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SUMMER 2022 VOL. 4, NO. 3

# VIRGINIA TECH

SUMMER 2022

magazine



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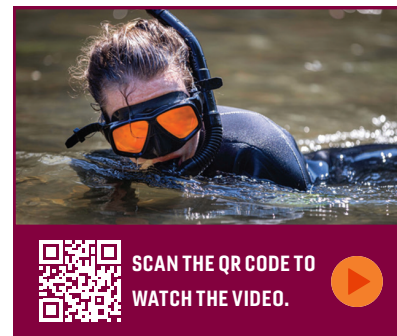




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## AT THE VIRGINIA TECH FRESHWATER MOLLUSK CONSERVATION

Center, in the College of Natural Resources and Environment, researchers raise mussels in tanks until they're about 20 to 30 millimeters and then stock them in streams with depleted mussel populations. Freshwater mussels are filter-feeding animals. They take in water through their siphons and remove pollutants, which improves the health of streams and rivers. Seventy percent of all freshwater mussel fauna is threatened or endangered, and this center's role is to conserve through hatchery and propagation.





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## PURE JOY

This spring, more than 6,300 graduates joined the ranks of Hokie alumni and spent commencement weekend marking the milestone with family, friends, and loved ones. See more photos on page 56.

## FEATURES

### 22 FRESH PERSPECTIVE

Virginia Tech's 150th anniversary offers an opportunity to compile a comprehensive history of the university in the context of the present and the Beyond Boundaries vision for the future. At the center of that effort is the Council on Virginia Tech History, a 25-person group spanning a breadth of academic disciplines and personal interests established to collect those stories and develop opportunities to meaningfully engage people with them.

### 28 VIRGINIA TECH A TO Z

As Virginia Tech celebrates its 150th anniversary, we use letters to provide the foundation—crafted in the spirit of a children's book—for exploring the quintessential people, places, events, and activities that make our university great. We hope each letter sparks memories and conversations filled with what may be slightly exaggerated tales and what surely are bold aspirations for the future.

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**150 AND COUNTING:** (on the cover) Explore a collection of images from throughout Virginia Tech's 150-year history. (at right) A graduate from the Class of 2022 participates in a commencement ceremony on the Blacksburg campus.





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

THE FUTURE IS NOW: President Tim Sands speaks to the crowd at an April 30 celebration of the university's 150th anniversary year.

# THE PLACE TO BE

Typically, the longer, warmer days of summer interrupt the tumult of activity at Virginia Tech. The university community seems to take a deep breath after commencement with many taking the opportunity to spend some time away. This year has been different. With both softball and baseball teams completing historic seasons and hosting NCAA regionals and super regionals and Hokies especially excited to come back together in person, Virginia Tech has been the place to be this summer.

In June, more than 1,000 alumni returned to Blacksburg for Reunion Weekend. We are still enjoying the stories, as attendees renewed friendships and learned more about how our university is carrying our commitment to learning and discovery into the future.

Our ongoing Sesquicentennial Celebration continues to provide opportunities to reflect on our institution's historical impact on the land, people, and prosperity of the commonwealth via social events, arts exhibits and performances, and educational programs.

Our alumni and friends are reaching new milestones in their support for the university. In 2016, I challenged our alumni to increase their giving and engagement to 22 percent by 2022, and Hokie Nation emphatically answered the call. Meeting that target is a remarkable achievement (the national average alumni giving rate is 8 percent) and puts us in an excellent position to maintain an ongoing yearly goal of about 20 percent.

Your engagement also helped us increase the goal for Boundless Impact: The Campaign for Virginia Tech from \$1.5 billion to \$1.872 billion, a tribute to our sesquicentennial year and your generosity.

It is difficult to overstate how important this is for our university's future. Philanthropy helps us attract and retain top faculty and staff and helps ensure that a Virginia Tech education continues to be affordable and accessible.

In May, Virginia Tech broke into the top 100 of the Times Higher Education Impact Ranking, the only global ranking that assesses campus operations, research, education, and outreach in relation to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The ranking measures our commitment to important issues such as hunger, sustainable cities, clean water, and reducing inequalities. It reflects our impact on the well-being of our students, communities, and the world around us.

We also ranked 22nd in Money Magazine's "Best Colleges for Your Money" list. We're proud that a Virginia Tech degree continues to increase in value for our graduates as the university's reputation and influence grow.

In the remaining weeks of summer, I hope you find time to relax with family and friends. If you get a chance, stop by to see us in Blacksburg. ■

*Tim Sands is Virginia Tech's 16th president.*

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# LETTERS

## TO THE EDITOR

### 'LIKE A GIRL' IS A COMPLIMENT

I really thank you for the recent Virginia Tech Magazine on 100 Years of Women at Virginia Tech. It was a delight—a real tribute to the women over the years who fought for women's inclusion and rights at Virginia Tech. I do believe you missed, however, the Women and Gender in International Development (WGD) program. The WGD program is older than both the women's studies program and the Women's Center and is still going strong under the leadership of Maria Elisa Christie. In its 40 years of existence, it has brought women from around the world to the university and has contributed enormously to Virginia Tech's global reach.

Once again, I thank you for the magazine's focus on women and their multiple achievements.

*Mary Hill Rojas Ed.D. '82  
Washington, D.C.*

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Women and Gender in International Development is part of Virginia Tech's Center for International Research, Education, and Development. To learn more about the center, visit [cired.vt.edu/women-and-gender-in-international-development](https://cired.vt.edu/women-and-gender-in-international-development).

### RING WORTHY OF PRAISE

I was pleased to see your latest Virginia Tech Magazine highlight the history and successes of some of the women graduates. But I am surprised that you did not include, nor have I seen written up in any of the magazines, the success of Bettina Ring who earned a forestry degree in 1986. She is the first woman to head the Virginia Department of Forestry, and I believe the first woman secretary of agriculture and forestry for Virginia. We who know her are very proud of her successful and honorable climb up the ladder after graduating and think the university should be as well.

*Debbie Sinex '85  
Atlanta, Georgia*

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Bettina Kay Ring graduated from the College of Natural Resources and Environment (CNRE) in 1986. Ring served as Virginia's secretary of agriculture and forestry under Gov. Ralph Northam from 2018-22. She previously served as the Virginia state forester under Gov. Terry McAuliffe from 2014-18. In 2022, Ring was named chief sustainability and diversity officer for the Sustainable Forestry Initiative. She was featured in the CNRE newsletter in 2018. Find the story at [cnre.vt.edu/about/newsmagazine/toc/201805](https://cnre.vt.edu/about/newsmagazine/toc/201805).



# AROUND THE DRILLFIELD

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## NEWS

### NEW VENTILATOR HELPS CRITICAL CARE VETERINARY PATIENTS

THANKS TO A TEAM FROM THE VETERINARY TEACHING Hospital led by Bobbi Conner, clinical associate professor and service chief in emergency and critical care, the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine now can provide mechanical ventilation for patients in long-term care.

After months of research and discussion, Conner secured a mechanical ventilator with the ability to manage an animal's breathing for extended periods of time while that animal recovers from an injury, surgery, or both. A few months ago, a dog suffering from a disk herniation that affected breathing was the first patient successfully treated with the new ventilator after undergoing surgery.

"She would not have survived without these interventions, but today, the dog is doing very well," Conner said.

Conner, one of only five criticalists in Virginia, handles the operation of the ventilator. A criticalist deals with the sickest patients and typically oversees an intensive care unit. She is looking ahead at how to develop critical care teaching and training opportunities for students.

"There's a huge need for additional critical care training, and one of our long-term goals is to build the program enough to hire a second criticalist and then start a residency program," she said. ■

CANINE CARE: Bobbi Conner (at left), clinical associate professor, and recent graduate Maya Wallick care for a patient that recently used the ventilator at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

ANDREW MANN

TAG-TEAMING RESEARCH: College of Engineering students and Sanghani Center for Artificial Intelligence and Data Analytics researchers will be collaborating on research projects with Amazon through a special partnership.



## VIRGINIA TECH AND AMAZON ESTABLISH RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP

**VIRGINIA TECH AND AMAZON ARE PART-**nering to advance research and encourage innovation in artificial intelligence and machine learning.

The Amazon-Virginia Tech Initiative for Efficient and Robust Machine Learning will include machine learning-focused research projects, doctoral student fellowships, community outreach, and an establishment of a shared advisory board.

Housed in the College of Engineering and led by Sanghani Center for Artificial Intelligence and Data Analytics researchers on Virginia Tech's campuses in Blacksburg, Virginia, and at the Innovation Campus in Alexandria, Virginia, the partnership will support faculty and student-led development and implementation of innovative approaches to machine learning.

In addition, Virginia Tech will host an annual public research symposium to share their knowledge with the machine learning and research-related com-

munities. Together with Amazon, the university will co-host two annual workshops and training and recruiting events for Virginia Tech students.

"Forging new and expanding partnerships with industry leaders like Amazon is a critical component to enable growth of Virginia Tech's research portfolio and capabilities," said Dan Sui, senior vice president and chief research and innovation officer at Virginia Tech. "With Amazon researchers and Virginia Tech's depth of expertise in artificial intelligence-related research, we aim to accelerate human-centric technology advances that will have implications for future generations."

In 2018, Amazon selected Arlington, Virginia, for its HQ2. The commonwealth's \$1 billion investment in higher education, seeding the doubling of existing computer science and computer engineering programs in Blacksburg, helped attract Amazon and was the catalyst for launching the Virginia Tech Innovation Campus. ■

## LIN LEADS STUDY ON BATTERY CHARGING CAPABILITY



**FENG LIN, AN ASSOCIATE PROFES-**sor in the Department of Chemistry, is part of a new international multi-agency/university study published in April in Science, a leading outlet for scientific news, that takes a new look behind the factors that drive a battery's lifespan and how those factors change over time in fast-charging conditions.

The study finds that battery decay seems driven by the properties of individual electrode particles, but after several dozen charging cycles, it's how those particles are put together that matters more.

"This study really sheds light on how we can design and manufacture battery electrodes to obtain a long cycle life for batteries," Lin said.

Lin's lab now is working to redesign battery electrodes with the goal of fabricating electrode architectures that provide fast-charging capabilities and sustain a longer life at a fraction of today's cost, as well as being environmentally friendly.

The study, for which Lin is a co-senior author, is in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Energy's SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, along with Purdue University and the European Synchrotron Radiation Facility. ■

ERIN WILLIAMS, STEVEN MACKAY

## TEAM OF VIRGINIA TECH STUDENTS WIN TOP PRIZE AT COLLEGIATE REAL ESTATE COMPETITION

**A TEAM OF FOUR VIRGINIA TECH** students from the Blackwood Program in Real Estate within the Pamplin College of Business bested 30-plus teams representing 23 colleges to earn first place in the Mulroy Real Estate Challenge hosted by the Villanova School of Business.

The Virginia Tech team consisted of Cooper Ball, a senior economics and real estate major; Allison Gray '22, a finance and accounting major; Kate Kersey '22, a real estate major; and Luke Whalen '22, a finance and real estate major.

The Mulroy Real Estate Challenge is a real estate development case competition in which students from top undergraduate real estate programs compete.

"This is the most preeminent competition for undergraduate real estate majors," said Jeffrey Robert, collegiate assistant professor of real estate and the team's academic advisor.

The team received the top prize of \$5,000 and a plaque commemorating its win. ■

**A WINNING TEAM:** (from left) academic advisor Jeffrey Robert and students Kate Kersey, Allison Gray, Luke Whalen, and Cooper Ball. ■



COURTESY OF JEFFREY ROBERT, PETER MEANS



**DIGITAL DIVIDE:** Virginia Tech's Center for Geospatial Information Technology created a map to help people around the state find reliable broadband access.

## CGIT CREATES ENHANCED MAP TO SHOW STATE'S BROADBAND COVERAGE

**WHEN THE WORLD SHUT DOWN AT** the start of the pandemic, how did you stay connected with family and friends? Do your job? Go to school?

Now imagine trying to do all these things without reliable home internet service.

Virginia Tech's Center for Geospatial Information Technology (CGIT), working with the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development's Office of Broadband, has launched an enhanced mapping tool to narrow the digital divide across the commonwealth.

The Commonwealth Connection mapping tool, which provides information about where high-speed internet service is available in Virginia, will allow state officials and consumers to determine

where reliable broadband access exists—and where it is lacking.

Additionally, the new tool will give local governments data needed to request funds, deploy broadband infrastructure, and reach approximately 50,000 underserved homes, businesses, and community institutions.

"It is our goal to help close the digital divide," said CGIT Director Brandon Herndon. "Having a high-resolution map that shows where coverage is and isn't gives local jurisdictions data to prove their need."

The new map provides coverage information on 3.5 million of the 3.8 million addresses in Virginia. Data will continue to be collected annually. ■

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## NEWSREEL



VIRGINIA TECH VIDEOGRAPHERS HAVE BEEN HARD AT WORK CAPTURING THE UNIVERSITY'S NEWS AND EVENTS. CHECK OUT THIS SAMPLING AND MANY OTHERS AT [VTX.VT.EDU/VIDEOS](http://VTX.VT.EDU/VIDEOS).



### Bamboo research

Jonas Hauptman, an assistant professor of industrial design, hopes to teach students how to turn raw natural materials into something that has a more environmentally friendly impact.



### Clean coal technology that's good for the environment and the economy

University Distinguished Professor Roe-Hoan Yoon is focused on developing clean coal technologies to capture value from coal refuse materials while reducing the stress they put on the environment.



### Artificial intelligence method for biomaterials

Before chemical engineering doctoral student Soumil Joshi and Assistant Professor Sanket Deshmukh developed their computer-assisted analysis tool for polymers, synthesizing new biomaterials was limited.



### Memphis Jookin' at the Embodied Brain Lab

Renowned dancer Lil Buck and others from "Memphis Jookin': The Show" visited the Embodied Brain Lab, where Julia Basso and her team recorded their brain activity and body physiology as they performed choreographed and improvised material.

# 150 years



Blacksburg



Riva San Vitale, Switzerland



D.C. Area

## CELEBRATING OUR SESQUICENTENNIAL

THIS YEAR, VIRGINIA TECH IS MARKING the 150th anniversary of its founding with celebrations across the commonwealth, nation, and world. The commemoration kicked off last summer and will conclude in December.

Hokies around the globe have gathered to commemorate the special occasion at celebrations from Blacksburg, Richmond, and Washington, D.C., to the Steger Center in Riva San Vitale, Switzerland.

The Sesquicentennial Celebration is an opportunity to honor the past, celebrate the present, and chart a course toward even greater engagement and positive impact in the future. ■ AM



150 YEARS!

We are honoring our past and celebrating our present. Learn more at [vt.edu/150](http://vt.edu/150).

HARDY EVENT PHOTOS



D.C. Area

HISTORIC GENEROSITY LEADS TO NEW GOAL FOR

# BOUNDLESS IMPACT



**VIRGINIA TECH HAS INCREASED THE** goal for Boundless Impact, the most ambitious fundraising campaign in university history, from \$1.5 billion to \$1.872 billion in response to unprecedented generosity from the Hokie Nation to date.

The new target alludes to the 1872 founding year of what is now Virginia Tech, which began as the Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College and is now a nationally renowned institution with enrollment over 37,000 and annual research expenditures over \$531 million.

“It’s more than a new goal, it is a number that speaks to our legacy,” the university’s 16th president, Tim Sands, said about the new figure that was announced April

30 at a gathering celebrating the university’s sesquicentennial. “For 150 years, we have tapped into powerful partnerships that have supported our students, advanced our university, and made great things possible.”

Boundless Impact: The Campaign for Virginia Tech was announced in October 2019 and is due to last through 2027. It’s the fourth national fundraising campaign the university has run, though generous donors have stepped forward in support of the institution since its very beginning.

Recent years have seen a dramatic acceleration in giving, with the university setting multiple records for new gifts and commitments and cash raised, while

also bucking national trends of declining giving participation by alumni.

“Shortly after arriving, President Sands challenged the Hokie Nation to reimagine the scope of what Virginia Tech could be,” said Charlie Phlegar, the university’s vice president for advancement who is responsible for fundraising. “Since then, our community of alumni and friends have stepped forward to an extraordinary and inspiring degree. Tim boldly challenged us to increase how much we raise each year, increase how many Hokies we inspire to make gifts, and increase our endowment in a major way. He set a high bar, but he knew what we Hokies are capable of, and we have answered the call.”

Boundless Impact campaign goals also include engaging 100,000 Hokies in meaningful ways.

Lynne Doughtie ’85 serves alongside Horacio Valeiras ’80 and Morgan Blackwood-Patel ’03 as a tri-chair of the Boundless Impact campaign.

“When we agreed to co-chair this campaign committee, we knew we’d reach our goal, but we had no idea how quickly it would happen,” said Doughtie, who became KPMG’s first female CEO in 2015 and served in that role and as chair of the company until 2020. “We are on track to not only meet, but surpass our [initial] Boundless Impact campaign goal of \$1.5 billion. And because of this success, we’re going to go even bigger.” ■ AR



**FOOTBALL FAMILY:** The Fuller brothers—(from left) Kyle, Vincent, Corey, and Kendall.

## Building on the Fuller legacy

**THE CORNERBACKS ROOM IN MERRY-**man Athletic Center is now named the Fuller Room in recognition of a generous gift to athletics by one of the most notable families in Virginia Tech and National Football League history. The Fuller brothers—Kyle, Vincent, Corey, and Kendall—are the only four siblings in NFL annals to all attend the same university and to all be selected in the NFL Draft. The Fuller Room is used daily by coaches and student-athletes. “I am tremendously grateful to the Fuller brothers for their financial commitment to our football program,” Virginia Tech head coach Brent Pry said. “I believe we all share a great appreciation for the way the Fullers played the game and how they conduct themselves, both on and off the field. They exemplify the competitive spirit and the attention to detail which

# FAMILY GENEROSITY

embodied Virginia Tech football for so many years under coach [Frank] Beamer. On behalf of all of our players and staff, we thank the Fuller family for their support and generosity.” ■

## Generational impact

**JIM YOUNG EARNED HIS MECHANICAL** engineering degree in 1980; thrived as an engineer, salesman, executive, and investor; and along with his wife, Marianne, raised a fourth generation of Hokies, with all three of their children earning Virginia Tech degrees.

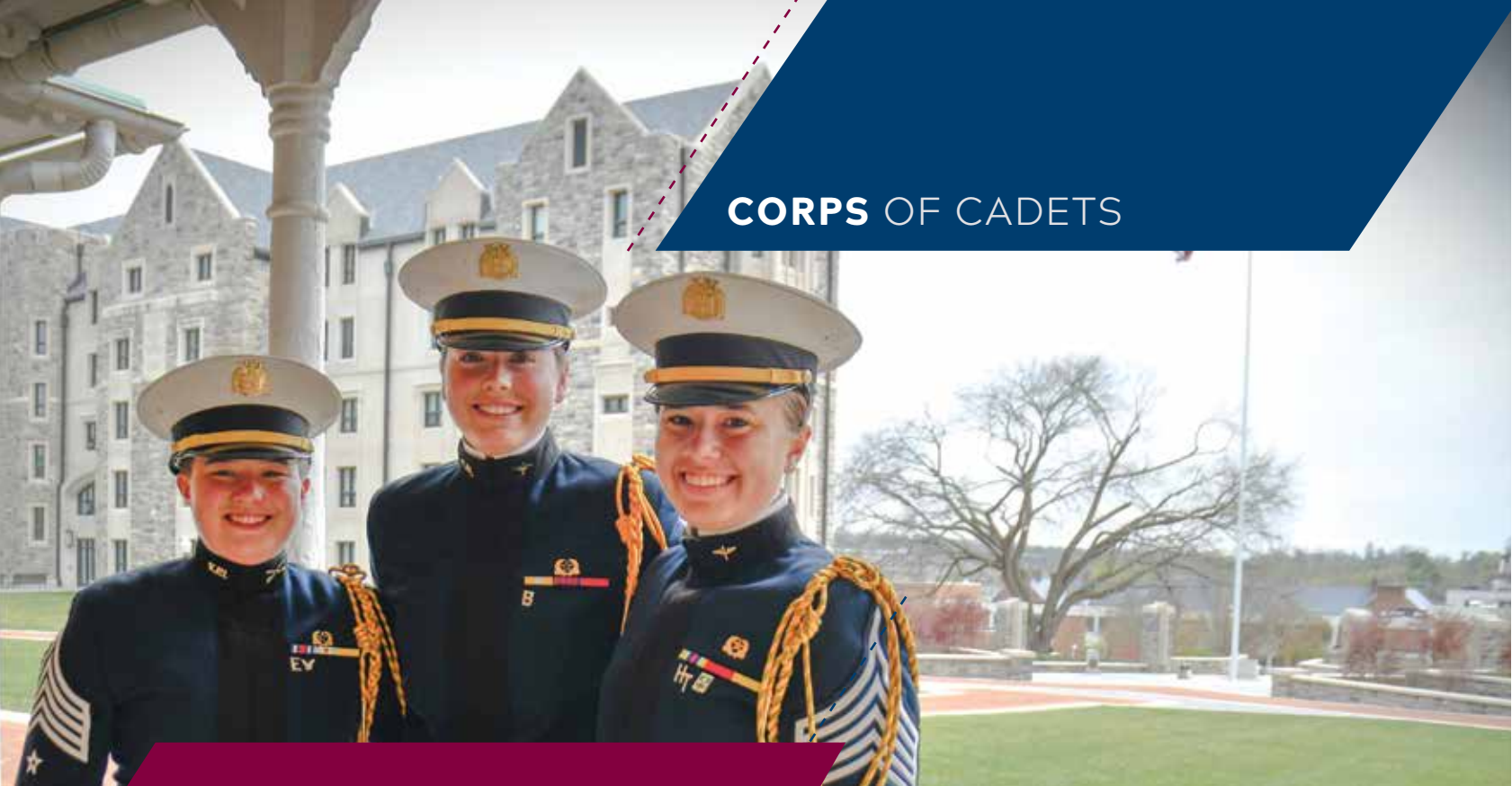
The Youngs recently established a professorship that will be named for Andrew J. Young, Jim’s grandfather, who graduated from the electrical engineering program in 1924 and kicked off a nearly century-long family tradition of personal achievement and lifelong love for Virginia Tech.

“Marianne and I created the professorship to honor my grandfather, to give back to the College of Engineering, which provided us with a foundation for success, to help recruit the best professors, and to provide engineering graduates with the best education and chance of success,” Young said of the philanthropic decision he and his wife recently made, adding that they also plan to endow professorships in civil engineering and mechanical engineering.

“This is an inspiring show of generosity and a remarkable example of how connected a Hokie family can be to Virginia Tech,” said Julia Ross, the Paul and Dorothea Torgersen Dean of Engineering. “Jim and Marianne have already helped students by creating scholarships in our college and elsewhere at the university. By endowing this important support for our faculty, they will also help generations of students who study under Young Professors in the future.” ■ AR



Marianne Young, grandson Max Garbett, and Jim Young.



## CORPS OF CADETS

FEMALE LEADERS: Spring semester battalion commanders were (from left) Claudia McCarthy, Eleanor Verburg, and Skyler Powell.

# STRONG, DRIVEN WOMEN

**FORTY-NINE YEARS AGO, WOMEN** blazed a trail into the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. As Virginia Tech marks its 100th anniversary of female students, those trailblazers from L Squadron can celebrate. “I have selected 20 battalion commanders over the years,” said Lt. Col. Don Russell, deputy commandant for 2nd Battalion. “Roughly half of those commanders happen to be women. Strong, driven women of character have been integral to the fabric of this corps for decades.”

Female cadets comprised 20 percent of the corps’ Class of 2022 and were selected for half of the top leadership positions. Most notably, all three battalions within the regiment were commanded by women.

That did not come as a surprise to them, though.

“We’ve been given these jobs all along, so it was not a surprise when we were selected for battalion command [or any other position],” said Skyler Powell ’22, the spring semester’s 3rd Battalion commander. “You notice it, and then you move on.” Powell graduated with a degree in philosophy, politics, and economics.

Eleanor Verburg, who commanded 1st Battalion this spring, agreed. “My goal was to succeed in whatever position I was in. I never felt there was a job in the corps that I wasn’t qualified to fill,” said Verburg, a civil engineering major who will graduate in December.

Second Battalion’s spring semester commander, Claudia McCarthy, a building construction major who will graduate in December, had been interested in attending the U.S. Naval Academy but fell in

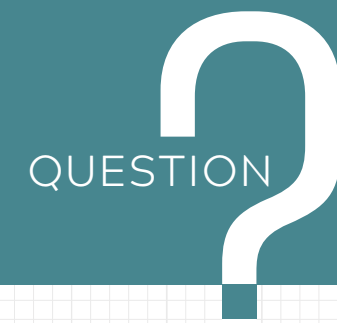
love with the people at Virginia Tech when she visited campus. “I never really thought about being labeled as a woman in the corps or took it into account.”

Capt. Jamie McGrath, director of the corps’ Rice Center for Leader Development, said it’s important to have people of varied backgrounds in command positions. “We need diversity in leadership for diversity in thought,” McGrath said. “Each of these leaders brings a unique perspective that makes the whole organization better.”

The corps will welcome an equally diverse leadership team for the fall semester, which includes its 10th female regimental commander. Denise Shuster ’88 became the first in 1987. ■

*Katie Mallory is the communications director for the Corps of Cadets.*

KATIE MALLORY



# POWWOW PROTOCOL



**MELISSA FAIRCLOTH, DIRECTOR OF** Virginia Tech’s American Indian and Indigenous Community Center, helped organize the first Spring Powwow on the Blacksburg campus in 2017. Just before the most recent event this spring, Faircloth answered a few questions about powwows and her hopes for the annual event.

## WHAT IS A POWWOW?

“You’ll get a different answer depending on who you ask and what it means to them personally, but the best way I can describe it, at least for tribal communities, is there is obviously this cultural component of passing down tradition—having youth come and be a part of it and seeing the tradition passed down and carried out—but it’s also like a big family reunion or homecoming.”

THOMAS MILLER

## WHAT GENERALLY HAPPENS AT A POWWOW?

“It usually opens with something called grand entry and a presentation of flags. We have a lot of veterans in Native communities. Despite their history with militarization and colonialism, they participate at a higher proportion than any other ethnic group. So there is significant honoring of veterans at powwow. The Eagle Staff, one of the oldest of Native symbols, always goes out first at a powwow, which differs from other western ceremonies where the U.S. flag goes out first. Then you have different intertribal dance categories and the drumming and singing, of course. There’s usually food and arts and crafts vendors selling Native-made items.”

## HOW CAN PEOPLE ENGAGE WITH THE POWWOW?

“As far as the Indigenous community, whether they are on campus or external to campus, we love to have dancers come out and participate. We’ve had dancers come from Virginia tribes, from North Carolina tribes, and from even further. We also have people who attend to show support. A lot of the tribal leaders have shown up in support just to build that relationship with the campus, which is really important to us.

“As far as non-Native patrons, just showing up as an attendee is great. We always

have emcees who do a great job of providing cultural education during the event. They’re not just calling the dances, they’re letting you know a little bit about what each dance’s history is and where it came from, what folks’ regalia means, so you get a lot of cultural education while you’re at the event.”

## WHAT DO YOU HOPE ATTENDEES GARNER FROM THE POWWOW?

“I hope they realize there is a Native presence, despite it being small, on Virginia Tech’s campus. We have Native students. We have Native faculty and staff. They’re citizens of tribal nations. They’re not always identifiable by race or ethnicity, but that citizenship is a really important component. So just being cognizant of the presence of Native people in our community is a really big deal.” ■ TW

SHARING TRADITION: Participants take part in the Spring Powwow on the Graduate Life Center lawn in April.



## A GLOBAL CAREER

## CAUGHT ON FILM

“VIRGINIA TECH HAD ANYTHING—AND EVERYTHING—I COULD BE INTERESTED IN DOING. THAT HELPED SHOW ME THAT THERE WAS AN ENTIRE WORLD OUT THERE AND THAT I COULD TACKLE WHATEVER I WANTED.”

Chris Kugelman '94

EARLY IN HIS 25-YEAR CAREER AS a photographer, videographer, and explorer, Chris Kugelman '94 worked an astonishing 14 months in the frigid cold of Antarctica for the National Science Foundation. While there, he decided to make a film of his travels—his first foray into filmmaking.

Since then, he's worked at National Geographic and Red Bull Media House, and he has been an executive producer on the Disney+ series “Welcome to Earth” starring actor Will Smith.

Kugelman's career, though, started simply with a love of the outdoors, the first photography class he took at the Northern Virginia 4-H Educational Center, and his experiences in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Virginia Tech.

The combination of classes and experiences at Virginia Tech along with the nearby hiking and biking trails of the Blue Ridge Mountains helped Kugelman discover himself.

“Virginia Tech had anything—and everything—I could be interested in doing,” said Kugelman, who earned a degree in human nutrition, foods, and exercise. “That helped show me that there was an entire world out there and that I could tackle whatever I wanted.”

Kugelman since has experienced some of the toughest environments on Earth, in places such as Antarctica, Greenland, Nepal, and Borneo. He attended wildlife film school in New Zealand, which led to a role with NHWZ, formerly Natural History New Zealand, and the trip to Borneo.

“They found it useful putting someone in environments like that, so I found myself directing and producing a series for Animal Planet about orangutans,” Kugelman said.

His career has included two separate stints at National Geographic. During the second, he worked on an ambitious project: taking an A-list celebrity—Smith—and placing him in some of the most dangerous locations on the planet.

To this day, Kugelman is interested in everything in the natural world.

“Every six months, I'm meeting some scientists or an explorer who is investigating the natural world or on an adventure that I am 100 percent interested in,” Kugelman said. “I'm fortunate to get to make projects with those folks, and I think that comes directly from my personality and the path I wove from 4-H to Virginia Tech and beyond.” ■

*Max Esterhuizen is the assistant director of communications and marketing for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.*

Chris Kugelman

COURTESY OF CHRIS KUGELMAN

## OVERCOMING CURVEBALLS

MOST PEOPLE STRUGGLE WITH SELF-assessment, but whenever Keely Rochard reflects on her first ventures as a softball pitcher, she is brutally honest.

“I was really bad,” she said.

How bad? Lisa Rochard, Keely's mom, witnessed the struggles, and her heart ached for her daughter—who was 8 or 9 years old at the time. She suggested her daughter play a different position. Gently, of course.

“She was like, ‘Are you sure this is what you want to do? Are there any other positions?’ Again, because I was really bad,” Keely Rochard said. “It wasn't her saying, ‘You really suck at this.’ She was more like, ‘Are you sure? We'll get you lessons.’ Then one day, it just clicked and everything worked out.”

Rochard recently concluded her career as one of the best players in Virginia Tech history, twice earning All-America honors, twice winning the ACC Pitcher of the Year award, and this past season, being named a finalist for the USA Softball Player of the Year award after an amazing final season.

Rochard, who received an extra season of eligibility from the NCAA after the 2020 season was cut short because of the COVID-19 pandemic, went 26-4, with 328 strikeouts in 204 innings and a 1.89 earned run average. She led the Hokies to their highest national ranking ever (No. 2) and a second consecutive NCAA super regional appearance. Only Angela Tinch-er's otherworldly career—Tinch-er holds the school record for career wins (123), career earned run average (0.78), and

career strikeouts (2,149), among numerous others—stands between Rochard and the best player in program history honor. None of this greatness surprised Rochard, who always understood the ups and downs of sports and embraced working her way out of the valleys.

“Some people will spend five minutes trying to fix something and be like, ‘It's broke,’” Rochard said. “I'll spend however long on it until it's fixed. ... That's just how I am about everything in life.”

Rochard credited a lot of her success to Pete D'Amour, the head coach, and Doug Gillis, pitching coach. They helped her expand her repertoire, getting her to spin her riseball better, find consistency with her changeup, and develop a dropball.

They molded her into the dominant force she became during her final three seasons.

“Just those three things are pretty big improvements for her,” D'Amour said.

“The key is great coaches,” Rochard said. “They not only are super smart with softball, but they care about the little things and the culture of this program. They know how to teach, but the culture is the big thing, and I think that's missed on a lot of teams.”

Rochard now gets ready to write the next chapter of her life story. She graduated in 2021 with a degree in sociology, but she has an interest in cosmetology, a field in which her mom works. Professional softball likely will provide some opportunities as well. ■ JR



## SOFTBALL SUCCESS

To catch up with the team, visit [hokiesports.com](https://hokiesports.com).

CIRCLE OF TRUST: Keely Rochard owned the pitching circle during her career, registering 97 wins in five seasons.



## EPIC EXPERIENCES

To read more about Chris Kugelman's career, visit [vtx.vt.edu](https://vtx.vt.edu).

LOGY

ol·o·gy  
äləjē

a subject  
of study

STUDYING THE CONNECTION BETWEEN

# DANCE AND AUTISM

**JULIA BASSO, THE DIRECTOR OF THE Embodied Brain Lab at Virginia Tech,** admits that few people choose to double major in the unlikely tandem of dance and neuroscience.

But like the pairing of cheddar cheese and apple pie, the unique combination works.

Basso, an assistant professor in the Department of Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise in Virginia Tech's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and Rachel Rugh, an adjunct faculty member at Virginia Tech and the owner of the local dance studio New River Moving Arts, are teaming for a study on how dance impacts those with autism.

"One of the symptoms of this disorder comes in social skills, such as the inability to look others in the eye, read emotional expressions, and engage with others," Basso said. "So there's a big connection with what we're training for in dance and the difficulties we see in this disorder."

Basso and Rugh hypothesize that dancing enhances intra-synchrony within one's own brain and inter-synchrony—the synchrony between two brains. People with autism often lack social skills and struggle to understand others' feelings.

But dance potentially can stimulate movements and behaviors that assist

with understanding. "We're hypothesizing that as we train in dance and cultivate these states with our partner, we'll be able to see enhancement of the social elements of the brain," Basso said.

Scientists can measure brain activity between two individuals through a technique called hyper-scanning, a term coined by Read Montague at the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at VTC, who is involved in this type of research. Mobile electroencephalography, or EEG, caps that fit on the head, allow for the measuring of brain activity in multiple individuals while in motion.

Basso is handling the scientific part of the study, while Rugh oversees the dance curriculum. Participants attend two sessions a week for four weeks.

"By the end of it, hopefully the group members will be able to share movement or scores [movement sequences], so they'll be creating their own and then performing them for each other," Rugh said.

Looking ahead, Basso and Rugh want to cultivate an arts and science hub at Virginia Tech that focuses on mind-body research and serve as a resource for the community. They are applying for a National Endowment of the Arts Research Labs grant for this purpose. ■ JR



**DANCE AS THERAPY:** Julia Basso (at left) and Rachel Rugh tested their electroencephalography, or EEG, caps before starting a research project earlier this spring that studies how dance can affect those with autism spectrum disorder.

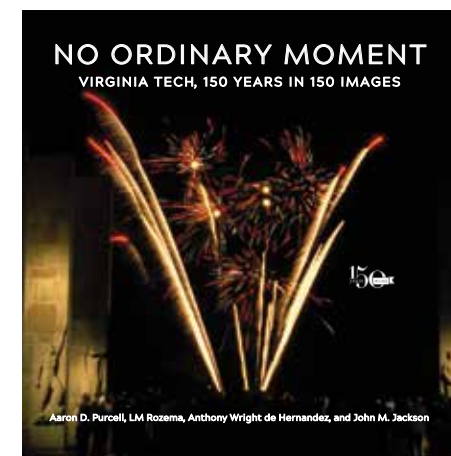
WHAT'S

IN IT?

**MOVIE NIGHT:** The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets celebrated the sesquicentennial with a projection onto Lane Hall.



# 150 YEARS IN 150 PHOTOS



**“WE SAW THIS AS A WAY TO PRESERVE THE LEGACY, SO THAT FUTURE ARCHIVISTS WHO COME BEHIND US WILL HAVE ACCESS TO IT AND SHARE IT WITH OTHERS.”**

Aaron Purcell  
director of Special Collections  
and University Archives

**IN 2019, WITH INITIAL PREPARA-**tions for Virginia Tech's sesquicentennial underway, Aaron Purcell and a few colleagues in Special Collections and University Archives (SCUA) saw an opportunity to create something unique.

Purcell, director of SCUA within the University Libraries and a member of the Council on Virginia Tech History, along with LM Rozema, Anthony Wright de Hernandez, and John M. Jackson, came up with an idea to let photos tell the story of Virginia Tech's history.

"We began working with Virginia Tech Publishing, which is part of University Libraries, and then we started talking to other people on campus," Purcell said. "There was just a lot of interest in this project. So we kind of came up with it in-house. ... We all brought different experiences to the table, and then we decided to divvy up the work between the four of us."

The book, entitled "No Ordinary Moment," captures Virginia Tech's 150 years through 150 photos. It is scheduled to be published later this year.

The authors focused on different topics, picked the photos for their sections, and wrote the captions. Purcell wrote the introduction and outlined the areas covered within the book. Jackson, library

specialist, focused on Virginia Tech's land-grant mission, while Wright de Hernandez, community collections archivist, highlighted previously marginalized students and campus groups. Rozema, a processing and special projects archivist, centered on innovation's role at the university.

"We really wanted to highlight student activities, student groups that haven't really gotten the attention," Purcell said. "People just aren't aware of a lot of things that have gone on at the school that show the diversity and the fact that it is continuing to change and is continuing to represent a wider range of perspectives and voices. I think people will see that."

The book will be available for purchase for \$30. Proceeds from sales go to support SCUA at Virginia Tech.

"We saw this as a way to preserve the legacy," Purcell said, "so that future archivists who come behind us will have access to it and share it with others." ■ JR



**PRESERVED MOMENTS**

Learn more about Special Collections and University Archives at [spec.lib.vt.edu](http://spec.lib.vt.edu).



## HOW TECH TICKS

# HISTORY LESSONS

“MANY, MANY DOZENS OF VOICES ARE REPRESENTED HERE IN TRYING TO RETELL STORIES WITH MORE PERSPECTIVES THAN HAVE BEEN TOLD ON SOME OF THE MORE LONG-STANDING MARKERS.”

Emily Satterwhite  
associate professor

MORE THAN 75 PEOPLE FROM ACROSS the Virginia Tech landscape helped to create seven new historical markers that were installed this spring across the Blacksburg campus.

A project of the Council on Virginia Tech History, the markers offer a glimpse into our shared past—and offer an opportunity to embrace our shared values, today and into the future.

The markers not only highlight campus development and land-grant history, but also feature the diverse set of individuals and communities who made major contributions to the university.

“Many, many dozens of voices are represented here in trying to retell stories with more perspectives than have been told on some of the more long-standing markers,” said Emily Satterwhite, associ-

ate professor and director of the Appalachian studies program who served on the Commemorative Signage Committee.

Campus Landscape Architect Jack Rosenberger led the project since its kickoff in spring 2018. History Professor Peter Wallenstein wrote the preliminary text.

A diverse group of stakeholders from across the university then revised and expanded Wallenstein’s text. Leaning into their knowledge, expertise, and passion, the stakeholders added richness to the university’s history.

“The stakeholders weighed in on not only which stories to tell, but also which wording and which images enhance our understanding of our history without reinscribing harmful stereotypes,” Satterwhite said. ■ TW

LH, RENDERING BY GROPEN



## A DOORWAY TO THE PAST

The new markers are designed with accessibility in mind.

These markers expand on existing interpretive signage installed on the Upper Quad, which highlight the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. Both sets of markers use the same basic structure and style, designed by Shanin Glenn, graphic designer for University Relations.

## LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

Visibility and accessibility were important factors to both the markers’ designs and their locations across campus. The locations were chosen in part based on the area’s role in the story each sign tells.

Each marker directs users to [vt.edu/markers](http://vt.edu/markers) to find additional markers on campus.

The new markers can be found at the following locations:

- HENDERSON LAWN:**  
The Early Years; Campus Over Time
- MOSS ARTS CENTER:**  
People and Place; Land-Grant College
- WASHINGTON STREET:**  
Black History; Black Community
- EGGLESTON QUAD:**  
Student Diversity
- WEST CAMPUS:**  
Native Stewardship;  
The Monacan Peoples
- SOLITUDE:**  
Enslaved People and the Prestons;  
From Plantation to College Campus
- LIBRARY PLAZA:**  
Women’s History; Women on Campus

# FRESH PERSPECTIVE

BY TRAVIS WILLIAMS WITH ERICA STACY

A MIX OF BLUSTERY WINTER WEATHER AND SPRING WARMTH GREETED A MONUMENTAL GATHERING AT THE SMITHFIELD PLANTATION IN MARCH.

As snow squalls and sunshine battled for territory in the sky, descendants of people once similarly at odds came together on the ground for a ceremony at the remains of the historic Merry Tree.

“You can make the assumption that our ancestors gathered very much in the same way, less the speakers and automobiles,” said Kerri Moseley-Hobbs, whose four-times-great-grandfather Thomas Fraction was once enslaved at Smithfield. “When we’ve been trying to do something today, the clouds break and the sun comes out, so we were joking around that the separate ancestors are up there fighting, and when we need to do something, they get real aggressive and break up the clouds.”

Moseley-Hobbs was joined at the tree by about 100 descendants of people once enslaved at Smithfield. The Merry Tree, which is also called the Merry Oak, is believed to have been a sacred gathering place for their ancestors. Although the tree was claimed by a storm in 2020, its crown has been removed and is in the process of being converted into two art installations that are expected to be unveiled later this year.



Kerri Moseley-Hobbs in front of the Merry Tree



The ceremony was part of 1872 Forward: Celebrating Virginia Tech, a multiday event in March that recognized the diverse groups who helped shape the university: Indigenous people, African Americans, and European settlers.

The event, a homecoming of sorts, offered opportunities for reflection as well as music, dancing, and fellowship—experiences unique to this moment in time. Throughout the weekend, descendants were joined by representatives from the Monacan Nation, the land’s original caretakers, and members of the Preston family, whose ancestors built the Williamsburg-style home on the slave plantation in 1774.



PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE: (top) 1872 Forward participants visit the site of the Merry Tree. (bottom) Event attendees preview replicas of Virginia Tech's new historical markers.

The diverse gathering marked a seminal moment for the Council on Virginia Tech History, which organized the weekend event as part of the university’s yearlong Sesquicentennial Celebration. In addition to the Merry Tree ceremony, 1872 Forward included activities that ranged from launching multiple books and unveiling designs for new campus historical markers to a cultural arts celebration and a multifaceted conversation exploring the complex history of the geographic spaces now occupied by Virginia Tech.

“In a way, this can be the world in miniature, I suppose,” said Brokie Lamb, a descendant of the Preston family who took part in the conversation. “I grew up, as many white people do, in a sort of de facto segregated world, and when we’re living in separate worlds, I worry we lose the ability to talk to each other. I hope that gets better, and I think being more inclusive in places like this and telling a more complete and accurate story is a way to do that—the first steps in doing that, anyway.”

In 2017, as Virginia Tech began planning for its sesquicentennial, President Tim Sands identified the milestone celebration as an opportunity to compile and share a comprehensive history of the university in the context of the present and the Beyond Boundaries vision for the future.

“The thought was it might be appropriate to have a body on campus that starts to think about Virginia Tech history and to think about how we’re telling that history as we look toward the future,” said Menah Pratt-Clarke, vice president for strategic affairs and diversity.



(from left) Bob Leonard, Menah Pratt-Clarke, and Peter Wallenstein have been instrumental to the council's work.

The Council on Virginia Tech History, a 25-person group spanning a breadth of academic disciplines and personal interests, was established to not only collect those stories, but to develop opportunities to meaningfully engage people with them. In an effort to illuminate the Beyond Boundaries vision for the future, the council would specifically seek to give voice to previously untold stories and relate complicated histories in their full context by lifting up carefully researched and authenticated sources.

Bob Leonard, a professor in the School of Performing Arts, was selected as the group's chair. Leonard's background includes work with the Montgomery County-based Dialogue on Race as well as dialogue creation and community-building through theater arts.

Leonard said the council's first goal was to sharpen a carefully considered mission and chart a direction for concrete actions.

"That resulted in pretty unanimous consensus that we needed to gather as many perspectives as possible and then share them using multiple methods within the context of, 'We want to hear more stories.' Not that, 'This is the story,'" Leonard said.

During the months and years that followed, six projects emerged, six committees formed, and dozens of people with connections to the university and region began bringing the work to life.

Some of the projects expanded on existing efforts such as the VT Stories initiative that debuted in 2015. (See a related story from page 16 of the winter 2016-17 edition of Virginia Tech Magazine by visiting the magazine archives at [vtx.vt.edu/magazine](http://vtx.vt.edu/magazine).)

For Virginia Tech's 125th anniversary, History Professor Peter Wallenstein researched and wrote "Virginia Tech, Land-Grant

University, 1872-1997." For the university's sesquicentennial, Wallenstein is preparing a second edition, as well as publishing a new book that will revisit the full history of Virginia Tech and its people. Wallenstein's research has served as a key resource to the Council on Virginia Tech History.

Other projects focused on new paths for presenting university history, such as campus historical markers, public art installations, and Voices in the Stone, which supports live performances, utilizing theater, dance, and music to bring history to life.

Visualizing Virginia Tech History is a council project with a particularly multidisciplinary approach to elevating the university's history. A group of almost 30 faculty and students spanning numerous university disciplines have utilized creative technologies—including projection mapping, augmented reality, and 360-degree videos—to not only tell history, but to allow users to experience it. To date, the group has developed digital history exhibits, a virtual 360 tour of Solitude, and an augmented reality walking tour of the Blacksburg campus.

The council is planning several events to showcase its work in the fall, including a public art unveiling, the release of Wallenstein's updated book, and the dedication of Vaughn-Oliver Plaza, a tribute to the family of the first Black employee. (Read a related story from page 54 of the fall 2021 edition, which can be found in the archives at [vtx.vt.edu/magazine](http://vtx.vt.edu/magazine).)

In addition to project development, the council led the way on recommending new names for two residence halls whose previous names were inconsistent with the rich heritage and increasingly diverse community that is Virginia Tech today.



Solitude, a historic campus building

VIRGINIA TECH PHOTO, CHELSEY ALLDER

## VIRGINIA TECH: CREATION. CELEBRATION. COMMISSION.

Inspired by and dedicated to University Distinguished Professor and poet Nikki Giovanni, "Virginia Tech: Creation. Celebration. Commission" was written and performed by Menah Pratt-Clarke during 1872 Forward: A Cultural Arts Celebration on March 25. Pratt-Clarke is vice president for strategic affairs and diversity and a member of the Council on History at Virginia Tech. To watch a video of the event, search "1872 Forward" at [vtx.vt.edu/videos](http://vtx.vt.edu/videos).

Once upon a time,  
Before Bear Mountain laughed with the Monacans  
Before the Tutelos trod on their territory  
Before land and people were owned  
There was *Ut Prosim*.  
She was out there  
Majestic and magical  
Regal in her regalia  
Glistening in bronze magnificence  
With radical radiance  
Extraordinary in presence and power.  
She breathed a breath of a thousand years and exhaled:  
"It's 1872. The time has come."  
She sashayed from beyond boundaries  
Seeking sedentary sediment,  
Stones in shades of pink, red, gray, brown, and black.  
Excavated, they emerged from down there to up above.  
Becoming part of a place for  
Songs and scientists  
Poets and physicists  
Formulas and flowers  
Data and dancers  
Research and ring dances  
Music and medical centers  
Wheels and wheelchairs  
Ducks and drill fields.  
A place with  
Greys and Blues  
Oranges and Maroons  
Chapels and memorials  
Snowmen and Sandman  
Footprints and footpaths  
People and pylons.  
150 years later, *Ut Prosim* celebrated.  
She was serving the world  
Extending through extension

From the New River to the Potomac River  
From humble homes to helix headquarters  
Crossing seas and sowing seeds in  
Switzerland and South America  
Africa, Antarctica, and Asia  
On the earth and in outer space.

A warrior for equity, *Ut Prosim* was  
Fighting for more of what is  
Right and good; noble and fair.  
For clean water for communities  
For shelter for those without  
For vaccines for viruses  
For critical thought and theory  
For opportunity for those denied  
For life, liberty, and justice for all.  
Much done. Much more to do.  
Because we are Virginia Tech.  
Because we are Virginia Tech,  
We are better than we think  
But not yet quite what we want to be.  
We must not only serve. We must also save.  
Our world. Our planet. Ourselves.  
Because we are Virginia Tech,  
We will prevail.  
Preparing those with potential  
Readying them for battle on the fields of life.  
Strong and brave; innocent and unafraid;  
Kind and caring; fierce and fearless.  
Forces for good.  
For anyone. Anytime. Anywhere.  
Be. Cause.  
WE ARE VIRGINIA TECH.

—Menah Pratt-Clarke



(top) Janie Hoge (at right) looks on as Essex Finney walks in front of the Hoges' home at 306 E. Clay St. in Blacksburg. (below) James L. Whitehurst Jr. (second from the left) became the first Black member of the Board of Visitors in 1970.

In 2020, Hoge Hall was named for Janie and William Hoge, an elderly Black couple who housed the first eight Black students at Virginia Tech. At the time, university guidelines required students of color to live off campus. Whitehurst Hall was named for James Leslie Whitehurst Jr. '63, the first Black student to

secure on-campus housing. He later became the first Black member of the university's Board of Visitors.

According to Pratt-Clarke, renaming the buildings represented an important moment for the council's work. Although the name changes had been debated previously, it was the extensive research and recommendations of the council that ultimately helped move the change forward.

Another key aspect of the council's work has involved cultivating relationships with descendants of the families once enslaved on and around the area in Blacksburg that the university now occupies and with the descendants of the region's Indigenous people who were the original custodians of the land. Those relationships helped inform the direction of the council, especially related to these often underrepresented aspects of the past.

"What will be our relationship with our past involving enslavement, what does that piece look like?" Pratt-Clarke said. "And we've long had this relationship in some way or another with the Monacan people, but how do we honor that?"

The former would be greatly advanced by the development of a partnership with the More Than a Fraction Foundation and its founder, Moseley-Hobbs, who also served as a consultant to the council. Moseley-Hobbs first reached out to the university in 2016 to learn more about her relative Thomas Fraction. Since then, she's become a staple at events related to Smithfield and Solitude and has established the foundation, which co-sponsored 1872 Forward.

One of the highlights of the weekend was Contested Spaces: A Tri-Racial Conversation. The special discussion, moderated by Moseley-Hobbs, brought together representatives from the Monacan Nation, the Preston family, descendants of people once enslaved at Smithfield, and the present-day lineage of residents of Wake Forest, a community established by post-Civil War freedmen who had been enslaved on what is now Kentland Farm.

Members of Native American communities, including Monacan Chief Kenneth Branham, also played an integral role in 1872 Forward. Branham offered remarks honoring the university's connection to Native American land.

"Virginia Tech has always had a pretty good relationship, compared to a lot of colleges, when it comes to the Monacan," said Branham, citing university faculty who had long visited their tribal home on

Bear Mountain in Amherst County. "I want to thank Virginia Tech for putting an institution like this on our land."

"The revelation of the Monacan Nation and the Fraction family having a direct connection to the founding of Virginia Tech was new information for me," said event attendee Marguerite Harper Scott '70, who was one of the first Black women to enroll at Virginia Tech and is a member of the Cornerstone Alumni Advisory Board. "The transparency of the history that was shared makes me hopeful for the future. It is important to know how institutions were formed. I love that my university is embracing the truth."

For Ronnie Spellman '95, hearing the stories the Council on Virginia Tech History helped bring to light provided additional context for a topic he loves to discuss.

"I've always loved to talk about Virginia Tech history," said Spellman, who made history himself as the first Black president of the Student Government Association. "And I knew some of it. Now that I have more of it, I realize it's been an incredible evolution."

Spellman, a member of the Student Affairs Alumni Advisory Board, said learning about the past helps him more fully appreciate the work that inspired the progress the university has made from its founding to the present.

"I look at the university today, we've evolved, and we continue to grow and evolve, but we can't have the Virginia Tech of today without having the Virginia Tech that we've had for the past 150 years," he said.

Leonard said seeing the council's work successfully displayed in such public, multiday and multivenue events was a joy.

"It was exciting as all get-out," Leonard said. "It was all so high energy and working with a fantastic team of people having to make decisions on the fly. ... The dramatic impact of these events was especially gratifying for this old theater dog."

Pratt-Clarke said as she's reflected on the weekend and the ongoing work of the council, she realized just how critical the vision and support of Virginia Tech's leadership has been to their success.

"This would not have happened without President Sands' leadership and commitment," she said. "The work of the council took a lot of time and effort from a lot of people, and he cham-

pioned it at every stage—from creating the council to ensuring there was a budget. He's been a visible champion for inclusion and diversity and the understanding of the importance of connecting the past, even if it's complicated and filled with pain and oppression, to the present and future of Virginia Tech."

That future will undoubtedly involve more work for the Council on Virginia Tech History—work to discover, explore, research, and share as the university continues to stride forward.

"It's a living project because we're making history every day," Leonard said. ■

(top) Monacan Chief Kenneth Branham attended the unveiling of the historical markers during the 1872 Forward weekend. (bottom) Ronnie Spellman '95 was one of numerous alumni to attend 1872 Forward.





## LETTERS ARE SPECIAL.

They represent one of life’s earliest milestones and one of the quickest sparks for our memories. They provide a shared way to learn about the world and a personal basis for our unique identities. And they even play a key role in some of our favorite group activities, such as spelling “H-O-K-I-E-S” with 66,000 or so of our closest friends.

As Virginia Tech celebrates its 150th anniversary, it only makes sense that letters also provide the foundation—crafted in the spirit of a children’s book—for exploring the quintessential people, places, events, and activities that make our university great. We hope each letter sparks memories and conversations filled with what may be slightly exaggerated tales and what surely are bold aspirations for the future.

Such lists are primed for friendly debate and discussion, so we invite you to the conversation by sharing the letters and words that mean the most to you. Email us: [VTMag@vt.edu](mailto:VTMag@vt.edu).

We don’t think it’s a coincidence that “H” is for both “home” and “Hokies” and “S” is for both “sesquicentennial” and “special.” So without further ado—and brought to you by the letters “V” and “T” and the number “150”—we present Virginia Tech from A to Z.

# ADDISON CALDWELL

Virginia Tech's first student walked across two mountains from his home in Sinking Creek in Craig County, Virginia, to Blacksburg to enroll.

## AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTERS

There are 11 sites across Virginia.

### AGRICULTURE

One of the first fields of study included the study of fields.

### ALUMNI

There are more than 100 chapters of these special people across the globe. Have you found yours yet?

## ARCHITECTURE CENTER, WASHINGTON-ALEXANDRIA

Since 1980, an urban extension of the university's strengths.

# BURRUSS HALL

Built in 1936 and named for Virginia Tech's eighth president, Julian Ashby Burruss, this is the main administration building on campus, home to a 3,003-seat auditorium, and a visual hallmark of Blacksburg.

## BLACKSBURG

Founded in 1798 on a 38-acre tract laid out and deeded by William Black.

## BIG EVENT

A student-run day of service that has grown into the second-largest event of its kind in the nation.

## BURNT ORANGE

Every Hokie's favorite shade of orange.

## THE BUGLE

The Virginia Tech yearbook debuted in 1895.

## BIMBO COLES

Our first student-athlete to compete in the Olympics by making the 1988 U.S. men's basketball team.



JIM STROUP



IVAN MOROZOV

## CORPS OF CADETS

Virginia Tech is one of two public universities in the country with both an active Corps of Cadets and a civilian lifestyle on its campus.



### CASSELL COLISEUM

Construction began on the venue named for Stuart K. Cassell in September 1961.

### CHEATHAM HALL

Houses Virginia Tech's very own Natural History Museum.

### CHICAGO MAROON

Every Hokie's favorite shade of maroon.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

## DUCK POND

Built in the mid-1930s, it's a Hokie favorite for a stroll or picnic.

### DINING SERVICES

Traditionally ranked among the top in the nation.

### DOGS

From therapy dogs and K-9 officers, to the Corps of Cadets' canine ambassador, they really are a Hokie's best friend.

### DRILLFIELD

The site of cadet maneuvers, sporting events, demonstrations, and displays of campus unity since 1894.

### DRONE PARK

The football-field-sized facility to explore unmanned aircraft systems operations.

### D.C. AREA

Home to graduate education programs since 1969.



IVAN MOROZOV



## EXTENSION

*Local offices in a combined 108 counties and cities provide Virginians with needs-based programming and ample opportunities to connect with research-based solutions.*



SAM DEAN FOR VIRGINIA TECH

## EGGLESTON HALL

*Named for Joseph Dupuy Eggleston, president from 1913-19, who, among other things, spurred the move toward Collegiate Gothic architecture.*

CLAYTON METZ



## FRALIN BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE AT VTC

*Located in Roanoke, it's one of the nation's fastest-growing academic biomedical research enterprises and a destination for world-class researchers.*

## FRANK BEAMER

*As the Hokies head football coach from 1987-2015, the 1969 graduate led the team to a 238-121-2 record and 23 consecutive bowl appearances.*

## FFA

*Founded on campus in 1925 by four Virginia Tech agricultural education teachers. It was first called Future Farmers of Virginia.*

**GLOBAL BUSINESS  
AND ANALYTICS COMPLEX (GBAC)**

*Designed to bring together students, faculty, and industry partners to learn, work, and even live in an environment that fosters data literacy, GBAC builds on the university's strong academic reputation in data and decision sciences.*

**GAME-BALL RUN**

*The Homecoming week tradition has been performed by Army ROTC's Ranger Company since 1977.*

**GRADUATE LIFE CENTER**

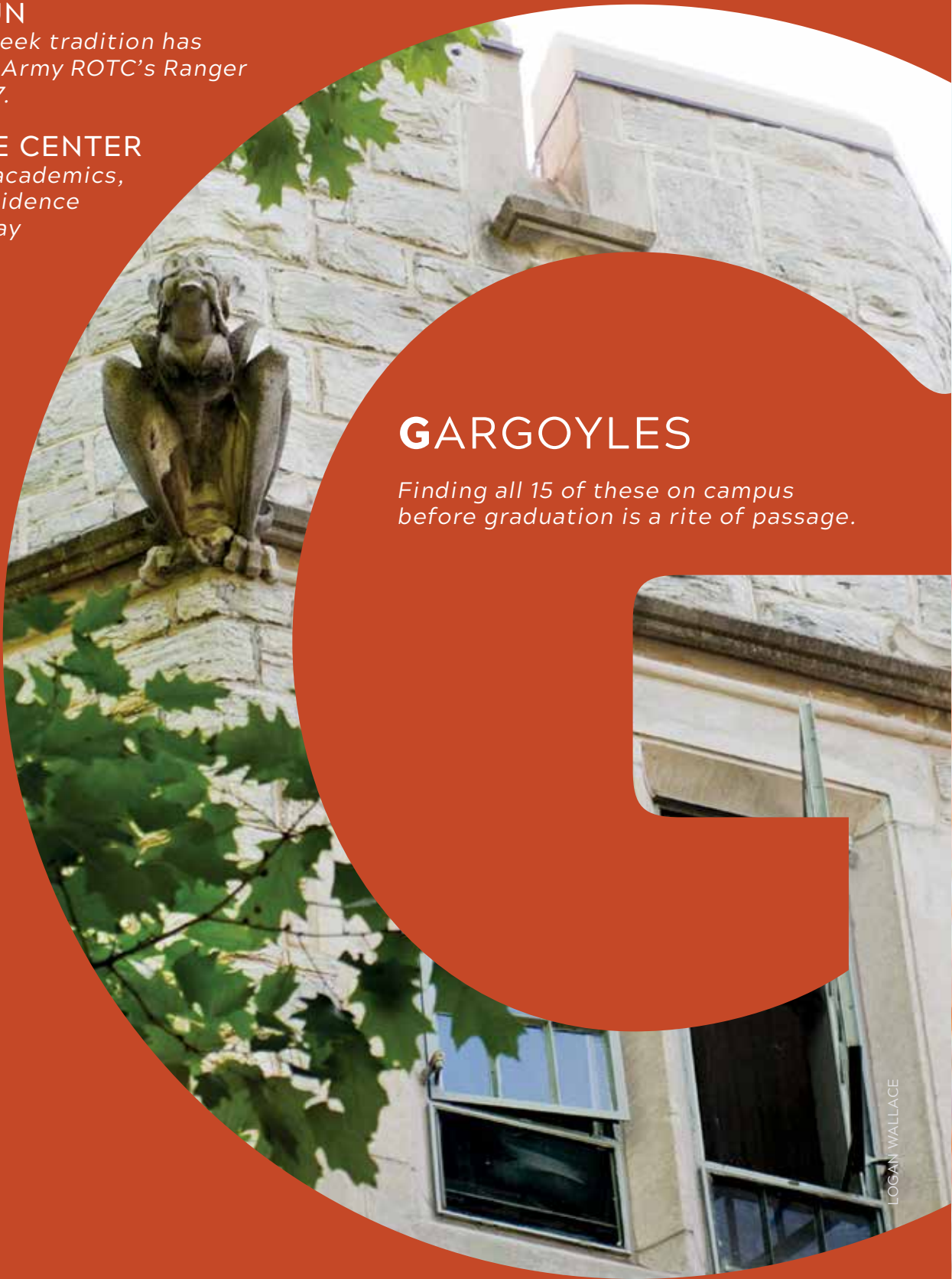
*Bringing graduate academics, community, and residence life together in a way we think you won't find anywhere else in the nation.*

**GIVING DAY**

*The annual 24-hour celebration of Hokie Spirit and the power of giving back.*

**GARGOYLES**

*Finding all 15 of these on campus before graduation is a rite of passage.*



LOGAN WALLACE

**HOKIE STONE**

*More jewel than rock, it was first used in 1899. Today, all new central campus buildings must bear the distinctive limestone.*

**HIGHTY-TIGHTIES**

*Part of the Corps of Cadets, it's the oldest collegiate band in the Commonwealth of Virginia.*

**HERBARIUM, MASSEY**

*The largest herbarium in Virginia was founded around 1927 and houses thousands of specimens.*



CHELSEY ADDLER

**HOKIEBIRD**

*Source of the world's best hugs and high-fives.*



# INNOVATION CAMPUS

Located in the Potomac Yard area of Alexandria, the 3.5-acre campus is a bold, new vision for graduate education in computer science and computer engineering. It's set to open in 2024.

## IRVING PEDDREW

In 1953, he became the first Black student admitted.

## INSTITUTES

Our seven research institutes enhance the university's ability to address large-scale research opportunities by crossing traditional disciplinary boundaries.

## JEU, TIEN LIANG

The first student from an Asian country to graduate in 1924.

## JOBS

On the campus in Blacksburg and at other sites across the state and around the world, more than 13,000 people are employed by Virginia Tech.

## JUMPING

It's been done in Lane Stadium to "Enter Sandman" since 2000.



## KENTLAND FARM

*Part of the College Farm Operation that includes six tracts totaling 3,000 acres in the Blacksburg area.*

## KOTB, HODA

*The 1986 graduate is the current co-anchor of the NBC News morning show "Today."*

## KRAFT, CHRIS '44

*NASA's first flight director and father of the mission control center.*

COURTESY OF NASA

JIM STROUP

## LUMENHAUS

*This Virginia Tech solar home, was honored with an American Institute of Architects award for architecture and was the predecessor to the award-winning FutureHAUS.*

## LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITY

*A result of the 1862 Morrill Act, the university has a mission to teach, conduct research, and provide service to communities.*

## LANE STADIUM

*Named for Edward Hudson Lane, the stadium has been the home of Hokie football since 1965.*



# THE PYLONS

*The Pylons bear the names of every Virginia Tech student and graduate who has died defending our nation's freedom from World War I forward.*

**MOSS ARTS CENTER**  
*Presenting renowned artists from around the globe and closer to home.*

**MARCHING VIRGINIANS**  
*The Spirit of Tech since 1974.*

**NIKKI GIOVANNI**  
*World-renowned poet, University Distinguished Professor, and a faithful reminder that we are Virginia Tech.*

**NEWMAN LIBRARY**  
*Founded in 1872 with 500 volumes and named for Carol M. Newman, a professor and dean who became known as the godfather of extracurricular activities.*

**O.M. STULL, CLASS OF 1896**  
*Won a \$5 prize for coming up with a new spirit cheer that included the word "Hoki" and is now known as "Old Hokie."*

**PRESIDENT TIM SANDS**  
*The 16th and current president of Virginia Tech aka "Sandsman."*



## QUARRY

*The 40-acre quarry, which is located in Blacksburg, provides 80 percent of the stone used in campus construction.*

## QUARTERBACKS

*Six Hokie QBs have been taken in the NFL Draft since it began in 1936. Can you name them?*

## QUAD, UPPER

*Home of the Corps of Cadets and the largest VT on campus.*

## QUEEN HARRISON

*Our first female Olympian (2008) and a three-time NCAA champion.*

LOGAN WALLACE



## RESEARCH

*Ranked in the top 50 for research expenditures by the Higher Education Research and Development Survey.*

CLAYTON METZ

## RING DANCE

*The Class of 1935 held the first event on April 27, 1934.*

## ROBERTSON JR., JAMES I. "BUD"

*His Civil War era course attracted 300 students per semester, the largest of its kind in the nation.*

## RUN IN REMEMBRANCE

*Started in 2008, the 3.2-mile event honors the lives of the 32 Hokies lost on April 16, 2007.*

# SWITZERLAND

*Riva San Vitale, home to the Steger Center for International Scholarship, which was named for Virginia Tech President Emeritus Charles William Steger Jr.*

## SKIPPER

*Named for John F. Kennedy and debuted in 1963, it sounds like success when fired.*

## SOLITUDE

*The oldest structure on the Blacksburg campus.*

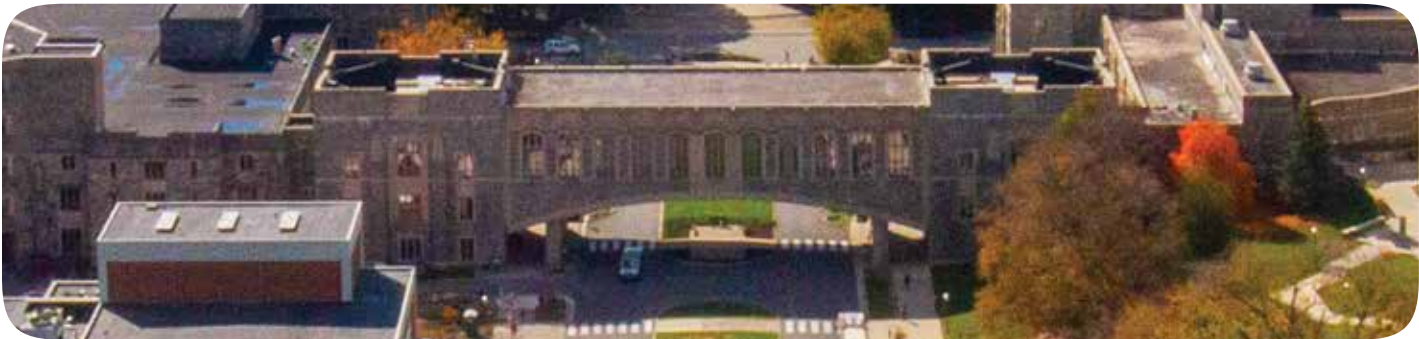
## SEASONS

*Experience all four in one day while in Blacksburg.*

LARRY HINKER

# TORGERSEN HALL

*Houses offices, laboratory space, classrooms, space for televised distance learning, and two auditoriums; joins Newman Library via an enclosed bridge that spans Alumni Mall and provides reading-room space.*



## TUTELO AND MONACAN PEOPLE

*The Blacksburg campus was built and operates on their ancestral land.*

## “TECH TRIUMPH”

*Every Hokie’s favorite song, composed in 1919 by Wilfred P. Maddux ’20.*

## TURKEY LEGS

*Is it wrong these are a staple at football games? We don’t talk about that.*



IVAN MOROZOV

## UT PROSIM

(That I May Serve)

*The motto has guided Hokie service, despite often being mispronounced, for decades.*

## UNITED, HOKIES

*In the hours after the tragedy on April 16, 2007, Hokies United, a student-driven volunteer group, placed the original 32 memorial stones on the Drillfield.*

## UT PROSIM SCHOLAR AWARD

*The university's top honor for faculty has been awarded to three Virginia Tech faculty, Carla Finkelstein, Marc Edwards, and Linsey Marr, since it was established in 2016.*

## VETERINARY MEDICINE

*Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine, a leader in veterinary medicine, biomedical sciences, and public health, protects and enhances animal, human, and environmental health and welfare through innovation and education.*

## VIRGINIA TECH CARILION SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

*A unique public-private partnership that became an official college at the university in 2018.*

## VIRGINIA TECH AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

*Established in 1886 with an aim of making research applicable to Virginia farmers.*



## WARE LAB

One of the first spaces on Virginia Tech's campus dedicated to the development of undergraduate engineering design and build laboratories.

## WAR MEMORIAL CHAPEL

The lower level contains a 6,324-square-foot, 260-seat chapel.

## WORSHAM FIELD

Named for longtime Hokie supporter Wes Worsham.

## WOMEN

In 1921, Mary E. Brumfield, Billie Kent Kabrich, Lucy Lee Lancaster, Carrie T. Sibold, and Ruth Louise Terrett became the first women to enroll full time.

## SYSTEM X

Our first supercomputer, named after the Roman numeral for 10, was assembled in 2003 and was ranked at the time as the third-fastest supercomputer in the world. It was composed of 1,100 Apple PowerMac G5 computers.

## VTX

A one-stop shop, at [vtx.vt.edu](http://vtx.vt.edu), for all your favorite stories, photos, and videos.

## YATES, CHARLIE

In 1958, he became the first Black student to graduate.

## YMCA BUILDING

Now the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences Building, it was the first construction on campus to use the limestone slabs we now call Hokie Stone.

## ZZZZZ

Getting enough of these impacts nearly every aspect of life in college and beyond.



# AROUND THE HOKIE NATION

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## TYROD TAYLOR FINDING A PASSION FIGHTING FOOD INSECURITY

IN MID-MARCH, TYROD TAYLOR DECIDED TO CHANGE addresses and relocate to the Big Apple.

Yet wherever he resides, he remains hungry to take a bite out of the food insecurity issues plaguing many small and large communities in the United States.

Taylor '10, a former quarterback on the Virginia Tech football team, continues to invest in this cause, announcing a five-figure gift to The Market of Virginia Tech on a mid-April visit to campus for the Hokies' spring football game. The Market, located on University City Boulevard near campus, serves as the physical destination for many students with food insecurity to select produce, proteins, dairy, and other pantry items for free.

Taylor found out about the university's food assistance program and welcomed partnering with Hema '99 and Mehul Sanghani '98, who helped launch The Market in 2020 with a \$1.5 million donation.

"I met Mehul a few years back, and he sparked this idea about this concept, and I thought it was an awesome idea," Taylor said. "I thought it would be nice to partner with them and ultimately help the community. This is definitely a serious issue, as you educate yourself on food insecurity in different communities across the nation. It's bigger than a lot of people realize. It's definitely a special cause and a wonderful opportunity for guys like me who have a platform to give back. This goes a long way for a lot of people."

NEXT STOP: Tyrod Taylor signed a contract with the New York Giants in the offseason—his sixth team in a 12-year NFL career.

COURTESY OF THE NEW YORK FOOTBALL GIANTS



DOING HIS PART: Tyrod Taylor, pictured with (from left) President Tim Sands and Mehul and Hema Sanghani, has been passionate about fighting food insecurity, and his donation to The Market of Virginia Tech is part of his latest effort to fight the problem.

Taylor's donation continued his tradition of philanthropic efforts to fight hunger, with most of those endeavors directed toward people in his hometown of Hampton, Virginia. In 2020, the Tyrod Taylor Foundation made a \$25,000 donation to the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank in Hampton.

In the past two years, Taylor's foundation has teamed with Kroger and the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank to organize drive-thru food pantries. He also partnered with Kroger in November 2021 for a turkey drive at Darling Stadium in Hampton.

"We had a good number of turkeys that we were handing out, and 15 minutes into the event, it's all gone," said Taylor, who participated in a panel discussion on food insecurity in February while in Los Angeles for the Super Bowl. "There were people showing up 20 minutes late to an event, and we don't have anything to give them. You have to ask, 'What's the root of the issue?' It's bigger than we think. It wasn't that people were grabbing more than they should. It's a food insecurity issue within my community and across the nation.

"I've been trying to attack it in different communities. Obviously, the plan is to continue to keep growing with concepts like this [The Market] across the nation, so that we can help one another. It means a lot to me."

Virginia Tech also means a lot to Taylor. He excelled on the football field, where he played on three ACC championship teams and earned the 2010 ACC Player of the Year honor.

He graduated in 2010 with a degree in residential property management.

Taylor's trips to Blacksburg are few and far between these days. His career as an NFL quarterback with business and personal responsibilities keeps him busy. Yet, each return to campus gives him an opportunity both to reflect and to appreciate his time at the university.

"I think about it all the time, my college days and the friendships that were started a long time ago and friendships that have been made over the years," Taylor said. "Coaches, ex-players, ex-students, ex-classmates of mine, we all helped each other, and we're going to continue to help each other. It was an amazing four years here. We were able to win a lot of games, and I was able to meet a lot of great people, and I'm thankful for the relationships that continue to keep building from that."

A sixth-round draft pick by the Baltimore Ravens in the 2011 NFL Draft, Taylor is now entering season No. 12 as an NFL quarterback. He signed a two-year contract with the New York Giants in March, and he enters the upcoming training camp with an opportunity to earn the starting job.

After dealing with injuries that hindered him over the past two seasons, Taylor welcomes this latest challenge, which comes in America's biggest city.

"I'm excited," Taylor said. "Going into year 12 is truly a blessing and definitely a wonderful opportunity for me to grow my game and continue to lead in the way that I lead. I'm thankful for the opportunity, and I'm looking forward to being around a great group of guys." ■ JR

JAY SPINKS FOR VIRGINIA TECH

HOW  
HOKIE!

# HUGS FOR HOKIES

## THERE'S MAGIC IN A PARENT'S HUG.

That's why moms and dads in Hokie gear gathered on the Drillfield this spring to offer hugs to students passing by. Anyone who agreed was immediately swooped into a big, warm embrace—free of charge, unlimited refills available.

Four Hugs for Hokies events were organized by parent volunteers and coordinated through Student Affairs during the spring semester.

For students who weren't big huggers—the parents respected boundaries—there were high-fives or offers of free snacks and drinks, from ramen noodle cups to sports drinks, donated by Hokie parents.

Also, the volunteers handed out cards with contact information for the Cook Counseling Center, Hokie Wellness, the Women's Center, and other campus resources.

Faraway parents who don't get to hug their kids enough shared their thoughts about Hugs for Hokies on the Virginia Tech Parents Facebook page. "This is one of the reasons I encouraged my kid to go to VT," wrote one parent. Another said, "This makes me cry happy tears." ■

Melody Warnick is a writer and editor in the Office of the Provost.

FREE HUGS  
For more, visit [vtx.vt.edu](http://vtx.vt.edu).



MELODY WARNICK AND KENLEE ANDREU



# COMMENCEMENT

THIS SPRING, A NEW GROUP WAS WEL-  
comed into the Hokie alumni community.  
Virginia Tech celebrated the Class of 2022  
during commencement ceremonies May  
7-15 in Blacksburg, Roanoke, and the greater  
Washington, D.C., area. The celebration was  
a key moment in the history of the university  
because the Class of 2022 is Virginia Tech's  
150th class. ■



## CLASS OF 2022 BY THE NUMBERS

- 5,549 BACHELOR'S DEGREES AWARDED
- 8 CULTURAL ACHIEVEMENT CEREMONIES
- 16 COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES
- 830 STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE GRADUATE SCHOOL CEREMONIES
- 120 DOCTOR OF VETERINARY MEDICINE DEGREES AWARDED
- 41 VIRGINIA TECH CARILION SCHOOL OF MEDICINE GRADUATES
- 250 VIRGINIA TECH CORPS OF CADETS GRADUATES
- 158 ENTERING THE MILITARY AS COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

CF, LH

# HOW TO HELP FOR HOKIES AFTER GRADUATION



FOR MANY NEW VIRGINIA TECH alumni, the transition from college to career can have its challenges. Adjusting to new social settings, new financial considerations, and new sets of available wellness resources can take a toll.

Erica Coates, coordinator for diversity and inclusion and staff counselor at Cook Counseling Center, and Swathi Prabhu, assistant director for mental health and bystander initiatives for Hokie Wellness, shared insights related to mental health and well-being during the months and years that follow graduation.

**WHAT ARE SOME COMMON ISSUES THAT RECENT GRADUATES FACE?**  
**PRABHU:** "Finding their people and a sense of purpose can be a struggle. A lot of data suggests that if you've worked some place less than six months, you are likely to experience some pretty significant loneliness... and having those meaningful relationships are really important, especially during times of transition."

RM

**WHAT ARE SOME PRACTICAL STEPS INDIVIDUALS CAN TAKE TO BOLSTER THEIR MENTAL WELL-BEING?**

**COATES:** "A wellness practice I would highly recommend is journaling. What we know from the science is journaling takes our emotional centers of the brain and our more rational centers and putting pen to paper gets new connectivity between them occurring."

**WHAT ARE SOME SIGNS THAT IT MIGHT BE TIME TO SEEK SUPPORT?**

**COATES:** "We think of well-being like a pie chart of different elements—physical health, emotional and mental health, social health and well-being, and financial well-being. If one of those domains is really struggling so much that the others are starting to be impacted—you're sleeping too little or too much, you're eating too little or too much, you're socializing too little or too much—that can be a sign maybe it's time to reach out for help."

**WHAT ARE SOME WAYS TO START THE PROCESS OF GETTING HELP?**

**PRABHU:** "The first step is often just talking to someone you trust—a friend, family member or partner—about your experience. That won't necessarily 'resolve' everything, but it's a good first step because having supportive interactions with others is what helps us navigate a multitude of stressors."

**A FEW OTHER QUICK TIPS:**  
Check with your employer to see if an employee assistance program is available. Such programs can often provide guidance on locating support, as well as an allowance of free counseling visits.

Find a therapist who is affirming of and has experience working with people who identify in a similar way to yourself. Navigating insurance can also be a challenge, so communicate with both your insurance provider and service provider.

**RESOURCES TO CONSIDER:**  
**Virginia Tech's Community Provider Database** offers a variety of ways to search, including by area of expertise and insurance provided.

**Open Path Psychotherapy Collective** can help locate providers committed to work with individuals who have financial constraints.

**Human Rights Campaign Foundation** has created a guide to help individuals who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community and/or marginalized racial or cultural groups find affirming and culturally responsive care. ■ TW



PROUD FAMILY: (from left) Carlos Andrade Moscoso, Carlos Andrade Coello, and Carlos Andrade González at commencement this spring.

“  
THIS TRADITION’S BIG IN MY FAMILY, AND NOW IT’S MY TIME TO GO OUT AND MAKE A NAME FOR MYSELF.”

Carlos Andrade Coello ’22

## 4TH GENERATION HOKIE

IF YOU’RE A FIRST-BORN SON IN THE Andrade family, you likely go by two titles—Carlos and Virginia Tech graduate.

Carlos Andrade Coello proved the latter true by earning his degree in industrial systems engineering this May while his father, Carlos Andrade Moscoso ’94, and grandfather, Carlos Andrade González ’72, watched proudly.

“It’s kind of like in the Olympics, when runners pass the torch,” said Carlos Andrade Coello, who spent most of his life in Guayaquil, Ecuador. “This tradition’s big in my family, and now it’s my time to go out and make a name for myself.”

As the fourth generation of the Ecuadorian family to graduate from Virginia Tech, he continues a streak that dates back to his great-grandfather Carlos Andrade Ribas, who earned a chemistry degree in 1944.

With that degree in hand, Carlos Andrade Ribas returned to Ecuador to work in the family’s pharmaceutical business. When

it came time for his son, Carlos Andrade González, to attend a university, the father’s experience was influential.

Carlos Andrade González earned both a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in chemical engineering in three and a half years, while also being a member of the Corps of Cadets. During that time, Carlos Andrade Moscoso was born, which made Virginia Tech a part of his life from birth. “I never really thought about going anywhere else,” Carlos Andrade Moscoso said.

Carlos Andrade Moscoso also followed in his father’s footsteps by joining the corps and, despite having no prior musical experience, also joining the Highty-Tighties as a snare drummer.

Carlos Andrade Coello said he grew up aware of his father’s fondness for Virginia Tech, but as a skilled golfer, he ended up playing about 100 miles away at Emory and Henry College before transferring to Virginia Tech in fall 2019.

Just prior to the youngest Carlos receiving his degree, he and his family reminisced over their shared experiences at Virginia Tech and the values the institution helped instill in them—most notably a sense of self-discipline and friendship.

“In the end, it’s the people,” said Carlos Andrade González. “What’s really interesting is that the experience has been so good for all of us in the family. Part of that has to be luck.”

And another part, they said, is that Virginia Tech is simply a special place.

“It truly is. I definitely think that,” Carlos Andrade Moscoso said.

“Definitely,” Carlos Andrade Coello said in agreement. ■ TW



### SHARED EXPERIENCES

Read more about the family’s Hokie tradition at [vtx.vt.edu](http://vtx.vt.edu).

COURTESY OF THE ANDRADE FAMILY

## CLASS NOTES

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, 901 Prices Fork Road, Blacksburg, VA 24061; email the information to [classnotes@vt.edu](mailto:classnotes@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. For assistance, call 540-231-6285.

’60

CAREER **Peter R. Kurzahls**, Fountain Valley, Calif., is president of the Orange County Chapter of Sigma Xi.

’65

CAREER **Sheridan R. Barringer**, Newport News, Va., published his third Civil War biography, “Unhonored Service: Lee’s Senior Cavalry Commander, Colonel Thomas Taylor, Munford, CSA.”

**Peter L. King**, Rehoboth Beach, Del., will publish his fifth book, “Production Scheduling of Process Industry Operations—Strategies, Processes, Software.”

’68

CAREER **Victor E. Sower**, Huntsville, Texas, published the third edition of his co-authored book, “RFID for the Supply Chain and Operations Professional.”

’70

CAREER **Charles E. McDonald III**, Midlothian, Va., retired from Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices PenFed Realty after 20 years.

**Randy H. Thurman**, Malvern, Pa., chairman of the board, Outlook Therapeutics Inc., was named to the board of directors of the Villanova University Scarpa Center for Entrepreneurialism and Law as well as to the Distinguished Flying Cross Society.

’74

CAREER **Victor M. Perez**, Katy, Texas, was elected to the Katy (Texas) Independent School District Board of Trustees.

’75

CAREER **Neil C. Damgaard**, Roanoke, Va., edited a book, “Wounded Faith—Understanding and Healing From Spiritual Abuse.”

’76

CAREER **Barbara L. “Bobbi” Kurshan**, Washington, D.C., co-authored “InnovateHERs—Why Purpose-Driven Entrepreneurial Women Rise to the Top.”

’77

CAREER **Thomas A. Belote**, La Plata, Md., who retired from the Joint Warfare Analysis Center in Dahlgren, Va., and the Defense Intelligence Agency in Washington, D.C., volunteers as a Master Gardener.

**Susan Jackson Getty**, Manchester, Md., was appointed to the Maryland State Board of Education for a four-year term.

**Frances M. Park**, Springfield, Va., announced her forthcoming memoir, “That Lonely Spell: Stories of Family, Friends & Love.”

**Diane “Carol” Ragone**, Kilauea, Hawaii, was honored as the Society for Economic Botany’s Distinguished Economic Botanist for her work to conserve, study, and use breadfruit for food and reforestation.



Sharon and James Stidham

### MOM AND SON EARN DOCTORATES

This spring’s commencement ceremonies certainly were a family affair for the Stidhams.

Sharon Stidham received a Ph.D. in instructional design and technology from the School of Education, while her son, James, earned a Ph.D. in condensed matter and material physics from the College of Science. It marked his third degree from the university, all in physics.

A stint as an adjunct professor at a community college sparked Sharon’s decision to earn a doctoral degree. She was frustrated with her students’ math skills, and she’d been interested in the use of computer games to help students learn concepts and develop additional skills.

The two now are preparing for their next steps. James is moving to Northern Virginia to be with his wife, while Sharon continues to pursue several potential job leads.

COURTESY OF THE STIDHAM FAMILY

'78

CAREER **Ann C. "Nan" Harvey**, Kilmarnock, Va., published a historical novel, "A History Not Past."

**Paul A. Willard II**, Providence Forge, Va., was recognized by the National Headquarters Civil Air Patrol of Virginia as the National Recipient of the 2021 Brewer Aerospace Award for Lifetime Achievement.

'80

CAREER **Paul L. Carolan**, Fort Worth, Texas, is self-employed at Paul Carolan Consulting LLC.

**Ronald J. Kendall**, Lubbock, Texas, received the 2021 Founders Award from the Global Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry.

'82

CAREER **David S. King**, Spartanburg, S.C., received a Master of Arts in education administration and leadership, specializing in adult and higher education, from the University of South Dakota.

'83

CAREER **Richard O. Mines Jr.**, Macon, Ga., was awarded the 2022 Georgia Engineer of the Year Award.

**Jennifer S. Wayne**, Blacksburg, Va., professor and department head of Virginia Tech's Department of Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics, was elected chair of the Academic Council of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering.

'84

CAREER **Bernadette L. Mondy**, Blacksburg, Va., was named interim assistant vice president for environmental health and safety at Virginia Tech.

'85

CAREER **Stephen H. Wilt**, Youngsville, N.C., is associate principal of quality assurance for Boomerang Design.

'87

CAREER **Christopher Rossi**, Pittsburgh, Pa., has been named to the National Association of Manufacturers Board of Directors.

'88

CAREER **Angela Medley Hill**, Christiansburg, Va., is the deputy county administrator/CFO for Montgomery County, Va.

**Jay J. Kyle**, Blacksburg, Va., was named associate director of student success for the Office of Academic Affairs at the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine.

'89

CAREER **Curtis L. Mabry**, Christiansburg, Va., was named assistant vice president for consulting and strategic services at Virginia Tech.

'92

CAREER **Christian A. Hamaker**, Fairfax, Va., was appointed director of publications and communications for the International Institute of Building Enclosure Consultants.

**John D. Rokenbrod**, College Station, Texas, is the software and records analyst and records management officer with the Bryan Independent School District. He received the 2022 Laserfiche Tom Wayman Award and the 2021 MCCi Technology Leadership Award.

**Sonia D. Smith**, Alexandria, Va., was selected by the Tamarack Foundation for the Arts for the 2022 Emerging Artist Fellowship.

'95

CAREER **Robert J. Buckanavage**, Mint Hill, N.C., is associate principal of the Charlotte and Shelby Regional Office of Boomerang Design.

**Shannon Tignor Ellis**, Champlain, Va., was appointed to a three-year term on the United Soybean Board.

**Christopher A. Learn**, Raleigh, N.C., was named vice president and head of the Cell and Gene Center of Excellence at Parexel.

**William D. Perks**, Blacksburg, Va., was hired as the U.S. director of strategy at The Marketing Practice, based in the United Kingdom.

**Brian D. Siegle**, South Hill, Va., is the lead pastor at Trinity United Methodist Church in Richmond, Va.

'97

CAREER **Jared I. Dunkin**, Silver Spring, Md., published a book, "Wednesdays with Avrom: Insight Lessons from a Remarkable Man."

## SAVE THE DATES

We love celebrating the Hokie community. Visit our upcoming events in Blacksburg and beyond. For more events, check out [alumni.vt.edu/events](https://alumni.vt.edu/events).

AUG. 15

Welcome to the City  
(locations across the country)

SEPT. 10

Volunteer Leadership Summit

College of Agriculture  
and Life Sciences Tailgate

SEPT. 17

Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets  
Reunion

Fall Family Weekend

OCT. 15-NOV. 20

Hokie Hike  
(participate from anywhere)

OCT. 14-15

HOMEcoming WEEKEND:  
Join colleges and groups  
at the Homecoming tailgate!

NOV. 5

Pamplin College of Business  
Tailgate

FEB. 15-16

Giving Day

APRIL 14-16

Black Alumni Reunion

**Holli Gardner Drewry**, Blacksburg, Va., was elected to represent administrative and professional faculty on the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors.

**Jeffrey D. Francisco**, Nathalie, Va., was honored as the 2022 Business Person of the Year by the Halifax County Chamber of Commerce.

'98

CAREER **James W. Barnes**, Suwanee, Ga., was promoted to senior vice president of architecture and enterprise data for Primerica.

**Beverly T. Fitzpatrick III**, Vinton, Va., is town manager, Town of Boones Mill, Va.

'01

CAREER **Deborah Boal Lukan**, Huntersville, N.C., is senior associate at Pickard Chilton.

'02

CAREER **Emily E. Martin**, Quincy, Mass., is the New England regional sales manager for Hand Picked Selections, a national importer of wines from France and Spain.

**Jason M. Pettrey**, Baton Rouge, La., is refinery technical division manager for ExxonMobil.

'03

CAREER **Diana Lyn Curtis McGraw**, Virginia Beach, Va., was named partner at Fox Rothschild LLP.

BIRTH **Arun M. Dotson**, Herndon, Va., a son, 2/23/2022.

'05

CAREER **Apryl A. Alexander**, Denver, Colo., received the 2022 Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues Outstanding Teaching and Mentoring Award.

**Paul N. Bowles III**, Park Ridge, N.J., was named to the Billboard Top Music Lawyers list.

'06

CAREER **William N. Collins**, Lawrence, Kan., received the 2022 Robert J. Dexter Memorial Award Lecture.

**Parchelle A. Lillard**, San Diego, Calif., is an award-winning creative educator who partners with authors to help them transform their books into profitable online courses.

BIRTH **Craig E. Arthur**, and **Nikeshia Womack Arthur '07**, Christiansburg, Va., a daughter, 10/19/2021.

'07

CAREER **Christian M. Barlow**, Manteo, N.C., completed a fellowship at the UVA Medical Center in hematology/oncology and will begin his career at Shenandoah Oncology in Winchester, Va., this summer.

BIRTH **William Patrick Kaylor** and **Jewett J. Kaylor '08**, Leesburg, Va., a daughter, 6/6/2021.

'08

CAREER **Carrie H. Chenery**, Staunton, Va., was named principal at Valley Pike Partners.

**Chelsey L. Zacherl Hargather**, Socorro, N.M., received tenure and was promoted to associate professor at New Mexico Tech.

'09

BIRTH **Thomas Goidich** and **Meaghan Marie Casey**, Leesburg, Va., a son, 7/8/2021.

'10

CAREER **David L. Bodner**, Arlington, Va., is an associate in the government contracts practice group at Blank Rome LLP in Washington, D.C.

**Alice M. Grabe Hoddsen**, Virginia Beach, Va., has joined Blank Rome as an associate in the financial institution litigation and regulatory compliance group.

**Jennifer Lamb Rogers**, Arvada, Colo., was appointed by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack to the Colorado Farm Service Agency State Committee.

**Kathryn E. Saltz**, Newark, Del., was named partner at Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP.

'12

WEDDING **Scott W. Masselli** and **Jessie Mitchell Masselli**, Charlottesville, Va., 5/15/2021.

'13

CAREER **Daniel B. Goff**, Wichita, Kan., was promoted to senior GIS analyst.

**Emily M. Heim**, Blacksburg, Va., joined the intellectual property section of GrayRobinson.

'14

CAREER **Catherine A. Ray**, Syracuse, N.Y., joined Bousquet Holstein as an associate in the trust and estates and eldercare practice group.

**Katherine A. Stump**, Arlington, Va., is manager of science policy at CropLife America.

'16

CAREER **Brittney McClain Powell**, Riverdale, Md., joined the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity's 2022 Class of Fellows.

WEDDING **Kate Owens Adkins**, Roanoke, Virginia, and Andrew Adkins, 10/16/2021.

BIRTH **Daniel E. Joyner** and **Caitlin Brooke Atkins Joyner '17**, Suffolk, Va., a son, 10/6/2021.

'17

CAREER **Alexandra C. Battah**, Yorktown, Va., is a council member for the board of directors of Sister Cities of Newport News Inc.

**Adeline C. "Addie" Guthrie**, Cincinnati, Ohio, is a commodity sales associate for Rabobank.

**Ranjeet S. Randhawa**, Gainesville, Fla., joined Fall Creek Farm & Nursery Inc. as a product and grower support representative focused on the Pacific Northwest region of the United States and British Columbia, Canada.

WEDDING **Kelsey R. Proehl Carr** and **Cameryn Isaac Carr '17**, Check, Va., 9/11/2021.

'18

CAREER **Keely S. Bushby**, Annapolis, Md., is marketing manager for Pompeian.

'19

CAREER **Emily A. Bautista Friedman**, Houston, Texas, is the recycled plastics senior market editor, Americas, for Independent Commodity Intelligence Services.

'20

CAREER **Rebecca A. Freemal**, Salem, Va., was named chief marketing communication officer for ValleyStar Credit Union.

WEDDING **Jordan T. Bray** and **Christopher Austin Fox**, Blacklick, Ohio, 10/9/2021.



## GO PLACES

VIRGINIA TECH TRAVEL TOURS HAVE RESUMED, AND Hokies are thrilled to be exploring the world again.

Travel tours unite Virginia Tech friends and alumni who are interested in experiencing different cultures, exploring new places, and developing lasting friendships. All you need to do is register for the tour of your choice, pack your bags, and enjoy the trip.



BON VOYAGE

Learn more about the tours available for Virginia Tech alumni and friends. Visit [alumni.vt.edu/travel](https://alumni.vt.edu/travel).

# CREATIVE OUTLETS



## DANA KORNEISEL DANA DIGS DINOSAURS

Dana Korneisel has volunteered with the Peace Corps, been a biological researcher, and worked at a nonprofit—though paleontology, the study of the history of life through fossils, has been her calling from a young age.

She earned a master's degree in geosciences in 2019. She worked in the paleobiology lab and conducted research that was published in December 2021 on the structures of a Cretaceous Period dinosaur.

Now pursuing her doctorate at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada, Korneisel has shifted her focus from dinosaurs to tetrapods, the earliest vertebrates to move on land, and she has found a new way to share her dinosaur knowledge.

"Book One: Meet Dana" is the first book in her children's series titled "Dana Digs Dinosaurs." The series explores Korneisel's childhood fascination with fossils and how she started in paleontology.

The inspiration for the series came from a young girl Korneisel met in 2019 while teaching an acrobatics class. The girl loved the popular Canadian children's television show "Dino Dana."

"She was like, 'Your name's Dana, and you're a paleontologist?' and just lost it—running around the room, falling down, lost it," Korneisel said. "I've never seen such a thing before or since."

Korneisel described the interaction to a friend whose mother, Cathie Gebhart, is a children's book publisher. Gebhart reached out to Korneisel early in 2021 with the opportunity to create the book series, which Korneisel readily accepted.

Korneisel's 30-page book is recommended for children in preschool through fourth grade.



## DANIEL GRIFFITH ALUM ENJOYS SUCCESSFUL GIG ON "AMERICAN IDOL"

What started out as a fun TikTok hobby ended up striking just the right chord with producers from one of Hollywood's top singing competitions.

And in the span of just a few weeks, Daniel Griffith went from a man who sang as a fun diversion to one with a different name competing on this season's "American Idol."

COURTESY OF DANA KORNEISEL, COURTESY OF DANIEL GRIFFITH

Griffith '20, who went by the name "Dan Marshall" while on the show, belted out a series of well-known songs—mostly of the country genre—and made it to the final 14 out of 59 contestants before being eliminated. Even after his late April dismissal, his tenor was one of excitement.

"I absolutely surprised myself," Marshall said. "My goal was to get the gold ticket [a guaranteed trip to Hollywood after the initial audition]. That's something that was humbling, but everything else was just kind of icing on the cake."

Marshall, who graduated with a degree in agribusiness from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, had no formal music training before participating in the show. He never had voice lessons, taught himself to play the guitar, and wrote many of the songs that he uploaded on TikTok.

During his audition, Marshall delivered a performance that was on key, singing "The Dance" by Garth Brooks. He impressed judges Luke Bryan, Lionel Richie, and Katy Perry, who advanced him to Hollywood.

"I was obviously extremely nervous," Marshall said. "You don't get to see that in the video. Everybody was like, 'You look so calm and cool.' It's funny because I look at it, and I'm like, 'Yeah, I guess I was,' but I was obviously extremely nervous."

Marshall had been working as a land surveyor before the "American Idol" opportunity. But the judges' insight, and that from others, left him contemplating a career change.

Now armed with name recognition, Marshall plans on moving to Nashville by the end of this summer and seeing where his deep tones take him.

COURTESY OF JADE WOMACK



## JADE WOMACK CONNECTING THROUGH CLOCKOUT D.C.

Jade Womack is working to bring a sense of community like the one she found at Virginia Tech to residents of Washington, D.C.

She created Clockout D.C., a calendar blog with a popular Instagram following that provides tourists and locals with information on upcoming events in and around the metropolitan area. Clockout has gained more than 30,000 Instagram followers in the past 18 months.

"I was bartending one summer in addition to working my government job," Womack said. "I was looking for things to do that were not happy hour because that's what D.C. is known for—happy hour and museums."

Womack would research events happening in the city and put together lists, which led to the creation of Clockout

D.C. in October 2020. That then led to her newest side gig as a culture editor at the Washingtonian, a magazine guide to life in Washington, D.C.

"Honestly, it's wild," she said. "This was a hobby. I didn't think I was going to become a journalist."

Womack graduated magna cum laude in 2015 with a degree in applied economics management from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. During her four years in Blacksburg, she was involved in the Honors College, Young Democrats, and the Coalition for Refugee Resettlement, and she conducted undergraduate research.

Her scattered interests led her down a winding path on which she changed her major five times. She started out studying landscape architecture, and by the time she graduated, she had tried international development, political science, French, and, finally, economics.

"I took a semester—my freshman year in the spring—of classes I thought were just interesting," said Womack, who earned a master's degree in applied economics and management from Cornell in 2017. "I took beekeeping. I took an ROTC class on Tomahawk cruise missiles just for fun."

Womack works as an energy economist for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission—when she's not updating her followers on events around D.C. or writing newsletters for the Washingtonian.

"Virginia Tech is very special, because when we talk about 'That I May Serve,' it has such a sense of community," Womack said. "I'm able to introduce people to the city in a very local way, but also show people where they can find community." ■ JR/SW



# REUNION RECAP

## BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER!

A beloved Virginia Tech tradition returned this summer.

Nearly 1,000 Hokies returned to campus for Reunion Weekend on June 9-12. The four-day event was hosted in person for the first time since 2019 and was the most-attended Reunion Weekend ever.

Each summer Hokies are invited back to Blacksburg for a weekend to explore a quieter campus and gain unique opportunities to explore the university. Virginia Tech's first summer reunion was in 2018.

Participants enjoyed behind-the-scenes campus tours, dinner on the Drillfield, children's activities, happy hours, presentations from university leaders, a town hall with President Tim Sands, a farewell brunch with coaches, and more.

Alumni from all generations celebrated the common bond they share as Hokies. This year's event was a long-awaited opportunity for the Class of 2020 to celebrate becoming alumni. It also marked the first in-person Cornerstone Alumni induction.

Next year's event is already in the works and is set for June 8-11, 2023. ■ AM



## REPLAY REUNION

Learn more about the summertime tradition, see photos from the event, and check out our reunion playlist at [alumni.vt.edu/reunion22](https://alumni.vt.edu/reunion22).



MACKENZIE SCURLOCK PHOTOGRAPHY



SINCERELY, ANNA MARIE



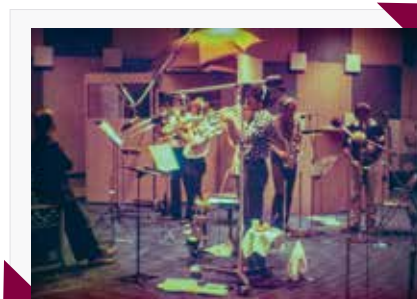
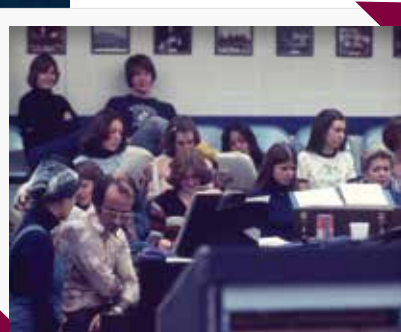
CAITLIN JOYNER

# FAMILY

**1** "Andrew and I celebrated our wedding alongside our hound dog and honorary Hokie, Draper. I wish we could find a photo that includes our German shepherd pup, Revy, too. Just don't tell him."—Kate Adkins '16, Roanoke, Virginia, who married Andrew Adkins, 10/16/2021.

**2** "We both graduated in 2017. We both earned degrees in agriculture technology. We own and operate Carr Livestock. Together is a good place to be."—Kelsey Proehl Carr '17, Check, Virginia, who married Cam Carr '17, 9/11/2021.

**3** "We are excited to announce the arrival of our new little Hokie."—Caitlin Joyner '17 and Daniel Joyner '16, Suffolk, Virginia, who welcomed a son, Josiah Edward, 10/6/2021.



**MUSICAL MEMORIES:** (above) The New Virginians perform onstage for a national tour in 1977. (top right) Members gather for a meeting. (center right) Members rehearse for the group's national tour. (bottom right) The traveling stage is set for a performance as part of the 1977 coast-to-coast tour.

## MORE THAN MUSIC

IN AN ERA OF "DONNY & MARIE" AND "The Partridge Family," the New Virginians became a sensation, bringing a slice of polyester-wrapped 1970s pop culture to eager audiences.

A Virginia Tech music ensemble featuring students from across campus performing as singers and dancers and serving as technical and support staff, the traveling musical revue delighted audiences with its colorful costumes, flashy sets, choreographed dance steps, and feel-good song selections.

"We created this musical show concept that was quite unusual at the time," said New Virginians co-founder Stan Kingma.

While Virginia Tech celebrates its 150th anniversary this year, 2022 also marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of the New Virginians, a musical group that was active from 1972-1993 before reorganizing as a jazz choir in 1994 and performing through 2004. A widely popular group on campus, the ensemble regularly performed throughout Virginia and neighbor-

ing states, even traveling the country for a coast-to-coast tour. Members spent hundreds of hours together during rehearsals, soundchecks, and long bus rides through the night.

It was the small moments that mattered most—the ones that weren't illuminated by stage lights, such as building sets in a workshop under the stage of Burruss Hall Auditorium or helping each other with homework on a late-night return from a performance. These moments created

connections that would last for decades and provided life skills that would be applicable for years to come.

"It looked like a music revue, but underneath it all, what we were really doing was talking about personal growth, about helping people, about growing up. We wanted to help students realize that their attitude is going to shape their future," Kingma said. "To stand up in front of 3,000 people and perform ... that's a huge confidence-builder for young people! You can apply that to any field you want."

Virginia Tech President Emeritus T. Marshall Hahn Jr. was a champion of the New Virginians during his time at the university. Hahn joined Georgia-Pacific Corporation as an executive after leaving Virginia Tech in 1974 and asked Kingma if the group would help the company commemorate its 50th anniversary with a special performance. Kingma and his staff worked with the group to create a

memorable musical timeline of Georgia-Pacific's history.

In the fall of 1977, the New Virginians embarked on a coast-to-coast six-week tour, performing the anniversary show in Georgia-Pacific offices across the United States and ending the tour with an appearance on "Dinah!," a nationally syndicated daytime variety talk show hosted by singer and actress Dinah Shore.

"I can still pick up with any of those people as if it was the day we left off. I know their kids' names, I know what they're doing, I know where they live," said Regina DePalma, who graduated in 1975 with a degree in philosophy. "From the beginning, the New Virginians have been a close-knit community."

The New Virginians continue to connect through special events hosted by the Moss Arts Center, celebrating their history and the future of the arts at the university. This

summer, members came together for a 50th anniversary celebration.

"The New Virginians' spirit is infectious," said Ruth Waalkes, associate provost for the arts at Virginia Tech and executive director of the Moss Arts Center. "Our staff has been planning with a group of the alumni leaders for four years now. Each time we hear from a new contact, or receive another treasure trove of old photographs, we get pretty excited. The 50th anniversary celebration was first and foremost about bringing this amazing community of alumni back together. We also want to celebrate their legacy at Virginia Tech and provide them a spot to call home on campus, here at the Moss Arts Center." ■

*Susan Bland is the associate director of communication for the Moss Arts Center.*

IN HARMONY  
To read more visit [vtx.vt.edu](http://vtx.vt.edu).

**STRIKE A POSE:** The New Virginians in full performance mode.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF STAN KINGMA, BOB ARNOLD



# IN MEMORIAM

*Listing includes notices shared with the university from Sept. 16, 2021, through Jan. 15, 2022.*

## '42

**Emery C. Wilkerson**, Richmond, Va., 11/16/2021.

## '43

**Bertram D. Aaron**, Williamsburg, Va., 12/31/2021.

**Donald W. Stewart**, Winchester, Va., 10/15/2021.

## '46

**Paul H. Broyhill**, Lenoir, N.C., 10/5/2021.

**Joseph "Mac" Pace**, Richmond, Va., 9/16/2021.

**William Howard Walker**, Walkerton, Va., 11/1/2021.

## '47

**Robert L. Frantz**, Harrisburg, Pa., 9/7/2021.

## '48

**Robert C. Morrison**, Jacksonville, Fla., 11/4/2021.

## '49

**James A. Shaffer**, Wallingford, Conn., 4/1/2021.

**Charles L. Rudasill Jr.**, Henrico, Va., 2/2/2021.

## '50

**Benjamin F. Adams Jr.**, Nashville, Tenn., 12/21/2021.

**William M. Beverley**, Fountain Valley, Calif., 11/19/2021.

**Floyd R. Evans Jr.**, Davidsonville, Md., 10/20/2021.

**Hodges M. Hastings Jr.**, Richmond, Va., 12/29/2021.

**Marvin K. Nester**, Lakeland, Fla., 11/20/2021.

**S. Wallace Stieffen**, Hampton, Va., 8/20/2017.

## '51

**Emerson M. Babb Jr.**, Indianapolis, Ind., 12/4/2021.

**Texas S. Badkins Jr.**, Norfolk, Va., 9/18/2021.

**Richard O. Boisture**, Jennings, La., 10/8/2021.

**Edward J. Buchanan Jr.**, Brunswick, Maine, 10/5/2021.

**Otha L. Gray**, Augusta, Ga., 9/4/2021.

**Jimmy W. Mullins**, Tullahoma, Tenn., 11/14/2021.

**Jeanne Robb Pritchard**, Franklin, Tenn., 9/12/2021.

**Ernest M. Reeves**, Mount Solon, Va., 11/9/2021.

## '52

**James I. Brumback**, Winchester, Va., 9/2/2021.

**Robert V. Carter**, Middletown, Pa., 1/1/2022.

**Glenn D. Giles**, Danville, Va., 9/30/2021.

**Stephen Harold James**, Charlotte, N.C., 11/17/2021.

**William F. LaVecchia**, Henrico, Va., 11/11/2021.

**Richard E. Palatine**, Glastonbury, Conn., 9/26/2021.

**Richard R. Shockley**, Marion, Ill., 9/15/2021.

**Frank J. Soucek Jr.**, Mechanicsville, Va., 11/25/2021.

**Lester I. Sutphin**, Boydtown, Va., 12/21/2021.

## '53

**Raymond C. Elton**, Silver Spring, Md., 12/13/2021.

**George E. Fisher**, Gordonsville, Va., 12/13/2021.

**William C. Hughes**, Virginia Beach, Va., 11/2/2021.

## '54

**Raymond G. Curry Jr.**, Alexandria, Va., 9/15/2021.

**James S. Langrall**, Waynesboro, Va., 11/28/2021.

**Harley T. Marshall Jr.**, Mount Pleasant, S.C., 10/24/2021.

**Gloria Cox Robinson**, Richmond, Va., 1/3/2022.

**Lewis S. Stone Jr.**, Newport News, Va., 11/20/2021.

## '55

**James B. Parrish**, Alachua, Fla., 10/17/2021.

**J. R. Waddell**, Mathews, Va., 1/20/2021.

**L. Preston Wade**, Lynchburg, Va., 12/7/2021.

## '56

**Donald L. Bosserman**, Williamsburg, Va., 11/2/2021.

**David P. Johnson Jr.**, Fairfax, Va., 9/29/2021.

**James T. Lucas Jr.**, Radford, Va., 1/8/2022.

## '57

**Herbert W. Harlow**, Woodstock, Va., 12/21/2021.

**Mason H. Hutcheson**, Culpeper, Va., 12/20/2021.

**E. Mark Pace**, Millboro, Va., 11/29/2021.

**James C. Powell**, Massanutten, Va., 10/26/2021.

## '58

**James C. Deemer**, Blacksburg, Va., 10/26/2021.

**Timothy J. Donovan Jr.**, Brooklyn, N.Y., 12/1/2021.

**Barry A. Frazee**, Tallahassee, Fla., 10/31/2021.

**Henmar R. Gabriel**, Dallas, Texas, 7/20/2021.

**John W. Holsclaw III**, Manassas, Va., 11/7/2021.

**Michael W. Jackson**, Bluefield, W.Va., 11/1/2021.

**Thomas L. Rugel**, Lago Vista, Texas, 9/14/2021.

## '59

**William Kelly Dagenhart**, Oak Ridge, Tenn., 11/7/2021.

## '60

**Ronald H. Arnzen**, Byron, Ga., 9/28/2021.

**James L. Crowgey Sr.**, Roanoke, Va., 11/29/2021.

**Winter C. Cullen III**, Painter, Va., 11/11/2021.

**Julian Glenn Duncan**, Roanoke, Va., 11/27/2021.

**David F. Pruett**, Beaverdam, Va., 12/15/2021.

**Robert F. Taylor**, Charleston, S.C., 11/3/2021.

## '61

**Robert C. Marshall**, Richmond, Va., 9/22/2021.

**Alton P. Mayo**, Raleigh, N.C., 9/4/2021.

**Irvin D. Nichols**, New Castle, Va., 1/2/2022.

**Theodore J. Viars**, Salem, Va., 12/13/2021.

**George H. Wahl**, Georgetown, Texas, 8/7/2021.

**Joel D. Webster**, New Harmony, Utah, 9/9/2021.

## '62

**James Curtis Anderson**, Salem, Va., 9/26/2021.

**George Lewis Best Jr.**, Richmond, Va., 11/26/2021.

**John Richard Bliss**, Danville, Va., 12/19/2021.

**Dorothy L. French Bridgers**, Naples, Fla., 9/14/2021.

**Harvey A. Dale**, Jasper, Ga., 11/8/2021.

**Homer "Dan" Davis**, Danville, Va., 11/25/2021.

**Jon V. DeGroot**, Knoxville, Tenn., 10/22/2021.

**Clifton D. Hodnett**, Danville, Va., 10/21/2021.

**Louis T. Kent**, Radford, Va., 1/8/2022.

**Dewey G. Lusk Jr.**, Bluefield, Va., 9/13/2021.

**Gilbert H. Sayres**, Denver, N.C., 12/29/2021.

**Harold R. Wood**, Ruther Glen, Va., 9/7/2022.

**Steven D. Moore**, Bradenton, Fla., 11/12/2021.

## '63

**Rolland H. "Ron" Berry Jr.**, Naples, Fla., 12/23/2021.

**William A. Burt**, Alexandria, Va., 10/18/2021.

**Garland W. Craun**, Bedford, Va., 11/5/2021.

**Floyd Gordon Hancock Sr.**, Roanoke, Va., 9/4/2021.

**Wayne L. Harman**, Valparaiso, Ind., 11/16/2021.

**Joseph F. Haught**, Scott Depot, W.Va., 11/20/2021.

**Donald K. Poole**, Fairfax, Va., 11/16/2021.

## '64

**William E. Branner**, Fulks Run, Va., 9/21/2021.

**James P. Cassada**, South Boston, Va., 1/1/2022.

**Walter J. Currin**, Westfield, N.C., 1/6/2022.

**Robert E. Macauley**, Carlisle, Mass., 12/14/2021.

**Samuel A. Piercy**, Lansing, N.C., 9/26/2021.

**D. Ray Overstreet**, Bedford, Va., 10/24/2021.

**Robert M. Teter Jr.**, Kingsport, Tenn., 11/17/2021.

**Linden L. White**, Leesburg, Va., 11/21/2021.

**Richard H. White**, Fork Union, Va., 12/13/2021

**David J. Whiting**, Colonial Heights, Va., 9/15/2021.

## '65

**Bonnie Allen Danley**, Cleburne, Texas, 9/28/2021.

**Douglas I. Dwyer**, Yorktown, Va., 8/30/2021.

**Louis M. Garey**, Mechanicsville, Va., 8/31/2021.

**Arch S. Graham Jr.**, Hockessin, Del., 11/14/2021.

**Harry T. Kolendrianos**, Danville, Va., 9/12/2021.

**Frank C. Leach**, Bradenton, Fla., 1/12/2022.

**James Allen Roberts**, Matthews, N.C., 11/23/2021.

**Larry M. Slade**, Lehi, Utah, 11/5/2021.

**Donald H. Wells**, Richmond, Va., 9/5/2021.

## '66

**James D. Allen**, Great Falls, Va., 9/27/2021.

**William B. Anderson Jr.**, Vinton, Va., 12/19/2021.

**Richard D. Glancy**, Warsaw, Va., 10/21/2021.

**Carroll "Jack" Mckenney**, Richmond, Va., 12/14/2021.

**Richard W. Monroe**, Blacksburg, Va., 10/18/2021.

**Kursat S. Sarigol**, Greenbelt, Md., 7/18/2021.

## '67

**John F. Davis III**, New Smyrna Beach, Fla., 12/25/2021.

**James P. Key**, Stillwater, Okla., 9/13/2021.

**Donald P. Matheson Jr.**, Danville, Va., 10/15/2021.

**Stephen G. Norton**, Port Angeles, Wash., 11/15/2021.

**David L. Smith**, Fredericksburg, Va., 10/27/2021.

**Paul Whitehead Jr.**, Lynchburg, Va., 11/19/2021.

## '68

**Patrick J. Di Concilio**, West Chester, Ohio, 12/12/2021.

**William C. Gilbert**, Arden, N.C., 11/29/2021.

**William R. Hooker**, Fort Myers, Fla., 9/8/2021.

**John D. Morgan**, Roanoke, Va., 11/5/2021.

## '69

**John H. Adamson III**, Strasburg, Va., 11/19/2021.

**Salvatore A. Bufalino**, Imperial, Mo., 11/9/2021.

**Madge Morgan Bush**, Gainesville, Fla., 10/25/2021.

**James D. Carr Jr.**, Suffolk, Va., 12/8/2021.

**Ching Y. Hou**, Flushing, Mich., 11/29/2021.

**George H. Latham**, Richmond, Va., 1/11/2022.

**Jack R. Leitch Jr.**, Covington, Va., 11/22/2021.

**Cecil L. Lintecum**, Midlothian, Va., 8/6/2021.

**Dale "D.C." Looney**, Salem, Va., 12/6/2021.

**Tom H. Robertson**, Rock Hill, S.C., 12/10/2021.

**John Robert Warlick**, Glen Allen, Va., 10/20/2021.

**Jackie L. Wilborne**, Oak Ridge, N.C., 12/4/2021.

**Lamar E. Williams**, Newport News, Va., 11/28/2021.

## '70

**Alfred L. Collins**, Powhatan, Va., 1/9/2022.

**Raymond C. Hill**, Moneta, Va., 11/15/2021.

**Donald E. Joyner**, Franklin, Va., 8/28/2021.

**Thomas L. Muller**, Newark, Del., 9/24/21

**Hugh Beale Rodgers**, Radford, Va., 12/16/2021.

**Regina Aultice Steeneck**, Southport, N.C., 1/10/2022.

## '71

**Lonnie L. Barham**, Winchester, Va., 9/9/2021.

**Charles H. Culpepper Jr.**, Manassas, Va., 9/15/2021.

**Kenton P. Fewell**, Amarillo, Texas, 11/29/2021.

**Lawrence R. Johnson**, Washington, Pa., 11/9/2021.

**James "Chess" Maxwell**, Kernersville, N.C., 11/2/2021.

**William C. Paul**, Gibsonia, Pa., 11/27/2021.

**John W. Varney**, Hailey, Idaho, 9/7/2021.

**Emory J. Winesett**, Rocky Mount, Va., 11/24/2021.

## '72

**Mohamed F. El-Shazly**, Dublin, Ohio, 9/10/2021.

**Charles H. Evans Jr.**, Danville, Va., 1/11/2022.

**Gordon L. Logan Jr.**, Mechanicsburg, Pa., 11/9/2021.

**Coleen Hogston Walls**, Matthews, N.C., 10/17/2021.

**George L. Wright**, Abingdon, Va., 10/16/2021.

## '73

**Charles William Bevins**, Pineville, N.C., 9/12/2021.

**Stephen L. Bishop**, Radford, Va., 9/10/2021.

**James K. Lawlor**, Mechanicsburg, Pa., 12/5/2021.

**Robert Wayne Modena**, Orange, Va., 10/29/2021.

## '74

**David T. Bolin**, Elkview, W.Va., 11/15/2021.

**Thomas D. Galloway**, Pittsboro, N.C., 9/3/2021.

**McCutchan S. Hemp**, Staunton, Va., 10/29/2021.

**Russell J. Johnson**, Salem, Va., 9/17/2021.

**Arnold Little Jr.**, Richmond, Va., 12/2/2021.

**James T. Maughan**, Reading, Mass., 9/30/2021.





—'75—

**Karen L. Bierschenk**, Howard Beach, N.Y., 8/14/2021.

**Michael G. Dailey**, Murrysville, Pa., 9/16/2021.

**Albert Ellett Fields Jr.**, Virginia Beach, Va., 12/26/2021.

**Thomas A. Jackson**, Warrenton, Va., 11/29/2021.

**Robert F. Wells**, Los Alamos, N.M., 12/29/2021.

**Roger E. Yeatts**, Pilot, Va., 12/4/2021.

—'76—

**Gerald W. Arrington**, Abingdon, Va., 10/23/2021.

**Mary Nelson Bolton**, Danville, Va., 9/14/2021.

**Frank N. Greenlee**, Whitefish, Mont., 11/25/2021.

**Frances C. Ligget**, Phoenix, Ariz., 10/17/2021.

**Michael G. Miller**, Richmond, Va., 10/11/2021.

**Milton C. Ritchie**, Lynchburg, Va., 9/12/2021.

**Curtis Thomas Shields**, Fredericksburg, Va., 7/29/2021.

**Steven L. Shugart**, Cumming, Ga., 11/23/2021.

—'77—

**Thomas R. Bailey**, Jacksonville, Fla., 12/25/2021.

**Dorothy Baber Boehm**, Marion, Va., 9/2/2021.

**Patsy J. Dillon-Long**, Blacksburg, Va., 10/21/2021.

**Paulette Mills Gore**, Charlottesville, Va., 12/22/2021.

**Heather Harvey**, Mt Pleasant, S.C., 12/13/2021.

**Edward L. Rothenberg**, Las Vegas, Nev., 10/31/2021.

**R. L. Tribble Jr.**, Blacksburg, Va., 11/11/2021.

**Everett G. Willard Jr.**, Westminster, Colo., 8/29/2021.

—'78—

**John N. Corman**, Fort Valley, Va., 10/23/2021.

**Charles P. Griner**, Moultrie, Ga., 11/21/2021.

**Randall E. Musser**, Wytheville, Va., 12/5/2021.

**Eliot Thompson Armistead**, Nashville, Tenn., 11/1/2021.

**Guy Townsend**, Norfolk, Va., 11/15/2021.

—'79—

**Stanley M. Burnette**, Spencer, Va., 12/24/2021.

**Rebecca Beck Hamilton**, Nitro, W.Va., 10/20/2021.

—'80—

**George W. Anderson**, Houston, Texas, 1/4/2022.

**Roxane M. Brocato**, Selbyville, Del., 11/10/2021.

**Norman E. Cohen**, Jamesville, N.Y., 12/11/2021.

**Carla Dejohn Fortunato**, Cody, Wyo., 11/10/2021.

**Harry D. Jansohn**, Palm Harbor, Fla., 9/18/2021.

—'81—

**Terry L. Harter**, Fredericksburg, Va., 10/20/2021.

**David A. Martindale**, Sherwood, Ark., 10/20/2021.

—'82—

**Cheryl Crigger Morgan**, South Charleston, W.Va., 9/21/2021.

**Monte K. Rife**, Tazewell, Va., 12/21/2021.

—'83—

**Timothy Bandy**, Manassas, Va., 11/9/2021.

**Robert F. Coleman Jr.**, Cumming, Ga., 9/14/2021.

**Mark D. Ferris**, Burgettstown, Pa., 11/25/2021.

**Carl Jay Lambe**, Port Ludlow, Wash., 10/22/2021.

**Lynn Zirkle Lang**, Chapel Hill, N.C., 11/18/2021

—'84—

**Michael A. Rozum**, Katy, Texas, 9/5/2021.

**Philip A. Treventi**, Murray Hill, N.J., 12/10/2021.

—'85—

**Julie Carter Griggs**, Courtland, Va., 12/2/2021.

**Ellen J. Pitt-Nairn**, Accident, Md., 12/3/2021.

**Jerry M. Snead**, Apex, N.C., 9/12/2021.

**Susan Searing Swanson**, Sea Girt, N.J., 12/17/2021.

**Deborah A. Wright**, Roanoke, Va., 9/24/2021.

**Mark E. Wright**, Mc Lean, Va., 8/31/2021.

—'86—

**Pamela J. Crane Clarke**, Virginia Beach, Va., 5/3/2021.

**Karen L. Rony Jamai**, Land O'Lakes, Fla., 9/13/2021.

**Anne J. Kinsel Wolford**, Blacksburg, Va., 12/21/2021.

—'88—

**William G. Cannaday**, Salem, Va., 10/20/2021.

—'89—

**Raymond E. Austin**, Louisville, Ky., 9/18/2021.

**Jonathan C. Berndt**, Doylestown, Pa., 9/1/2021.

**Elizabeth “Betty Lou” Soule Calley**, Myrtle Beach, S.C., 9/22/2021.

**William Loyal Pridgen**, Richmond, Va., 10/20/2021.

—'90—

**Jennifer Pollack Day**, Cambridge, Mass., 11/4/2021.

—'91—

**Leigh A. Faulconer**, Spotsylvania, Va., 10/25/2021.

**Janice Witt Smith**, Charlotte, N.C., 9/8/2021.

—'92—

**Romeo G. Lumaban Jr.**, Hampton, Va., 12/26/2021.

**Michael Thaggard**, Purcellville, Va., 9/18/2021.

—'93—

**Sharon R. Rucker**, Plano, Texas, 11/3/2021.

—'94—

**Charles O. Cooke**, Moneta, Va., 11/28/2021.

**Christopher C. Parker**, St. Louis, Mo., 8/28/2021.

—'95—

**Dawn C. “Judith” Williamson**, Chester, Va., 10/18/2021.

—'96—

**Rachel W. Bradbury**, Katy, Texas, 10/26/2021.

**Malinda A. “Mindy” Dunne**, Falls Church, Va., 9/11/2021.

**Munish Kapoor**, Clarksburg, Md., 10/23/2021.

**Ronald J. Poisker**, Princess Anne, Md., 11/28/2021.

—'97—

**Stephanie L. Warlick Slate**, Montpelier, Va., 10/23/2021.

—'99—

**Brian K. Huffman**, Loudon, Tenn., 11/20/2021.

—'00—

**Tyshemia P. Robinson**, Upper Marlboro, Md., 9/28/2021.

—'01—

**Jason G. Raynor**, Highwood, Ill., 11/2/2021.

—'03—

**Ryan C. Rouse**, Ashburn, Va., 9/15/2021.

**Michael A. Sharkey**, Norfolk, Va., 11/16/2021.

**Celeste D. Ruth Wallace**, Williston, Vt., 10/28/2021.

—'04—

**John T. Krallman**, Blacksburg, Va., 10/29/2021.



—'06—

**Jeremiah D. Gibson**, Arlington, Va., 11/20/2021.

**Brian L. Wilkerson**, Alton, Va., 10/19/2021.

—'07—

**Nina L. Hartman**, Norfolk, Va., 11/5/2021.

—'08—

**Christopher P. McMackin**, Blacksburg, Va., 11/10/2021.

—'09—

**Drew W. Brenner**, Sterling, Va., 9/30/2021.

**Charlotte B. Lauren**, Arlington, Va., 12/19/2021.

—'10—

**Jennifer M. Coleman**, Roanoke, Va., 8/30/2021.

—'20—

**Erin E. Kasemersky**, North Chesterfield, Va., 10/7/2021.

—'21—

**Ronny H. Vo**, Blacksburg, Va., 10/21/2021.

—OBITUARIES—

FACULTY/STAFF

**Adil Godrej**, research associate professor of civil and environmental engineering in the College of Engineering, died April 10. Godrej’s affiliation with Virginia Tech began in 1980 as a graduate student, and he most recently served as co-director of the Occoquan Watershed Monitoring Laboratory in Manassas, Virginia.

**Larry Neil Killough**, professor emeritus, died Jan. 19. Killough taught accounting at Virginia Tech for 45 years. His research expertise and primary teaching areas were cost and managerial accounting. Killough co-authored eight books and more than 60 academic and practitioner journal articles. In addition, he had numerous conference proceedings published, and he spoke at more than 30 professional meetings.

**Peter Linnell**, a mathematics professor, died in February. He joined Virginia Tech in 1983 and held concurrent positions at multiple universities, including serving as a Humboldt fellow at the Mathematical Institute at the University of Stuttgart and the Institute for Experimental Mathematics at Essen University. His research focused on problems in algebra that use analysis and topology. He also studied the so-called zero divisor conjecture, a mathematical theory that remains unsolved after 80 years.

**Jerald Francis “Jerry” Robinson Sr.**, who served 37 years in the Pamplin College of Business, died April 19. During his time at Virginia Tech, Robinson received teaching awards at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. He was president of the Faculty Senate for two terms and chaired the committee to plan the curriculum at the Steger Center in Switzerland, where he taught for 13 full sessions.

**Dale Duane Wolf**, professor emeritus, died April 22. Wolf joined the Virginia Tech faculty in January 1967. His research and Virginia Cooperative Extension work emphasized forage crop management and physiology, biofuels production, and methods and instrumentation for measuring basic growth factors such as photosynthesis of intact plants and individual leaves attached to the plant using small portable chambers.



A group of approximately 15 alumni and the Hokie mascot are posing for a photo on a grassy field at night. The Hokie mascot, a large brown bird with an orange beak and feet, is in the center of the group. The alumni are dressed in casual summer attire, including t-shirts, shorts, and jeans. In the background, a large firework is exploding in the dark blue sky, with a long trail of sparks falling. The scene is illuminated by the firework and ambient night lights.

# STILL LIFE

“R” IS FOR REUNION: For the first time since 2019, Hokies returned to campus to celebrate Reunion Weekend in person. More than 1,000 alumni and members of their families participated in the three-day event in June. Learn more about the summertime tradition, see photos from the event, and check out our reunion playlist at [alumni.vt.edu/reunion22](https://alumni.vt.edu/reunion22). Don’t forget to mark your calendars for Reunion Weekend 2023, which will take place June 8-11, 2023.



Charlie Phlegar

# END NOTE

TOGETHER, HOKIE NATION HAS  
DONE SOMETHING REMARKABLE

WE HAVE REACHED OUR GOAL OF achieving a 22 percent annual giving rate, more than doubling alumni participation from six years ago. I am grateful to all Hokies. Thank you.

This goal was an ambitious one. It was a vision President Tim Sands set and one that will have a lasting impact on our university. It inspired me seven years ago and drew me back to my home and alma mater.

I earned two degrees from Virginia Tech. My first job was here. This is where I met my wife, Karen. We will retire here. This is home.

I wanted to return to Blacksburg and my alma mater—and to make a difference. Joining the university as the vice president of Advancement in 2015, I knew that Hokies had great affinity for the university. But giving to the university lagged well behind our peers.

Hokies are naturally generous, but we had work to do. We needed to demonstrate why giving matters and how it can shape the future.

Today, thanks to the dedication and generosity of Hokie alumni in all 50 states and dozens of countries, we've created something truly special.

Virginia Tech's annual Giving Day played a key role in making this achievement possible. In fewer than 48 hours, more than 15,700 alumni and other supporters made gifts to hundreds of funds spread throughout all of the university's colleges, units, and programs.

Other important occasions for Hokie engagement included the return of student-designed Hokie socks for donors who gave during Giving Tuesday, a unique effort to integrate philanthropy into alumni events, a passionate group of students making a Senior Class Gift, and a record-breaking show of support for the Drive for 25 campaign.

Meeting this goal is important and worthy of celebration and reflection. But more than that, this achievement is about a change in culture and what it will mean for future generations of Hokies. This rate of alumni giving sustained over time will transform the university.

When we all step up and support what matters to us, it makes Virginia Tech stronger. And our mission has never been more important.

Gifts support faculty who inspire and mentor a new generation and who undertake research that can change lives through groundbreaking discoveries that

support humanity. Philanthropy creates scholarships for students, making sure that education is affordable and accessible to those who want it.

Advancing our communities and expanding access to education is our mission—and there's nothing more important.

Gifts to Virginia Tech support that mission and reaching this goal means we have developed a lasting culture of giving back among our worldwide community of alumni.

We did this together. Thank you. ■

*Charlie Phlegar is the vice president for the Advancement Division.*



Karen and Charlie Phlegar