

# VIRGINIA TECH magazine

spring 2017

We Remember

April 16, 2007  April 16, 2017



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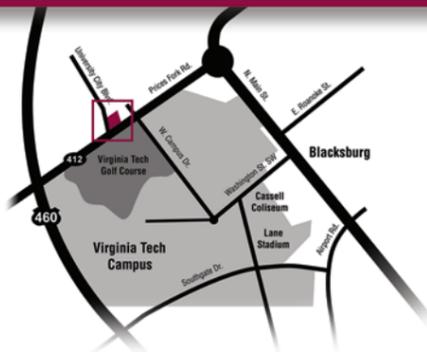
**The Place** Owner  
Marty Johnson

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## 4 We Remember

From tears of mourning to cheers of encouragement, many poignant and inspirational moments characterized the 2017 Day of Remembrance.

## 4 Dear Virginia Tech

After an outpouring of affection in the days following April 16, 2007, Virginia Tech archivists tackled the monumental task of recording and preserving the artifacts and the stories behind them.

## 24 Hokie Nation Stronger Together

In the spirit of *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve), Virginia Tech students and alumni give back, channeling their grief into acts of service and goodwill.

**On the cover:** Ten years later, Hokies around the world paused to reflect on the tragic events of April 16, 2007. Photo by Logan Wallace.

**This page:** More than 16,000 people participated in the 2017 3.2 for 32 Run in Remembrance, a 3.2-mile course that wound throughout the campus. Photo by Jim Stroup.

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letters to the editor

To the letter

My trip to Virginia Tech for my 50th class reunion brought back memories of my father, Edward L. White '31, who lettered VPI diplomas from 1926 through 1931.

Following graduation, my dad and Lewis Webb '31 started the Division of William & Mary/VPI, which, in 1962, became Old Dominion University. How fondly I remember visiting Blacksburg during the 1950s with my dad. These visits were instrumental in my eventually matriculating to Virginia Tech.

Although I have checked with Special Collections, they have been unable to find a diploma from this era. I'd be interested in seeing if I might locate one of the diplomas my father lettered. I'd love to preserve a picture of one for our family history.

Woody White '66, Atlanta, Georgia

**Editor's Note:** If you have a diploma lettered between 1926 and 1931 and would like to share a picture with Mr. White, please contact vtmag@vt.edu.

Sticky fingers

I wore my VT class ring for a number of years after graduating in 1971. Eventually, it was relegated to a jewelry box in a chest of drawers for safekeeping.

In 1991, movers packed and loaded our belongings for a move to Atlanta. Not long after settling into our new city, I received a call from an Atlanta police detective. He had discovered a Virginia Tech class ring on display at a local pawn shop. He confiscated the ring, called the university alumni office, and identified me as the owner. He kindly returned my ring later that afternoon.

After that, it was back to a box for the ring—a safe deposit box!

Brad Kirk '71, Jacksonville, Florida

A classy legacy

I read with interest the story by Charles Masencup in the fall 2016 issue.

When I started at Tech in 1967, T.J. Horn was associate dean of agriculture. He was a great inspiration to me, and his help gave me the guts to pursue veterinary medicine. As much as a student can consider a dean a friend, I considered him such. One of the things I remember most about him was his well-worn Tech class ring. I remember thinking that it must have a lot of history.

I still have my 1970 class ring, and I wear it on special occasions (I wouldn't want to leave it in a cow). My brother, Gordon Groover (animal science '79, M.S. '88, Ph.D. '01), associate professor emeritus at Tech, lost his ring while fishing with me in Lake Huron. Enjoyed your article very much.

C.A. Groover '71, Pickford, Michigan

Corrections:

In the story "Hard-hitting Research" in the winter issue of Virginia Tech Magazine, former Virginia Tech equipment manager Lester Karlin was incorrectly identified as Lester Carlton. A story in the winter issue referencing construction plans misidentified the Corps Leadership and Military Science Building on the Upper Quad. In the same edition, an article on page 23 said that the university made the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine the university's ninth college in 2016. While the Board of Visitors did vote to start the process in 2016, the change is expected to be finalized in 2018.

Have something to say? Send us a message at vtmag@vt.edu.

president's message



LOGAN WALLACE

Following a special wreath-laying ceremony held during the 10-year commemoration weekend, (from left) Professor Laura Sands, Virginia Tech President Tim Sands, Dori McAuliffe, Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe, and university President Emeritus Charles W. Steger visit the April 16 Memorial.

This year we marked the 10-year anniversary of the tragic events of April 16, 2007. It was an important milestone commemorating the loss of 32 Virginia Tech faculty and students, and honoring the families who continue to feel their absence every day. I was proud of the way the Hokie Nation honored their memories at the events here on our campus and through commemorative activities in communities across the country. My heartfelt thanks goes out to the students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends who planned and organized these memorial tributes.

I also appreciate the many expressions of support we received from individuals around the country, including a message to the Hokie Nation from President George W. Bush who said, "I pray that your suffering has begun to be replaced by hope and healing."

I remember, 10 years ago, watching events unfold from a distance. As a father, university professor, and administrator, the loss that these families and this community experienced was unimaginable to me. Since coming to Virginia Tech, I have been amazed and humbled by their strength and resilience, which continues to grow from year to year.

April 16 will always be a part of our identity, because we will always remember those precious individuals. But we have always been, and will always be, defined by the strength of our community and the core values on the Virginia Tech Pylons; Brotherhood, Honor, Leadership, Sacrifice, Service, Loyalty, Duty, and Ut Prosim.

Those we lost will forever be a part of our university's spirit, and we honor them with everything we do to make our campus, our communities, our country, and our world a better place. □

Tim Sands is Virginia Tech's 16th president.

To see more from the commemoration, visit [weremember.vt.edu](http://weremember.vt.edu).

# We Remember

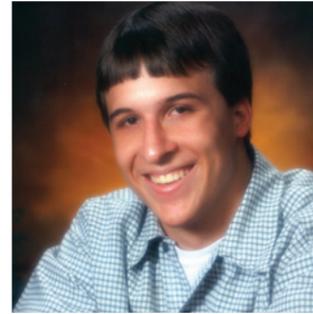




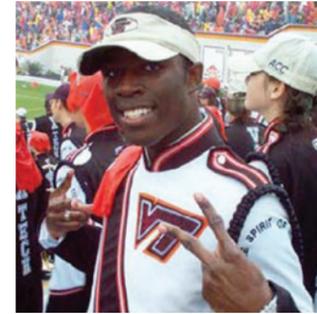
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Brian R. Bluhm



Ryan Christopher Clark



Austin Michelle Cloyd



Jocelyne Couture-Nowak



Kevin P. Granata



Matthew Gregory Gwaltney



“ It is together—as a community—that we endure difficult times.”

Tim Sands,  
Virginia Tech president,  
speaking at the 2017 University Commemoration

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LOGAN WALLACE





Caitlin Millar Hammaren



Jeremy Michael Herbstritt



Rachael Elizabeth Hill



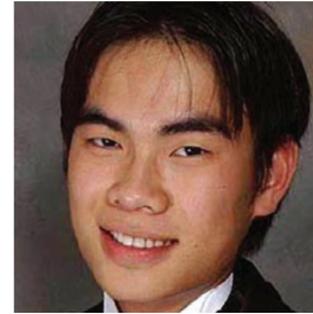
Emily Jane Hilscher



Jarrett Lee Lane



Matthew Joseph La Porte



Henry J. Lee  
(Hanh Ly)



Liviu Librescu



LOGAN WALLACE

“ So many of us will never forget where we were on April 16, 2007. Ten years later, we remember the victims, survivors, and heroes.”

**Tim Kaine,**  
U.S. senator and former Virginia governor,  
from a tweet shared prior to speaking at the  
2017 University Commemoration



LOGAN WALLACE



LOGAN WALLACE

MAI KHANH NGUYEN





G.V. Loganathan



Partahi Mamora Halomoan  
Lumbantoruan



Lauren Ashley McCain



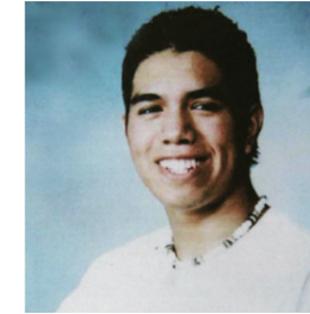
Daniel Patrick O'Neil



Juan Ramon Ortiz-Ortiz



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Daniel Alejandro Perez Cueva



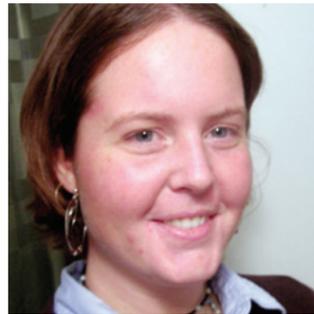
Erin Nicole Peterson



“We are a family bound by a sense of community that is hard to put into words.”  
Alexa Parsley (political science '17),  
Student Government Association president,  
speaking at the 2017 Candlelight Vigil



Michael Steven Pohle Jr.



Julia Kathleen Pryde



Mary Karen Read



Reema Joseph Samaha



Waleed Mohamed Shaalan



Leslie Geraldine Sherman



Maxine Shelly Turner



Nicole Regina White



LOGAN WALLACE



MIKHAIKHINH NGUYEN

LOGAN WALLACE



“The Hokie Spirit is an intangible that ties us all together—Hokies past, present, and future.”

**Sumeet Bagai** (business management '07), former Student Government Association president, speaking at the 2017 Candlelight Vigil



# Dear Virginia Tech

Stories from the April 16, 2007, Condolence Archives

by MASON ADAMS

On April 16, 2007, after the lockdown had been lifted, as the media shared the story with the world, and while investigators began to piece together the minutes, hours, and days leading up to the event, a community took the first steps to process its grief. As dusk settled over the Drillfield that evening, and Hokies quietly gathered together, people across the globe were already moving to pay tribute.

Tens of thousands of origami cranes were sent to Virginia Tech as part of a Japanese tradition that holds them as a wish for happiness, luck, and peace. Photo by Josh Armstrong.



A student-driven volunteer group known as Hokies United placed pieces of Hokie Stone in a semi-circle to act as an ad hoc memorial. Another group of friends placed a large “VT” prominently at the site. They mounted the giant letters to some lumber, tied it to a tree, and placed 32 candles at the base. The display became the backdrop for an impromptu candlelight vigil that drew thousands.

In the days that followed, more spontaneous memorials were left at the Drillfield. At Squires Student Center, packages full of condolence letters, art, and crafts accumulated, spilling out of the building.

Still, the tributes kept coming.

Tens of thousands of paper cranes. Cards and flowers. Thirty-two black pysanky eggs. Teddy bears. Handmade quilts. Paintings and poems and letters. Posters and signs and banners. Every item held space as a visible, tangible symbol of mourning.

It’s not uncommon for institutions and communities to receive a flood of items in the wake of a publicized tragedy. But why?

Ashley Maynor, who was in Blacksburg managing the Lyric Theatre on April 16, 2007, felt compelled to explore this phenomenon. A former visiting assistant professor at Virginia Tech, Maynor produced a web documentary in 2015, “The Story of the Stuff,” that examines the flood of items received by Virginia Tech and by the town of Newtown, Connecticut, following the violence at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

“There’s no easy explanation for why people send this stuff,” said Maynor, now assistant professor and digital humanities librarian at the University of Tennessee. “Everyone who sends stuff is grieving and expressing sympathy. All those expressions are unique.”

At Virginia Tech, the gifts continued to arrive as days turned into weeks and even months.

The day after the tragedy, Virginia Tech staff within Special Collections, an archival unit in the University Libraries’ Carol M. Newman Library, began the process of arranging, describing, and storing a representative collection of the condolence items sent to campus.

The push was spurred in part by Ed Galvin, a longtime archivist and records manager at Syracuse University. Galvin, who had collected and sorted materials sent after the Lockerbie bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 in 1988, contacted University Archivist Tamara Kennelly,



**From afar:** (above) The Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Department of Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka, a U.S. Navy base in Japan, sent a traditional doll to Virginia Tech. Opposite page: (top) In 2008, Hunter Perkinson Jr. (industrial arts '80) created “Reclaimed Spirit” as a tribute to the victims; (bottom left) quilts were among the many handcrafted items sent; and (bottom right) James Madison University donated a sculpture of their mascot, Duke Dog, wearing Hokie colors. Photos by Jim Stroup.



## A ringing remembrance

The Virginia Tech class ring tradition began during the 1911-12 academic year. Each year since, student representatives have designed a ring to reflect the distinctive characteristics of their class.

When the tragedy occurred, rings for the classes of 2007 and 2008 had already been made. Although 2009's ring molds were being tooled, the ring maker offered to make changes.

The committee did choose to revise the design, but in a way that did not compromise the integrity of the original plan.

The ring for the Class of 2010 included a depiction of the memorial. Eight stars shine in the sky for the classmates they lost.

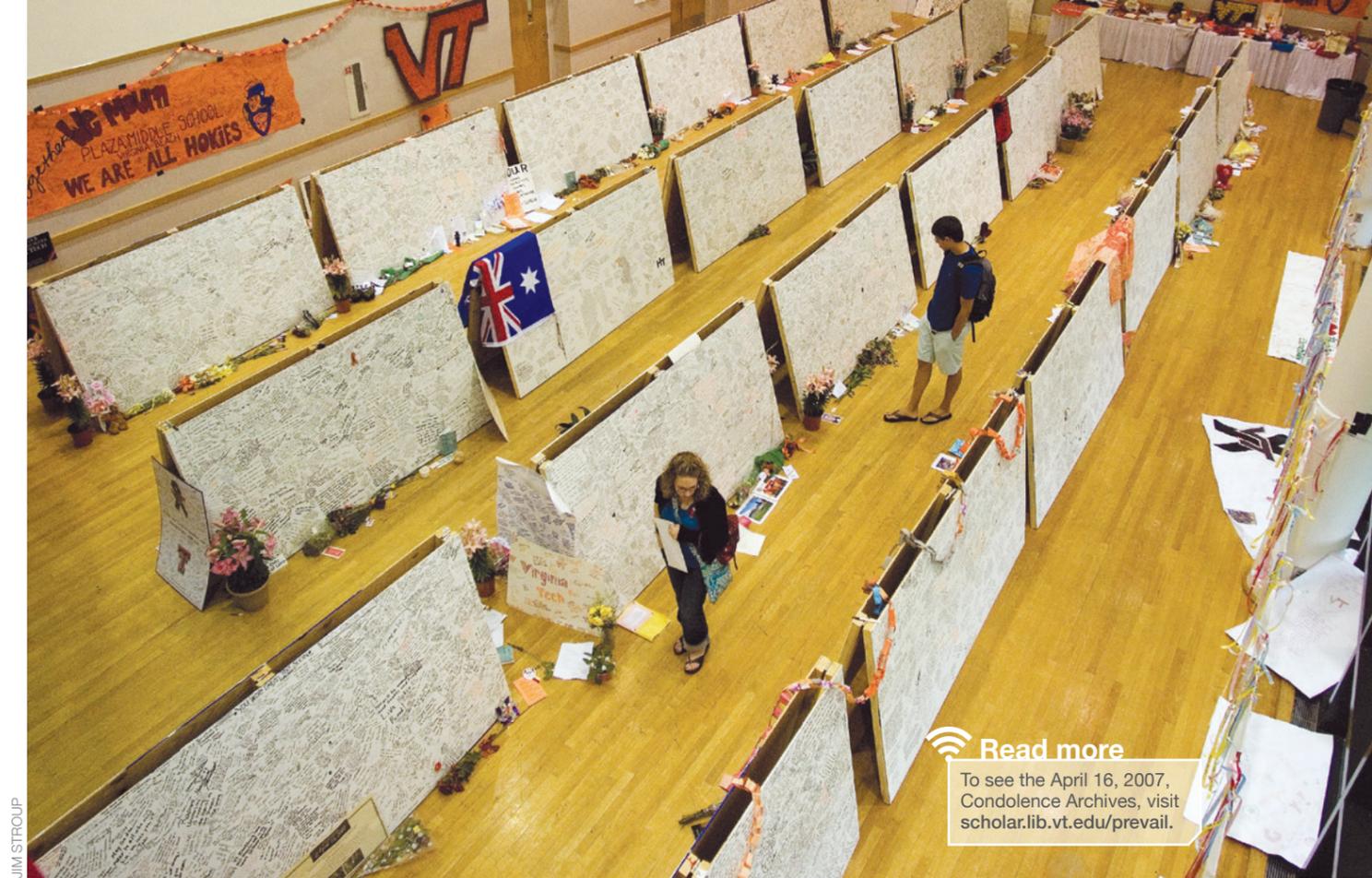
On the Class of 2011 ring 32 tiny stones were lined up at the bottom curve on the university side. The ring also featured a rising sun. This class understood from the beginning that they were the "phoenix class."

The Class of 2015 changed the usual chain of class year numbers around the bezel to a chain of 32 Hokie tracks. That feature has remained on rings since.

As the 10th class since 2007, the Class of 2017 depicted the anniversary with 10 of the stones of the April 16 Memorial.

—Laura Wedin (M.F.A. theatre arts '84), alumni student programs director

A handprint mural was on display at the Hokies United community picnic held on April 21, 2007.



JIM STROUP

Messages of encouragement from around the world were on display in Squires Student Center in 2007.

[Read more](#)  
To see the April 16, 2007, Condolence Archives, visit [scholar.lib.vt.edu/prevail](http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/prevail).

on April 17, 2007, to offer his expertise. In the days to come, other archivists from Bluffton University, which had lost a baseball team in a bus crash; Oklahoma State University, which had lost a basketball team in a plane crash; and Texas A&M University, which had lost 12 students in a bonfire accident, also reached out.

Galvin's email became a call to action for Kennelly and the Special Collections staff. "I was like everyone else, walking out there just looking at the memorial," Kennelly said. "Suddenly it was like, 'Yes. Focus, that's what we need to do.'"

A working team from the University Libraries met with an advisory group from the Library of Congress to tackle the tidal wave of condolence items. Meanwhile, other groups, including representatives from the Dean of Students' office and a team of community volunteers, began to sort through the more than 90,000 items that had been sent to or left at Virginia Tech.

Cataloguing each item would take many months. As the details behind these contributions emerged, they told a story of collective grief and shared compassion, and an intrinsic desire to channel feelings into actions.

Brandon Stiltner (aerospace engineering '07, M.S. '11), one of the

students responsible for the large "VT," now works at NASA in Huntsville, Alabama. On the morning of April 16, 2007, he was a senior. He remembered spending that day watching coverage on TV with his roommates and neighbors. "We sat around just talking. What can we do? What might help people or make a difference?" Stiltner said.

A few days later, Carol Davis (environmental policy and planning '10) made her way to the Drillfield with her own tribute. "I never felt compelled to do something artistic, either before or since, but I was so overcome with grief and despair that I just decided to start," Davis said. She channeled her feelings into creating 32 pysanky eggs, a Ukrainian tradition that incorporates wax and the repeated dipping of eggs into colored dye. "I just had to do something with my mind and my hands in those weeks immediately after," said Davis.

In 2008, Hunter Perkinson Jr. (industrial arts '80), of Spotsylvania, Virginia, received an email about the upcoming anniversary and a related art show, which sparked inspiration. "That whole thing sat in my craw for a year," Perkinson said. "I remember wanting to do something, but thinking, 'What can you do? What is there to do?' When I got that email, I knew instantly what to do."

Perkinson created "Reclaimed Spirit"—32 hand-forged gobbler



feathers welded to a 4-foot ring. At the base of the wreath, he added a brass doorplate to form a rolled scroll representing degrees granted posthumously.

“Reclaimed Spirit” wasn’t accepted into that year’s art show, but Perkinson trekked across Southside Virginia to the Drillfield, where he left it next to the memorial in front of Burruss Hall. “I felt like I had to get it off my chest,” Perkinson said. “I had to do this for the victims.”

Today, the big cardboard “VT,” the pysanky eggs, and “Reclaimed Spirit” reside in Special Collections as part of the university’s archives of materials. Kennelly and a team of university employees, community volunteers, and students worked for more than two years to collect, sort, label, photograph, and create a finding aid to make the collection more accessible.

The staff returns to those archives annually to select items for displays throughout campus in remembrance of that tragic day. Robin Boucher, arts program director for Student Engagement and Campus Life, has partnered with Kennelly since 2012 to select, curate, and display these materials.

“You have some people who’ve never had contact with the archives, so you want to be able to give them a glimpse of what it was like in a way that’s poignant,” Boucher said. “Then you have people who see it every year. You want to give them a glimpse of something they’ve not seen, but there’s also a certain comfort in seeing familiar things.”

The inherent beauty in the gifts, especially in the works of art, stems from the understanding that most of the pieces were created by people who are not trained artists or makers. “Each item in the archives is someone trying to put back the pieces of something that’s broken”, said Boucher.

“When you look at 90,000 items, you have this sense of loss, and you learn you have to live with that sense of loss, but you also have this deep connection with all of these people trying so hard with their hearts to make things right again. It’s a pure form of expression of spirit and a need to reach out to your fellow human being,” Boucher said, describing the process as “the essence of empathy.”

That connection between grief and art, trauma and creativity, has been demonstrated through numerous studies, said David Trinkle, associate dean for community and culture and

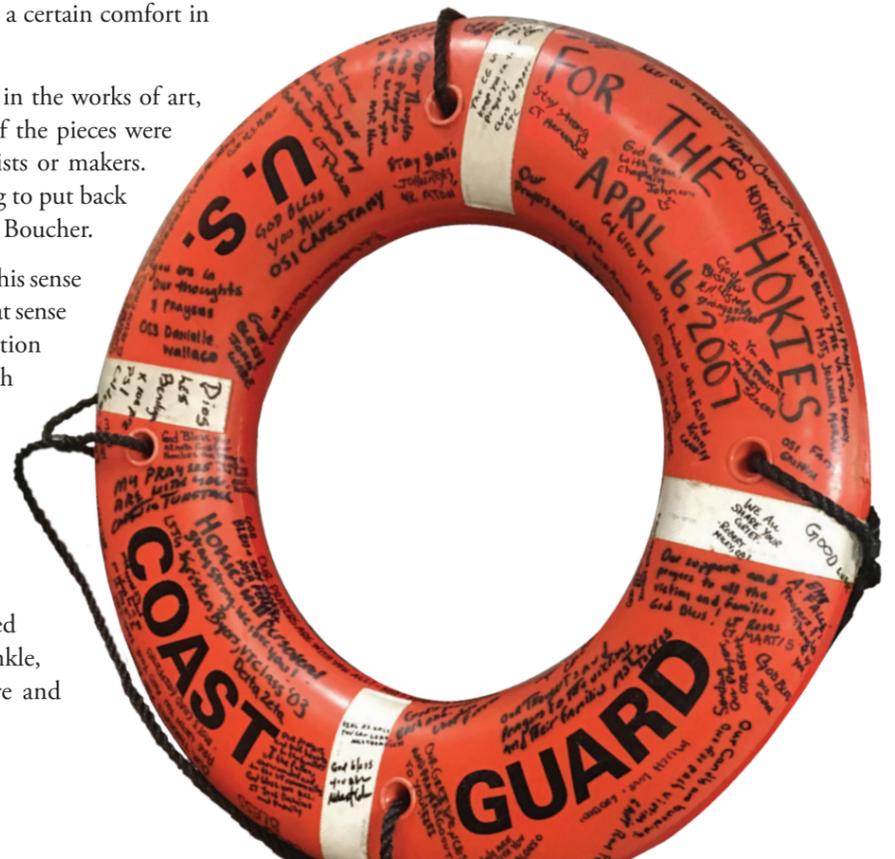
associate professor in psychiatry and behavioral medicine at the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine.

“After a crisis or tragedy, it’s not at all uncommon for people to take to the artistic and creative ways to express their emotions, deal with their emotions, and handle their emotions in a way that ultimately is liberating and healing,” Trinkle said.

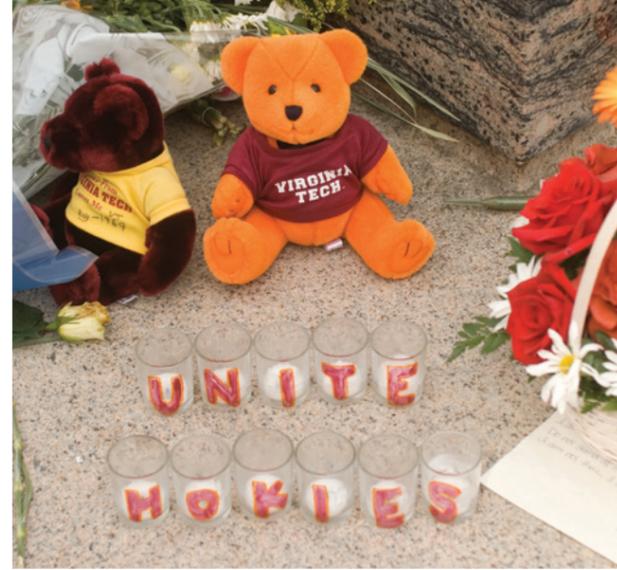
After making “The Story of the Stuff,” Maynor said she came away impressed not just with the professionalism of the archivists at Tech, but also with the way in which they kept those archives open to the public through regular exhibitions. That’s rare among the archival collections of tragedies, and it speaks to the sense of community among Hokies, not only in Blacksburg, but throughout wider world.

Maynor said she also drew wisdom from observing how other people processed and responded to tragedy.

“We all have to work through our grief in our own way,” Maynor said. “The thing I’m trying to learn to do, and the lesson I’ve taken away from having made this film, is the best way we can work with that grief is to work in a proactive way toward positive change. What good is grief if we can’t [channel it to] make the world a better place?” □



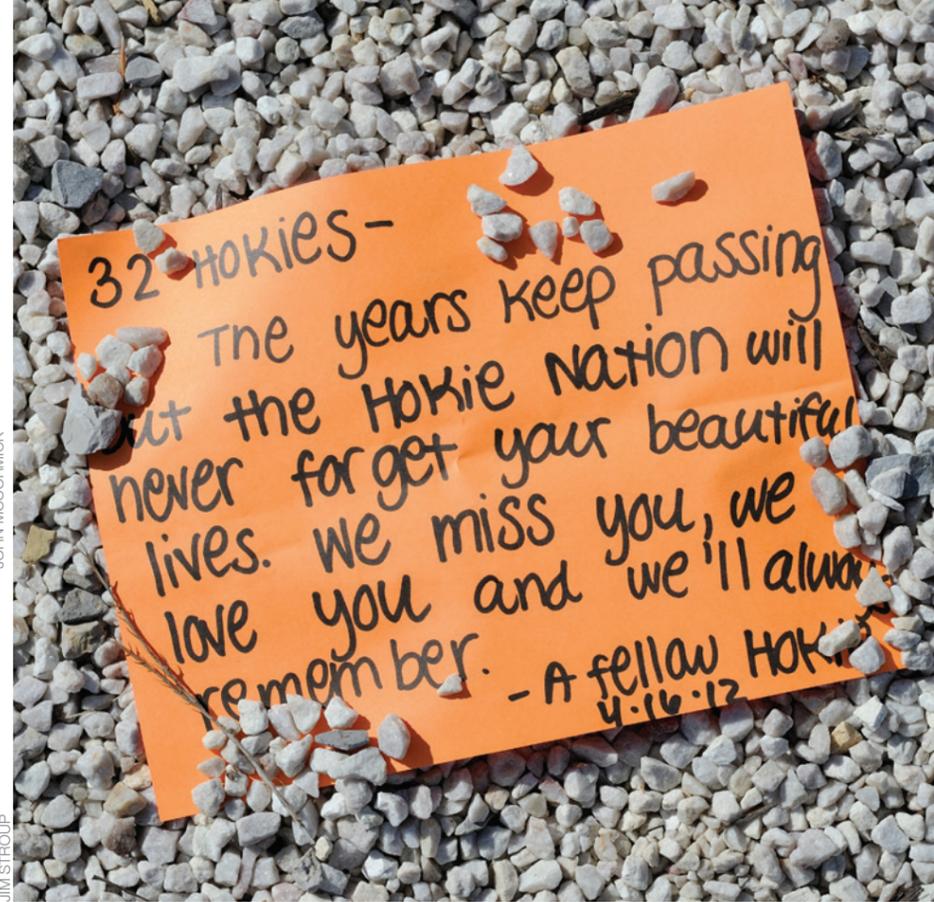
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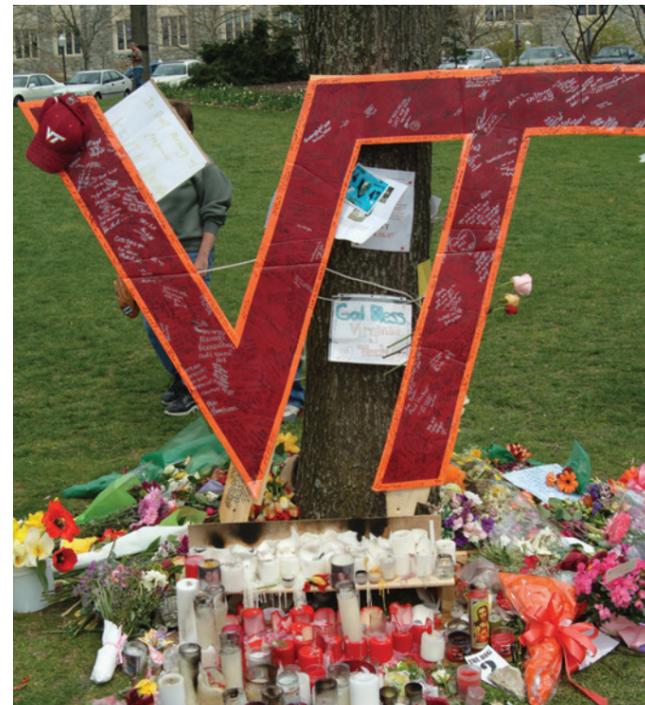
JOHN MCCORMICK



JIM STROUP



JIM STROUP



JERRY BABER

JIM STROUP



**With sympathy:** (clockwise from top) Teddy bears, flowers, and personal messages were left at various locations around campus in the days following April 16, 2007; in 2012, this message remembering the 32 lives lost was left at the site of the April 16 Memorial; numerous handmade condolence items have been contributed to the university since 2007; a large “VT” became the site of a spontaneous candlelight memorial in 2007; and Tamara Kennelly, university archivist, leads the team responsible for the April 16, 2007, Condolence Archives. Opposite page: U.S. Coast Guard members in San Juan, Puerto Rico, sent a signed life preserver.



# What do you do with 90,000+ condolence items from 50 states and 80 countries?

by MASON ADAMS

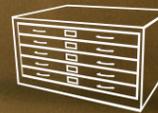


JOHN MCCORMICK

The April 16, 2007, Condolence Archives are housed in Special Collections, located in Carol M. Newman Library.



517  
boxes



17  
map case drawers



500  
cubic feet of space

In the days following April 16, 2007, people made, collected, and sent a broad range of objects to the university that accumulated around campus, especially on the Drillfield, in Squires Student Center, and at the president's office. Many items were also shared with families who lost loved ones and with those who were injured.

The Special Collections team, assisted by a Library of Congress advisory group, began archiving the materials by identifying categories, sorting first by **format**, and then by **source**.

In certain instances, the team kept only representative items. If the team received identical items, it kept one, and funneled duplicates to community organizations. However, each gift was documented individually.

Staff also collected metadata about the objects in a spreadsheet using 54 fields to build a finding aide.

The end goal was to archive a collection that would be of use—not just to the Virginia Tech community and to families of the victims, but to future researchers. □



JIM STROUP

- textiles
- quilts
- sculptures
- paintings
- banners
- posters
- condolence books
- poetry
- audio
- resolutions

- colleges
- universities
- K-12 schools
- businesses
- governments
- religious affiliates
- individuals
- international tributes

## The 15 selection criteria for the archive

- 1 Reflections of pop culture that distinguished regions
- 2 Sociological interest, including materials from those affected by other tragedies
- 3 Personal messages
- 4 Materials that personalized the 32 lives lost
- 5 Materials from student government organizations
- 6 Outliers and otherwise unusual gifts
- 7 Aesthetics: especially attractive or expressive materials
- 8 Items from engineering schools or organizations
- 9 Materials from departments of foreign language or literature
- 10 Materials from resident advisors
- 11 Unique and special materials, such as an American flag flown in Iraq
- 12 Things from places similar to Virginia Tech
- 13 Things from institutions different from Virginia Tech
- 14 A cross-section of contributions from various sources
- 15 Geographical interest: materials from around the world signed in different languages



More than 120 years ago, then-Virginia Polytechnic Institute President John McLaren McBryde coined the university’s motto, *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve).

No record remains detailing why McBryde chose that short Latin phrase, but since that time, countless Hokies have put the motto into practice—serving through the military, civic organizations, charities, religious affiliations, or businesses.

During the past decade, the commitment among students, alumni, faculty and staff members, family, and friends to truly help and engage with people and communities in need seems to have grown exponentially, spurred on in large part by the strengthened sense of Hokie Spirit that arose in response to the tragedy of April 16.

“I like to think that in some small way [doing good for others] is how the spirit of those lost that day continues to live on through the Hokie Nation,” said Tara Reel, graduate student representative to the Board of Visitors, who served as a volunteer on the Day of Remembrance Student Planning Committee this year.

### Service in remembrance

Shortly after April 16, 2007, students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends looking for a useful way to channel their confusion and grief realized that tributes to many of the fallen highlighted their dedication to public service.

To continue that legacy, plans underway before April 16 for a

volunteerism event evolved into a service project aimed at honoring the 32 Hokies who had lost their lives. And then those plans became something even bigger, according to John Dooley, then vice president for outreach and international affairs and now CEO of the Virginia Tech Foundation.

“One of the affected families came to us and said, ‘We would like to, in a special way, help you focus and affirm the contributions of the people who lost their lives,’” Dooley said. The idea would result in VT-ENGAGE, an umbrella organization to galvanize Hokies across the nation to become more involved in community service. “Let’s bring hope and meaning to what we’re about,” said Dooley. “I think we’re sending a very dramatic message to the world.”

“The germ of VT-ENGAGE was trying to come up with an idea where people could work together and honor those we lost ... taking action in a positive way,” said Karen Gilbert, the first director of VT-ENGAGE who is now back at Tech working toward a Ph.D. in higher education.

Gilbert had been working in communications for the College of Engineering before April 16, but she quickly found another calling. “I was just interested in helping people heal and recover. I thought it was the best possible idea in response to the tragedy.

“I think *Ut Prosim* was brought to the forefront, and I think it has more personal meaning to people. ... VT-ENGAGE helped solidify *Ut Prosim* as a living model for the entire university community and alumni chapters,” Gilbert said.

Now known as VT Engage: The Community Learning Collaborative, the effort focuses on developing community partnerships to make long-term sustainable investments that help produce effective solutions to complex problems.

“As a major university—as a land-grant—it’s our place to use the human and intellectual capital of the university to partner with communities. ... We don’t arrive and try to tell a community what we think they should do,” said Gary Kirk (MPIA ’00, Ph.D. ’04), VT Engage’s current director.

### Alumni step up

Alumni quickly got on board with the idea of volunteerism as remembrance. Just in the past three years, at least 20 chapters have held runs/walks and five have sponsored memorial blood drives. Others have taken on everything from Adopt-A-Highway cleanups to work with homeless shelters.

The Shenandoah (Virginia) Chapter has organized a blood drive every year since, collecting more than 1,000 pints over the years and becoming one of the area’s largest drives, according to Victoria Culbreth (animal science ’93), secretary of the chapter.

The chapter also built a memorial garden in Sherando Park in Stephens City, Virginia, a project led by Bruce Wilson (agricultural economics ’86). Frederick County Parks and Recreation donated the use of an 8,000-square-foot parcel of land, many businesses contributed materials and services, an engineering firm designed the garden for free, and landscape crews helped install the flora. The garden includes a large “VT” and 32 pieces of Hokie Stone.

“This community came together in the true spirit of *Ut Prosim*, and it didn’t end that day,” Culbreth said. “The garden is used by those visiting the park, and the gazebo provides an area for individuals wanting to set up tables when enjoying their kids’ sporting events in the park.”

The Shenandoah Chapter’s Big Event is a cleanup day at the garden. This year’s events included a remembrance ceremony for the entire community.

“This ceremony is meant to remember those who lost their lives that day, but also show the perseverance of the Hokie Spirit, [and

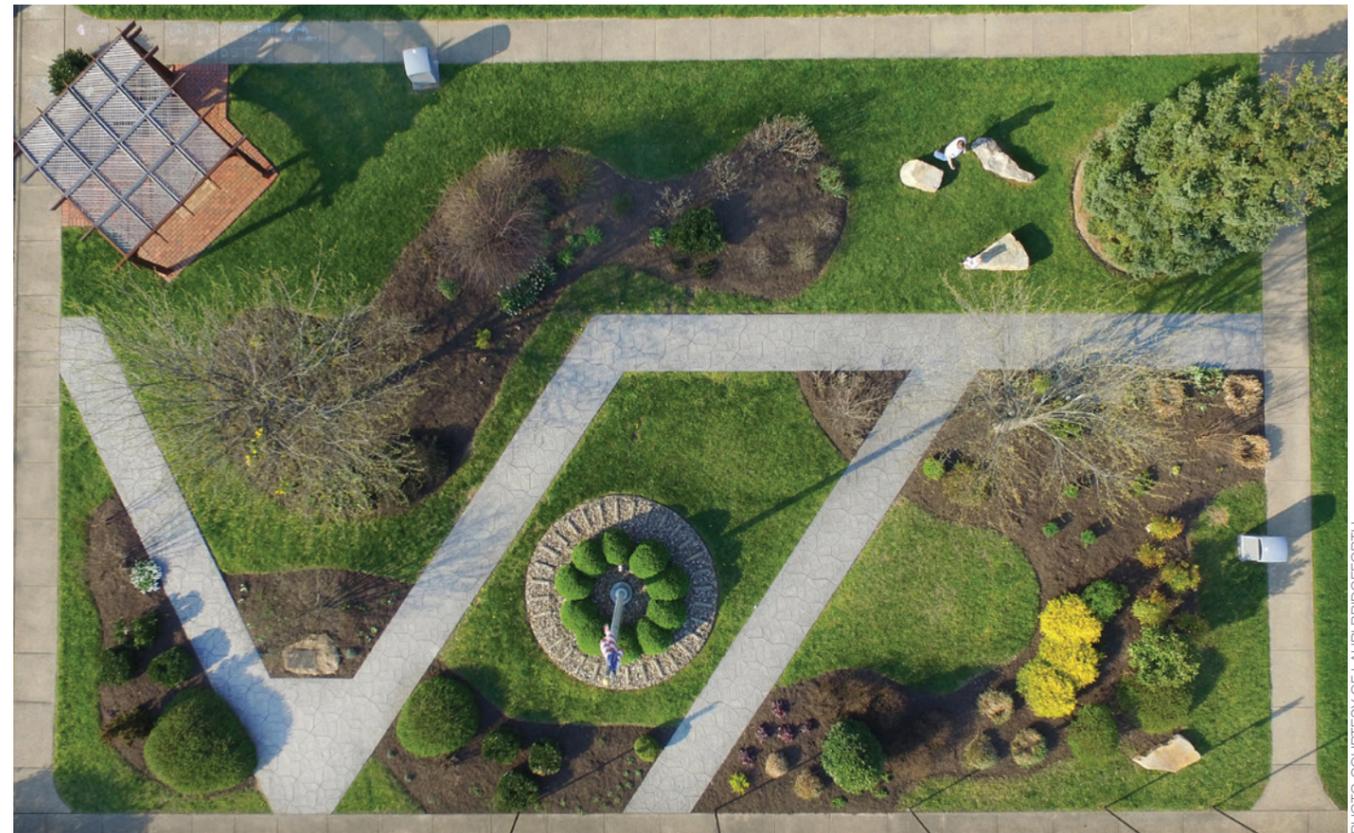


PHOTO COURTESY OF LAURI BRIDGEFORTH

Memorial Garden in Sherando Park in Stephens City, Virginia, built by the Shenandoah Chapter.



COURTESY PHOTO



JENNIFER COTTLE SLITER '04



JAMIE MARSHALL '01



JIM STROUP

**Service in remembrance:** (top left) A candlelight service was organized by the Shenandoah Chapter; (top right) the Charlotte Chapter hosted a candlelight service; (bottom left) the Fredericksburg Chapter served the Easter meal at a local homeless shelter; and (bottom right) student volunteers served lunch during the 2017 community picnic.

to] embrace the line, ‘We will remember. We are strong. We are Virginia Tech,’” Culbreth said.

In Wilmington, Delaware, the First State Chapter, under president Steve Cason (mechanical engineering ’89) and Hal Schneikert (industrial engineering ’65), who is on the board of the local Habitat for Humanity, had already been involved in helping build houses as a service project, but Schneikert saw a way to add extra meaning.

“When we looked at what we wanted to do in recognition of the tragedy ... we thought we could move this work to April,” Schneikert said. “We would have something tangible; we’d have helped build a house that would provide shelter for a family for decades.”

According to Cason, First State has always emphasized service, including work for the Ronald McDonald House and Special Olympics, and making personalized stockings for soldiers. But Habitat day in April is particularly meaningful.

The Denver Chapter has also always been mindful of service,

sponsoring blood drives, adopting a family for Christmas, supporting the Food Bank of the Rockies, and providing for the Denver Rescue Mission. The chapter draws many young alumni, so quite a few were within one degree of separation from someone who was killed or wounded.

“I think that since April 16, for students graduating from Virginia Tech, service is an everyday thing,” said Debbie Flippo (marketing management ’83), former president of the Denver Alumni Chapter and now a member of the Virginia Tech Alumni Association board. “I think they carry it with them.”

In 2008 and 2009, Denver Hokies participated in a blood drive; in 2010, eight members of the chapter put on Hokie T-shirts and ran an informal 3.2-mile course. In 2011, Flippo said, 70 alumni showed up to find their way around a course drawn up using a pedometer. Every year since then, Denver Hokies have gathered to run or walk and later enjoy a cookout—sometimes in the snow.

“Obviously, we’re there to remember those who aren’t with us any longer,” Flippo said. “It’s meant to be a tribute, but it’s also meant to be a celebration of life.”



MELISSA ZEHNER (HOKIE BY MARRIAGE)

The New England Chapter during their remembrance event on the Boston Common.

## Students in action

On campus, students put in countless hours on all kinds of projects, including planning for the events attended by thousands to remember April 16.

Samantha Drury (political science, economics '18) and Jordan Schoeneberger (applied economic management '18), were the director and assistant director, respectively, of this year's community picnic.

Drury's father graduated from Tech in 1989. She remembers seeing his heartbreak in 2007, but admits she didn't really understand until she attended the vigil as a first-year student.

"I was overcome with sadness and heartache listening to the names being read," Drury said. "However, throughout that week of my freshman year, there were also moments that I was touched by the warmth, love, and respect that Hokies—both current and former—show each other."

The pride Drury saw helped motivate her throughout the picnic-planning process with its hundreds of emails and phone calls. "It has been one of the most eye-opening and humbling experiences of my life," she said. "One of my favorite quotes is by Maya Angelou, who once said, 'I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.' Fifty years from now in 2067, my involvement in this picnic will be long forgotten, but I hope that the effects of these Remembrance events will make a lasting and positive impact on the Hokie Nation."

Schoeneberger is the assistant director of community initiatives with the Student Government Association (SGA). She joined the FEMA Corps, an AmeriCorps National Civilian Community

Corps program, for a gap year before coming to Tech. That exposure to hunger, poverty, and inequality in the U.S. was the catalyst for her involvement in SGA, the SERVE Living-Learning Community, and, eventually, the picnic.

**"I'm [here] because of a blind faith in the community that is stronger despite tragedy, a willingness to serve, and the fact that Blacksburg has always felt like home."**

Jordan Schoeneberger,  
Class of 2018

"Despite being 11 when this tragedy occurred, I remember seeing news clips of campus on that day almost 10 years ago," Schoeneberger said. "When applying for colleges three years ago, those were the images that went through my mind. Not specifically from the tragedy, but everything I heard of Virginia Tech and the community from that day forward was positive."

"I'm here because of a blind faith in the community that is stronger despite tragedy, a willingness to serve, and the fact that Blacksburg has always felt like home."

Tara Reel, the graduate student representative on the Board of Visitors, was driven to serve partly by the fact that she was grieving the loss of her brother when the tragedy happened.

"What I have learned is that while we may lose people, they are never truly gone from our hearts, as we keep them alive through remembrance," Reel said. "I am humbled to be a part of honoring the lives they lived and being part of the commemoration of their spirits." □

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# Around the Drillfield

What's In It? **34**  
Corps **35**  
Athletics **36**



**Large-scale success** by MASON ADAMS

Imagine a lecture hall filled to capacity. The class is general chemistry, the topic for the day: acid-base equilibria. For many, the scenario sounds like a remedy for insomnia, but on a March day in Davidson Hall, nearly 300 Virginia Tech students sat in rapt attention, fully focused on advanced instructor Shamindri Arachchige's lecture.

Throughout the room, standardized notes were projected on screens. Occasionally Arachchige posed a question. Students actively responded—not in a cacophony of voices—but through iClickers, which transferred their responses to a computer for immediate tabulation. Midway through class, Arachchige called up a pair of students. The volunteers donned lab coats and goggles to demonstrate a principle using brightly colored liquids in beakers on lab tables.

In large classrooms, instructors, like Arachchige, often employ these special teaching methods to ensure student success. The techniques keep classes feeling relatively small and personable—and therefore easier for students to follow.

Such innovations were rewarded recently with the Virginia Tech 2016 Exemplary Department Awards, which recognized “effective

large-class instruction.” The winners included three departments within the College of Science: Physics, Chemistry, and Biological Sciences.

“We in the College of Science are honored to teach more than 220,000 student credit hours for undergraduates each year, which is close to 50 percent of the undergraduate teaching that takes place at Virginia Tech,” said Sally C. Morton, dean of the College of Science.

Some of these classes function as gateway courses for a student's chosen major, while others are required across disciplines. That broad swath of enrollees creates instructional challenges, especially in the large classes.

In the physics department, Alma Robinson (physics,

LOGAN WALLACE

**Innovative instruction:**  
For more information about Virginia Tech's 2016 Exemplary Department Awards winners, visit [vtmag.vt.edu](http://vtmag.vt.edu).

philosophy '02, MAED '03), teacher-in-residence at Virginia Tech's PhysTEC program, said she feels a responsibility to prepare students academically and socially. “Oftentimes, students who come to a big university can feel a little bit lost,” Robinson said. “Virginia Tech does a really good job of creating community so that doesn't happen.”

Many first-year students in the physics department attend classes in what are known as SCALE-UP classrooms with whiteboards on the walls and circular tables for group work.

In the Department of Biology, two introductory courses provide foundational knowledge for about 1,500 students each

semester using an approach called the Active Classroom. Students view an online, narrated lecture on their own, and class sessions then are broken into 20 minutes of instructor-led review and an introduction to that day's activity; 45 minutes working in teams; and a 10-minute summary of major conclusions.

Since 1994, the University Exemplary Department or Program Awards recognize the work of programs and/or departments that maintain exemplary teaching and learning environments for students and faculty. □

*Story contains reporting by Jessie Rogers, a rising senior in the Department of English.*



JIM STROUP

## Hokies on the Hill

On March 26, a roundtable of experts convened by Virginia Tech met on Capitol Hill for a panel discussion on cybersecurity. During the visit, Virginia Tech President Tim Sands also found time to interact with students in Washington, D.C. To learn more about the visit, go to [vtmag.vt.edu](http://vtmag.vt.edu).

## On stage in the Big Apple

On April 11, members of the Wind Ensemble and the Virginia Tech Combined Choirs—the Chamber Singers, Tech Men, and Women's Chorus—performed at Carnegie Hall in New York City. Read more about the performances and view a photo gallery from the trip at [vtmag.vt.edu](http://vtmag.vt.edu).

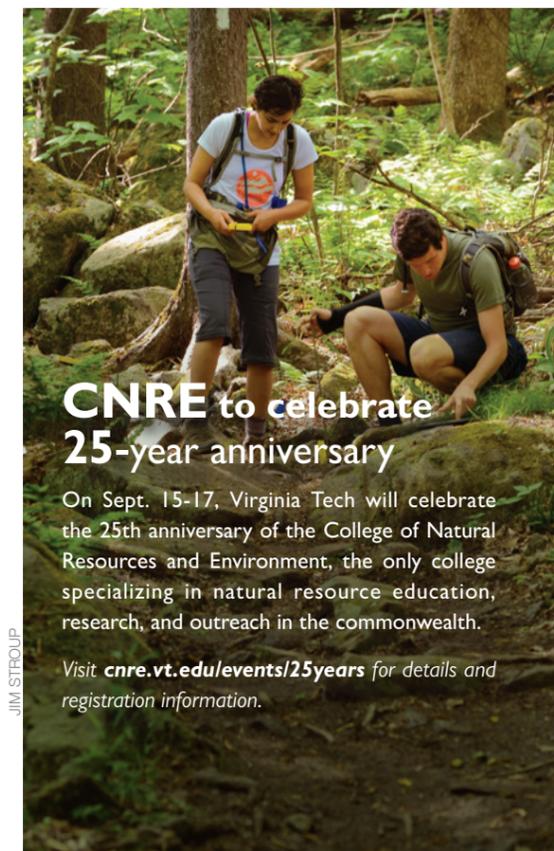


JIM STROUP



HELEN ZHANG

Virginia Tech Provost Thanassis Rikakis at the 2016 Exemplary Department Awards ceremony.



JIM STROUP

## CNRE to celebrate 25-year anniversary

On Sept. 15-17, Virginia Tech will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the College of Natural Resources and Environment, the only college specializing in natural resource education, research, and outreach in the commonwealth.

Visit [cnre.vt.edu/events/25years](http://cnre.vt.edu/events/25years) for details and registration information.

# COUNT ME IN

The Virginia Tech Office of Student Engagement and Campus Life strives to help students make connections and get involved. Participating in a student organization adds value and depth to the Virginia Tech experience, creating opportunities for building friendships, cultivating peer mentors, and building self-awareness. ☐

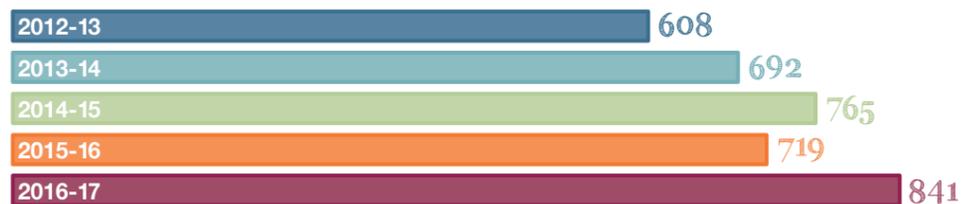
## types of student organizations

- honor societies
- student publications
- religious organizations
- special interest groups
- club sports
- student governance organizations
- fraternity and sorority life

## top 5 event types



## registered student organizations



## benefits of student organizations

- teamwork
- conflict resolution
- project planning
- money management
- time management
- leadership development

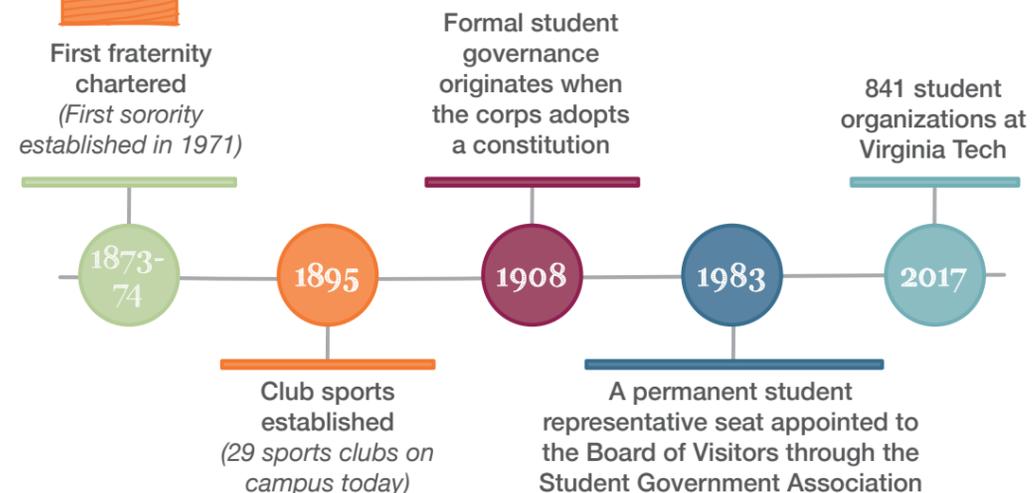
**Get involved:**  
For more information about student organizations, go to [vtmag.vt.edu](http://vtmag.vt.edu).

“I have tried to work in my organization as a servant leader, offering my help to as many projects as I can. This helped me learn how to be a better, more inclusive leader.”  
– **Rex Willis**  
vice president of SGA

“Extracurricular activities [have given me opportunities] to learn about myself and to develop my leadership style and my personal philosophy.”  
– **Matt Rowe**  
president of Sigma Phi Epsilon

“I have grown into a young adult who has real-life experience. I know what it feels like to fail at something, along with what it feels like to create a new student organization and see it grow.”  
– **Manjot Kaur**  
president of the Asian American Student Union

## dates worth noting



## alumni connections

The Virginia Tech Alumni Association works with several student organizations to introduce undergraduates to the opportunities available for alumni.

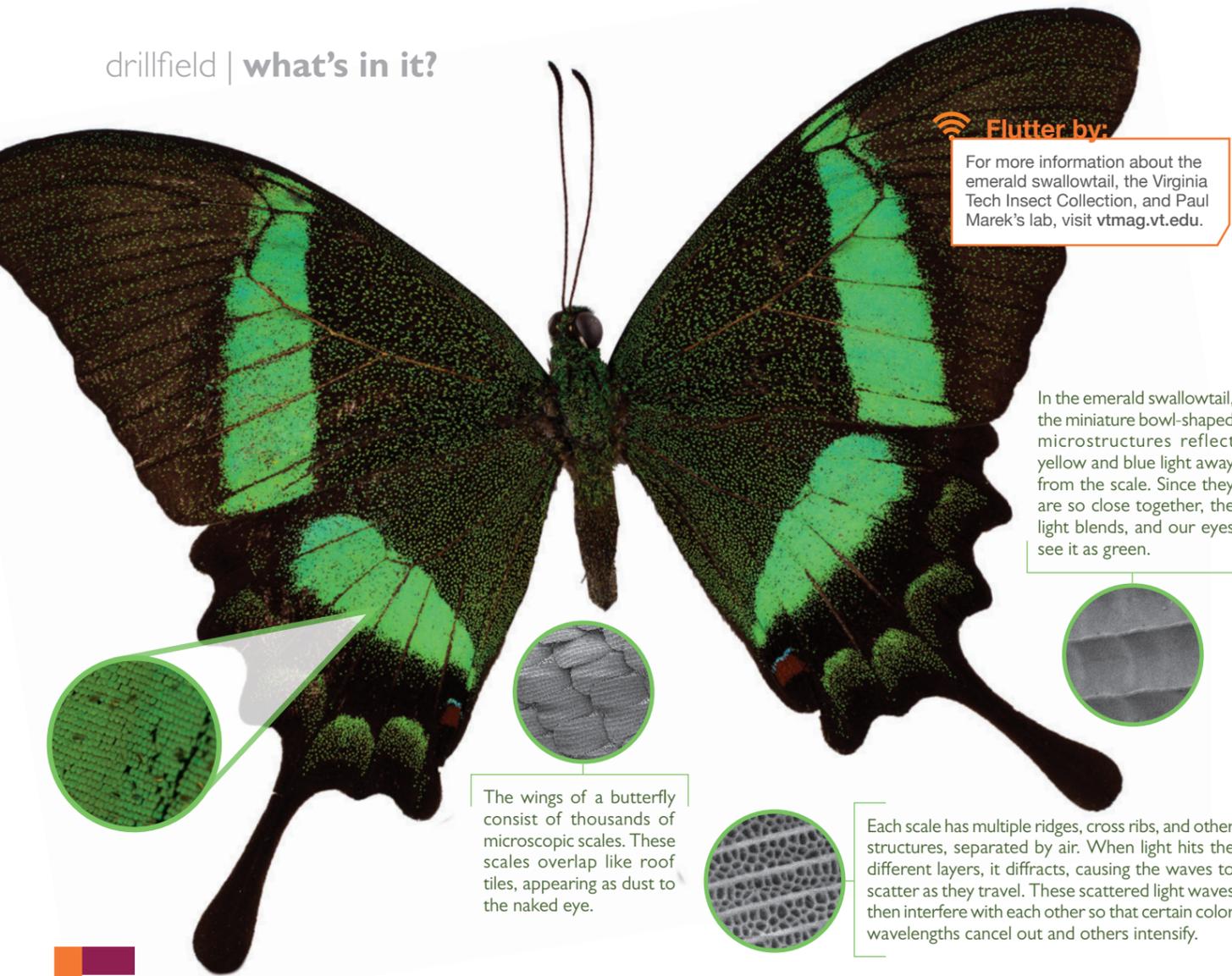
### Student Alumni Associates (SAA)

Known as the 100 most spirited Hokies, members are selected through an application process in the spring. The group assists with the following events:

- Reunions & spirit rallies
- Lemonade Brigade and Cider Station
- Pop-Up Pizza Party
- iSupport Student Giving Campaign
- Official Hokie Bucket List

### Class programs

The class system arose in the mid-1960s. Each class group elects eight officers, who serve for life. A Corps of Cadets representative is guaranteed. Members organize activities associated with the class ring, a tradition dating back to 1911.



**Flutter by:**  
For more information about the emerald swallowtail, the Virginia Tech Insect Collection, and Paul Marek's lab, visit [vtmag.vt.edu](http://vtmag.vt.edu).

In the emerald swallowtail, the miniature bowl-shaped microstructures reflect yellow and blue light away from the scale. Since they are so close together, the light blends, and our eyes see it as green.

The wings of a butterfly consist of thousands of microscopic scales. These scales overlap like roof tiles, appearing as dust to the naked eye.

Each scale has multiple ridges, cross ribs, and other structures, separated by air. When light hits the different layers, it diffracts, causing the waves to scatter as they travel. These scattered light waves then interfere with each other so that certain color wavelengths cancel out and others intensify.

## Get buggy with it

by PAUL MAREK  
photos courtesy of RHEA WONG and PATRICIA SHORTER

Butterflies are among nature's most captivating insects, in part because of their striking colors, which seem to shimmer and change as they flutter from flower to flower.

A butterfly's color may act as camouflage, signal a warning, or attract potential mates. Butterflies get their colors through two different sources: pigmentary color and structural color.

Consider the emerald swallowtail, *Papilio palinurus*.

The top and bottom of the emerald swallowtail's wing differ dramatically in color. The bottom surface is comprised of dusty grays with some blue and orange dots toward the bottom of the wing. The top colors, however appear as dark green with a sudden streak of radiant green on either side. The display is produced by tiny microstructures, not pigment.

Pigmentary color comes from chemical pigments that absorb and reflect light. For example, the red of a ladybug comes from the fact that more red light is reflected compared to any other hue. Structural color results from the specific sculpturing of the butterfly's wings, which helps explain why the colors move and change. This quality, called iridescence, occurs frequently in nature, notably in mother of pearl seashells, fish, and peacocks. Iridescence results as light passes through a transparent, multilayered surface and is reflected more than once. It also occurs when light is scattered by microscopic grooves or gratings on the surface, which is the same phenomenon as in the shimmer of compact discs. □

*Paul Marek is an assistant professor in Virginia Tech's Department of Entomology. Marek's lab focuses on studies of the evolution of coloration and taxonomy, the science of naming and classifying species. His research team has investigated the vibrant warning coloration of Appalachian millipedes and the bioluminescence of Californian millipedes. They are now analyzing structural colors of insects conserved in the Virginia Tech Insect Collection.*



## Canine ambassador

by SHAY BARNHART

**Barking up the right tree:**  
For more about Growley, visit [vtmag.vt.edu](http://vtmag.vt.edu) and interact on Instagram with @vtgrowley. You can share your moments with him using #VTCadetDog.

If you paid a visit to Lane Stadium this fall, you probably saw Growley II, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets' ambassador, on the sidelines, playing with a toy of the opposing team's mascot.

You also probably smiled with that warm, fuzzy feeling that only a dog—and especially this happy-go-lucky yellow Labrador retriever—can create.

Growley II (call sign "Tank") smiles a lot, too.

Since coming to the Upper Quad in August 2016, he has become a symbol of selfless service for the corps' more than 1,000 cadets and a new way to share experiences with the larger campus community.

Cadet Eleanor Franc, a sophomore from Washington, D.C., majoring in international studies with minors in Arabic and leadership studies, is one of nine cadets who make up Growley's team. The team members follow a strict daily care, exercise, and training schedule required by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"I got involved with the Growley team because I saw the potential for the program, not only within the Corps of Cadets, but also as a conduit between the corps and the campus community," Franc said. "It is really important that we maintain and strengthen our relationship with the whole campus, and having Growley around has made it easier to do that."

When alumni, faculty, staff, students, and campus visitors stop to pet or take a picture with Growley, the door to conversations about the corps and how its graduates are serving around the world opens. During the fall semester, Growley and the team

attended more than 40 events, including visits to residence halls during study hours, football tailgates, alumni events, and more.

Besides prompting smiles and interest wherever they go, working dogs embrace *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve) instinctively. A number of four-legged heroes serve alongside military men and women around the world. And a long tradition of such ambassadors endures at the few remaining senior military colleges, including Texas A&M and The Citadel.

According to Corps of Cadets folklore, a Depression-era commandant owned a dog named Growley. Food was somewhat scarce, so the cadets kept a portion of their breakfast to help feed him.

With such history and tradition in mind, cadets asked during the 2015-16 academic year to "bring back Growley," and the university and corps leadership agreed.

Cadet Amanda Jacobson, a junior from Charlottesville, Virginia, majoring in industrial systems engineering with minors in leadership studies and business, sees an opportunity to make a difference.

"It's a chance to reach out, meet a whole bunch of different people, and, hopefully, leave them with a positive impact," she said. "So far, the best part has been watching people light up and get so excited to see Growley. There's something about dogs that gets people smiling and talking, and Growley is no exception." □

*Shay Barnhart is the corps' communications director.*

PHOTO COURTESY OF CORPS OF CADETS



**Klaudia Nazieblo** Best Times and School Records

-  **50 Backstroke**  
24.14 seconds
-  **200 Butterfly**  
1:53.77 minutes
-  **100 Backstroke**  
51.86 seconds
- Nazieblo also holds school records as a member of the following relay teams:**
-  **200 Backstroke**  
1:53.04 minutes
-  **4 X 800 Freestyle Relay**
-  **4 X 400 Medley Relay**

 **Immersed:**  
See the video at [vtmag.vt.edu](http://vtmag.vt.edu).

# Making a splash

by ALLYSAH FOX '18  
photo by LOGAN WALLACE

Swimming is an equal mixture of skills and gills. Getting off the starting block fast requires fierce athleticism, focus, and perfection. Submerged in this winning combination is rising senior Klaudia Nazieblo, a Poland native majoring in economics.

At the NCAA championships in Indianapolis in March, Nazieblo earned honorable mention All-American status in the 200 butterfly for the third time in her Tech career. Her strong build allows her to dominate in distance racing. “During the race, I know how to pace my body and my emotions,” said Nazieblo, who trains with the team’s distance coach.

The successes have not gone to her head, though. Even with years of practice, she respects her favorite event, the 200 “fly,” and its high demands. “It’s a different mentality and a different distance,” she said. “Experience is crucial.”

Nazieblo’s commitment is spurred not only by the excitement of racing, but also by the challenge of the training grind. “I’m waking up at 4:55 a.m., driving to Christiansburg, and at 5:30 a.m., I swim,” said Nazieblo, who retains a cheerful disposition even though, during the school week, she rises before the sun.

“Then I have breakfast, go to class, have another practice, eat, do homework, go to sleep—and then I’m waiting for another day.”

Despite this strict regimen, Nazieblo considers her time at Tech a “true opportunity.” “In Poland,” she said, “sports and college are not correlated, so I needed to find a way to continue my sports career.”

With that goal in mind, Nazieblo visited the U.S. with friends following high school graduation. After speaking with the swimming coaches at Tech, she prepared for the SATs because, if nothing else, “learning the language would be beneficial.” Ultimately, she

decided to become a Hokie. Some 4,560 miles away from home, Nazieblo finds her comfort in the competition. “If I’m standing on the blocks before the 200 ‘fly,’ I’ll talk to myself in my own language. It brings energy to me while I’m waiting to attack.”

And she does attack. During her four years with the H2Ogies, Nazieblo set four individual school records, as well as two relay team school records. □

*Allysa Fox (multimedia journalism '18) is an intern for Virginia Tech Magazine.*



# Advancing higher education

by ROSEMARY BLIESZNER

**Forward-looking:**  
For more details about the Beyond Boundaries initiative, visit [vtmag.vt.edu](http://vtmag.vt.edu).

LOGAN WALLACE

I am honored to have spent my professional career, from 1981 until now, at Virginia Tech. Throughout my time in Blacksburg, I have been continually impressed by the cutting-edge research, learning, and engagement that the university produces. Now, as chair of the Beyond Boundaries Advisory Group, I am proud of the progress and the long-term vision that the university [is setting] for its next generation.

Beyond Boundaries focuses on determining how Virginia Tech will respond to the changing landscape of higher education and become a leading global land-grant institution by 2047. This vision celebrates the university's past, explores innovative strategies for today, and develops a trajectory for advancing as a leading institution of higher education in the future.

**Past.** Virginia Tech has a legacy of identifying its strengths and building upon them. In my time as the associate dean of the Graduate School, I witnessed innovations that expanded opportunities and encouraged interdisciplinary research and learning teams. For example, the Interdisciplinary Graduate Education Programs (IGEPs) bring together cross-college teams of faculty and graduate students to address a major fundamental problem or complex societal issue through research and education. IGEPs are fundamentally rooted in Virginia Tech's land-grant mission to produce knowledge that addresses community needs and enables people to solve pressing problems.

**Present.** Over the past two years, Beyond Boundaries has worked on finding ways to increase Virginia Tech's ability to anticipate and respond to change in higher education and society. This process blurs the line between planning and implementation.

Through Beyond Boundaries' recommendations, we are adopting ways of organizing study and scholarship to produce space and interactions for productive collaboration. The university is

planning several innovation districts, including the Creativity and Innovation District, the Global Business and Analytics Complex, and the Health Sciences and Technology Innovation District. These districts will integrate instruction and scholarship along with the smart technologies, labs, and spaces needed to address complex issues.

Virginia Tech has also begun to characterize the VT-shaped experience, which President Sands calls "the cornerstone of our vision for the future." This concept encourages experiences that provide students with an education that promotes service, technological literacy, interdisciplinary skills, and experiential learning. It ultimately results in well-rounded graduates who are ready to take on the challenges inherent to the 21st century.

**Future.** Beyond Boundaries strives to position Virginia Tech as a global leader in the next generation of higher-education instruction, research, and engagement.

Our advisory group is considering how to design a continuous planning process that will help Virginia Tech become more responsive to internal and external change. To reach the university's goal of becoming a top 100-global institution, we also are developing metrics to assess progress toward our goals.

As I consider what Virginia Tech will be like in 2047, I am confident we are taking steps to position this institution to be strong and resilient. Virginia Tech will lead the way toward ever-improving outcomes for all who study and work here—and for the world beyond. □

*Rosemary Blieszner, Alumni Distinguished Professor of Human Development, serves as chair for the Beyond Boundaries Advisory Group. She is the interim dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.*



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# Class Notes

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## Generation to generation

by HOLLY PAULETTE

For Lisa Burris '91, O. Wayne Hanks '63, Dean Burris '89, and Ashley Burris, Class of 2021, Hokie Spirit is a family affair.

Often, Hokie Spirit is passed down from one generation to the next. That's certainly true for Ashley Burris of Virginia Beach, Virginia, a third-generation Hokie who began her Virginia Tech experience this past fall.

In her college selection process, Virginia Tech was an easy choice; both of Ashley's parents are alumni, as is her grandfather. Ashley, who is studying human nutrition, foods, and exercise, with an eye toward a career in medicine, never wavered from her dream school. "There really was nowhere else I wanted to go but Virginia Tech," Ashley said. "My whole life I felt I was a Hokie, but I will never forget the day, just before Christmas last year, when it became official. After celebrating with my parents and sister, my first call was to my grandfather, who was just as excited as me." Ashley's

grandfather, O. Wayne Hanks (business administration '63), the family's first Hokie, was a stand-out first baseman at Tech.

For Ashley's mother, Lisa Burris (communication '91), Ashley's acceptance was like history repeating itself. Lisa remembers the first time she visited Blacksburg. "My parents and I entered the campus off Prices Fork Road by the golf course, and, as we drove by the Duck Pond and toward the center of campus, I had this overwhelming feeling come over me," she said. "This was home! I never looked back and only applied to Virginia Tech, just like my daughter. When you find your school, you just know it."

As a student, Lisa served as a Hokie Ambassador and was a member of the New Virginians, Virginia Tech's former musical

ambassadors. The New Virginians performed across the U.S., including a visit to the White House during Lisa's junior year.

Lisa met her future husband, Dean (liberal arts and sciences '89), at an intramural basketball game in War Memorial Gym. A member of the Corps of Cadets and Alpha Tau Omega fraternity, Dean served as an officer in the U.S. Navy following graduation.

For Hanks and the Burris family, the Virginia Tech experience didn't end with graduation, however.

Now a retired BB&T Corp. executive, Hanks lives with his wife, Betty, in Winterville, North Carolina. A former alumni chapter officer and a member of the Hokie Club, he is also a member of the Monogram Club, a membership organization that honors and engages letter winners to celebrate the traditions and promote the value of the Virginia Tech student-athlete experience.

Dean and Lisa live in Virginia Beach, Virginia, with their younger daughter Allison. Lisa is an independent marketing and corporate communications consultant, working primarily in health care. Dean is a senior account specialist with Allergan Inc. Former alumni chapter board members, they serve on the Division of Student Affairs' Parent Committee. Parent Committee members study issues, offer assistance, and act as liaisons between families and the university.

"Families like Lisa and Dean Burris are the silent heroes of Student Affairs," said Penny Helms White, chief advancement officer and director of family and alumni relations in the Division of Student Affairs. "It's no secret that a family's support greatly benefits the student. But, when families go above and beyond to support Student Affairs as a whole, the services and initiatives we provide to all Virginia Tech students multiply. [Family] commitment to the university is invaluable."

It's a legacy passed on from Hokie to Hokie, generation to generation. □

*Holly Paulette is a writer for the Division of Student Affairs.*

### Working together:

For more information about the Parent Committee, visit [family.dsa.vt.edu/parent\\_committee](http://family.dsa.vt.edu/parent_committee).

Alumni, we want to hear what you've been doing. Mail career, wedding, birth, and death news to Class Notes, Virginia Tech Alumni Association, Holtzman Alumni Center (0102), 901 Prices Fork Rd., Blacksburg, VA 24061; email the news to [fleets@vt.edu](mailto:fleets@vt.edu); or submit the news online at [vtmag.vt.edu/submit-classnote.php](http://vtmag.vt.edu/submit-classnote.php), where photos may also be uploaded for consideration.

Alumni mailing addresses may be viewed online at [alumni.vt.edu/](http://alumni.vt.edu/) directory by logging in with your Virginia Tech PID and password. For assistance, call 540-231-6285.

- career accomplishments
- weddings
- births and adoptions
- deceased

'36 Clyde W. Bradshaw (AGED), Richmond, Va., 11/19/16.

'39 H. L. "Rich" Richardson Jr. (BAD), Richmond, Va., 9/30/16.  
 Pleasant C. Shields (GAG), Richmond, Va., 9/25/16.  
 Forrest "Speed" Tolson (ME '47), Harrisonburg, Va., 10/5/16.

'40 Richard F. Cochran (DASC), Charlotte, N.C., 7/7/16.  
 Robert E. Rosenfeld (BAD), Portsmouth, Va., 4/11/16.

'41 Clyde H. Mast (ANSC), Gainesville, Fla., 2/24/16.

'42 John H. Varner Sr. (AGEC), Farmville, Va., 12/27/16.

'43 Robert G. Barton (ME), Dunedin, Fla., 10/29/16.  
 Dorothy Smith Griffin (GSC), Orono, Maine, 11/25/16.  
 John D. Hurst (BAD '48), Richmond, Va., 11/5/16.  
 T.I. Martin Jr. (IE '46), Culpeper, Va., 9/1/16.  
 Carl E. Ralston (BAD), Statesville, N.C., 12/3/16.

'44 William T. Harvey Jr. (CHE), Middletown, Conn., 11/5/16.  
 Dewey L. Newman (CE), Blacksburg, Va., 9/26/16.  
 Robert A. Zimmerman (IE '47), Cincinnati, Ohio, 9/5/16.

'45 Irving M. Appel (BAD '48), Boca Raton, Fla., 10/16/16.  
 Leland A. Davis (ME), Kingsport, Tenn., 1/30/16.  
 Glanville "Glen" M. Delano (EE '47), Richmond, Va., 12/21/16.  
 A.W. Garrett (IE '47), Roe, Ark., 8/30/16.

Robert L. Manning (CHE), Remsen, N.Y., 11/22/16.  
 Jack A. Richardson (BAD '48), Parkersley, Va., 11/10/16.  
 Robert W. Sagnette (ARE), Roanoke, Va., 10/17/16.  
 Burnell B. Williams (AGEC), Blairs, Va., 10/16/16.

'46 Vernon G. Eberwine Jr. (IE), Suffolk, Va., 1/8/17.  
 Woodrow W. Gorbach (PSCI), Washington, D.C., 10/31/16.  
 Barnard F. Jennings (BAD), Fairfax, Va., 9/24/16.  
 Nathan Kurzrok (IE '48), Scottsdale, Ariz., 9/19/16.  
 A. Crenshaw Reed Jr. (IE '48), White Stone, Va., 10/14/16.  
 Thomas D. Styles (HORT '49), Locust Grove, Va., 11/26/16.  
 James "Gordon" White Jr. (ME), Glen Allen, Va., 11/10/16.

'47 William C. Boykin (IE), Midlothian, Va., 7/10/16.  
 Eleanor Edgar Brooks (EDSS, EDSS '55), Prescott, Ariz., 3/22/16.  
 C.A. Burfoot (EE), Homer, La., 11/9/16.  
 George D. Crosby (FW), Charlottesville, Va., 10/27/16.  
 Alvah H. Eubank Jr. (BAD '49), Savannah, Ga., 12/5/16.  
 Cary F. Milliner Jr. (ME '48), Onley, Va., 11/10/16.  
 Joe W. Phipps (GAG), Independence, Va., 9/7/16.

'48 Harold "Bat" F. Battelene (ME), Scottsdale, Ariz., 9/20/16.  
 Julia "Frances" Farmer (SOC), Newbern, Va., 10/8/16.  
 Albert L. Matthews Jr. (BC), Hacienda Heights, Calif., 8/2/16.  
 Frederick A. Overly (ME '49), San Antonio, Texas, 10/13/16.  
 Algje L. Spencer (AGED '47, AGED '47), Woolwine, Va., 8/18/16.  
 John B. Watlington (CHE), Harrisonburg, Va., 9/25/16.



David Long '91, '92

MIRIAM FRIED

## Systems for success

David Long (engineering science and mechanics '91, industrial and systems engineering '92) planned to be a systems engineer. "I was on the path to a Ph.D. in industrial engineering with a focus on systems," he said. "I never intended to start a company."

In 2017, however, the company that he founded—Vitech—celebrated its 25th anniversary.

In 1991, Long developed a software program to meet the requirements for a senior project. "Systems engineering was my field of interest," said Long. "Programming was my hobby. Combining the two made for an interesting capstone design project."

Long's vision was to create a tool to support the full systems engineering process. He began the project as a tool for academic use, but as he pursued his graduate studies, he continued to refine it. He tried to license the developing program through an existing company, but eventually opted to manage and market it himself. Known as CORE, that program is now a leading systems software environment used around the world.

Vitech's offices at the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center allow Long to maintain a strong connection to the university that inspired his success. He is a member of the Virginia Tech Industrial and Systems Engineering Advisory Board and often speaks in classes and at events on campus. Long has served as president of the International Council on Systems Engineering (INCOSE), a 10,000-member professional organization. He shares his expertise as a speaker or guest lecturer at conferences and events in such locations as South Korea, South Africa, France, and Australia. □

**'49** 🎓 **Hugh "Bud" E. Clougherty Jr.** (ACCT), Harrisonburg, Va., 11/8/16.  
**Stanley Cohen** (ARE, CE '51), Cincinnati, Ohio, 12/30/16.  
**H.H. Dunston Jr.** (EE), Glen Allen, Va., 11/19/16.  
**Jesse "Jake" P. Jacobs Jr.** (IE), Las Cruces, N.M., 9/9/16.  
**James W. Lester Jr.** (EE), Chelsea, Mich., 11/20/16.  
**James "Al" Lyle Jr.** (IE '48), Lynchburg, Va., 12/20/16.  
**Clarence "Mac" Mahanes** (IE), Virginia Beach, Va., 12/8/16.  
**C.M. "Dee" Montgomery** (EE), Bethlehem, Penn., 1/11/17.  
**Clarence A. Robins Jr.** (ME), Johnstown, Colo., 10/28/16.

**'50** 🎓 **W. C. "Bill" Bascom Sr.** (IE), Charlottesville, Va., 9/18/16.  
**John R. Budner** (GBUS), Powhatan, Va., 9/1/16.  
**Robert "Bill" Q. Collier** (ME), Whispering Pines, N.C., 9/28/16.  
**Elijah H. Grigg Jr.** (CE), Falls Church, Va., 10/11/16.  
**Virginia Atkins McCrickard** (BAD), Huntsville, Ala., 4/6/16.  
**Robert T. Pickett III** (EE), Charlottesville, Va., 12/6/16.

**'50** 🎓 **William G. Pittard** (BAD '51), Buffalo Junction, Va., 10/9/16.  
**Edwin C. Shriver Jr.** (EE), Webster, N.Y., 9/11/16.  
**John R. Simmerman** (ACCT), Radford, Va., 12/11/16.  
**James E. Stevens Jr.** (ME), Punta Gorda, Fla., 11/9/16.  
**Alexander "Don" Stone Jr.** (AGE), Isle of Palms, S.C., 1/12/17.  
**William T. Withers** (CHE), Lynchburg, Va., 9/29/16.  
**James J. Young** (CHE), Granville, Ohio, 9/27/16.

**'51** 🎓 **Willard L. Davis** (BAD), Raleigh, N.C., 12/27/15.  
**Cornelia Gates Dobyns** (BAD), Roanoke, Va., 10/20/16.  
**Harold J. Harlowe** (IE), Yorktown, Va., 11/22/16.  
**C.W. Hickey Sr.** (ME), Charlotte, N.C., 9/11/16.  
**Clark A. Hodges Jr.** (AGED), Thomasville, N.C., 11/22/16.  
**Don M. Lemon** (ME), Roanoke, Va., 9/23/16.  
**John C. Morgan Jr.** (AGEC '50), Buckingham, Va., 12/16/16.  
**Philip L. Payne** (ME), Warrenton, Va., 10/10/16.  
**Benjamin M. Richardson** (PSCI), Roanoke, Va., 12/20/16.  
**Kyle C. Smith** (AGED), North Manchester, Ind., 12/28/16.

**Robert S. Spratley** (ME), Richmond, Va., 1/11/17.  
**Glenn W. Suter** (STAT), Delanson, N.Y., 1/3/17.  
**John V. Sutton** (ARE '52, ARE '52), Greensboro, N.C., 11/21/16.

**'52** 🎓 **Clarence V. Braswell** (ME), Bristol, Tenn., 3/3/16.  
**Donald G. Cochran** (ENT), Hampstead, N.C., 11/12/16.  
**William T. Cook** (ME), Midlothian, Va., 12/31/16.  
**Nelson Moore Magee** (ARE), Rome, Ga., 03/18/17.  
**Joseph C. McAlexander Jr.** (ME), Anna, Texas, 10/3/16.  
**Edward R. McCarthy** (CHEM), Port Matilda, Penn., 11/12/16.  
**Wilmer B. Poteate** (ME), Hatteras, N.C., 9/17/16.  
**D.R. Progulske** (FW), Gainesville, Fla., 10/17/16.  
**Henry G. Rouland** (EE), Elkton, Fla., 11/2/16.  
**Philip A. Shepherd** (AGE), Chandler, Ariz., 11/4/16.  
**Joseph B. Willson** (ANSC), Richmond, Va., 1/11/17.

**'54** 🎓 **Lloyd J. Buckwell Jr.** (BAD), Valparaiso, Ind., 1/1/17.  
**Tyler T. Elgin Jr.** (ME), Lexington, Ky., 11/2/16.  
**Harry M. Payne** (AGRN), Winchester, Va., 11/30/16.

**'55** 🎓 **Terrell D. Moseley** (ME), Lynchburg, Va., 10/8/16.  
**C. Scott Pugh Jr.** (ME '56), Richmond, Va., 12/2/16.

**'56** 🎓 **Donald L. Sage** (IE), Henrico, Va., was elected chair of the Board of the River City Faith Network of the Richmond Baptist Association, and the Pioneers' Board of Directors.  
**Jo Ann Smith Trail** (GHEC), Moscow, Idaho, was inducted into the Idaho Smart Women, Smart Money Hall of Fame.  
**Richard M. Arnold** (IE) and Dawn Musser, Blacksburg, Va., 7/16/16.

**Richard B. Bailey Sr.** (BAD), Caldwell, Ohio, 6/21/16.  
**Joseph W. Bunts Sr.** (POUL), Ruckersville, Va., 9/1/16.  
**Roland "Skeezix" H. Coles** (ANSC '55), Roanoke, Va., 11/17/16.  
**John F. Eberman** (ARE '58), Blacksburg, Va., 1/17/16.  
**Jean Short Hutson** (MHFD '79), Roanoke, Va., 12/30/16.  
**Stanley J. Janusz** (IE), Sellersburg, Ind., 10/2/16.



### Engaging excursion

View a gallery of images from the trip at [vtmag.vt.edu](http://vtmag.vt.edu).



## Road-tripping

photos by LOGAN WALLACE

A group of Virginia Tech students, alumni, faculty, and staff participated in a cultural excursion to the National Capital Region this spring. Participants visited the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C., and made stops at the Northern Virginia Urban League Young Center and the Freedom House Museum in Alexandria, Virginia.

The trip included representatives from several Tech departments and programs, including the Intercultural Engagement Center, Division of Student Affairs, Moss Arts Center, Virginia Tech Alumni Association, Black Organizations Council, Black Cultural Student Workers, Black Caucus, National Urban League, and Office for Inclusion and Diversity.



**'57**  **Robert D. Grisso** (AGEC '58, AGECE '58), McDonough, Ga., 9/20/16.  
**Edward D. Madison** (CE), Burbank, Calif., 6/25/16.  
**Compton "Buddy" R. Moses** (BAD '60), Henrico, Va., 10/14/16.  
**W. Edward Pence** (ANSC), Haymarket, Va., 1/9/17.  
**Roy L. Wright** (ARE), Valrico, Fla., 11/24/16.

**'58**  **Robert R. Adams** (CHEM), Oakton, Va., 2/25/16.  
**Carson "Pete" H. Durham III** (ACCT), Shalotte, N.C., 12/18/16.  
**Robert H. Lewis** (ME '60), Bena, Va., 1/1/16.  
**Archie R. Montgomery** (CE), Tallahassee, Fla., 5/6/16.  
**Freddie J. Schmidt** (ACCT), Carmel, Ind., 11/13/16.  
**William W. Sitton** (GAG '59), Riverside, Calif., 7/20/16.  
**Harry "Pete" E. Walburg Jr.** (BIOL), Oak Ridge, Tenn., 9/23/16.

**'59**  **James G. Anderson Sr.** (AGED), Winchester, Va., 9/17/16.  
**F. Jerry Cline** (EE '60), Charlotte, N.C., 12/9/16.

**Robert R. Harrell III** (ME), Suffolk, Va., 11/13/16.  
**Joseph G. Heller Jr.** (BAD '60), Rockport, Texas, 1/7/16.  
**Samuel D. Judge** (EE), Keedysville, Md., 12/16/16.  
**David P. Robinette** (AGED, VOED '65), Meadowview, Va., 12/8/16.  
**Robert C. Wiltshire** (CE '60), Williamsburg, Va., 10/13/16.

**'60**  **Gilbert P. Davis Jr.** (ME), Richmond, Va., 10/22/16.  
**Keethan C. Disbrow** (BAD '59), Richmond, Va., 11/19/16.  
**Seymour "Sy" R. Kotler** (EE '61), Annapolis, Md., 11/23/16.  
**Jerre C. Lumsden** (AGEC), Glade Hill, Va., 1/8/17.  
**Barbara L. Morris** (MATH), Vienna, Va., 10/23/16.  
**Bruce N. Parker** (BAD '61), Glen Allen, Va., 1/9/17.  
**John W. Waddill** (ME), Chester, Va., 12/1/16.  
**James M. Wyatt Jr.** (BAD), Martinsville, Va., 12/29/15.

**'61**  **Daniel J. DeYoung** (CE), Jacksonville, Fla., 11/11/16.

**William A. Graham Jr.** (ASE '60), Edwards AFB, Calif., 9/29/16.  
**William B. Morrow Sr.** (EE '62, EE '66, EE '67), Katy, Texas, 11/22/16.  
**Charles R. Nuckols** (BAD '64), Annandale, Va., 12/19/16.  
**M. Douglas Slusser** (GBUS), Lititz, Penn., 1/9/16.  
**D.F. Williams** (IE), Weems, Va., 1/11/16.  
**Thomas S. Winston III** (BAD '62), Midlothian, Va., 11/29/15.

**'62**  **E. Eldred Floyd** (AGEC), Snellville, Ga., 1/10/17.  
**Ralph L. Riggs Sr.** (BAD), Salem, Va., 9/28/16.

**'63**  **Leonard Brand** (CE '63, CE '63), Weems, Va., 3/15/16.  
**Doris Lanier Cocke** (GHEC), Hurt, Va., 11/15/16.  
**J. Thomas Luck** (EE '64), Damascus, Va., 1/3/17.

**'64**  **Marilyn McConnell Connor** (HEED '65), Westland, Mich., 11/5/16.  
**Mitchell T. Harris** (ME '65), Washington, N.C., 11/20/16.

**Thomas J. Harshbarger** (FW, FW '69), Christiansburg, Va., 6/23/16.  
**Robert M. Leffew** (HIST), Midlothian, Va., 10/12/16.  
**James "Tom" Owen Jr.** (DE), Dublin, Va., 10/5/16.  
**Marion G. Smith** (DE), Boykins, Va., 12/31/16.  
**George L. Yowell** (BAD), Nashville, Tenn., 6/19/16.

**'65**  **S.R. "Butch" Barringer** (ME), Newport News, Va., authored a book, "Fighting for General Lee: Confederate General Rufus Barringer and the North Carolina Cavalry Brigade," that was awarded the 2016 Historical Book Award by the North Carolina Society of Historians.  
**Peter Y. Burke** (ME), Chesterfield, Va., authored a book, "Technical Career Survival Handbook: 100 Things You Need to Know."  
**Jaan Holt** (ARCH), Alexandria, Va., was awarded the Architecture Medal for Virginia Service by the American Institute of Architects Virginia.

 **George M. Blair** (CE), Suffolk, Va., 12/1/16.  
**Douglas A. Dowdy** (ME), Blairsville, Ga., 2/6/16.  
**Wilton W. King** (EM), Chamblee, Ga., 11/21/16.

**'66**  **Arthur R. Batchelder** (AGRN), Fort Collins, Colo., 12/6/16.  
**R. Calvert Esleek Jr.** (MKTG, ACCT '72), Midlothian, Va., 10/15/16.  
**Glen E. Michael** (HIST), Pelham, Ala., 10/30/16.  
**Alfred S. Wylie III** (EE), Apex, N.C., 9/11/16.

**'67**  **R.A. Boynton** (ARCH '69), Richmond, Va., was appointed to the Virginia Board for Architects, Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, Certified Interior Designers, and Landscape Architects by Gov. Terry McAuliffe.

 **G.E. "Jerry" Carpenter** (BC '68), Ridgeway, Va., 11/23/16.  
**Charles R. Finfgeld** (PHYS '68), Clarksburg, Md., 10/28/15.  
**Robert E. Fitz Jr.** (ME), Lewisburg, Tenn., 11/22/16.  
**Donald W. Fowler** (ME), Oxford, Conn., 12/2/15.  
**Paul L. Reed** (METE '68), Portsmouth, Va., 10/20/16.  
**Edgar R. Savage** (ANSC), Edenton, N.C., 11/5/16.  
**James R. Shelton** (ANSC '68), Atlanta, Ga., 5/18/16.

**'68**  **Donald B. Russell** (IE), Woodland, Wash., is a member of the National Academy of Construction class of 2016.

 **John "Tom" Crispin** (ARE), Montpelier, Va., 1/28/16.  
**Gordon A. Mapp** (IE), Charlotte, N.C., 10/12/16.  
**Richard H. Mills** (ME), Cocoa, Fla., 10/7/16.  
**Bobby G. Schenk** (EE), Glen Allen, Va., 10/10/16.

**Joseph C. Smith** (CE), Bristol, Tenn., 12/4/16.  
**John W. Vaughan Jr.** (AGEC '73), Lexington, N.C., 1/12/17.

**'69**  **Roger "Marty" Winn** (ANSC), Axton, Va., received the 2016 Pomp Berger Progressive Cattlemen's Award from the Pittsylvania County Cattlemen's Association in recognition of his accomplishments in the beef cattle industry.

 **John P. Baber** (ACCT), Mechanicsville, Va., 11/10/16.  
**Elizabeth Crawford Donald** (EDBS '70), Lexington, Va., 12/5/16.  
**Roy N. Fitzer** (BAD '70), Cedar Bluff, Va., 8/24/16.

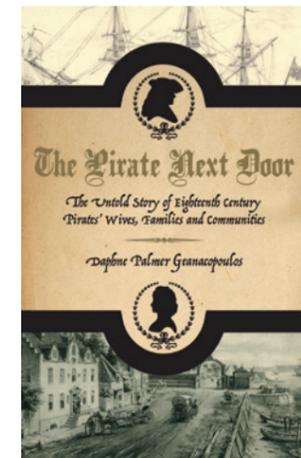
**Trudy Knicely Henson** (MKTG), Aiken, S.C., 10/30/16.  
**A. Harvey Lemmon** (ANSC), Woodbury, Ga., 1/8/17.  
**Marvin L. Lovern** (BC '70), Mendham, N.J., 12/2/16.  
**I.M. Perry** (HORT), Saint Petersburg, Fla., 10/7/16.

**'70**  **Gray Coyner** (ANSC), Upperville, Va., was appointed to the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board by Governor Terry McAuliffe.

 **Donald T. Cashion** (BIOL), Virginia Beach, Va., 10/9/16.  
**Charles W. Eisenhower Jr.** (EE), Clifton, Va., 12/16/15.  
**Joan Luistro Enderle** (HIST), Bradenton, Fla., 10/28/16.  
**Otto Gutenson** (BIOL), Lovettsville, Va., 9/20/16.



Daphne Palmer Geanacopoulos '79



COURTESY PHOTOS

Here are four things Geanacopoulos learned while writing "The Pirate Next Door":

**1) Pirates didn't ordinarily fly the Jolly Roger, the black skull-and-crossbones flag.**  
 "Pirates didn't go around with that flag up all the time. They only hoisted it when they attacked. Pirates carried flags from all nations to fool merchant ships. Just before they approached they'd hoist their Jolly Roger. A smart merchant captain would immediately surrender."

**2) Pirates had their own mail system.**  
 "The pirates' 'post office' was under a large rock with a hole in it located near where the ships came in on Ascension Island, a small remote island in the South Atlantic."

**3) Pirates maintained a highly developed code of honor.**  
 "People think pirates were just cutthroat thieves, but they were a very close brotherhood. If a pirate was killed in action or died from disease, a fellow pirate would smuggle the victim's share of the booty to his next of kin."

**4) The wives of pirates were intensely loyal, strong, and independent.**  
 "The wives didn't always know their husbands were pirates. When they left port, they could have been ordinary sailors who turned pirate at sea. But the loyalty of these women is what I saw in their letters. I also saw that they suffered greatly because their husbands were gone for so long." □

# Pirates were people, too

In late March 1717, as part of a gang of nearly 250 pirates who'd spent the year raiding ships in the Caribbean, Capt. Paulsgrave Williams sailed north up the coast of New England.

Detouring from the planned rendezvous point, Williams sailed home to see his mother and sisters. Meanwhile, his partner's ship was caught in a storm and wrecked on the Cape Cod shore, killing all but two of its 144-member crew.

The incident captured the imagination of Daphne Palmer Geanacopoulos (English '79), who wrote a book, "The Pirate Next Door: The Untold Story of Eighteenth Century Pirates' Wives, Families and Communities," recently published by Carolina Academic Press.



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'71 William S. Beamon III (PSYC, IE '75, IEOR '79), Marietta, Ga., 11/3/16.

Walter B. Crickmer (MGT), Bluefield, W.Va., 2/1/16.

Jerry K. Hudson (HIST), Richmond, Va., 1/23/16.

Charles D. Hunt Jr. (BAD '72), Marietta, Ga., 12/21/16.

Philip R. Lawrence (MATH '72), Burke, Va., 11/5/15.

Herman "Stan" Muir III (IEOR), Portland, Ore., 1/30/16.

Chilton H. Shorter Jr. (MGT), Palmyra, Va., 1/22/16.

'72 Nora Rutherford Bailey (HNF), Bluefield, Va., 11/14/16.

Robert E. Farmer (ME), Winston Salem, N.C., 12/1/16.

Wayne A. Thompson (HIST), Alexandria, Va., 12/28/16.

'73 Mary W. Biggs (MHFD, MHFD '79), Blacksburg, Va., was elected president of the Virginia Association of Counties for 2016-2017. She is the first president from Montgomery County, Va.

Carole G. Bouthilet (EDCI '74), Amissville, Va., 4/26/16.

R. Carter Cox (DE, EDCI '79), Hillsville, Va., 12/17/16.

Steven W. Gift (ARCH), Anna Maria, Fla., 10/28/16.

Bernard L. Thompson (EDSC), Cross Junction, Va., 10/24/15.

Charles G. Tinkler Jr. (ME), Gaithersburg, Md., 3/17/16.

'74 John C. Harves (EDSC '75, BAD '83), Olney, Md., authored a book, "The Ultimate Soccer Dictionary of American Terms."

David A. Burrow (EE), Savannah, Ga., 10/26/16.

Edward Cutright (CE), Mechanicsville, Va., 11/22/16.

Janice Goad Hudnall (SOC), Hillsville, Va., 10/22/16.

David B. Quarles (AGRN), Fort Morgan, Colo., 10/7/16.

Larry C. Rinaca (ASE '75), Georgetown, Tenn., 9/7/16.

William W. Zimmerman (PLPP), Yuma, Ariz., 11/28/16.

'75 Cindy Andrew Formica (BIOL '76), Marietta, Ga., was elected president of the Northside Hospital Auxiliary.

Angela E. Roberts (PSCI '76), Richmond, Va., was the first black woman to be elected as judge in Virginia. She presided over the Richmond Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court for 26 years before retiring.

Charles E. Dowdy (ENGL '80), Roanoke, Va., 10/5/16.

James R. Grant Jr. (ME, ME '76), Jupiter, Fla., 11/28/16.

James F. Harris (MICR '76), Virginia Beach, Va., 11/29/16.

Michael G. White (DASC), Addison, N.Y., 1/12/17.

'76 John B. West (MKTG), Atlanta, Ga., is a strategic client advisor for Sterling Risk Advisors.

Stephen M. Moore (PSCI), Ellerslie, Ga., 11/4/16.

'77 Richard E. Hearne (AOE), Tampa, Fla., 6/11/16.

Roland L. Kendrick (BIOL), Gretna, Va., 12/3/16.

Michael X. Kolpak (FOR, CHEM '81), Schwenksville, Penn., 8/15/16.

Judith Burnside Peoples (PSYC '78, PSYC '82), Louisville, Ky., 11/5/16.

Gardner C. Pomper (EE, EE '79), York, Penn., 11/12/16.

Samuel M. Snyder (CS), Waynesboro, Va., 11/26/16.

Danny G. White (SOC), Emporia, Va., 9/10/16.

'78 Thomas H. Mills III (ARCH, ARCH '93), Blacksburg, Va., received the 2016 Associated Schools of Construction Outstanding Researcher Award.

David G. Shore (FOR), Newburg, Mo., retired from the National Forest System with more than 36 years of service.

Steven L. Spurlock (ARCH), Washington, D.C., is principal of Quinn Evans Architects.

Alberta A. Warren Barth (EDCI), Camp Hill, Penn., 1/1/17.

Robert M. Bourque (ETE), Mechanicsville, Va., 8/26/16.

Daniel J. Love (HIST '79), Loveland, Colo., 2/15/16.

'79 Robin Macher Albrecht (DE, EDVT '81), Manassas, Va., was named the Business and Information Technology Secondary Teacher of the Year by the National Business Education Association.



An overhead view of Mars' Wharton Ridge. Photo courtesy of NASA/JPL-Caltech/Cornell University/Arizona State University.

## Ridge on Mars named for alumnus

by STEVEN MACKAY

A ridge along the planet Mars' Marathon Valley has been named after Virginia Tech alumnus Robert A. Wharton Jr.

The ridge was named by NASA's Mars Exploration Rover Opportunity team to recognize Wharton's pioneering work in the use of terrestrial analog environments, particularly in Antarctica, where he studied scientific problems that could be equated to research on the likelihood of sustaining life on Mars.

Wharton, who died in 2012, earned a doctoral degree in botany from the Department of Biological Sciences in 1982. During his long career, he served as a visiting senior scientist at NASA headquarters, vice president for research at the Desert Research Institute in Nevada, provost at Idaho State University, and president of the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. He was awarded the United States Antarctic Service Medal from Congress and served on the National Research Council's Polar Research Board. □

Steven Mackay is the communications director for the College of Science.

The red planet:

To learn more about Wharton and his research, visit [vtmag.vt.edu](http://vtmag.vt.edu).

# Seals and whales and Hokies, Oh my!

story and photos by MICHAEL STOWE

## It's not easy picking a favorite memory from a trip to Antarctica.

Just ask Rachele Walker (apparel, housing, and resource management '09, MBA '12), one of a dozen "Traveling Hokies" who visited Antarctica in February as part of an expedition cruise offered through the Virginia Tech Alumni Association travel tours program.

"Antarctica's charms are indefinable by the normal written word, a place that at times alternated between the feeling you were walking on an alien planet or floating past gods of ice and ancient lore," Walker wrote in a travel blog she co-authored with her husband, Ben Walker (mechanical engineering '10). "We understand now why explorers and poets were drawn to this place and even more so why it must remain unbroken," she noted.

During the trip, the 200-passenger French cruise ship *Le Soleal* served as home base for the Traveling Hokies, but the adventurers used smaller eight-person Zodiac boats, to make landfall, cruise the bays, and get closer to nature. Deborah Petrine (management '78), a member of the university's Board of Visitors, said she won't ever forget cruising through Hidden Bay in a small boat. "The magical beauty of the icebergs, glacial ice, and seals seemed unreal—like a movie set instead of real life," she said.

In February, late summer in Antarctica, first light dawns around 3:30 a.m. Most days start—and often stay—gray, with clouds and fog hanging low over the water. But the fourth day for the Hokies proved different. It was a rare sunny day, and the sight was unforgettable. Bright light shimmered brilliantly off the water and the ice. A thin, white fog hung in the distance, but it was overshadowed by the picturesque blue sky.

For Yvette Johnson, (business information technology '05, information technology '11) that day's continental landing was a trip highlight. After hiking in 5 inches of snow half a mile up the ridge at Portal Point, she gazed out to soak in the scene. In the water below, two humpback whales swam by spouting water.

A moment etched in Kathryn Herron-Venancio's mind occurred early in the trip, soon after the ship cleared the rough seas and 25-foot waves that rocked the ship for 36 hours as it crossed the notorious Drake Passage separating Antarctica from Argentina.

"Once we had reached the South Shetland Islands, we finally encountered some very calm waters. There was no wind, everything was at a whisper, the sky was clear with the blue of the sky and the water reflecting each other," said Herron-Venancio (English '73). "What came to mind was the poem, 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner.' The trip was a living poem."

The cruise was Chris Rohrer's second trek to Antarctica. He was a junior geophysics major at Virginia Tech in 1974 when he first traveled to the region as part of a National Science Foundation research project. Rohrer had always wanted to return to the "land of the ice," but never found the right opportunity until he heard about the alumni tour and signed up with Herron-Venancio.

"The return trip let me see much, much more of the wildlife, the details of the coastline, and gave me the opportunity to walk around all those places, seeing them close-up," he said.

For Jack Weeks (accounting '68) and his wife Liz, the expedition was their fourth through the Virginia Tech Alumni Association, but their first to Antarctica. Jack Weeks said they enjoy the alumni tours because they connect travelers with a shared Virginia Tech connection, providing a dynamic group to social-



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## 2017 alumni travel tours

Baltic & Scandinavian Treasures | Aug. 22-Sept. 2

Island Life Ancient Greece | Sept. 18-26

Great Trains and Grand Canyons | Oct. 1-7

Medieval Masterpiece | Nov. 5-14

South African Explorer | Dec. 5-21

ize with at dinners and during outings. Jack's twin brother, Jim Weeks, (chemistry '68, biochemistry '70) and his traveling companion, Nancy Lubin, also joined the cruise.

"What an amazing experience," Liz Weeks said as she walked across the sand at Livingston Island, an Antarctic landing in the South Shetland Islands.

Less than 100 feet away, a dozen elephant seals sprawled on the beach. In the distance, hundreds, if not thousands, of Gentoo penguins scurried clumsily on the rocks, moms leading their babies to the water. □

*Michael Stowe, Virginia Tech's director of media relations, traveled with the alumni tour to Antarctica in February.*

Deborah '78 and Jim Petrine '80 show their Hokie Spirit with their son, James Petrine; daughter, Rachele Walker '09, '12; and son-in-law, Ben Walker '10.





Patricia Raun, a professor in the Virginia Tech School of Performing Arts, leads a discussion during Hokie Talks, a series of educational presentations about Virginia Tech programs and research, which were among the events offered during the weekend.



Vice President for Advancement Charlie Phlegar '78, '87 welcomes members of the Ut Prosim Society to a special celebration.



Ray Carmines '51 a senior benefactor of the Ut Prosim Society, enjoys sharing stories about his college experiences with his granddaughter, Jamie Nicole Riggins '04, and Professor Laura Sands at an event held during the Ut Prosim Society weekend.

## Celebrating philanthropy

Established in 1986, Virginia Tech's Ut Prosim Society recognizes alumni and friends whose lifetime giving to the university, as individuals or couples, totals \$100,000 or more. During a weekend of special events held March 31-April 1, 148 new members were inducted and 93 members advanced to higher levels within the society. Membership now consists of more than 2,600 individuals. Their unwavering support epitomizes the spirit and mission of Virginia Tech.

**Gordon E. Groover** (ANSC, AGECE '88, AAEC '01), Blacksburg, Va., was named associate professor emeritus by the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors.

**Michele Sparks Stuart** (IEOR, IEOR '83), Bethlehem, Penn., was recognized as the Entrepreneur of the Year by the Society of Women Engineers.

**Donald W. Hammond** (FIN), Lewisburg, W.V., 9/13/16.

**John M. Kiger** (MGT), Staunton, Va., 10/1/16.

**Charles W. Thomson** (CE), Arlington, Va., 4/8/16.

**Robin K. Reid Turner** (BIOL), Hinton, W.Va., 9/15/16.

**Charles E. Vaughan** (ME), Virginia Beach, Va., 12/20/15.

**'80 Doris P. Mason** (EDVT, EDVT '84), Yorktown, Va., 11/26/16.

**Daniel W. Robinson Jr.** (HIST), Grant, Ala., 11/1/16.

**John M. Rodgers** (BIOL), Stafford, Va., 10/11/16.

**Michele Pugh Spruill** (SOC), Newport News, Va., 12/30/16.

**'81 Wayne R. Sass** (PSCI), Fullerton, Calif., received a Ph.D. in organizational leadership from Regent University.

**Janet Palmer Arehart** (MGT), Penn Laird, Va., 1/30/16.

**'82 Gregory A. Hester** (MATH), Sugar Land, Texas, retired from Shell International Exploration and Production Inc. after a 34-year career as a geophysicist.

**Geoffrey J. Gray** (SOC), Virginia Beach, Va., 12/24/16.

**Connie M. Palmieri Kympton** (HRIM '83), Midlothian, Va., 11/6/15.

**'83 David S. Anderson** (PAPA), Celebration, Fla., has authored two books, "Health and Safety Communication: A Practical Guide" and "Further Wellness Issues for Higher Education: How to Promote Student Health During and After College."

**Newton S. Lee** (CSA, CSA '84), Tujunga, Calif., authored a book, "Total Information Awareness."

**Susan M. Eaton** (SOC), Sidney, Maine, 8/22/16.

**'84 Florentius Chan** (PSYC), Walnut, Calif., 1/21/16.

**Ervin "Lynn" Suydam** (EDVT, EDVT), Saint Louis, Mo., 10/19/16.

**Jo A. Murphy Underwood** (EDPE), Blacksburg, Va., 11/13/16.

**'85 Rebecca Ingram Boone** (PSYC), Chapel Hill, N.C., is a senior director of clinical research at Roivant Sciences.

**Valerie Jones** (EDSP), Virginia Beach, Va., received two Emmy awards for interview/discussion programs from the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences Mid-Atlantic chapter.

**Phyllis E. Graham** (EDSP), Princeton, W.Va., 12/31/16.

**Elizabeth A. Holloway** (HORT), Mills River, N.C., 1/24/16.

**Lora A. Reed** (BION), Newport News, Va., 11/9/16.

**Kelly G. Southard** (ARCH), Orange, Va., 11/4/15.

**'86 Gregory A. Edwards** (COMM), Arlington, Va., 9/20/16.

**Jerrill N. Fink** (EDAD, EDAD '88, EDAD '89), Max Meadows, Va., 11/3/16.

**Marvin D. Washington** (PSCI), Rockville, Md., 1/16/16.



Through more than 100 chapters across the country and around the world, Virginia Tech alumni create opportunities that bring members of the Hokie Nation together.

## Now hiring

Virginia Tech alumni are committed to helping Hokies get connected. In today's competitive employment market, networking is an excellent way to open doors to career opportunities and professional development.

This spring, the Richmond (RVA) and National Capital Region chapters once again organized job fairs to connect job seekers with potential employers. While these events are designed with Hokies in mind, participation is open to anyone who is interested. The chapters organize these events to coincide with the university's spring break to offer future graduates insights into regional job markets.

Nearly 500 people turned out for the 26th Annual National Capital Region Job Fair on March 6, which featured representatives from about 50 professional and high-tech companies from Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, D.C. For those who were new to the job fair experience, the chapter offered a special educational session, "How to Make the Most of a Job Fair."

The RVA Career Expo, held annually in March and October, drew more than 1,000 registrants and showcased more than 100 companies this year. Thirty percent of these employers were first-time participants. Prior to the expo, the chapter conducted 58 training events to prepare job-seekers for the fair.

### Get connected:

Learn about Virginia Tech alumni chapters near your community by visiting [alumni.vt.edu/chapters](http://alumni.vt.edu/chapters).

**'87 Lisa Davis Clark** (PSCI), Princeton, W.Va., was elected to a second term as a family court judge and juvenile drug court judge in West Virginia's 12th circuit.

**Woodrow E. Herndon** (EDVT), Saltville, Va., 3/28/16.

**'88 Steve Ewankowich** (ME), Raleigh, N.C., is the OEM account manager for central North Carolina at Rockwell Automation, Cary, N.C.

**Gina Rudd French** (MGT, BAD '92), Roanoke, Va., was promoted to chief of staff in Virginia Tech's Pamplin College of Business.

**Paul E. Rossler** (IEOR, ISE '91), Blacksburg, Va., was named Lawyer of the Year by Best Lawyers for his work in trademark law in Tulsa, Okla. Also, he was included in the 2016 edition of Oklahoma Super Lawyers Rising Stars.

**Kusum Singh** (EDRE), Blacksburg, Va., was named professor emerita by the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors.

**Carolyn L. Robinson Della Mea** (EDRE), Winston-Salem, N.C., 11/4/16.

**Robert A. White** (CHEM), Roanoke, Va., 12/3/16.

**'89 Stephen A. Hughes** (FIN), was selected as the Hokie Hero for the football game against the University of Virginia.

**Barbara L. Grossl Drigalla** (MSCI), Kearney, Mo., 9/22/15.

**Walter J. Simpkins Jr.** (AT '89), Richfield, N.C., 11/2/16.

**'91 Courtney A. Couch Johnson** (FW '92), Kamiah, Idaho, received the U.S. Forest Service 2016's Gifford Pinchot Award for Excellence in Interpretation and Conservation Education.

**Christopher J. Stubbs** (FOR), Stephens City, Va., is superintendent of Monocacy National Battlefield in Maryland.

**Barbara A. Buskill** (EDAD), Richland, Va., 10/5/16.

**'92 Charles E. Watson** (STAT, ENGL '93, ENGL '95, EDCI '07), Watkinsville, Ga., published a book, "Teaching Naked Techniques: A Practical Guide to Designing Better Classes."

**Heather C. Heady** (ELED), Charlotte, N.C., 5/12/16.

**'93 Joel E. Henry** (CSA), Missoula, Mont., is a senior counsel to the Intellectual Property Practice Group for Michael Best & Friedrich.

**Steve L. McMullin** (FIW), Fort Myers, Fla., was named professor emeritus by the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors.

**Robert W. Ward** (COMM), Arlington, Va., is chief operating officer for Skanska USA Commercial Development, New York.

**Andrew L. Mayer** (ARCH), Wilkes, Va., 10/22/16.

**James R. Taylor** (SOC), Canton, Ga., 11/7/16.

**'94 Adrienne L. Bennett** (PSCI), Norfolk, Va., was appointed chairman of the Virginia Parole Board by Gov. Terry McAuliffe.

**Vernon L. Wildy Jr.** (ISE), Glen Allen, Va., has published his second book, "Reunion at McBryde Hall."

**Peter B. Nosek** (ACCT), Charlottesville, N.C., 9/30/16.

**'95 Nima Sharifi** (BIOL), Beachwood, Ohio, was the recipient of the 2017 Richard Weitzman Outstanding Early Career Investigator Award of the Endocrine Society. He has been published in Nature and Lancet Oncology.

**Judy McIntire Springer** (IS), Swedesboro, N.J., received the 2016 Pro Bono Publico Award from the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania Court for her work with the Court of Common Pleas, Trial Division, Dependency.

**Kevin W. LeClaire** (ISE, ECAS), Great Falls, Va., a son, 11/22/16.

**Robin R. Comfort** (EDCI), Grundy, Va., 9/15/16.

**'96 Michael A. D'Altrui** (COMM), Sea Girt, N.J., is a partner for an insurance agency that was chosen as the National Agency of the month.

**Andrea M. Lawson** (TA), Clayton, N.C., 11/14/16.

**'97 Brian T. Boylan** (ISE, SYSE '02, IT '04) and **Priya Gowda-Boylan** (PSYC '03), Leesburg, Va., a son, 11/23/16.



"Introducing our future Hokies, Owen Garland and big sister Sadie-Mae." —Bethany Lanier '10

Andrew Lanier '11 and Bethany Lanier '10, Auburn, Ala., a son, Owen Garland Lanier, 8/25/16.

JENNIFER YOUNG  
FMN PHOTOGRAPHY

"Nick and I must have crossed paths a hundred times at Virginia Tech. It took me falling into him at a rock concert in D.C. for us to finally meet. I am so happy that the guy I fell into and in love with is a Hokie!" —Laura E. Delpopolo '10



Laura E. Delpopolo '10 and Nicholas Delpopolo '09, Arlington, Va., 6/04/16.

"Ten years after meeting at the Math Emporium, we decided to tie the knot." —Kristina Mueller '10



James "Randy" Heckler '10 and Kristina Mueller '10, Columbia, Md., 7/29/16.

RICH COLEMAN  
SANDY HINDMAN '06

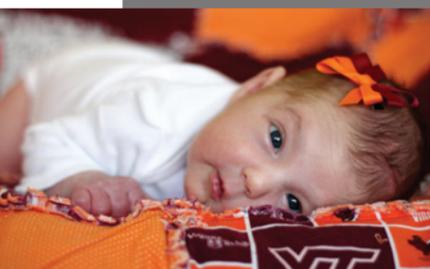
DANI LEIGH PHOTOGRAPHY



"Michael and I met at Virginia Tech in 2008 and were good friends before we started dating in 2013. Our Hokie wedding was held in the Outer Banks, N.C." —Lindsay Bryant Jacob '09

Lindsay Jacob '09 and Michael Jacob, Reston, Va., 6/04/16.

"Ava was so excited to dance the 'Hokey Pokey' with her big brother Gavin that she arrived 3 weeks early!" —Kara Vellines '09



Kara Vellines '09 and Mike Vellines '11, Radford, Va., a daughter, Ava Marie, 2/25/17.

KARA VELLINES PHOTOGRAPHY

"We entered the reception to 'Enter Sandman' through a tunnel made by the wedding party." —Matthew Guth '11



Kelsey Deitz '11 and Matthew Guth '11, Williamsburg, Va., 8/20/16.

MIKE POLITKO

"Amelia Anne was welcomed with big Hokie hugs by her parents and big brother, Cooper." —Sandy Hindman '06



Sandy Hindman '06 and John Hindman '07, Leesburg, Va., a daughter, Amelia Anne, 1/16/17.

**Bibi Ghousbeigui Dietrich** (IS, MGT '01), Mission Viejo, Calif., a daughter, 8/1/16.

**Richard N. Bowen Jr.** (HIDM '97), Youngsville, N.C., 5/8/16.  
**Susan M. Gibson** (FW '97), Redondo Beach, Calif., 12/1/16.

**98** **Mark A. Spinelli** (CPE), Haymarket, Va., is a technical specialist for the law firm of Harness Dickey & Pierce in Reston, Va.

**Jeffrey T. Shiver** (CE '00), Fort Mill, S.C., 9/13/16.  
**Charles E. Simmons** (BAD), Raleigh, N.C., 12/8/16.

**99** **Kevin Baird** (ISE), Middletown, Del., was recognized in Delaware Today magazine as a Top Lawyer 2016.

**Raphael R. Castillejo** (AE '00, ECAS '00), San Diego, Calif., assumed command of the USS Stockdale while deployed in the South China Sea.  
**Heather M. Massie** (TA), New York, N.Y., has performed extensively in theaters regionally and nationally. She wrote and performed a play, "Hedy! The Life and Inventions of Hedy Lamarr."

**Kathryn K. Neuville** (IS), Arlington, Va., a daughter, 6/18/16.

**Keion Carpenter** (HIDM), Buford, Ga., 12/29/16.  
**Edwin G. Wagoner II** (DASC '01), Independence, Va., 12/22/16.

**00** **Trenton D. Bauserman** (PSCI), Washington, D.C., served as special assistant to the President and house legislative affairs liaison, working on energy and environmental issues at the White House and in Congress under former President Barack Obama.  
**Brian M. Chapman** (IDST '01), Miami Beach, Fla., was selected as the Hokie Hero for the football game against Duke.

**01** **Stephanie L. Fidler** (HORT), Tampa, Fla., was promoted to the role of Natural Resources Southeast Business Unit Leader at Cardno.

**Benjamin M. Grossman** (HIST) and **Natalie Keyser Grossman** (PSCI), Pikesville, Md., a son, 4/23/16.

**02** **Katherine Johnson Ciplala** (ACIS), Gilbert, Ariz., a son, 11/4/16.

**Thomas Lee** (CHE), Columbia, S.C., a daughter, 11/25/16.  
**Dawn Kushner Mason** (BIOL '03), Jacksonville, Fla., a son, 10/27/16.  
**Kristin Parrish Sroka** (CHE) and **David P. Sroka** (BIT '03), Durham, N.C., a son, 7/27/16.

**03** **Christopher M. Gewain** (ACIS), Santa Ana, Calif., was promoted to partner for Moss Adams LLP.  
**Emily C. Winslow Lilly** (PSCI), Beckley, W.V., was among 13 women to graduate from the first integrated Armor Basic Office Leader Course and is the first female armor officer in the Army National Guard.

**Nicholas P. Behrman** (PSYC) and **Christine E. Jennison** (ECON, HIST), Midlothian, Va., a daughter, 5/3/16.  
**Elizabeth Miller Howe** (HNFE '03), Charlottesville, Va., a son, 9/14/16.  
**John A. Majeski** (HIST) and **Megan Schroeder Majeski** (HNFE), Red Bank, N.J., a daughter, 9/1/16.  
**Michael D. Meucci** (CPE), McDonald, Penn., a daughter, 1/10/17.  
**Angela Ohler Vizina** (ART), Hobe Sound, Fla., a son, 11/5/16.

**04** **James E. Miller** (HIDM, EDPE '08), Pembroke, N.C., is head football coach at Reinhardt University in Georgia.  
**Theresa Cimorelli Wills** (MATH), Springfield, Va., is an assistant professor at George Mason University.

**Alicia B. Alford** (HD, EDCI '06), Fishersville, Va., a son, 12/21/16.  
**Todd B. Helton** (MGT, BAD '13) and **Lauren Gully Helton** (MINE '12), Charlotte, N.C., a son, 12/29/16.  
**Aaron M. Teitelbaum** (BIOC), Danbury, Conn., a son, 10/20/16.  
**Andrea Fisher Weissbart** (HTM), Mechanicsville, Va., a daughter, 12/9/16.

**05** **Kendra M. Edwards** (COMM), Roanoke, Va., was named recipient of Harris Corp's Ten under Ten award.  
**Christopher T. Franck** (STAT), Blacksburg, Va., was named an assistant professor in the Department of Statistics at Virginia Tech.  
**John N. Hall** (FIN), Lynchburg, Va., is president of Lynchburg Wealth Management.  
**Adam G. Strickler** (FIN), Arlington, Va., served as an advisor with the National Security Council under former President Barack Obama.

**Ryan J. Fisher** (HIST, PAPA '07) and **Jennifer Patterson Fisher** (URPL '09, GSCR '09), Springfield, Va., a son, 9/22/16.

**06** **Adam S. Abramson** (ENGL), Los Angeles, Calif., won a 2016 Emmy Award for digital production on "The Late Late Show with James Corden."

**Catherine J. Huff** (COMM), Forest, Va., was promoted as partner with Gentry Locke.  
**Andreas N. Kinn** (PUA), Martinsburg, W.V., is a special assistant to the Asian Affairs Directorate at the White House.  
**Nathan A. Lahy** (LAR), Chesapeake, Va., is director of planning and landscape architecture for Miller-Stephenson & Associates PC.

**Sandra Dodd Hindman** (PSYCH) and **John Mitchell Hindman** (FIN '07), Leesburg, Va., a daughter, 1/16/17.

**07** **Elizabeth A. Hart** (COMM), Washington, D.C., received the 2016 Outstanding Recent Alumnus Award from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.  
**Sidra A. Kaluszka** (ARTF), Pilot, Va., was awarded best in show for her painting at the Sangre de Cristo Arts Center's National Aquarius Watermedia Exhibition 2016.

**Daniel Lentz** (IDS), Newbury Park, Calif., founder of Aquapaw, launched his first product, the Aquapaw pet bathing tool, a wearable combination water-sprayer and scrubber.

**08** **Earl Brown Jr** (MGT, ECON) Montclair, N.J., was appointed campus operating officer for Berkeley College in New Jersey.  
**Joshua Joseph Jr.** (CE) Baton Rouge, La., was named chair of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Southern University and A&M College.

### hokie business showcase

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**Megan M. Seibel** (EDCT '07, LSAE '12), Roanoke, Va., was named Virginia's assistant secretary of agriculture and forestry.

**Christi Michelle Byrd Santora** (PSYC), and **Jason G. Santora** (EE '09), Chesterfield, N.J., a son, 5/11/16.

**Zachary N. Strass** (CE), Saint Robert, Mo., 3/7/16.

**Sean A. Yemen** (MKTG), Charlottesville, Va., 11/6/16.

**'09 Benjamin C. Strause** (CEM), Alexandria, Va., 8/6/11 earned his professional engineer license.

**Nicholas A. Delpopolo** (FIN) and **Laura E. Blue Delpopolo** (FIN, ACIS) Arlington, Va., 6/4/16.

**Laura Ganser Felter** (CE) and **Andrew Felser**, Baltimore, Md., 10/9/16.

**Lindsay Bryant Jacob** (COMM) and **Michael G. Jacob** (BIT), Reston, Va., 6/4/16.

**Michael R. Puterbaugh** (ACIS, ACIS '10) and **Christina Brianne Robinson Puterbaugh** (PSYC '12, HD '12, HD '15), Reston, Va., 8/20/16.

**Kara James Vellines** (ENG) and **Mike Vellines** (CE '11), Christiansburg, Va., a daughter, 2/25/17.

**'10 James R. Heckler** (MINE) and **Kristina Mueller** (FIN),

Columbia, Md., 7/29/16.

**William M. Tuttle** (MKTG) and **Mallory Taylor Tuttle** (GSCR '14, HTM '14), Portsmouth, Va., 10/1/16.

**Bethany Laine Lanier** (PSYC) and **Andrew W. Lanier** (SOC '11), Auburn, Ala., a son, 8/25/16.

**Michael B. Hynden** (HIST), Fredericksburg, Va., 12/30/16.

**John D. Thomas** (CHEM, EDCI '12), Blacksburg, Va., 10/13/16.

**'11 Patrick W. Bates** (CHEM), Jacksonville, Fla., was selected as one of the Hokie Heroes at the football game against Boston College.

**Joshua C. Dworkin** (CE), Virginia Beach, Va., was selected as the Hokie Hero for the football game against Notre Dame.

**Catherine Larochele** (ECAG, GSCR) Blacksburg, Va., was named assistant professor of agriculture and applied economics with the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Virginia Tech.

**Sydney J. Plackett** (CE), Virginia Beach, Va., is a licensed professional engineer.

**Peter T. Velz** (ENGL), Centerville, Va., served as a special projects director, working closely with the White House press corps under former President Barack Obama.

**Jessica L. Guerro** (MKTG), and **Steven Balk Jr.**, Manassas, Va.,

10/22/16.

**Kelsey Anne Deitz Guth** (BIOL) and **Matthew B. Guth** (FIN, ACIS), Williamsburg, Va., 8/20/16.

**Adam J. Joerger** (ME) and **Heather Nicole Athens Joerger** (HIST), Suffolk, Va., 10/8/16.

**Alicia Eileen Ring Thomas** (ELPS) and **Matthew A. Thomas**, Wytheville, Va., 10/22/16.

**Anna Judge Goldman** (ITDS) and **Benjamin J. Goldman** (ME, ME '13), King George, Va., a daughter, 11/3/16.

**Rebecca G. Fay** (GBUA), Greenville, N.C., 1/2/17.

**'12 Andrew T. Lott** (CE), Goldsboro, N.C., was selected as the Hokie Hero for the football game against Pittsburgh.

**Rebecca C. May** (LAR), Alexandria, Va., is an urban designer with Rhode-side & Harwell.

**Lauren Beecher** (SPAN, BIOC) and **Thomas M. Cardman**, Reston, Va., 9/10/16.

**Lee F. McKinnon** (PSCI) and **Kelie Jean Davies McKinnon** (PSCI), Topsail Beach, N.C., 11/19/16.

**'13 Lindsay E. Clark** (PSYC), Pulaski, Va., completed a six and one-half month thru-hike of the Appalachian Trail from Georgia to the summit

of Mt. Katahdin in Maine.

**Kelsy Dominick** (AHRM, IS), of Haymarket, Virginia, staged a fashion show in December at the Arte y Moda 20th anniversary show in Havana, Cuba, the first American to do so since 1960. She was also invited to show at the Cannes Film Festival in France in May.

**Stephen A. Guardipee** (EPP), Salem, Va., joined Hatcher Law Group as a family law attorney in Charlotte, N.C.

**John L. Hinsdale** (AHRM), Johns Creek, Ga., was selected as the Hokie Hero at the football game against Miami.

**Jonathan E. Runge** (LAR), Alexandria, Va., is a landscape designer with Rhodeside & Harwell.

**Danylo A. Villhauer** (CE), Mechanicsville, Va., is an associate with Dewberry in Richmond, VA.

**Sophia Karatsikis Ruiz** (COMM, EDCI '14) and **Bradley M. Ruiz** (DAE '15, DOE '15), Virginia Beach, Va., 10/1/16.

**'14 Jonathan W. Abada** (ACIS), Richmond, Va., is an in-charge accountant at Lanigan, Ryan, Malcolm & Doyle, P.C. in Maryland.

**'15 Peter A. Schadt** (ECON), Bethlehem, Penn., was selected as the Hokie Hero for the football game against Syracuse.

**Marie Yacone Tully** (PSYC), Stafford, Va., was selected as the Hokie Hero for the football game against the University of North Carolina.

## retro



**20** years ago, Virginia Tech celebrated its 125th anniversary. To commemorate the occasion, the university commissioned an aerial photograph of students, faculty, and staff forming the numeral 125 on the Drillfield.

**20** years ago, Adrian "Ace" Custis (marketing management '97) became the third Virginia Tech men's basketball player to have his jersey retired.

**22** years ago, Beverly Sgro, who holds master's and Ph.D. degrees from Virginia Tech, delivered the spring commencement address. Sgro was the first female dean of students at Virginia Tech, a position she held until she was tapped to serve as the secretary of education for the Commonwealth of Virginia. Sgro later served as a member of the university's Board of Visitors.

**140** years ago, the First Academic and Second Academic buildings were occupied for the first time. They housed the university's library, a mess hall, a printing plant, and administrative offices for several departments. The buildings, which were razed in 1957 to make way for Rasche and Brodie halls, were located on the Upper Quad, in an area that currently is being redeveloped to include two new residence halls for members of the Corps of Cadets as well as the Corps Leadership and Military Science Building.

BY KIM BASSLER '12, UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR. IMAGES COURTESY OF LIBRARIES' SPECIAL COLLECTIONS; MORE CAN BE FOUND AT IMAGEBASE.LIB.VT.EDU.

## obituaries

### faculty/staff

**Vittorio "Vic" Bonomo**, associate professor of finance and a 1993 winner of the William E. Wine Award for Teaching Excellence, died on April 20 in Blacksburg.

**Jacqueline Eaves**, a housekeeping manager in the Facilities Department at Virginia Tech for 28 years, died Feb. 2. She was president of the Christiansburg Institute's alumni board for more than 20 years, nominated for the 1997 President's Award for Excellence, and received the Virginia Tech Staff Leadership Award in 2009.

**Michael "Mike" William Hyer**, the N. Waldo Harrison Professor of Engineering Science and Mechanics and affiliate professor of the Kevin T.

Crofton Department of Aerospace and Ocean Engineering, died on Wednesday, Feb. 15.

**John William Layman** (mathematics '54, M.S. '56, Ph.D. theoretical physics '58), associate professor emeritus with the Virginia Tech Department of Mathematics, died Feb. 8. Layman served as a faculty member from 1958 to 1995.

**Ali Nayfeh**, a University Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Virginia Tech's Department of Engineering Science and Mechanics, died on March 27. Nayfeh was a world-renowned scholar, teacher, and researcher in the field of nonlinear dynamics.

**Peggy Meszaros**, the highest-ranking woman in Virginia Tech's history, died in Hopkinsville, Kentucky, on April 18. Meszaros held two emerita

titles, the William E. Lavery Professor Emerita of Human Development in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences and Provost Emerita, both conferred after her 2016 retirement. Meszaros served nearly six years as senior vice president and provost, and later became founding director of the Center for Information Technology Impacts on Children, Youth, and Families.

**Arthur "Art" Rosenfeld** (physics '44), a physicist known for successfully championing the cause of energy efficiency in appliances and buildings, died Jan. 27 in Berkeley, Calif. Rosenfeld began his efficiency campaign during an Arab oil embargo in 1973, beginning with a decision to turn out the lights in all 20 offices in the laboratory where he worked. His

recommendations were incorporated first into California law under Gov. Jerry Brown, then at the federal level, leading to Rosenfeld's nickname—and lasting legacy—as "the father of energy efficiency."

**Paul Frederick Zweifel**, a University Distinguished Professor in the Virginia Tech College of Science's Department of Physics and a longtime supporter of the arts at Virginia Tech and in Blacksburg, died Feb. 12.

### students

**Paige M. Neubauer**, of Virginia Beach, a communication studies major, died March 31.

**Taylor Albert Rydahl**, a Ph.D. student in the computer science department in the College of Engineering, died March 14.



Hokies reach out to each other with compassion and support at the 2017 Run in Remembrance.

LOGAN WALLACE

# An extraordinary sense of community

by MATTHEW M. WINSTON JR. '90

**H**okies live *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve) through our service and compassion every day. We find ways to make our communities better, and we make each other better.

That sense of community has never been more evident than it was in the days immediately following April 16, 2007, as the Hokie Nation came together to show the world who we are and what we stand for.

Ten years later, as I attended the 2017 Day of Remembrance events, I was moved by the resilience and the compassion of this place—from the encouraging cheers as 16,000 participants walked or ran through our campus in the 3.2 for 32 Run in Remembrance, to the quiet tears shed as the names of the 32 filled the air at the commemoration and vigil on the Drillfield.

We will always honor and celebrate what each of their lives added to our community. To echo the words of Sumeet Bagai (business management '07), who spoke at the 2017 student-led Candlelight Vigil, “They represented the best in our Hokie Nation with their service to this community; their diversity of ethnicities, religions, and background; and their incredible accomplishments.”

As we gathered together this spring, once again, we reaffirmed our sense of community and our commitment to one another. Members from the Old Guard stood alongside soon-to-be alumni who were just children when 32 faculty and students were taken from us. Others who were on campus in 2007 returned to the university for the first time since their graduations. Countless alumni and friends honored the 10-year milestone in chapter events across the country.

I am inspired by our alumni who extended that expression of Hokie Spirit in the places where they live, work, and serve. I am grateful for all those on campus who played a role in this year’s remembrance activities as I am each year. The individuals who organized and participated in this year’s remembrance events have my sincere admiration.

We showed the world what it means to be a Hokie. We will never forget. We are Virginia Tech. □

*Matthew M. Winston Jr. (marketing management '90) is senior associate vice president for alumni relations.*



**Rooftop perspective:** During spring break 2017, a student-led group, coordinated through VT Engage, partnered with Hurley Community Development Inc., a nonprofit organization working to revitalize Hurley, West Virginia, to provide services to low-income families in the area. Participants on the alternative spring break trip learned about the challenges facing the rural community and assisted community volunteers with projects that ranged from roof repair to painting. The students also worked at clothing and food banks.

**Giving back:**

To view a gallery of photos from the alternative spring break trip to Hurley, go to [vtmag.vt.edu](http://vtmag.vt.edu).

LOGAN WALLACE

## CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



# Tailgates & Reunions

**Sept. 3 | vs. West Virginia**  
FedEx Field, Landover, Maryland

**Sept. 9 | vs. Delaware**  
College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences  
College of Architecture and Urban Studies  
Graduate School

**Sept. 23 | vs. Old Dominion**  
Pamplin College of Business

**Sept. 30 | vs. Clemson**  
College of Science

**Oct. 21 (Homecoming) | vs. North Carolina**  
College of Engineering  
Marching Virginians

**Oct. 28 | vs. Duke**  
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

**Nov. 18 | vs. Pittsburgh**  
Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine



**Sept. 8-9**  
Class of 2007 – 10th Reunion

**Sept. 22-23**  
Corps of Cadets Reunion

**Sept. 29-Oct. 1**  
Class of 1992 – 25th Reunion

**Oct. 19-22**  
Class of 1967 – 50th Reunion

**Oct. 20-21**  
Highly-Tighty Reunion

**Oct. 21**  
Young Alumni Reunion

**Oct. 27-29**  
Class of 1972 – 45th Reunion  
Class of 1977 – 40th Reunion

**Nov. 17-19**  
Class of 1982 – 35th Reunion  
Class of 1987 – 30th Reunion