” he said.
Hokie brings blogging, Twitter to government IT

As the federal government faces budget squeezes that will require more to be done with less, Mary (Burr) Davie’s (business finance, management ’88) 22 years with the General Services Administration (GSA) gives her a unique perspective on upcoming challenges and opportunities. Which is a large part of the reason—when combined with her gregariousness and pioneering expertise in using social media to make federal procurement more efficient—that Davie is now assistant commissioner for the GSA’s Office of Integrated Technology Services (ITS), making her responsible for the largest fee-for-service IT procurement and services operation in the U.S. government. She was also recently named president of the American Council of Technology, a nonprofit, public-private partnership dedicated to improving government efficiency.

“We are in a potent way to be able to communicate broadly,” said Davie, who praises the efforts of Tim Harvey (communication ’92)—in forming the Better Buy Project at Virginia Tech—and Sylvania, Ohio, 4/9/11.

Downloaded from vtmag@vt.edu for restrictions.

Henry Dekker (electrical engineering ’84), chief technology officer at the Central Intelligence Agency, now founder, president, and CEO of Applied Intelligence. Alan Wade (electrical engineering ’73), chief information officer, Central Intelligence Agency. Gary Winkler (electrical engineering ’83), formerly Army program executive for enterprise information systems, now CEO at Cyber Solutions and Systems. Tim Bera (history ’91), formerly director of preparedness programs at the Department of Homeland Security, now vice president of CNA, a not-for-profit research and analysis organization.

Hokies are “IT”! In September, a website dedicated to information technology (IT) in government noted that Virginia Tech has become an exporting IT lead- ers. The FedScoop website featured the 11 Hokies listed below. If you know of other Hokies in homeland security, let us know at vtmag@vt.edu.

• Lottis Long (electrical engineering ’82), director, National Geospatial Intelligence Agency.

• Paige Atkins (electrical engineering ’84), director for strategic planning and information at the Defense Information Systems Agency.

• Kevin Meiners (electrical engineering ’84), acting deputy undersecretary of defense for portfolios, programs, and resources.

• Kenneth Myers (liberal arts and sciences ’92), director, Defense Threat Reduction Agency.

• Lynn Schuerr (health and physical education ’75), Army intelligence chief information officer for the deputy chief of staff and director of the Intelligence Community Information Management Directorate.

• Dennis Clem (computer science ’71), chief information officer, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense.

• Ellen Embry (psychology ’76), formerly assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, now a counsel at the Corbin Group.

• Bob Flores (statistics ’75, M.S. ’77), formerly chief technology officer at the Central Intelligence Agency, now founder, president, and CEO of Applied Intelligence.

• Alan Wade (electrical engineering ’73), chief information officer, Central Intelligence Agency.

• Gary Winkler (electrical engineering ’83), formerly Army program executive for enterprise information systems, now CEO at Cyber Solutions and Systems.

• Tim Bera (history ’91), formerly director of preparedness programs at the Department of Homeland Security, now vice president of CNA, a not-for-profit research and analysis organization.

Mary Davie ’88

“Because of its unique culture and engineering and business base, Virginia Tech was the logical place to get started on government IT,” said Davie. “Moreover, the programs put us in touch with other government entities, providing them the means to do more with less. The value of Virginia Tech’s size, scale, and national reputation is evident in the federal government.”

Mary Davie (business finance, management ’88) 22 years with the General Services Administration (GSA) gives her a unique perspective on upcoming challenges and opportunities. Which is a large part of the reason—when combined with her gregariousness and pioneering expertise in using social media to make federal procurement more efficient—that Davie is now assistant commissioner for the GSA’s Office of Integrated Technology Services (ITS), making her responsible for the largest fee-for-service IT procurement and services operation in the U.S. government. She was also recently named president of the American Council of Technology, a nonprofit, public-private partnership dedicated to improving government efficiency.

“We are in a potent way to be able to communicate broadly,” said Davie, who praises the efforts of Tim Harvey (communication ’92)—in forming the Better Buy Project at Virginia Tech—and Sylvania, Ohio, 4/9/11.

Downloaded from vtmag@vt.edu for restrictions.

Henry Dekker (electrical engineering ’84), chief technology officer at the Central Intelligence Agency, now founder, president, and CEO of Applied Intelligence. Alan Wade (electrical engineering ’73), chief information officer, Central Intelligence Agency. Gary Winkler (electrical engineering ’83), formerly Army program executive for enterprise information systems, now CEO at Cyber Solutions and Systems. Tim Bera (history ’91), formerly director of preparedness programs at the Department of Homeland Security, now vice president of CNA, a not-for-profit research and analysis organization.
Advancing economic strength and quality of life in the commonwealth is integral to Virginia Tech’s mission. That’s why we’re partnering with General Motors and the Virginia Tobacco Commission to create the National Tire Research Center in Halifax County. Serving automotive companies, government agencies, and military entities, the center will help enhance consumer safety, reduce fuel consumption, and accelerate the development of green tire technology while infusing $150 million into the area’s economy over the next decade. What’s more, it will create nearly 200 new jobs, attract businesses to the area, and transform Southside into an automotive research and technology leader. We’re proud to be involved in this initiative and help improve the wellbeing of people in Virginia and nationwide. To learn more, visit www.vt.edu/impact.