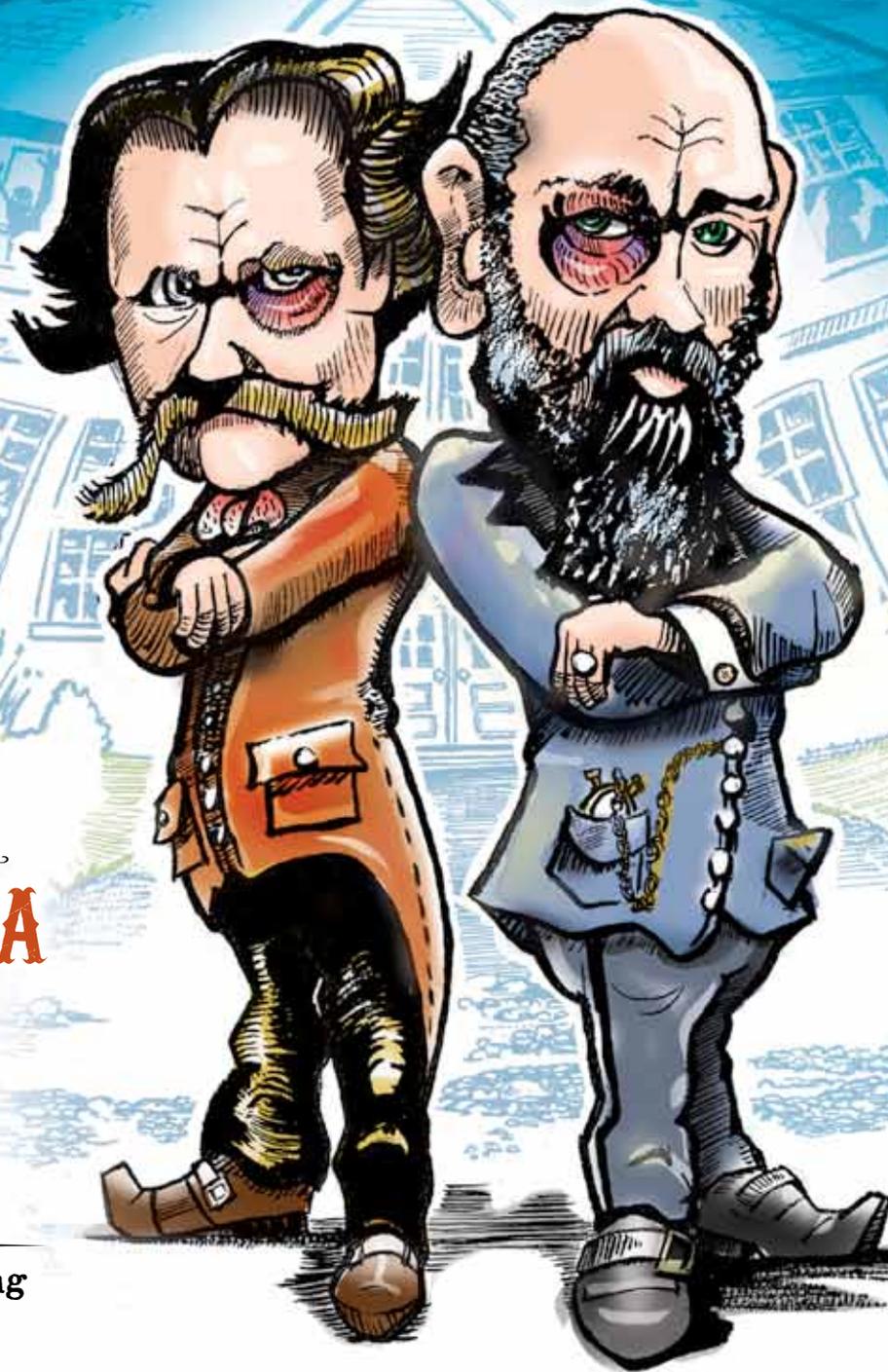


# VirginiaTech

magazine

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## HOW VIRGINIA TECH WAS WON

Fisticuffs, growing  
pains, and the  
Hokie way

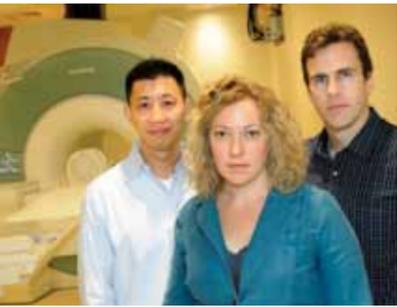
 VirginiaTech  
Invent the Future®

### Comfort Food

A resurgence in local foods  
and urban gardening

### 21st-century Extension

The enduring relevance of  
Virginia Cooperative Extension



## Virginia Tech, A Job-Development Engine

BY CHARLES W. STEGER '69



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/jobs 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 the 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 the area.

When Rolls-Royce elected to make its \$170 million investment in its first U.S. aircraft engine component factory built from the ground up, it cited access to intellectual capital at Virginia Tech and the University of Virginia as decision drivers. Working with Rolls-Royce, our universities will develop a Commonwealth Center for Advanced Manufacturing near the company's plant south of Petersburg and a jet propulsion lab here on campus. Eventually, Rolls-Royce expects to employ as many as 500 people in Virginia.

Supplying graduates to firms, small and large, around the globe, Virginia Tech prepares students who are in high demand. But the strong tech sector deserves special notice here. No longer an "emerging" component of the local economy, technology companies comprise 18 percent of regional employment, according to a 2009 study by the Roanoke Blacksburg Technology Council (RBTC). The local economy added 382 new tech companies between 2002 and 2009, growing from 1,312 to 1,694 business units. These new businesses are concentrated in four categories: computer/networks; systems engineering; software development; and scientific, engineering, or technical consulting.

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 ventures, 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.

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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 weathers changing 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 Hokie 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.

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### 40 | Alumnus builds a city in the hills of Palestine

Building a city from scratch is no easy task anywhere in the world, let alone in Palestine, 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.

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On the cover: The dispute 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.



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**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, paper, 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 studios 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 defiant of 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. Kinzey Jr. '42  
Blacksburg, Va.*



SARAH MILANS

**The tiniest tackler**

My husband, Seth Milans (finance '03), and I have two young children. Our baby, Teddy, has left torticollis, 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 23 hours a day to reshape 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 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 tackler

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  
Herndon, Va.*

**Do you have something to say? Send us your thoughts at [vtmag@vt.edu](mailto:vtmag@vt.edu).**

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JIM STROUP

**Pete Dye River Course ranked No. 9 in college courses**

The Pete Dye River Course at Virginia Tech earned high marks from Golfweek magazine when the publication ranked Tech's course ninth among campus golf courses. Built in 1998 and renamed The Pete Dye River Course of Virginia Tech in 2006, the course climbed from its position at No. 18 in Golfweek's ranking last year—making it the fastest riser on the list and the highest-ranked Atlantic Coast Conference course.

The course hosted the 2011 NCAA Regional Golf Tournament and received a nearly perfect 4 1/2 star rating from the readers of Golf Digest magazine in their "Best Places to Play" poll for 2011. Five sets of tees along 2.5 miles of the New River provide a prime destination for golfers. Virginia Tech golf coach Jay

Hardwick said the "championship layout and the first-class facilities afforded with it have helped the Hokies remain competitive in an extremely competitive conference and collegiate golf landscape."

**New lecture series brings medical science to life**

The biology of the criminal mind, the development of childhood obesity, and the mechanisms of chronic pain are among the many topics that will be explored in a new series of scientific talks in Roanoke. 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.

**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.

**Top 10 books**

- 1) "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks," Rebecca Skloot
- 2) "The Girl Who Played with Fire," Stieg Larsson
- 3) "Dog and Bear: Two Friends, Three Stories," Laura Vaccaro Seeger
- 4) "Catching Fire," Suzanne Collins
- 5) "Never Let Me Go," Kazuo Ishiguro

**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)

- 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

- 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) "Charlie Wilson's War"

Lists compiled by Mary Lucado, circulation supervisor



JOHN MCCORMICK

### 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 forestry student in 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

weeklong clinic in Wiesbaden, Germany, followed by another clinic in Vicenza, Italy, with the help of each base's 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 website.

"The ACC has enjoyed a rich tradition by balancing academics and athletics and the addition of Pitt 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 Pitt and Syracuse, the ACC will cover virtually the entire Eastern seaboard of the United States."

Stanford, Duke, Georgia Tech, and Notre Dame.

Virginia Tech also ranked in the top 20 nationally for mid-career salaries of graduates of FBS schools. At No. 14, Virginia Tech graduates bring in an average mid-career salary of \$91,500.

Moreover, the ACC ranked first among all 11 FBS conferences for most money earned by graduates in their initial jobs following graduation, according to a study published by the website Payscale.com. The ACC also placed No. 1 for mid-career salaries of graduates, with an average of \$90,192.

To read more about the ACC report, see page 29 at <http://bit.ly/r5Y6H6>. 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>.

### Salaries for Hokie alumni eclipse most university graduates

What is the leading athletic conference in the nation? The resulting discussion might occupy rabid fans for an eternity.

In an interesting twist on rankings, the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) released a report showing how schools playing in the NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) compared on a metric other than sports—starting salaries of graduates. With an average starting salary of \$51,600 for graduates, Virginia Tech ranks fifth in the nation, behind

### 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

### 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 Jaekweon Han anxiously stands by as CHARLI 2 kicks a ball.



DEREK LAHR



W.B. Alwood

VT IMAGEBASE, HTTP://IMAGEBASE.LIB.VT.EDU

threatened to destroy the fruit industry in the eastern United States. As part of his efforts, he organized the Virginia State Horticultural Society, which has been a major force behind the industry ever since. In 1907, his leadership in viticulture was recognized by the French government, which awarded him the prestigious Merite Agricole medal and the rank of officer.

In addition to these contributions to his profession, Alwood left several important legacies at Virginia Tech. He was the key to establishing the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station and laid the foundation for the Col-

lege 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>.

### 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 brought positive recognition to the young institution. In 1897, he discovered and managed an outbreak of an invasive insect that

For these stories and more, check out VT News at [www.vtnews.vt.edu](http://www.vtnews.vt.edu). For a regular dose of news, sign up for the Virginia Tech Daily Email at the site.

Scientist awarded \$1 million grant to study origin of life

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

Robots online: See the full story and videos at <http://bit.ly/otz8hh>.

Hokie Camp encourages smooth transition to college for new students

Susan Wyche receives Skype grant for human-computer interaction research

### Preston's new dinner menu ramps up quality with focus on fresh, local ingredients

The new dinner menu at Preston's, the restaurant at The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center, puts an emphasis on locally grown and produced foods and all-natural ingredients. "We have begun eliminating packaged or frozen products in favor of local farm-to-table ingredients. Our menu will be updated with fresh, seasonal dishes reflecting a refined American menu concept," said food and beverage director Max Kiebach.



JIM STROUP

Irene making landfall 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 Dynamics Advanced Information Systems, and Verisign Labs, Virginia Tech has received a five-year continuing grant to establish a National Science Foundation Industry/University 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 infrastructure, 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 interdisciplinary 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 inflammatory 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 sustainability

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 tallies. The survey of 768 schools measured three key areas: whether the school's students have a campus quality of life that is healthy and sustainable; how well the school is preparing its students for employment and citizenship in a world defined by environmental 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 Sustainability 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, approximately three points short of the Gold Rating.

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

### Green500 list shows more supercomputers going green

The newly released Green500 List shows a continuing 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 computer science, the Green500 List has ranked the energy efficiency of the world's 500 fastest supercomputers since debuting in 2007, serving 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 Hosig, 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



JOHN MCCORMICK

Left to right, members of the Hybrid Electric Vehicle Team: John Saffran, Patrick Walsh, Lynn Gantt, Brad Bowman, John Ely, and Andy Karpin. All studied mechanical engineering and since have graduated.

three-year design competition that sought to inspire science and engineering students in the United States and Canada to build more energy-efficient automobiles. In all, the team of College of Engineering graduate and undergraduate students won 14 awards.

Approximately 66 stu-

dents—overseen by mechanical engineering Professor Doug Nelson—re-engineered a 2009 General Motors crossover SUV into a hybrid electric vehicle 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 graduating students on the 2010-11 team found jobs right out of school because of their exposure to industry-leading software 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 Laboratory in Chicago.

In a three-year competition that started this fall, Nelson is now leading a new student team on EcoCAR 2.



JOHN MCCORMICK

**DID YOU KNOW** that 33,921 donors made a gift to Virginia Tech in 2010? Each gift is the result of a donor's affection for the university, and we want to see the mementos that remind you of your time at Tech. It could be a ticket stub from 1970, a uniform you keep neatly folded in the attic, or the first photo of you and your future spouse on the Drillfield. Whatever motivated you to give a gift, we want to see it. Send pictures and a brief description to [vtmag@vt.edu](mailto:vtmag@vt.edu), and they just might end up in an online gallery for our winter 2011-12 edition.



JIM STROUP

Theresa Jefferson, project director for the Center for Technology, Security, and Policy, and research faculty member Jack Harrald visit about a research report on the New Madrid Fault.



JOHN MCCORMICK

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).



JOHN MCCORMICK

## 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, also has offices in the new

Arlington facility. 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 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."

Said Tom McNamara, VT-ARC president and CEO, "Intelligence, cybersecurity, and national security are important national challenge areas where VT-ARC will apply advanced technology and engineering through multidisciplinary teams composed to solve complex problems. VT-ARC will develop security strategies, policies, technologies, advanced concepts, applied R&D, and test and evaluation methodologies to enhance our nation's security in these important areas." □

*Susan Trulove is the public relations manager for the Office of Research. Barbara Micale, public relations manager in Tech's National Capital Region, and VT-ARC personnel contributed to this article.*

*Learn more about the Virginia Tech Research Center—Arlington at [www.ncr.vt.edu/Arlington/index.html](http://www.ncr.vt.edu/Arlington/index.html). Visit <http://vt-arc.org> for more information about VT-ARC.*



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# Need Knot Apply

BY JESSE TUEL  
PHOTOS BY JIM STROUP AND RYAN STONE

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.

DOUBLE FISHERMAN'S LOOP

OVERHAND KNOT

SCHWABISCH KNOT



**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 casting cattle, or 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 laid down. The tom's fool 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 Worden (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, Worden 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 Worden'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](http://www.vtmagazine.vt.edu) to see a photo gallery of knots around campus.

# Sharon Johnson

## *French Twist*

BY OLIVIA KASIK



**W**alking 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 fist-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 recent graduates. "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 and became so selflessly invested in my 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.

### *D'information*

- Associate professor of French in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences
- Career advisor for the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, formerly the director of the undergraduate French program and coordinator of French graduate teaching assistants
- President of the board of directors for April 17 Inc., a service organization that offers Teach for Madame and Teach for Jaime, two after-school programs to teach French and German to elementary school students
- Ph.D. and master's degree in French literature from the University of Wisconsin at Madison; bachelor's degree from Kalamazoo College

### *Les honneurs*

- William E. Wine Award, Virginia Tech, 2011
- Diggs Teaching Scholar Award, Virginia Tech, 2004
- University Exemplary Department Award for collaborations between the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures and the Pamplin College of Business, 2003
- Certificate of Teaching Excellence, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, 2002

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 teens' 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 into 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 Strasbourg, 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.

Just as France encouraged her growth as an individual, Johnson's enthusiasm is a source of inspiration for her students. "If it [weren't] 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 Dunstan (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 successes." □

*Olivia Kasik, a senior majoring in professional writing and psychology with a minor in philosophy, is an intern with Virginia Tech Magazine.*

5 WAYS

TO FOIL

ONLINE

THIEVES

BY DENISE YOUNG  
ILLUSTRATIONS BY MINA NOORBAKHSH

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?

Campus experts shed light on what's lurking in the dark recesses of the World Wide Web.

**1 Guard your passwords.**

"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.

France Belanger, a professor in the Pamplin College of Business specializing in IT security, said that one of the biggest mistakes people make is a low-tech one: writing their passwords on sticky notes.

**2 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.

**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 numbed 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 save 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.



# Corps of Cadets Grows in Quantity and Quality

BY RANDAL D. FULLHART

The university's premier leadership development program is enjoying a resurgence in numbers at a time when the nation needs leaders of great character and competence. As the corps' new commandant, I could not be more pleased with the support from other students, faculty, university leadership, and alumni.

The incoming freshman class numbers some 383 students, bringing the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets (VTCC) to 949 cadets, the largest total since 1969. Beyond the traditional partnership with ROTC programs, much of the growth can be attributed to the large number of students who choose the civilian-leader track. The leadership minor that cadets complete in addition to their major is a big plus when they are seeking post-graduation employment.

The corps is the university's original "residence" experience program. Cadets reside together the entire four years while benefiting from myriad programs designed to enrich their education under the tutelage of a seasoned and dedicated staff. We provide a 24/7 leadership training experience to our cadets.

Looking to the future, university leadership has given a green light to replacing the corps residence halls, and a design competition will begin soon. The corps will re-occupy the Lane Hall area, consolidating the Rice Center for Leadership, the Corps Museum, and all facets of VTCC and its supporting elements under one roof. This re-imagined Upper Quad will be a showcase for Virginia Tech for decades to come.

Examples of the power and value of the corps' programs can be seen by the achievements of our cadets over the past year. David Brock (far left, above) commanded K Battery in the fall; led VPI Company, the civilian-leader track unit, in the spring; and won the Lacy O. Brumback Award as the best company commander in the corps. He graduated with a degree in materials science engineering and will go to Navy Officer Candidate School. Kasey Beernink (second from left) excelled as a member of the Highty-Tighties, earned a degree in chemistry, commissioned as an ensign, and was the first Virginia Tech female graduate selected for submarine duty by the U.S. Navy.

Micah Hafich (middle) commanded the regiment in the fall, earned a degree in mathematics and an Air Force commission, won an Air Force scholarship to graduate school, and was the Gen. Douglas MacArthur Award winner for exemplary leadership. Christina Devereux Forsythe (second from right) commanded A Company, this year's Gold Cord unit; won the Women in Leadership and Philanthropy Award for Leadership; earned the corps' Ut Prosim Award for her exemplary leadership and strong performance at Marine Officer Candidate School; earned a degree in history; and is now a second lieutenant in the Marines. Ryan Anderson (far right) was the spring semester regimental commander, earned a degree in biology and an Air Force scholarship for medical school, and was chosen as Virginia Tech's Undergraduate Man of the Year.

By any measure, the Virginia Tech community can be proud of its corps. □

*Maj. Gen. Randal D. Fullhart is the commandant of cadets at Virginia Tech.*

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5

### Install updates and software patches regularly.

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, which will ensure that any known vulnerability in a computer's operating system or software is dealt with.

What happens if your data is compromised? Unfortunately, "There's no magic legal button you can press," Hiller said. The Federal Bureau of Investigation, the National Security Agency, and the Federal Trade Commission websites offer information for victims of identity theft. The three major credit-reporting agencies are also required to investigate any complaints by consumers of errors on their credit reports, she noted.

Ultimately, the largest share of responsibility falls to the user to exercise caution on the Web, create passwords with care, judiciously share information, and be aware of the rapidly changing threats. ▣



# Comfort Food

A resurgence in local foods and urban gardening

BY DENISE YOUNG

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.

RYAN STONE



JIM STROUP

## 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.

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 market-goers. 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 shoving of carts. Blue sky replaces metal ceilings and the glare of fluorescent lights. Small children indulge in newly purchased berries, their faces stained with the deep-purple juice. 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 Holdren, 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.

“Your backyard is a resource you can tap,” said Salatin, listing rain barrels, composting, companion planting, raised beds, and even chickens as ideas for utilizing a backyard.

More than a hobby, urban gardening can nurture a sense of social justice and equity. By providing

people in economically depressed areas with gardening space, urban gardens provide access to healthier food options.

In some cities, vacant lots are being turned into community gardens. The effect isn’t just on nutrition, said Wendy Jacobson, an associate professor in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies who teaches courses that address a range of urban and community design topics. “When people get together to accomplish something like this, it’s a tremendous community-building experience, especially for lower-income areas where people, over time, can begin to feel isolated.” And the mere act of planting a seed and watching it grow can have a therapeutic effect. “Planting a garden, in and of itself, is an act of faith and optimism. It’s an active rather than a passive interaction with nature.”



RYAN STONE

**Close to the land:** The harmony Jason Pall '06 finds at his farm (upper left) means just as much to those mingling at the Blacksburg Farmers Market (above).

### Web extras

Join Jason Pall for a video tour of Glade Road Growing and see a photo essay on the Blacksburg Farmers Market. Visit the online version of this article at [www.vtmagazine.vt.edu](http://www.vtmagazine.vt.edu).



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 fruit production. For backyard gardens, too, excess fertilizer can lead to runoff of phosphorous 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.

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." □

### Web extras

For tips on anything from gardening and plant care to soil testing, fertilization, and composting, or to contact a Master Gardener or your local Virginia Cooperative Extension agent, visit [www.ext.vt.edu](http://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](http://www.vtmagazine.vt.edu).

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\*The New River Valley is the region around Virginia Tech's Blacksburg, VA campus.

# 21st-century Extension

BY MICHAEL SUTPHIN '06

economic impact.

food security.

youth development.

sustainability.

**Virginia Cooperative Extension reaches all Virginians, whether they know it or not.**

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.”

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

Responding to renewed interest in food preservation, Extension implemented new programs for homeowners. Here, agents learn about canning techniques.

Virginia Cooperative Extension Director Edwin Jones speaks with agents at a pesticide training session in September.



JOHN MCCORMICK



JIM STROUP

### 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-grant 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 out 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 community viability—work in tandem to solve complex issues, such as protecting natural resources or promoting local foods.

"To deliver the important, comprehensive programs needed to address the complex issues that we have, those program areas have to work together," Jones said. "The local foods issue is a great



JIM STROUP

The Virginia 4-H program includes science-related projects, such as a LEGO robotics project at the W.E. Skelton 4-H Educational Center at Smith Mountain Lake.

Mark Reiter, assistant professor of crop and soil and environmental sciences at the Eastern Shore Agricultural Research and Extension Center, studies ways to improve soil and nutrient management.



JOHN MCCORMICK

example because it cuts across all of our areas programmatically, from youth development to production agriculture, human nutrition, and community viability."

Extension professionals at both universities work statewide in order to provide seamless programming and services to meet the needs of Virginians, according to Jewel Hairston, interim dean for agriculture and the 1890 Extension administrator at VSU.

"I'm proud of the excellent working relationship between Virginia Tech and Virginia State University, especially within Extension," said Hairston. "VSU's programs with limited-resource farmers and families, as well as our work [in] aquaculture, small ruminants, vegetables and small fruits, child and human development, family financial management, and [more] complement the work being done by Virginia Tech."

Nationwide, land-grant universities are working together and finding ways to support each other with programs and resources.

"I think most land-grant universities across the country are facing similar challenges," said Kirk Schulz (chemical engineering '86, Ph.D. '91), who, as president of Kansas State University, the land-grant institution in Kansas, has a unique perspective on K-State Research and Extension services. "Our audience and their needs are more diverse today, 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, Schulz 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 is Extension's dexterity in disseminating knowledge more visible than in its 4-H programs, which

teach youth about a wide range of issues, from agribusiness 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 on the Virginia 4-H Cabinet, including one year as president; on the National 4-H Planning Com-

mittee; and as a camp staff member at the Airfield 4-H Center. “I’ve had the opportunity to work with many different groups of people. I’ve been able to connect to and learn from each group. The knowledge that I’ve gained has helped me to better my skills working with people, consequently strengthening my leadership skills,” he added.

Cameron Taylor, a Virginia Tech freshman economics major and president of the Virginia State 4-H cabinet, agreed. “4-H has, first off, taught me the proper way to lead. Power is not leadership; a leader may have power, but having power does not make a leader,” he said. Taylor credits 4-H with giving him the opportunity to talk to state legislators, university deans, and corporate officials—experiences that he said helped him grow as both an individual and as a leader.

### Sharing knowledge

When Extension agents first began offering their knowledge and expertise,

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 showing 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 organi-

zation 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 Sutphin (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](http://www.vtmagazine.vt.edu).*

## 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 resources programs sustain the profitability of agricultural and forestry production—Virginia’s largest industry, with an annual economic impact of \$55 billion—and protect the quality of Virginia’s land and water resources.

- The Virginia Quality Assured Feeder Cattle 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, Extension agents trained more than 375 food handlers on food safety and food-borne 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. Employing staff, purchasing food and supplies, and making capital improvements account for more than \$6.3 million annually.

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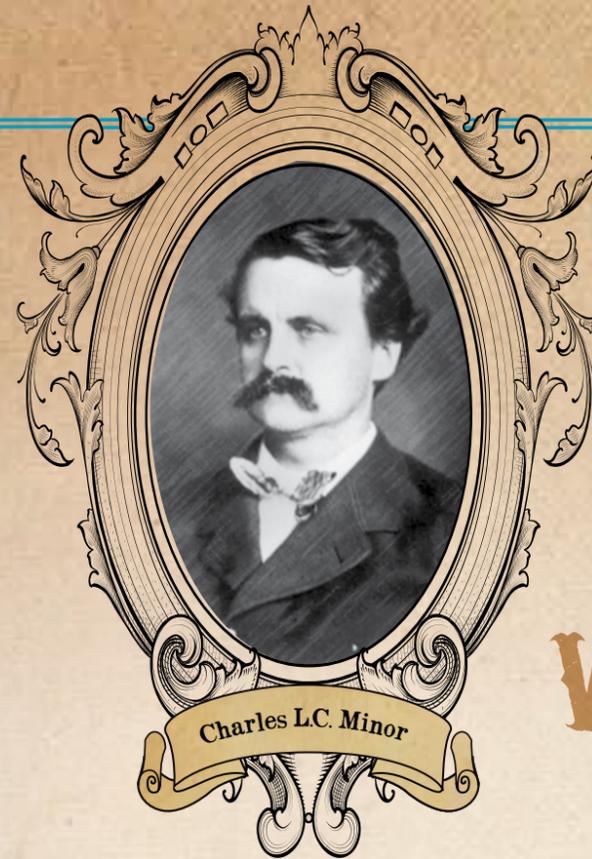
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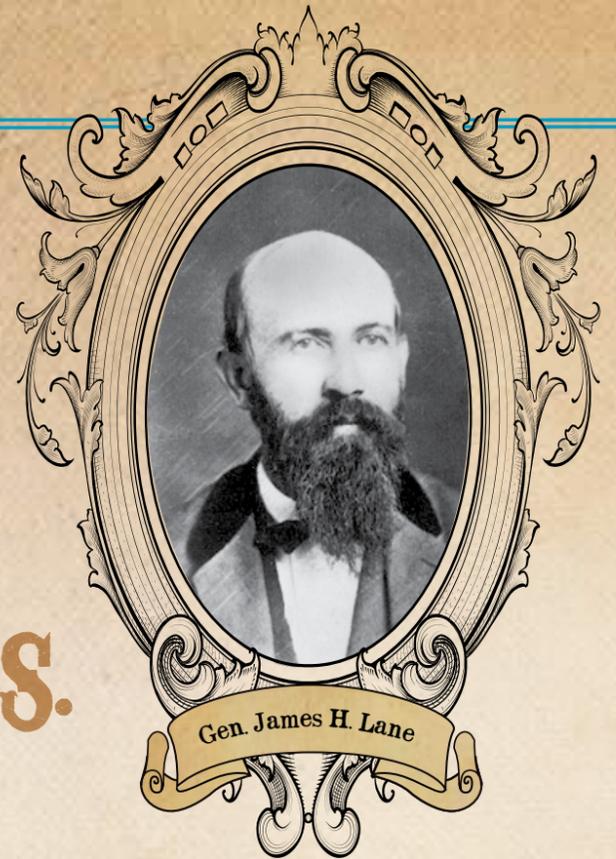
# HOW VIRGINIA TECH WAS WON

Fisticuffs, growing pains,  
and the Hokie way

BY JULIET CRICHTON



Charles L.C. Minor



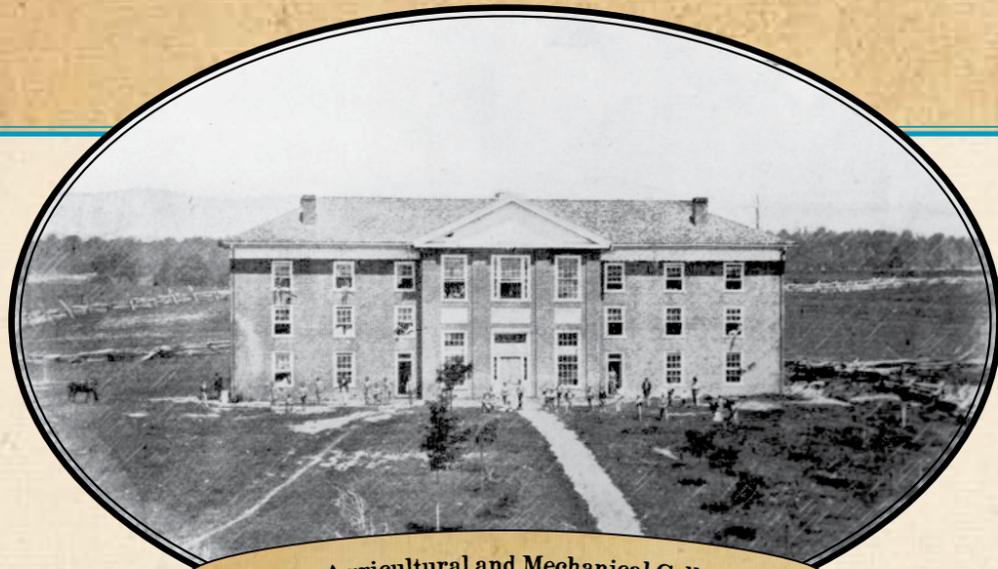
Gen. James H. Lane

VS.

## CHARACTERS

**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."



Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College, 1872

## PROLOGUE: Land 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.

## SCENE I: In this corner...

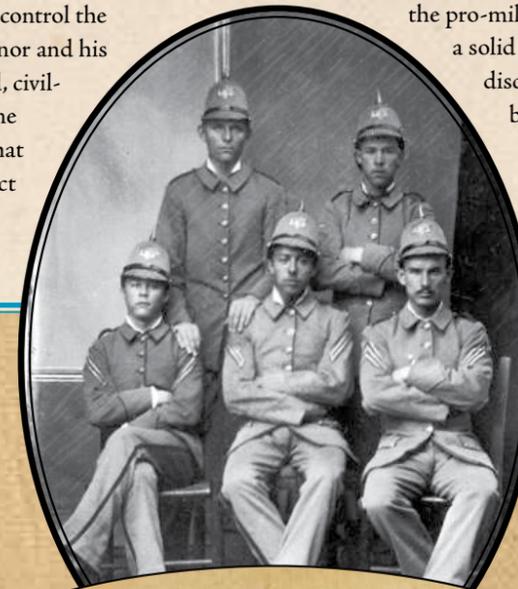
Despite efforts to the contrary, VAMC continued to thrive, enrolling more than 250 cadets in just its fourth year and effectively outgrowing campus boarding facilities. Those cadets who lived off-campus, largely unattended, were prone to mischief, outgrowing the town's patience in record time. Not only 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.



VAMC cadets, 1881

## 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.

## SCENE 2: The one-two punch

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 volatile 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."

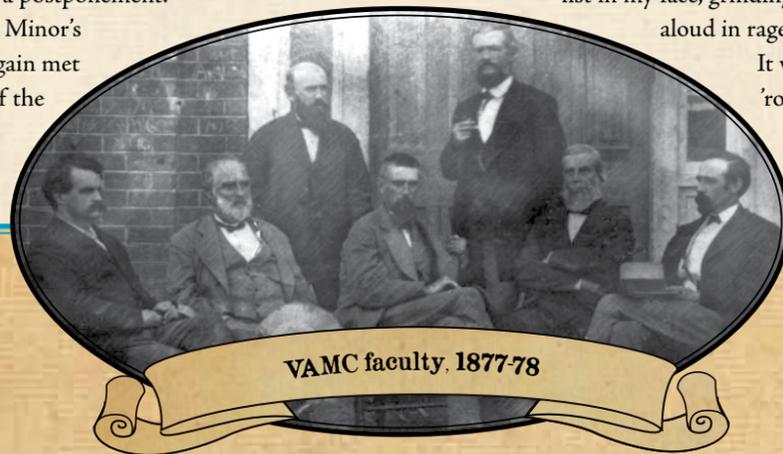
Two days later, at Minor's request, the faculty again met to seek a resolution of the issue. Minor's report indicates that "Gen.

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.



VAMC faculty, 1877-78

## SCENE 3: TKO

In the wake of vehement demands made by local leaders, the county sheriff hauled Minor and Lane into court. According to Kinnear, "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 professional reconciliation" between the two men. If only on paper, Minor and Lane managed to play out a careful decorum, both expressing a willingness to put conflict behind them and proceed with the school's best interests. Later at

a called meeting in August, the board received from Minor a full account of the fistfight, along with his most comprehensive assessment to date of the school's programs and operations. Lane, incidentally, was never required to defend his actions.

Undeterred, much of the state continued to call for Minor's resignation. Bad press persisted, sometimes front-page, often erroneous. The school's growing pains had become intolerably painful.

Agricultural & Mechanical College  
Blacksburg, Virginia

March 26th 1878

Gen. James H. Lane  
Blacksburg, Virginia Tech

Dear Sir:

I write to express my profound regret for what occurred yesterday. It is not possible to leave unsettled the question who was to blame, about which we could not hope to agree - to leave to others the settlement of the question about reports, and to go on together as if this difficulty had not occurred.

Yours respectfully,

C. L. C. Minor

Va. Agr. & Mechl. College  
Blacksburg, March 30, 1878

Dr. C. L. C. Minor  
Blacksburg, Va.

Dear Sir:

Yours of the 26th inst. has just been handed me by my friend Dr. Ellzey. I have previously, in writing & verbally, expressed to you and the other members of the Faculty of the Va. Agr. & Mechl. Col. my perfect willingness "to leave to others the settlement of the question about reports."

I am willing to continue the faithful and conscientious discharge of my duties in the Va. Agr. & Mechl. Col. & in all official intercourse with you to treat you with proper official courtesy.

Respectfully,

James H. Lane

## DENOUEMENT

With the appointment of Gen. Fitzhugh Lee to the VAMC Board of Visitors in early 1879, talk of recasting the school in a strict military model commenced full force. Not 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 hell-bent on dissipating 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 Kinnear in his 1972 publication, "especially the military department, along lines which have survived to the present time."

Leaving Blacksburg, Minor settled 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 healed from the black eye dispensed 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 scrappy. 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 1810 passage of the Barbour Bill outlawing the practice.

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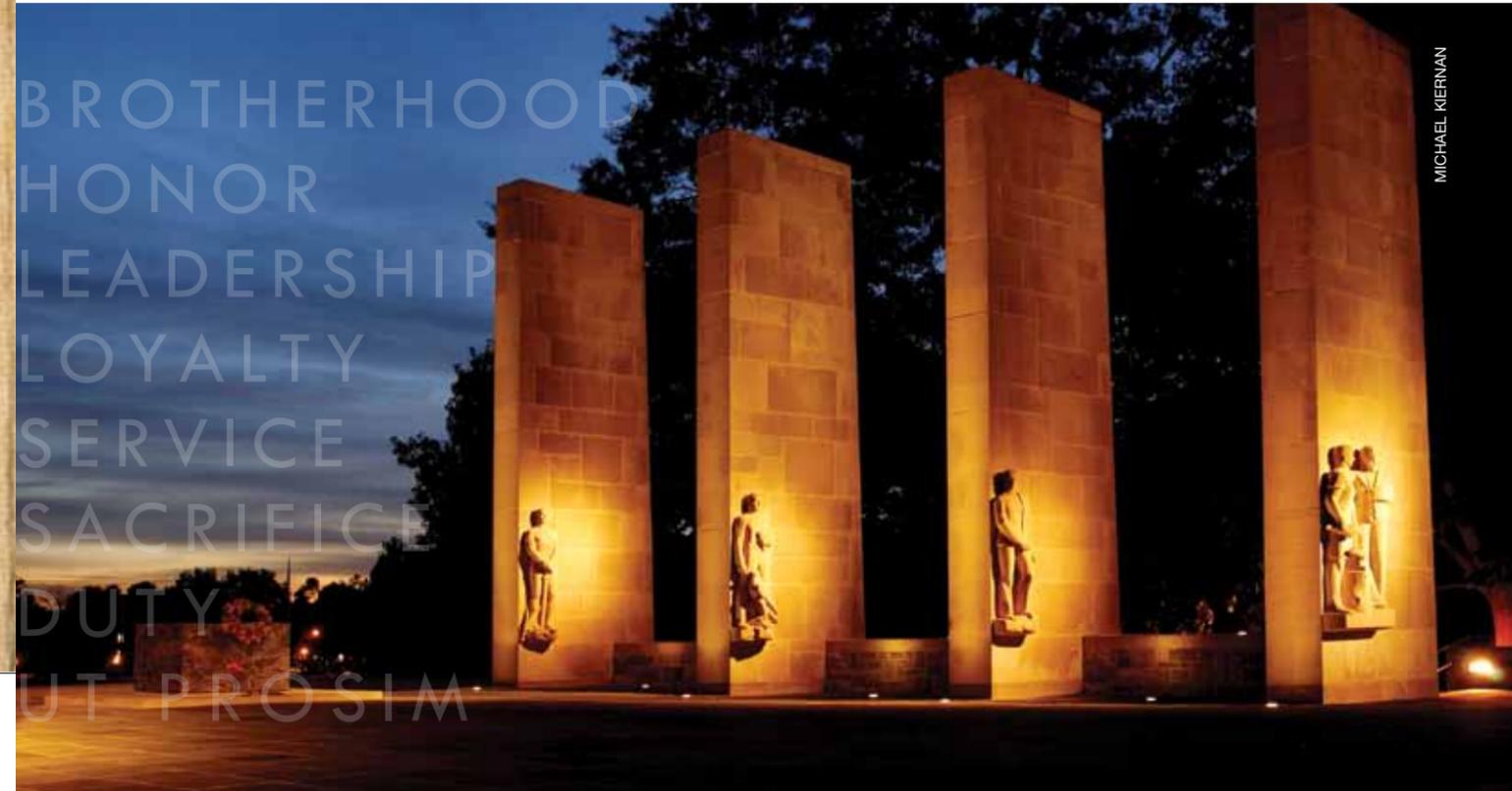
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MICHAEL KIERMAN

# 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](mailto:vtmag@vt.edu).

**About the Pylons**  
Although War Memorial Chapel, completed in 1960, was initially intended to honor Techmen killed in World War II, the names of alumni who have died in military conflicts beginning with World War I are now carved on the Pylons. On the upper level, the Memorial Court houses

the sculptured Indiana limestone Pylons. The four left Pylons were designed by Henry Kries; the right Pylons were designed by Charles Rudy. The lower level houses a 260-seat chapel.

*For more on the Pylons, visit [www.vt-magazine.vt.edu](http://www.vt-magazine.vt.edu).*



Capt. George Flynn '01 (left), who took a lunch-pail mindset to the Marines, chose to write about the Pylon value of service.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF GEORGE FLYNN

## 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 postal box in which it had been delivered.

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 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 lunchbox?” After correcting them a few times and making sure they understood that it was a lunch pail, I tossed out my idea.

I told them all about Virginia Tech and the football team’s 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 to allow the Marines to buy some snacks at a local grocery store. While in the store, I noticed over and over again how many of the Marines could not move 10 feet down an aisle without someone approaching them and thanking them for their service. I thought to myself, “Put that in the lunch pail.” On my way out of the store, I watched as a gray minivan came to a screeching halt and two college-aged women jumped out and ran up to two of my 19-year-old lance corporals and asked if they could get their picture taken with them. After the women left, I walked up to the now-blushing Marines,

asked them about what just happened, and the response from one was classic: “Sir, can we put that in the lunch pail? ‘Cause I would fight for that any day of the week!”

Since then, every week I award the lunch pail to the platoon whose work ethic exemplifies the Marine Corps standards that I expect from the company. When that platoon is given the lunch pail, the Marines pick someone who best displays those traits, and it is his honor to carry the lunch pail to all company training. The Marine who carries 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 to Afghanistan and has deployed three times previously in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.*



EVENTUALLY, MARINES STARTED ASKING, “SIR, WHAT’S UP WITH THE LUNCHBOX?”



BASHAR MASRI '83



COURTESY OF BASHAR MASRI

## Alumnus builds a city in the hills of Palestine

BY DENISE YOUNG

**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 cafés, 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—lies 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 Massar International, a company with 15 subsidiaries, including Bayti Real Estate, but he also runs a charitable organization that provides financial aid and Massar 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

Below: A digital rendering of Rawabi, which, in eight years, is expected to be home to 40,000 residents.



CITY RENDERINGS COURTESY OF BAYTI REAL ESTATE



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 Masri 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 Masri, “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 Masri 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.” □

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**VirginiaTech**  
 Invent the Future®

# 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.

## 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/

**\$250 million**  
Goal announced in 1995 for Virginia Tech’s Making a World of Difference campaign

**\$337 million**  
Amount raised in the Making a World of Difference campaign

**\$1 billion**  
Goal announced for The Campaign for Virginia Tech: Invent the Future

**20 to 100**  
Percentage increase that is to be expected in university fundraising in a typical campaign year versus an average non-campaign one\*

**36**  
Number of U.S. colleges or universities engaged in campaigns of \$1 billion or more as of November 2010\*\*



Biological sciences major Ying Chen

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 Falkinham 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-

sions Center, the Class of 1958 gates installed at Prices Fork Road and West Campus Drive, and the Center for the Arts under construction at the corner of North Main Street and Alumni Mall.

## A billion-dollar milestone

Announcing a \$1 billion campaign goal was a milestone for Virginia Tech, reflecting a new level of ambition for an institution that had raised \$337 million in its prior campaign.

The announcement also put the university into a fairly exclusive club. Thirty-six U.S. colleges or universities were engaged in campaigns of \$1 billion or more as of November 2010, according to the Chronicle of Higher Education. So when the most recent campaign total is disclosed, it will be a historic moment for Virginia Tech.

It just won’t be the final story on what the campaign means.

“Campaigns are less about the dollar goal than they are about what all these donations do to move the institution forward,” said Goldsmith. “It’s about what good is done for students, for research, for all the things that are important to an institution like Virginia Tech.” □

Albert Raboteau is a writer for *University Development*.

\*Council for Advancement and Support of Education Vice President of Advancement Resources Rae Goldsmith

\*\*Chronicle of Higher Education

**Nov. 12, 2011**  
Date when the amount raised in The Campaign for Virginia Tech: Invent the Future will be announced

## 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.

Virginia Tech's Office of Corporate and Foundation Relations helps develop partnerships between industry and the university that can benefit many projects, including student design teams. Visit [www.cfr.vt.edu](http://www.cfr.vt.edu) to learn more.

"DBF is such a great experience for the students," 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.

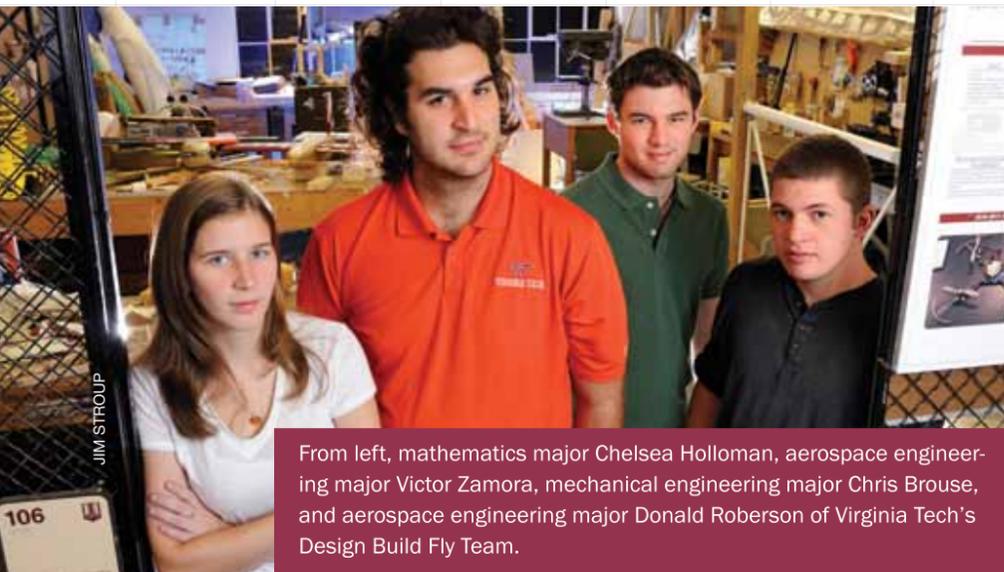
Like the university's other such teams—including one that won the U.S. Department of Energy's EcoCar competition in June and another that won the international RoboCup robotics competition in July—the DBF team depends on corporate support to compete effectively. Companies that have sponsored the team 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*.



From left, mathematics major Chelsea Holloman, aerospace engineering major Victor Zamora, mechanical engineering major Chris Brouse, and aerospace engineering major Donald Roberson of Virginia Tech's Design Build Fly Team.

JIM STROUP

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# IMPACT

## 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.

*Pan Tiller '69*

Vice President for Alumni Relations



JOHN MCCORMICK

# IMPACT

## 25,000 Serving alumni

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

## 731 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.

## 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 and 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 Drillfield Series events. The new Drillfield Series consisted of themed weekend programs for alumni and their families. Program topics included fine dining, photography, science exploration, and Blacksburg's annual Steppin' Out summer festival.

2,700

## 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 110

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.

Hokie Nation Network

## 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](http://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.

## 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

Hokies for Higher Education, the legislative advocacy group for Virginia Tech, provides vocal backing on issues of importance to the university and to higher education by cultivating support among elected officials.

130 alumni and students, the highest number of participants to date, visited legislators at the 13th annual Hokie Day at the General Assembly. Alumni members of the General Assembly were also hosted at a breakfast in Richmond as the session opened.

The members of the alumni board of directors are elected by the association's active members and gather twice each year to advise on programming for the association, evaluate progress in accomplishing annual goals and strategies, ensure strong fiscal and administrative management, and develop future initiatives.

The 135th anniversary celebration of the Alumni Association's 1875 founding was attended by former board members who were invited back to campus last fall and inducted into the association's new recognition society for past service on the board, the Gateway Society.

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.

1875

135<sup>th</sup>

## Supporting students

The Student Alumni Associates organization, the cohesiveness 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 University Honors students.

\$2 million

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.

## 100<sup>th</sup> Embracing service: Ut Prosim (That I May Serve)

The Hokie Nation Serves initiative encourages the commitment of service hours beyond normal obligations, especially during the month of April. The *Ut Prosim* Update provides news of community service projects involving alumni, students, faculty, and staff.

47 alumni chapters participated in 124 community service projects.

At the fall Chapter Officers Leadership Forum, chapter volunteers joined with local scholarship recipients to make blankets to benefit local children through Project Linus.

Alumni volunteers and staff worked to clean up a public beach access park in Hollywood, Fla., prior to the Orange Bowl.

The Alumni Association staff gathered for its first Relay for Life team, helping the university raise funds for the American Cancer Society. For the third year in a row, Virginia Tech's Relay for Life was the nation's top collegiate fundraising relay.

124

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

# IMPACT

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

## ALUMNI AWARDS

### William H. Ruffner Medal

John W. Bates III '63

### 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

## AWARDS FOR FACULTY EXCELLENCE

### Graduate Academic Advising

George W. Norton, agricultural and applied economics

### Undergraduate Academic Advising

Jack Evans, biological sciences

### Extension

J. Michael Goatley, crop and soil environmental sciences

Billie Jean Elmer, Surry County 4-H youth development

Extension agent

### 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. Riffle, 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. Piilonen, physics

Sharon P. Johnson, foreign languages and literatures

## GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

### Teaching Award

Serena Ciparis, entomology

Jacob Moore, engineering education

### Service Award

Brendan Brink-Halloran, 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

Laurie McNeill '00, College of Engineering

Darin Oduyoye '00, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

Charisa Morris '99, '06, College of Natural Resources

and Environment

Brian Sutton '01, College of Science

Feihe Huang '03, '05, College of Science

Maureen Noftsinger '01, Virginia-Maryland Regional College

of Veterinary Medicine

## CHAPTER AWARDS 2010-11

### OUTSTANDING CHAPTER AWARDS

Alleghany Highlands

Annapolis

Atlanta

Augusta

Baltimore

Central Florida

Central Pennsylvania

Charlotte

Chattanooga

Chicago

Cincinnati

Coastal Carolina

Columbia

Dallas/Fort Worth

Denver

East Tennessee

Emporia/Roanoke Rapids

First State

Franklin Co./Smith Mtn. Lake

Fredericksburg

Grand Strand/Myrtle Beach

Houston

Iowa

Jacksonville

Kentuckiana

Knoxville

Loudoun County

Middle Tennessee

Minnesota

National Capital Region

N.C. Triad

New Jersey

New River Valley

New York City

Palmetto

Patrick Henry

Philadelphia

Prince William

Research Triangle

Richmond

Roanoke Valley

Rockbridge

San Antonio

Seattle

Shenandoah

South Florida

Southwest Virginia

Tampa Bay

The Villages

Tri-Cities

Western North Carolina

Williamsburg

## Achievement

### ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Albuquerque

Austin

Danville

Hilton Head

Las Vegas

New Orleans/  
Baton Rouge

Northeast 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

### Outstanding Alumni Admissions Program

Houston Chapter

### Outstanding Golf Tournament

Loudoun County Chapter, 21st Annual Golf Outing

Shenandoah Chapter, 23rd Annual Greater Hokie Open

### Outstanding Chapter Website

Chicago Chapter

### Outstanding Chapter Volunteer

Ryan Ardigo, Prince William Chapter

### Most Improved Chapters

Philadelphia Chapter

San Diego Chapter

### Outstanding New Chapter

The Villages Chapter

### Outstanding Chapter Officers

Robert Eric McClellan, South Florida Chapter

Joseph Riccio, Chicago Chapter

### Hall of Fame, Outstanding Chapter Event

Denver Chapter, Wine Tasting and Silent Auction



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AUTO
HOME

# 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](http://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.

## 2012 Alumni Association travel tours

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

### Treasures 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\*  
Optional Victoria Falls extension: \$1,799

### Living Abroad in Ecuador

AHI Travel

May 3-June 2 | \$3,495\*

### Historic Reflections~Mediterranean

Go Next (Oceania Cruises)

May 25-June 5 | \$3,299\*  
(air included)\*\*

### European Mosaic

Go Next (Oceania Cruises)

June 16-27 | \$3,999\*  
(air included)\*\*

### Waterways of Russia

AHI Travel

July 14-24 | \$3,895\*

### Best of Australia

Continuum Education Travel

July 14-24 | \$3,500\*

Optional Fiji extension  
July 23-26 | \$1,500\*

### Italy~Tuscany with Florence

AHI Travel

July 20-28 | \$2,795\*

### Scotland~Stirling

AHI Travel

Aug. 15-23 | \$2,795\*

### Italy~Apulia

AHI Travel

Sept. 4-12 | \$2,395\*

### Canada and New England: Fall Foliage

Go Next (Oceania Cruises)

Sept. 25-Oct. 7 | \$3,999\*  
(air included)\*\*

### India and Nepal

AHI Travel

Oct. 14-28 | \$5,595\*

### Aegean Marvels

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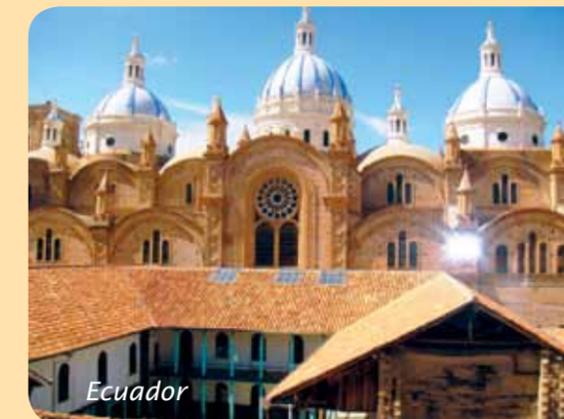
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## BOOKS BY ALUMNI

**Editor's note: Primarily because of the volume of submissions we receive, we have elected to adjust the format of Book Notes. Alongside a list of publications, one book is featured to the right.**

**Submission guidelines, available online at [www.vtmagazine.vt.edu/bookreview.html](http://www.vtmagazine.vt.edu/bookreview.html), remain the same. To submit a book, mail it to Book Notes, Virginia Tech Magazine, 105 Media Building, Blacksburg, VA 24061. You can also email a high-resolution cover image, along with your name, the name of the publisher, the genre, and a brief description of the book, to [vtmag@vt.edu](mailto:vtmag@vt.edu). We must receive the book within one year of its publication date.**

## NONFICTION

## Critical/Reference

**Larry G. Aaron** (biology '68), "The Wreck of the Old 97," historical reference, History Press.

**Jim Battle** (mechanical engineering '70), "Scriptures Alive! – How to Study the Bible," reference, self-published.

**Bo Begole** (Ph.D. computer science '98), "Ubiquitous Computing for Business," reference, Financial Times Press.

**Stephen Bloch** (mathematics '86), "Picturing Programs: An Introduction to Computer Programming," textbook, College Publications.

**Mike Cadden** (English '86, elementary education '87, M.A. '89), editor, "Telling Children's Stories: Narrative

Theory and Children's Literature," critical essays, University of Nebraska Press. Cadden also published "Ursula K. Le Guin Beyond Genre: Fiction for Children and Adults," critical, Routledge.

**Christine Davis** (communication '79), "Death: The Beginning of a Relationship," reference, ethnography of hospice organization, Hampton Press. Davis, et al., also published "Straight Talk about Communication Research Methods," reference, Kendall-Hunt Publishing.

**Richard D. Dickerson** (economics '69) and J.K. Harris, "Sales Flashpoint: Fifteen Strategies for Rapid-Fire Sales Growth," reference, Entrepreneur Press.

**Evan S. Fiedler** (biology '90), "Come Run with Me," ref-

erence, running/marathons, self-published.

**Mickey E. Gunter** (M.S. geological sciences '82, Ph.D. '87), "Mineralogy and Optical Mineralogy," textbook, Mineralogical Society of America.

**Belinda B. McFeeters** (Ph.D. educational leadership and policy studies '06) et al., editor, "The Leading Across Differences: Cases and Perspectives," reference, social identity-based conflicts, Pfeiffer Publishing.

**William C. Ray** (civil engineering '65, M.S. '66), "Mount Gilead History and Heritage," historical reference, self-published.

**Leslie Schwindt-Bayer** (political science '96), "Political Power and Women's Representation in Latin America," critical, Oxford University Press.

**John D. Ross** (Ph.D. curriculum and instruction '99), "Online Professional Development: Design, Deliver, Succeed!," reference, Corwin.

**Celie Brown Thomas** (education '75), "Manifesting the Kingdom: The Active Meditation Handbook," reference, Wish Book Press.

**Jeff Voivoda** (management science '89), "Data Analysis and Harmonization," reference, iUniverse.

**Trenor Williams** (biology '92) and Anita Samarth, "Electronic Health Records for Dummies," reference, Wiley Publishing.

## Biography/Memoir

**Robert H. Crewdson** (chemical engineering '55), "Love and War: A Southern Soldier's Struggle Between Love and Duty," Civil War love letters, Mariner Publisher.

**Bainy Cyrus** (horticulture '85), "All Eyes: A Memoir of Deafness," memoir, CreateSpace.

**Alexander DeVolpi** (M.S. nuclear engineering physics '57, Ph.D. '67), "Lover, Soldier, Reprobate," biography of Bonaventura Paul Weiss DeVolpi, CreateSpace.

**Thomas E. Dewan** (business administration '65), transcriber, "Red Raider Diary," WWII diary of Merrill Thomas Dewan, RoseDog Books.

**Michael James Gannon** (nutrition and food science '84), "If These Ears Could

Sing!: The Living Law of Attraction in Action," memoir, deafness, DMF Publishing.

**Rachel Lark** (architecture '09), "Capacity for Delight," memoir, online dating, CreateSpace.

**Charles Lytton** (fisheries and wildlife '75), "New River Bonnets, Apple Butter and Moonshine: The Raising of a Fat Little Boy," memoir, Southwest Virginia, CreateSpace.

**M.B. Roberts** (communication '86) and Hilary Williams, "Sign of Life: A Story of Family, Tragedy, Music,

and Healing," biography of daughter of Hank Williams Jr., Da Capo Press.

**LaVerne Thornton** (mechanical engineering '59), "Walk in 'e Moon," memoir, Southern life, Chapel Hill Press Inc.

**Robert van Luyn** (industrial engineering '63), "From Lion to Eagle," memoir, immigration, WWII, Pocahontas Press.

**Wendy K. Williamson** (hotel, restaurant, and institutional management '93), "I'm Not Crazy Just Bipolar,"

memoir, mental illness, AuthorHouse.

## FICTION

**Weston Cutter** (M.F.A. '09), "You'd Be Stranger, Too," short stories, BlazeVOX Books.

**J. Robert DiFulgo** (M.A. education '83), "The Invisible Moon," novel, Vietnam War, Athena Press.

**Beth Groundwater** (software engineering '83), "Deadly Currents," mystery novel, first in series, Midnight Ink.

**Miller B. Jones** (political

science '69), "Dreams of Hope," novel, sports, CreateSpace.

## POETRY

**George A. Bowers** (agricultural education '86), "Valley Verses," Lulu.

## CHILDREN'S/TEEN

**Angie Smibert** (biology '85), "Memento Nora," young-adult science fiction novel, Marshall Cavendish.

**Jenny Werner** (interdisciplinary studies '00), "My Padres Baseball Game," picture book, Mascot Books.

## Featured Author: John Wiley Jr., 'Margaret Mitchell's Gone with the Wind'

**John Wiley Jr.** (communication '80) has assembled one of the world's largest collections of Margaret Mitchell and "Gone with the Wind" memorabilia, including every American edition of the 1936 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel and more than 800 international editions. He has been interviewed by NPR, Entertainment Weekly, and USA Today, among others. For almost 25 years, he has published a quarterly newsletter, The Scarlett 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":

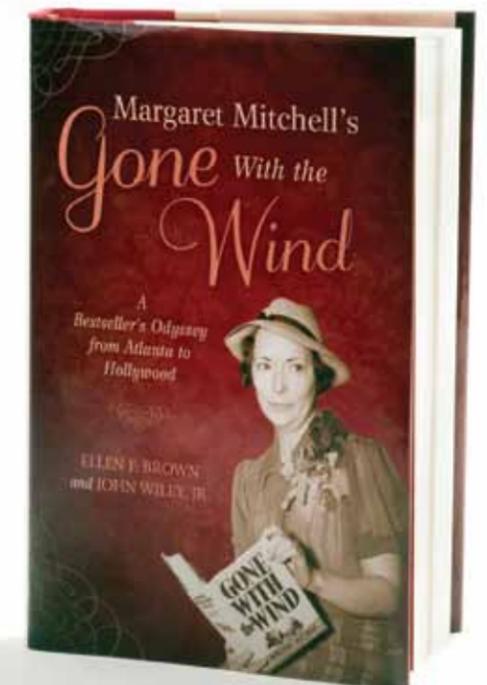
*Whether Mitchell would be a celebrity, however, was not up to her. The public's whim and fancy would make that determination, and from the way things were shaping up, it appeared she would be cast into that realm regardless of her desires. It was*

*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 at their attempt to do so. ... But the author was no pushover. ...*

*Reporters hounded her for interviews and photographs. ... Seeing no reason to have her private business on display for public consumption or to have her face appear in the newspapers several times a week, she declined countless requests. ... Mitchell [turned down] offers from the Saturday Review of Literature, Cosmopolitan, Redbook, and Ladies Home Journal, among others, for her to write essays, articles, or short stories. ... Mitchell also refused to write a sequel to "Gone With the Wind." The public was enthralled by the book's open ending and wanted to know if Scarlett and Rhett reunited. ... A fan in North Carolina used rhyme to plead her case. She sent Mitchell a poem about the novel, with a final stanza: "Your style I considered most pleasing / You are wonderfully*

*clever I'd say / So please! Will you write us a sequel / To 'Gone With the Wind' some other day." No matter how demanding or witty the entreaty, Mitchell could not be swayed.*

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**Alumni**, we want to hear what you've been doing. Although we cannot print stories or 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 email them to [vtmag@vt.edu](mailto:vtmag@vt.edu). Please mail career, retirement, wedding, birth, and death notices to Alumni Notes, Virginia Tech Alumni Association, Holtzman Alumni Center, Blacksburg, VA 24061; send them via email to [fleets@vt.edu](mailto:fleets@vt.edu); or submit them online at [www.vtmagazine.vt.edu/submit.classnotes.html](http://www.vtmagazine.vt.edu/submit.classnotes.html). **Editor's note:** For privacy reasons, all mailing addresses may now be viewed online at [www.alumni.vt.edu/directory](http://www.alumni.vt.edu/directory) by logging in with your Virginia Tech PID and password. For assistance, dial 540-231-6285.

**Attention 2001 graduates:** In January 2012, the Schiffert Health Center will destroy the medical records of all 2001 graduates. If you would like a copy of your records, please contact Paula Robertson at 540-231-9430 or [medrec@vt.edu](mailto:medrec@vt.edu) before Dec. 1.



JOHN MCCORMICK

## '50s

'52

**Jim F. Short** (CHE), Dayton, Va., serves on the board of directors for the Hampton Roads Sanitation District.

'54

**Paul M. Saunders** (AGE), Piney River, Va., was inducted into the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' Hall of Fame.

'59

**A. Wayne Bennett** (EE, EE '63), Clemson, S.C., was honored as one of the 25 inaugural members of the University of Florida's Electrical and Computer Engineering academy.

**James C. Graves** (AGEC '61), Toano, Va., was inducted into the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' Hall of Fame.

## '60s

'63

**John W. Bates III** (BAD), Richmond, Va., received the 2011 William H. Ruffner Medal in recognition of his loyal and enthusiastic support of the university.

**Joseph A. Knight** (EE), Catharpin, Va., retired as senior associate at Zeta Associates Inc.

'64

**George R. Webb** (EM), Norfolk, Va., was conferred the professor emeritus title by the Christopher Newport University Board of Visitors. He retired June 1 after 38 years of service.

'65

**George L. Hanbury II** (PAD '66), Fort Lauderdale, Fla., is

president of Nova Southeastern University.

'66

**Thomas E. Watson** (ME), Staunton, Va., is the president-elect of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers.

'67

**Michael G. Kelley** (GEOL), College Station, Texas, earned his Ph.D. in history from Georgia State University.

'68

**T. Nelson Keech** (EM '69), Winchester, Va., retired as chief engineer from the Naval Surface Warfare Center after 46 years of service and is now consulting for NTI Corporation.

**Arthur K. Reilly** (EE), Lakewood Ranch, Fla., is chair for the National Science Board's Audit and Oversight Committee and has been appointed by the Internet Society to the Board of Directors of the Public Interest Registry.

'69

**M.P. Mizell** (BC), Frederick, Md., received his 40-year achievement pin from Clark Construction.

## '70s

'71

**Clay B. Walker** (BIOL, MICR '72, MICR '77), Gainesville, Fla., is associate dean for faculty affairs at the University of Florida College of Dentistry.

'72

**A. Carole Pratt** (BIOL), Dublin, Va., is a Robert Wood Johnson Fellow.

'73

**C. Nelson Long Jr.** (PSCI), Bedford, N.Y., received the 2010 Bill Strausbaugh Award

for distinguished efforts in mentoring and supporting improved employment conditions for PGA (Professional Golfers' Association of America) professionals.

**Nicholas P. Marica** (UA), Madison Heights, Va., received his master of arts in human services from Liberty University.

'74

**John G. Kines Jr.** (URBA), Disputanta, Va., was re-appointed for a five-year term by Gov. Bob McDonnell to the Virginia Commission on Local Government.

'75

**Marcus Alley** (AGRN '71, AGRN), Blacksburg, Va., was named a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

**Rosemary Carucci Goss** (MHFD '76), Blacksburg, Va., was named the Residential Property Management Advisory Board Professor by the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors.

**Lewis L. Lanier** (BIOL), San Francisco, Calif., was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

**Mark Mamula** (AOE), Haymarket, Va., is executive director, business development lead, tactical systems, at Aerojet.

'76

**Michael G. Miller** (AGEC), Richmond, Va., was inducted into the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' Hall of Fame.

**Amanda VanPelt Scott** (ELED), Roswell, Ga., is a volunteer missionary in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, working for the LAMB Institute.

'77

**Maury S. Saunders** (ARCH), Herndon, Va., is

design director and Capital Improvements PLC for the Naval Facilities Engineering Command.

'78

**Deborah Martin Petrine** (MGT), Hardy, Va., received the 2011 Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Pamplin College of Business.

**Mary Jane Saunders** (HIST), McLean, Va., is general counsel of the Beer Institute.

'79

**Jennifer N. Browne** (ARCH), Philadelphia, Pa., is director of laboratory planning for the architecture firm of Francis Cauffman.

**William G. Ferrell Jr.** (NSE), Clemson, S.C., was elected a fellow of the Institute of Industrial Engineers.

**Deborah L. Floyd** (EDCC), Fort Lauderdale, Fla., was named 2011 Distinguished Teacher of the Year at Florida Atlantic University.

**Edwin J. Jones** (FIW, FIW '83), Blacksburg, Va., is associate dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and director of Virginia Cooperative Extension.

**Eric J. Shaw** (PSYC), Newport, R.I., is a professor at the Naval War College.

## '80s

'80

**Christopher J. Colston** (MKTG '81), Oak Hill, Va., is president of James Doctor Press Inc. and publisher of the 2011 Hokie Football Annual.

'81

**Brian J. Clark** (FW), Georgetown, S.C., was selected as the 2011 Professor of the Year at Horry-Georgetown Technical College.

**Paul J. Clarke** (COMM), Sioux Falls, S.D., is chief building official for the Minnehaha County, S.D., government.

**Judy S. Riffle** (CHEM), Blacksburg, Va., received the 2011 Alumni Award for Excellence in Research.

**R. Christopher Rosenthal** (ACCT), Edgewater, Md., is secretary of The Baltimore Estate Planning Council.

**Winston Samuels** (ANSC, ANSC '83), Roanoke, Va., founder and president of Maxx Performance, opened a new research and manufacturing facility in Roanoke. The company produces microencapsulation and encapsulation technologies used by food and vitamin manufacturers.

'82

**David W. Dunaway** (HORT), Richmond, Va., is a horticulture technician for Virginia Cooperative Extension.

'83

**Victor B. Calaman Jr.** (MKTG), Richmond, Va., is the owner of Calaman Landscape Design LLC.

**Betty P. Chao** (IEOR), Albuquerque, N.M., is the recipient of Tech's 2011 University Distinguished Achievement Award.

**Billie Jean Poole Elmer** (AGED), Waverly, Va., received the 2011 Alumni Award for Excellence in Extension.

**Daniel J. Murray** (AOE), Mill Creek, Wash., is chief engineer of electronics systems for Boeing Commercial Airplanes.

**Mary Kathryn Burkey Owens** (ENGL), Midlothian, Va., was recognized by Virginia Lawyers Media as a member of the 2011 class of Influential Women of Virginia.

'84

**Chester M. Mumma** (AGED), Wyalusing, Pa., is superintendent of the Wyalusing Area School District.

**Donna C. Ratcliffe** (EDSP, EDSP '88), Roanoke, Va., received the Distinguished Service Award from the Eastern Association of Colleges and is interim director of Virginia Tech Dining Services.

**Penelope A. Ribar Waugh** (PSYC), Herndon, Va., launched [www.motherearthmeals.com](http://www.motherearthmeals.com), a website that offers healthy meal tips, monthly meal plans, recipes, grocery shopping lists, and advice on cancer-fighting foods.

'86

**James B. Lackey** (AOE), Leonardtown, Md., is the deputy director for air warfare. Office of the Secretary of Defense.

**Kirk H. Schulz** (CHE, CHE '91), Manhattan, Kan., president of Kansas State University, was the recipient of the 2011 Graduate Alumni Achievement Award.

'87

**Theodore J. Faulkner** (HRIM), Radford, Va., is senior associate director of Virginia Tech Dining Services.

**Timothy E. Long** (CHEM), Blacksburg, Va., was named a Mark Scholar by the American Chemical Society for his leadership in the combined fields of polymer science and engineering and also received the Pressure Sensitive Tape Council 2011 Carl Dahlquist Award for his research relating to adhesive tape technology.

**Darrell G. Mottley** (ESM, BAD '94), Alexandria, Va., is president of the District of Columbia Bar.

'88

**Elizabeth Truex Gilboy** (LAR), Blacksburg, Va., received the 2011 Alumni Award for Outreach Excellence for team achievement.

**James M. Goatley** (AGRN), Blacksburg, Va., received Tech's 2011 Alumni Award for Excellence in Extension.

**Roger N. Morris** (MKED), Stuart, Va., was named

Outstanding Superintendent by the Curry School of Education at the University of Virginia.

'89

**Anita Vincent Cucchiaro** (PSCI), Blacksburg, Va., earned her M.D. degree and is a resident physician for George Washington University Hospital's anesthesiology program.

**Michael F. Little** (BAD, BAD '91), New York City, N.Y., was nominated to a committee chair role within the New York Society of Security Analysts.

## '90s

'91

**Sherry Bryan** (ARCH), Memphis, Tenn., received the Francis Gassner Award from the Memphis Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

**Thomas H. Cox** (CE), La Plata, Md., is chief engineer and capital improvements business line coordinator for the Naval Facilities Engineering Command.

'92

**Keith F. Durkin** (SOC, SOC '96), Ada, Ohio, is editor-in-chief of the International Journal of Sociological Research.

**John C. Henson** (COMM), Roanoke, Va., is a creative director for Access Advertising & Public Relations.

**Kenneth K. Yoo** (ECAS), Atlanta, Ga., is chief risk officer at the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta.

'93

**Eric Cramer** (BAD, BAD '95), Woodstock, Ga., is senior portfolio manager for Buckhead Investment Partners of Atlanta.

'94

**Michael D. Hagge** (ARCH '95), Memphis, Tenn., received the Francis Gassner Award from the Memphis Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and a Course Redesign Fellowship from the University of Memphis.

**Nancy G. McGehee** (SOC, SOC '99), Blacksburg, Va.,

was named the J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Junior Faculty Fellow of Hospitality Management by the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors.

**Michael M. Taylor** (HIST), Leesburg, Va., is general counsel for Americom Government Services Inc.

**Christopher J. Yianilos** (PSCI), Alexandria, Va., was named an affiliate faculty member in Virginia Tech's political science department and is director of the Hokies on Capitol Hill program.

'96

**Michael F. Bianchin** (ENGL), Matthews, N.C., is a cardiovascular account speciality sales manager with Eli Lilly.

**Nathan R. Butler** (ARCH), Orlando, Fla., received the Nils M. Schweizer Community Service Award.

**Jesus E. Gomez** (CE, CE '00), West Chester, Pa., was named to the CE News Power List, which celebrates individuals who seek to elevate the civil engineering profession.

**Jennifer Carpenter West** (PSCI), Chester, Va., is a shareholder and director of the law firm Spotts Fain PC in Richmond, Va.

'97

**Duncan H. McPherson** (ARCH), Asheville, N.C., is principal for Sansel Architects PA.

**Peter M. Sforza** (BIOL, PPWS '05), Blacksburg, Va., received Tech's 2011 XCaliber Award for excellence in teaching with technology.

'98

**Steven V. Coxon** (ENGL, EDCl '00), St. Louis, Mo., was the 2010 winner of the Joyce VanTassel-Baska Award for Excellence in Gifted Education.

**Jackson A. Evans** (EDCl, EDCl '09), Blacksburg, Va., received the university's 2011 Alumni Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Academic Advising.

**Shawn G. Talmadge** (HNFE '00), Glen Allen, Va., received the U.S. Army's Gen. Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award for Outstanding Company Grade Officer for 2010.

**Tracy Skidmore Woodhead** (IS, FR), Woodbridge, Va., earned her master of arts in management and leadership from Webster University.

'99

**Dina P. Bato** (ACCT), Indianapolis, Ind., professed her first vows as a member of the Sisters of Providence.

**Scott A. Postle** (ME), Kernersville, N.C., is engineering manager for seating at TIMCO Aerosystems LLC in Greensboro, N.C.

**Joyce A. Vest** (EDVT), Pembroke, Va., received the 2011 Provost Award for Excellence in Advising.

## '00s

'00

**Kenneth E. Proctor** (ARCH), Baldwin, Md., is a registered architect in the State of Maryland.

'01

**Michael S. Finnegan** (PUA), Fairfax, Va., is director of construction and development for Gumenick Properties.

'02

**John J. Charonko III** (ESM, EM '05, BMES '09), Blacksburg, Va., received the Outstanding Paper Award in fluid mechanics from Measurement Science and Technology Journal.

**Heidi Scheusner Leming** (ELPS), Brunswick, Ga., is assistant vice president for student life at the College of Coastal Georgia.

**Timothy B. Parent** (ECON), Troy, Va., is sales and marketing manager for Gumenick Properties.

'03

**Capt. Garrett A. Blakely** (ACIS), Oceanside, Calif., received the Department of Defense Air Medal with "V" device from the U.S. Marine Corps for his service in Afghanistan.

**Brian J. Daniels** (BIT), Blacksburg, Va., is the associate director of internal audit at Virginia Tech.

**Evan S. Mann** (ARCH), New York, N.Y., started his own architecture firm, Evan Mann Architect.

**William J. Wright** (MKTG), Richmond, Va., earned his M.B.A. with a concentration in global business from Virginia Commonwealth University.

'04

**Michael P. Giordano** (PSCI), Yorktown, Va., earned his juris doctorate from the University of Richmond School of Law.

**Stephen M. Jones** (PSYC), Glen Allen, Va., received his Ph.D. in depth psychology from Pacific Graduate Institute.

**Meredith B. Linkous** (MKTG), Smyrna, Ga., is a marketing manager for Yanmar America Corporation.

**Mari G. Oh** (MKTG), Centerville, Va., received a distinguished leadership award from the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association.

'05

**Walton L. Dabney** (PSCI), Indianapolis, Ind., earned his juris doctorate from Indiana University, Indianapolis Law School.

**Lindsey McCulloch Kline** (BSE), Knoxville, Tenn., is a research associate at the Center for Renewable Carbon at the University of Tennessee.

**Mike H. McCarthy** (PSCI), Arlington, Va., is a judge advocate in the U.S. Marine Corps and a special assistant U.S. attorney for the Southern District of California.

**Arash M. Sadighi** (HIST), Vienna, Va., received his juris doctorate from the University of Akron School of Law.

**Lisa E. Steiner** (HD), Wharton, N.J., earned her master's degree in occupational therapy from Columbia University.

'06

**Scott V. Cramer** (CE, CE '08), Williamsburg, Va., is a staff engineer to the site planning and engineering team at Draper Aden Associates in Blacksburg, Va.

**Lindsay T. Key** (COMM), Radford, Va., is the communications officer for Fralin Life Science Institute at Virginia Tech.

**Michael S. Painter** (BIOL), Blacksburg, Va., was named

Outstanding Master's Student for 2010-11 in Virginia Tech's College of Science.

**Graham T. Wasillation** (MSE), Austin, Texas, is the founder and managing partner of Truth Spirits, which develops and imports artisanal liquor products.

'07

**Alexis B. Bozzo** (IDST, PSCI), Knoxville, Tenn., is a research manager for Prince William County Department of Economic Development.

**Dustin D. Flannery** (HNFE), Woodbury Heights, N.J., received his doctor of osteopathic medicine degree from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

**Andrew P. McCoy** (BCSM), Blacksburg, Va., received the 2011 Alumni Award for Outreach Excellence for team achievement.

**Andrew J. McKinley** (ARCH), Albuquerque, N.M., has earned his license to practice as an architect in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

'08

**Leah G. Ferree** (HORT), Virginia Beach, Va., as a Peace Corps volunteer, accompanied kids from the Rehoboth Children's Home to the Smithsonian Folklife Festival.

'09

**Rosemary R. Patterson** (MINE), Blacksburg, Va., is a fundraising participant who cycled across the country to support the mission of the 4K for Cancer.

## '10s

'10

**Susan L. Bland** (COMM), Blacksburg, Va., is communications manager for the Center for the Arts at Virginia Tech.

**Amanda R. Daquila** (HIST), Blacksburg, Va., received a Fulbright U.S. Student Grant to teach English in Germany.

**Susan N. Perkins** (HD), Boise, Ind., received the 2011 Outstanding Dissertation Award for her research on how clients influence the outcome of their counseling.

## Weddings

**'82 Timothy B. Trotman** and Terri T. White, Chesapeake, Va., 8/28/10.

**'93 Kelly W. Buechner** and Patrick Buechner, Alexandria, Va., 5/13/11.

**'97 Jennifer A. Wilson** and **'00 William Junda**, Leesburg, Va., 3/26/11.

**'00 Lara K. Digan** and Sean M. Garahan, Guttenberg, N.J., 10/9/10.

**'01 Ashley G. DeLaney** and **'04 Robert E. Thomas Jones**, Arlington, Va., 10/16/10.

**'03 Adam T. Breslin** and Shannon Boyle, Philadelphia, Pa., 11/5/10.

**'03 Aaron J. Horton** and **'10 Megan L. Hill**, Winston-Salem, N.C., 4/25/11.

**'03 William R. Weinheimer** and Eunice Lee, Falls Church, Va., 4/2/11.

**'04 Jennifer M. Redmond** and **'05 Steven Miller**, Fairfax, Va., 8/28/10.

**'04 Reed P. Quinn** and **'05 Katherine Burke**, South Riding, Va., 10/23/10.

**'04 Eric M. Young** and Katrina E. Goens, Richmond, Va., 4/2/11.

**'05 Megan A. Stobart** and **'06 Richard L. Gallagher**, Philadelphia, Pa., 10/30/10.

**'05 David K. Melick** and **'07 Patricia S. Schultz**, Centreville, Va., 5/1/10.

**'06 Robert A. Carlton** and **'07 Sarah A. Violette**, Kingstown, Pa., 1/29/11.

**'06 Eric T. Panian** and **'07 Kimberly A. Heitmann**, Reston, Va., 6/19/10.

**'07 Allison M. Jarnagin** and **'07 Daniel R. Phipps**, Blacksburg, Va., 6/18/11.

**'07 Elizabeth T. Dail** and **'08 Hunter Rawley**, Sterling, Va., 7/30/10.

**'07 Brian A. Rock** and Olivia L. Sandown, Woodbridge, Va., 5/21/11.

**'07 Lauren C. Caprio** and **'07 Christopher D. Sedlak**, Manassas, Va., 9/18/10.

## Architecture alumnus 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 Opera and Ballet, a project that would go on to win the firm the Mies van der Rohe Award, an esteemed honor that recognizes excellence and innovation in conceptual 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 toward the end of the design development phase and will continue through the project's completion, which is slated for mid-to-late 2013. "This provides an excellent opportunity to reconnect with Virginia Tech," he said.



Ian Colburn '03

COURTESY OF IAN COLBURN

Colburn and his colleagues at Snøhetta envision the center, which will be the most modern building on campus, as a bridge between Blacksburg and Virginia Tech. "The site is situated at a prime location between the campus and downtown, giving it the ability to become a Blacksburg focal point and regional magnet," Colburn said. "We hope to enrich and blur the threshold between the campus and downtown and to collect a multitude of people in order to partake and interact in the arts."

Colburn's love for construction and design dates back to his childhood in Colorado, where his family was involved in the industry. It was his time at Virginia Tech, however, that truly cultivated his passion for the craft. "The [architecture program] allows students the time, space, and freedom to explore, test, succeed, and fail," Colburn said. "We essentially learned to teach ourselves. This skill, coupled with motivation, can take you anywhere."

*Chad O'Kane (M.A. communication '11) was a graduate assistant with Virginia Tech Magazine.*

**'08 Kevin R. Hoch** and **'08 Lindsey T. Yann**, Nashville, Tenn., 6/25/11.

## Births and adoptions

**'87 Lisa Marie Stout Hatcher**, Alexandria, Va., a son and daughter, 2/10/11.

**'87 Alexa E. Graffeo**

**Smith**, Doylestown, Pa., a daughter, 7/15/10.

**'91 Cindi Hurt Crawford**, Mechanicsville, Va., a son, 3/23/11.

**'93 Eric D. App**, Glen Allen, Va., a son, 11/7/10.

**'93 Catherine Guy Batchelor**, Charlottesville, Va., a daughter, 3/19/11.

**'93 Ronnie T. Burchett** and **'01 Amy Morris Burchett**, Christiansburg, Va., a son, 1/28/11.

**'94 Christopher J. Yianilos**, Alexandria, Va., a daughter, 4/9/11.

**'94 Tracy Reynolds Zeleskey**, Dallas, Texas, a daughter, 1/5/11.

'96 John R. Pierce, Bokeelia, Fla., a son, 12/15/10.

'97 Kendall Taney Cummings and '98 Nathan P. Cummings, Gaithersburg, Md., a son, 2/16/11.

'97 Sharon Trader Topp and '99 Jeffrey M. Topp, Fairfax, Va., a son, 10/25/10.

'97 Paul B. Yaffe, Acworth, Ga., a daughter, 7/7/10.

'98 Kai Chung, Reston, Va., a daughter, 7/10/11.

'98 Eric M. Fidler and '98 Jayda B. Freibert, Richmond, Va., a son, 4/11/11.

'98 Christopher S. Lawrence and '98 Heather Gentry Lawrence, Vinton, Va., a son, 6/10/11.

'98 Michelle Carter Parks, Arlington, Va., a son, 9/17/10.

'99 Karen Hines Beyer, Atlanta, Ga., a daughter, 1/22/11.

'99 Andrew D. Cather, Ashburn, Va., a son, 1/10/11.

'99 Nathalie Neaves Croft and '01 Lawrence M. Croft Jr., Richmond, Va., a daughter, 2/17/11.

'99 Scott A. Postle, Kernersville, N.C., a daughter, 4/23/11.

'00 David B. Carter and '00 Andrea Guerra Carter, North Liberty, Ind., a daughter, 4/4/11.

'00 Justin A. Chiarodo, Arlington, Va., a son, 4/26/11.

'00 David M. DeCerbo and '01 Joanne Schissler DeCerbo, Fairfax, Va., a son, 3/25/11.

'00 Tamara Hayes Donohue and '01 Brian R. Donohue, Oak Hill, Va., a son, 2/25/11.

'00 Matthew D. Lacy and '03 Sally Miles Lacy, Plainview, Va., a daughter, 6/4/11.

'00 Jennifer Bridges Middleton and '00 Russell K. Middleton, Glen Allen, Va., a daughter, 12/15/08 (adopted 9/20/10).

'00 Jessica R. Reed, Richmond, Va., a son, 5/25/11.

'01 Yolanda J. Gimenez and '02 Richard M. Ertel Jr., Alexandria, Va., a daughter, 4/1/11.

'01 Jenny Vogel Lipford, Lynchburg, Va., a daughter, 12/15/10.

'01 Amy Byrne Lipscomb and '02 Jonathan D. Lipscomb, Temple, Texas, a daughter, 1/28/11.

'01 Benjamin A. Marshall, Ashburn, Va., a daughter, 12/10/10.

'01 Paula David Monte, New Milford, Conn., a son, 1/12/11.

'01 Heidi Ryan Patton and '01 Michael F. Patton, Chester Springs, Pa., a son, 5/20/11.

'01 Samantha Woods Scaman, Springfield, Va., a daughter, 2/16/11.

'02 Jessica Bush Montgomery and '03 Brian C. Montgomery, Princeton, N.J., a son, 3/25/11.

'02 Brian E. Stuver and '03 Kerry A. Lugar, Richmond, Va., a son, 1/13/11.

'03 Monica Tiburzi Fulker, Charlotte, N.C., a son, 9/9/10.

'03 Jonathan R. Mollerup and '03 Lauren Cloyed Mollerup, Springfield, Va., a son, 2/9/11.

'03 Lindsey Love H. Radack and '05 Kevin P. Radack, Charlotte, N.C., a daughter, 6/21/11.

'04 Christopher Eicholtz, Ashburn, Va., a daughter, 2/12/11.

'04 Erin Brush Forys and '06 Brent M. Forys, Toano, Va., a daughter, 6/13/11.

'04 Brian Miletich and '04 Melissa Carroll Miletich, Dupont, Wash., a daughter, 4/30/10.

'04 Lindsay Potts Reames, Amelia Court House, Va., a son, 3/15/11.

'04 Ashleigh Gardner Volker and '04 Daniel P. Volker, Kennesaw, Ga., a son, 4/26/11.

'04 Sarah Stec Williams, Charleston, S.C., a daughter, 4/18/11.

'05 Kristen N. Bondurant and '05 Christopher P. Sloan, Appomattox, Va., a daughter, 7/31/10.

'06 Kourtney Ty Vaillancourt, Las Cruces, N.M., a son, 5/30/11.

'06 Jamie Bates Winfield and '08 James D. Winfield, Bumpass, Va., a son, 4/2/10.

'07 Christine Bychowski Laffoon and '08 Daniel R. Laffoon, Roanoke, Va., a son, 3/5/11.

## Deaths

'33 John W. Scholl, San Diego, Calif., 12/31/10.

'34 William E. Eubank Jr., Shreveport, La., 9/3/10.

'38 John R. Vorwerck, Cockeysville, Md., 1/18/11.

'39 Leon D. Johnson III, Richmond, Va., 1/30/11.

'39 Francis A. Meyerhoefer, Mount Crawford, Va., 12/31/10.

'39 James C. Rees, Henrico, Va., 4/26/11.

'40 Joseph H. Moore, Sun City West, Ariz., 5/6/11.

'41 Lewis R. Arrington, Clemson, S.C., 4/5/11.

'41 Mastin F. Osborne, Galax, Va., 9/14/10.

'41 Robert S. Radspinner, Blacksburg, Va., 1/28/11.

'41 James W. Thweatt, Richmond, Va., 4/16/11.

'41 Andrew W. Todd, Chatham, Va., 1/19/11.

'42 Barbara Bradford Hall, Norfolk, Va., 12/23/10.

'42 Ralph V. Lawrence, Green Valley, Ariz., 2/11/11.

'42 Charles C. Smith Jr., Gloucester, Va., 1/22/11.

'43 Frances Smith Craddock, Indianapolis, Ind., 4/23/11.

'43 C.T. Graves, Baltimore, Md., 4/10/11.

'43 Robert N. Jeffries, Chattanooga, Tenn., 1/26/11.

'43 Henry S. Pittard, Altavista, Va., 6/12/11.

'43 Edward H. Van Dorn, Cheyenne, Wyo., 4/21/11.

'44 Donald A. Caldwell, Portsmouth, N.H., 5/26/10.

'44 Henry J. Dekker, Walkersville, Md., 6/13/11.

'44 Robert H. Levine, Boca Raton, Fla., 6/5/11.

'44 Clarence R. Lockridge, Hampton, Va., 5/17/11.

'44 Elmer C. Westerman Jr., Fincastle, Va., 4/14/11.

'45 Randolph P. Cocke Jr., Newark, Del., 1/22/11.

'45 Posie L. Collins Jr., Bassett, Va., 6/16/11.

'45 F. Allen Gill, Columbia, S.C., 6/3/11.

'45 Charles A. Harrison, Gastonia, N.C., 1/31/11.

'45 G.W. Lundy, McKeesport, Pa., 1/3/11.

'45 George E. Wiley, Paducah, Ky., 4/19/11.

'45 Hal G. Worley, Winston-Salem, N.C., 4/4/11.

'46 S.H. Bibee, Lynchburg, Va., 5/22/11.

'46 Robert P. Dickinson, Christiansburg, Va., 3/27/11.

'46 G. Robert Grubb, Purcellville, Va., 10/10/10.

'46 Norman B. Hodges Jr., Chesapeake, Va., 2/3/11.

'46 Robert B. Ratliff, Narrows, Va., 3/9/11.

'46 A. Charles Seuffer, Royersford, Pa., 5/20/11.

'47 H. Howard Surface Jr., Bowling Green, Ky., 6/1/11.

'47 William P. Terry Jr., Henrico, Va., 6/6/11.

'47 Morton L. Wallerstein Jr., Elkins Park, Pa., 5/1/11.

'48 John A. Baum, Virginia Beach, Va., 12/7/10.

'48 Edward T. Brown, Richmond, Va., 1/26/11.

'48 Andrew M. Dreelin III, Midlothian, Va., 1/23/11.

'48 William R. Lewis Jr., Parksley, Va., 6/29/11.

'49 Paul H. Bame, Lodi, Calif., 12/12/10.

'49 Lee E. Dolan Jr., Winchester, Va., 6/16/11.

'49 Hilda G. Partlow, Yardley, Pa., 5/22/11.

'49 Thelms G. Plummer Jr., Winston-Salem, N.C., 6/17/11.

'49 Nick Prillaman Jr., Martinsville, Va., 4/30/11.

'49 Lillian Thompson Samuelson, Schenectady, N.Y., 1/16/11.

'49 Curtis H. Shelton, Knoxville, Tenn., 4/20/11.

'49 E.D. Vassallo, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 5/19/11.

'50 Stanley C. Baker, Falls Church, Va., 1/27/11.

'50 Harold D. Caldwell, Richmond, Va., 1/29/11.

'50 H. Harold Dorton Sr., Salisbury, N.C., 4/20/11.

'50 Oren E. Hopkins Jr., Easton, Md., 5/8/11.

'50 William D. Knox, Palos Verdes Peninsula, Calif., 3/29/11.

'50 Norris F. Lee, Birmingham, Mich., 9/3/10.

'50 Charles F. Oliver Jr., Pensacola, Fla., 6/6/11.

'50 Herman H. Scott, Decatur, Ga., 4/22/11.

'50 Robert C. Steele Jr., Worcester, Mass., 4/16/11.

'50 Carl A. Watkins Jr., Elyria, Ohio, 5/7/11.

'50 Archer E. Wright, Richmond, Va., 6/13/11.

'51 George L. Baker Jr., Berryville, Va., 1/28/11.

'51 John A. Boole, Statesboro, Ga., 4/2/11.

'51 Alvin R. Denton, Bristol, Va., 4/24/11.

'51 John F. Downie, Roanoke, Va., 5/10/11.

'51 Estes B. Gibson, Martinsville, Va., 4/14/11.

'51 William M. Guthrie, Dublin, Va., 5/7/11.

'51 Joseph T. Henley Jr., Crozet, Va., 5/27/11.

'51 Thomas D. Irvin, Englewood, Colo., 4/16/11.

'51 Keith C. Jeffreys, Salem, Va., 4/29/11.

'51 Carl F. Krippendorf, Roanoke, Va., 6/2/11.

'51 Basil Manly III, Montgomery, Ala., 5/5/11.

'51 Harold B. Phillips, Raleigh, N.C., 1/13/11.

'51 O. Wade Yates Jr., Summerville, S.C., 4/29/11.

'52 C. Field Baskerville Jr., McKenney, Va., 1/19/11.

'52 William P. Burke, Hopewell, Va., 5/10/11.

'52 William J. Dickerson, Palmyra, Pa., 4/30/11.

'52 William L. Faison, Eden Prairie, Minn., 12/15/10.

'52 Robert C. Gallagher, Sarasota, Fla., 6/6/11.

'52 Carl R. Morris, Gloucester, Va., 1/17/11.

'52 Lawrence P. Murray Jr., Hendersonville, Tenn., 4/14/11.

'52 Richard W. Stevens, Williamsburg, Va., 2/7/11.

'53 Northrop J. Butler, Richmond, Va., 1/26/11.

'53 Ralph L. Graham, Los Angeles, Calif., 5/26/11.

'53 George W. Jones, Richmond, Va., 7/3/10.

'53 Richard N. Pearman, St. Augustine, Fla., 11/11/10.

'53 Jeffrey R. Stewart Jr., Blacksburg, Va., 6/10/11.

'54 Delmar L. Craft, Springfield, Va., 4/21/11.

'54 Harry Levy Jr., Richmond, Va., 1/20/11.

'54 Kenneth W. Wilkinson, Greensboro, N.C., 5/17/11.

'55 Gene W. Barrett, Manassas, Va., 4/11/10.

'55 Kenneth R. Boerner, Midlothian, Va., 5/27/11.

'56 David E. Bass, Mechanicsville, Va., 4/22/11.

'56 Willard N. Dameron Jr., Fredericksburg, Va., 4/18/11.

'56 William F. Heer, Okatie, S.C., 5/23/11.

'56 Alfred I. Jones Jr., Manquin, Va., 5/10/11.

'56 Claude B. Nolen Jr., Rocky Mount, Va., 5/14/11.

'56 Reed J. Pierson Jr., York, Pa., 1/17/11.

'57 James R. Moore, Roanoke, Va., 6/22/11.

'57 Thomas B. Simmons, Staunton, Va., 1/30/11.

'57 Joe A. Zimmerman, Lakeway, Texas, 1/23/11.

'58 Carl S. Anderson Jr., Virginia Beach, Va., 7/23/10.

'58 Gordon C. Presley, Centennial, Colo., 2/11/11.

'58 George C. Stohlman, Tampa, Fla., 4/23/11.

'59 W. Robert Gaines, Rapid City, S.D., 5/2/11.

'59 H. Neal Garrett Jr., Hampton, Va., 10/20/10.

'59 Ralph P. Hines, Rice, Va., 4/27/11.

'59 Carvel W. Johnson Jr., Ruffin, N.C., 6/2/11.

'60 Massie W. Blankinship Jr., Brooklyn, N.Y., 3/29/11.

'60 Marvin E. White Jr., Enola, Pa., 1/19/11.

'61 L. Dean Blake II, Frankfort, Ky., 6/5/11.

'61 Robert C. Garrett, Danville, Va., 6/12/11.

'62 James R. Brabrand, West Point, Va., 4/17/11.

'62 John E. Clayton, Richmond, Va., 3/24/11.

'62 William H. Fanning Jr., Roanoke, Va., 2/3/11.

'62 Cecile A. Sutphin, Dawsonville, Ga., 3/6/11.

'63 Charles B. Dushane III, Lee's Summit, Mo., 1/20/11.

## Rogue Steel melds metalworking and theatre

BY OLIVIA KASIK

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 unreliable. In 1999, Massey decided to put his metalworking 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 exception of some blades, which he purchases from commercial manufacturers. Rogue Steel, in Brookfield, Ill., offers mainly European-style weapons, but Massey plans to expand into Eastern-style as well.

Eleven years since starting 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 Hill-Kirkland, professor of theatre at Regent University and one of Rogue Steel's clients, "Neil has struck an impressive balance between sturdy 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 theatre 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 and teaches [people] how to use them on a regular basis," said Massey.

Massey first came to Virginia Tech with aspirations to become a mechanical engineer. However, theatre quickly moved from a hobby to a passion. "The more I learned about it, the more I realized it was a viable career choice, so I made the switch," said Massey. "Being at Virginia Tech—learning about theatre and making connections—really laid out my career path."

*Olivia Kasik, a senior majoring in professional writing and psychology with a minor in philosophy, is an intern with Virginia Tech Magazine.*



Neil Massey '88, at left

JASON DUNNE

## 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, business management '88) 22 years with the General Services Administration (GSA) give 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



DAVE GUYRE, RINGS LEIGHTON DESIGN GROUP

**Mary Davie '88**

nonprofit, public-private partnership dedicated to improving government through information technology.

Her ITS office provides access to companies that offer IT and telecommunications products, services, and solutions to government entities. "By using our contracts and programs, other government entities can not only save time and money by not having to create new contracts, but they also have access to technical and acquisition experts," Davie said.

Two years ago, Davie joined others from the public and private sectors—including fellow Hokies Tom Suder (business management '91) and Tim Harvey (communication '92)—in forming the Better Buy Project to increase openness and reduce costs to the government and private sector. As a result, Davie has helped lead her department into the world of Twitter, blogs, and wikis.

"I'm open and outgoing, and I saw this as an incredibly effective and potent way to be able to communicate broadly," said Davie, who praises Tech for the quality and variety of educational programs, student life, and the diversity of students.

"Every time I meet someone and we discover we're both Hokies, there's an instant connection and bond," Davie said. "I've found this to be more true in the business world."

## Hokie Business

### SHOWCASE

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Restricted to alumni-owned businesses.

'63 **W. Thomas Quigley**, Sylvania, Ohio, 4/9/11.

'63 **Robert E. Shively**, Troutville, Va., 4/6/11.

'64 **J.T. Judkins Jr.**, Suffolk, Va., 5/23/11.

'64 **Harold E. Little**, Fin-castle, Va., 6/21/11.

'64 **Richard H. Seume Jr.**, Houston, Texas, 2/5/11.

'64 **Richard L. Wyant**, Wilmington, Del., 2/10/11.

'65 **Gary N. Colehamer**, Virginia Beach, Va., 5/3/11.

'65 **Willard T. Fields**, Roanoke, Va., 5/17/11.

'66 **George R. Buchanan**, Lebanon, Tenn., 5/29/11.

'66 **Richard F. Hamilton**, Evergreen, Va., 8/28/10.

'66 **Donald Y. Kelsey Jr.**, Blacksburg, Va., 6/6/11.

'66 **Donald P. Pavell**, Richmond, Va., 6/4/11.

'66 **James L. Turner**, Martinsville, Va., 6/9/11.

'67 **Robert J. Cross**, Wood-bridge, Va., 5/3/11.

'67 **Bruce R. Glenn**, Morgantown, N.C., 3/30/11.

'67 **C.S. Menon**, Frnakulam, India, 3/28/11.

'67 **David T. Schwartz**, Marion, Va., 4/26/11.

'67 **Philip E. Shelley**, Las Vegas, Nev., 4/11/11.

'68 **Ernest M. Monroe II**, O'Fallon, Ill., 1/12/11.

'68 **Ronald H. Parks**, Independence, Mo., 5/7/11.

'68 **Thomas B. Vigour**, Winona, Miss., 6/11/11.

'69 **B.H. Bingham**, Nampa, Ind., 12/19/10.

'69 **John W. Bryant III**, Richmond, Va., 5/18/11.

'69 **T.F. English Jr.**, Richmond, Va., 6/2/11.

'69 **Robert G. Hutter**, Wells-ville, N.Y., 2/5/11.

'69 **Samuel B. Koon**, Rich-mond, Va., 12/9/10.

'69 **James R. Stewart**, Bradford, Pa., 1/21/11.

'70 **Carol A. Amato**, Rich-mond, Va., 6/1/11.

'70 **Belle D. English**, Bed-ford, Va., 1/26/11.

'70 **Richard H. Moore**, Arlington, Va., 1/6/11.

'71 **Charles W. Click**, Mon-rovina, Md., 9/26/10.

'71 **Joseph L. Cochran**, Dublin, Va., 12/18/10.

'71 **John W. Matthews**, Westminster, Md., 6/7/11.

'71 **C. Douglas Weeks**, Roanoke, Va., 1/31/10.

'72 **Thomas G. Daley**, Law-renceville, Ga., 1/3/11.

'72 **Robert J. Miller Jr.**, Lynchburg, Va., 3/23/11.

'72 **Eric G. Obye**, Danville, Va., 4/25/11.

'72 **John R. Palffy**, Strongs-ville, Ohio, 4/11/11.

'72 **Roger C. Riner**, Lynch-burg, Va., 5/18/11.

'72 **Philip D. Ruths**, Arling-nton, Va., 4/11/11.

'73 **Robin D. Kinser**, Ches-terfield, Va., 4/27/11.

'73 **Cheryl Teague Smith**, Hendersonville, N.C., 11/15/10.

'73 **Kenneth M. Swisher**, Chesapeake, Va., 6/17/11.

'75 **Wade E. Clement**, Ports-mouth, Va., 5/23/11.

'75 **George L. East**, Virginia Beach, Va., 5/11/11.

'75 **Cathryn Crow Gilmore**, Tucson, Ariz., 6/16/11.

'75 **Robert G. Kozan**, Oak-nton, Va., 3/8/11.

'75 **Robert H. Stewart**, San Francisco, Calif., 9/21/10.

'76 **Peter L. Howes**, Virginia Beach, Va., 12/4/10.

'76 **Stephen W. Liskey**, Landisville, Pa., 6/11/11.

'76 **James D. Norman Jr.**, Richmond, Va., 4/15/11.

'76 **Bernard S. Wisthoff**, Orlando, Fla., 1/5/11.



'77 **Laurale T. Collins**, Martinsville, Va., 4/26/11.

'78 **John L. Moore**, Staunton, Va., 4/24/10.

'78 **David C. Trumble**, Crofton, Md., 5/10/11.

'79 **Robert K. Drum**, Floris-sant, Colo., 9/30/10.

'79 **Robert E. Fulton**, Jonesborough, Tenn., 4/27/11.

'79 **Bruce F. Jamerson**, Midlothian, Va., 4/24/11.

'80 **Sheryl Kidd Mamokos**, Toano, Va., 12/31/10.

'80 **Ralph K. Pickard**, Moravian Falls, N.C., 5/11/11.

'80 **Bernard L. Price II**, Roanoke, Va., 12/21/10.

'81 **Amy E. Thompson**, Charlotte, N.C., 5/25/11.

'82 **Christopher A. Bucher**, Leesburg, Va., 9/4/10.

'82 **Chris Epley**, York, Pa., 5/12/11.

'83 **James K. O'Toole**, Ma-catawa, Mich., 12/19/09.

'84 **Mark J. Allen**, Maryville, Ill., 6/17/11.

'85 **Don E. Cash Jr.**, Win-chester, Va., 5/1/11.

'85 **Robert L. Johnston**, Augusta, Ga., 5/26/11.

'85 **Allen D. Martin**, North-ridge, Calif., 5/27/11.

'85 **Robert A. Taylor Jr.**, Blacksburg, Va., 6/3/11.

'86 **Paul S. Plott Jr.**, Mar-tinsburg, W.Va., 4/4/11.

'86 **Raymond R. Van Lien-den**, Clifton, Va., 5/4/11.

'87 **Elizabeth A. Audet**, McLean, Va., 6/8/11.

'87 **John T. Harrington**, Mora, N.M., 6/6/11.

'87 **Thane S. Koontz**, Frank-lin, Va., 4/14/11.

'88 **Anthony J. Lopacinski**, Nolensville, Tenn., 6/15/11.

'88 **Guillermo A. Monkman**, Las Vegas, Nev., 8/7/10.

'88 **William M. Perdue Jr.**, Baltimore, Md., 4/26/11.

'89 **Charles E. Carter Jr.**, Wilmington, Del., 9/18/10.

'90 **Kevin D. Parker**, Jasper, Ga., 11/23/10.

'91 **Verna S. Gifford**, Schertz, Texas, 4/5/11.

'92 **Kathleen Robinson Barker**, Galax, Va., 4/9/11.

'92 **Karl A. Zulinski**, Wilm-ington, Del., 5/13/11.

'93 **Andrew S. Holmes**, Alexandria, Va., 1/18/11.

'94 **Freddie W. Brown**, Doswell, Va., 4/4/11.

'95 **Carolyn I. Roberts**, Wytheville, Va., 6/3/11.

'97 **Robert C. Ward**, Charleston, S.C., 2/3/11.

'98 **Le D. Hoang**, Alexandria, Va., 4/13/11.

'00 **Jason M. Maimone**, Peabody, Mass., 12/27/10.

'01 **Michael E. Malsbury**, Ringoes, N.J., 4/22/11.

'08 **Suneel K. Sarma**, Salt Lake City, Utah, 5/9/11.

'09 **John T. Potter**, Virginia Beach, Va., 6/22/11.

### Alumni Obit

**Henry Dekker** (accounting '47), of Blacksburg, Va., former rector of the Virginia



## Hokies are "IT"!

In September, a website dedicated to information technology (IT) in government noted that Virginia Tech has a knack for exporting IT leaders. 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](mailto:vtmag@vt.edu).

- ♦ **Letitia 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 portfolio, programs, and resources
- ♦ **Kenneth Myers** (liberal arts and sciences '92), director, Defense Threat Reduction Agency
- ♦ **Lynn Schnurr** (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 '73), chief information officer, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense
- ♦ **Ellen Embrey** (psychology '76), formerly assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, now a counselor at The Cohen Group
- ♦ **Bob Flores** (statistics '75, M.S. '77), formerly chief technology officer at the Central Intelligence Agency, now founder, president, and CEO of Applicology
- ♦ **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 Beres** (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

### Faculty Obit

**Edward McPherson**, learning technologies support specialist, died July 4. Born in Mississippi and raised on Chicago's Westside, McPherson was the first in his family to attend college after graduating from Phillips Academy in Andover, Mass. He then went on to graduate from the University of Pennsylvania in 1976. After pursuing a career in finance and banking at Swiss Bank in New York City, he moved his family to Roanoke to pursue his passions for youth, technology, and education, and had been a member of the Virginia Tech community over the past decade.



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