

A portrait of Charles W. Steger, President of Virginia Tech, smiling and wearing glasses, a dark suit, white shirt, and a patterned tie. He is standing in front of a stone building with arched windows. In the background, two people are walking on a path.

vtmag

Elevating the Arts

A preview of the Center for the Arts' grand designs

Wheel Whisperers

How the Smart Road 'talks' to vehicles

Tech-Savvy Success

Digital ad agency anchored in Blacksburg

THE
ARCHITECT OF
GROWTH

HOW A VISIONARY PRESIDENT, CHARLES
W. STEGER, ENABLED EXPONENTIAL
GROWTH AND DEVELOPED THE
MODERN LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITY

VIRGINIA TECH MAGAZINE FALL 2013



contents

features

Wheel Whisperers: Smart Road talks to vehicles—all in the name of safety

Operating at the forefront of transportation research requires significant capabilities—such as a research platform that can generate rain, snow, and fog; an intersection with stoplights; and 14 different pavement sections, to name a few. Enter the Smart Road, a 2.2-mile road near the Tech campus, where Virginia Tech Transportation Institute researchers are developing and testing devices for vehicles that will increase driver safety.

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Elevating the Arts: The Center for the Arts' grand opening

Ruth Waalkes, executive director of the new Center for the Arts and associate provost for the arts, outlines how the center will enrich education and the region's culture and economy, the center's role in the university's emphasis on the arts, and the uniqueness of the center and the Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology.

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The Architect of Growth: The legacy of a visionary president

Through a rare ability to exhibit both the artistic touch to craft a vision and the pragmatic know-how to implement it, President Charles W. Steger has focused on advancing the university—by leaps and bounds. As he prepares to step down, we explore a strategy of growth made possible by a man of international standing uniquely suited to the presidency, a man who puts students at ease, renders the complex simple, and inspires those around him.

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At left: The new College Avenue promenade, which stretches from Squires Student Center to Main Street, features an extra-wide sidewalk, landscaping, and outdoor dining space for restaurants. Photo by Jim Stroup.

On the cover: President Charles W. Steger in the Ag Quad. Photo by Jim Stroup.

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Reflections on The Grove

[The article in the summer edition] misrepresents the history of The Grove during the period [when it was used for offices. The article says The Grove] began a marked decline, but in fact the office space was among the nicest on campus. The building housed the Center for the Study of Public Choice, which included many distinguished faculty. The building looked good and was well-maintained during that period. I know because I spent time there both when I was a student and visiting the center after graduating.

Randall Holcombe (M.S. economics '74, Ph.D. '74) Tallahassee, Fla.

Editor's note: In response, author Clara Cox (M.A. English '84) noted that as she researched and compiled the complete

letters to the editor

history of the building—which appears in “The Grove: Recipes and History of Virginia Tech’s Presidential Residence”—those whom she interviewed and the resources she reviewed both mentioned the decline. Restricted state budgets had deferred adequate maintenance, and when the center moved out of the building, repairs were undertaken for such issues as a leaky roof.

Corrections and clarifications

In the summer edition’s alumna profile of Regina Dugan, Professor Sanjay Raman’s faculty rank was incorrectly listed as associate professor; and in the Office of University Development’s advertisement, the first name in the Patricia C. Perna Scholarship was misspelled. Virginia Tech Magazine regrets the errors.

On the go with Virginia Tech

Magazine launches digital app



Download Virginia Tech Magazine’s new app for your iOS or Android device—available now from iTunes or Google Play—and experience every feature story, every class note, and all the news, along with video and audio extras.

- Receive a notification when a new edition is ready for download.
- Keep a library of your favorite editions.
- Bookmark your favorite stories.
- Share pages with your social networks.

Email newsletter redesigned

The Virginia Tech Monthly—formerly the VT NetLetter—is a slice of campus life delivered to your email inbox. If you’re not on the list, update your address at www.alumni.vt.edu/gateway/index.html.

- Get the latest need-to-know news.
- Explore online features and Web extras.
- Read exclusive stories about fellow alumni.
- Keep up with Alumni Association news and events.



A Transformative presidency

by LARRY HINCKER '72, M.B.A. '94

An era is coming to a close. Elsewhere in this publication you will read of the many outstanding contributions made by President Charles W. Steger, who will soon step down after about 14 years as president. (He will serve until his successor is appointed and takes office.) After Steger's 40-plus-year career that began as a student in 1965, his plaudits are numerous, striking, and transformative.

Instead of recounting his many successes, I will reflect on the man. I've known Charles for about a quarter-century and worked directly for him for 20 years. In my role I've had the opportunity to help him tell the story of Virginia Tech in myriad ways. While helping to shape the message, one gets a sense of a person's style and persona.

Steger has an uncanny ability to see over the horizon to craft a strategy for the university. One case in point was state support for higher education. While still a vice president in the '90s, Steger sensed and understood the coming fiscal problems for the commonwealth; Virginia would not or could not continue its historical financial support of higher education. The university would need to develop alternative business models and different funding streams. We would need to expand our public and private partnerships to leverage the assets of each partner. He also recognized the need to improve our university's reputation for top-quality academics and championed our efforts to grow our brand nationally and internationally.

Visitors to Steger's office almost immediately come to understand and appreciate his polished style and courtly demeanor. In another era, he might be dubbed a southern gentleman. In all my years with him, I rarely heard him raise his voice. Yet beneath this calm and friendly deportment is a person with a steely resolve to reach an end point. Whether it was enduring two major financial catastrophes (including a 25 percent loss of state funding over two years) or the dark days that began in April 2007, Steger always knew where the university needed to go. And he kept the institution on track.

Of all the attributes assigned to Charles Steger, I most often hear him hailed as a visionary. I agree. Moving and pointing a large research university is akin to turning an aircraft carrier. Yet throughout his presidency, we adopted and followed three strategic plans, all related and quite functional.

Like most good leaders, Steger listened. He tried to understand all sides of an issue. He labored over tough decisions. In the end, though, he focused and focused again on what was best for the university and its many stakeholders—and then he not only stuck by the plan, he made it happen. Anyone who has worked in large bureaucratic organizations knows of institutional inertia, but he pushed and pushed until the vision became reality.

Today, the successes are too numerous to recount in this small space: new classrooms, increased enrollment, the brightest students in our history, the doubling of research dollars, a new medical school, membership in the Atlantic Coast Conference, a new Center for the Arts, a successful billion-dollar fundraising campaign, a European campus, and dozens of new buildings ... and the list goes on.

Charles Steger likely will be remembered among the best Virginia Tech presidents, right up there with John McBryde, Julian Burruss, and T. Marshall Hahn. If he is, the honored position might be a result of that rare combination in a leader—one with vision and managerial skill coupled with the attributes of a gentleman and an all-around nice guy. □

Larry Hincker (M.B.A. '94), Class of 1972, associate vice president for University Relations, is responsible for all university-wide communications programs.

Marching Virginians facility to be constructed

This fall, Virginia Tech's popular Marching Virginians band has more than just its 40th season of existence to celebrate. In September, the Board of Visitors gave approval to erect phase one of a structure for the band—a roughly 4,300-square-foot building for instrument storage and percussion practice, and an attached, 3,500-square-foot pavilion that will provide covered space for the full band to practice, rain or shine. The project also includes a lighted practice field.

The facilities will be located behind the southeast corner of the Chicken Hill Parking lot, near Lane Stadium, and are projected to cost \$4.75 million. Funding will come from the Departments of Athletics and Recreational Sports and donations raised by the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.

Don't hold your applause: clapping with wet hands

Focusing the dynamics of squeezing fluids using a simple



Universities celebrate grand opening in Newport News

In August, Virginia Tech and the University of Virginia (U.Va.) unveiled their jointly operated Newport News higher education center, the latest in the growing body of Tech's commonwealth campus centers.

Located in Richmond, Virginia Beach, Critz, Abingdon, and Roanoke, the centers provide professional development and corporate training in their regions. Most also provide graduate-level academic offerings.

Melissa Lubin, who directs the center in Newport News, plus the centers in Virginia Beach and Richmond, said the emphasis in Newport News will be on customized professional development training for clients in industry and government. "Our longer-term goal is to expand our graduate offerings in this part of Virginia, which is concentrated in population and also in flourishing business environments," she said.

Lubin and her counterparts at U.Va. coordinated the center's development with an eye to each university's strengths, with U.Va. focused on certificate training in finance, information technology, and business. The universities will share the center's office, conference, and classroom space.

experiment of clapping with wet hands, Sunny Jung and his colleagues have published a paper in Physical Review E that examines the question of why a thin film of liquid breaks into small drops by the squeezing or clapping motion.

Jung, an assistant professor of engineering science and mechanics, found that the film is ejected radically and generates fluid treads and droplets at a high speed. Other fluids, such as gasoline and oil, behave similarly, but a very viscous fluid such as honey would not.

Understanding the reaction of fluid flows has implications for the mixing of fuel fluids in order to maximize combustion to attain fuel efficiency, and oil companies are interested in the findings because of the oil separation process.

Clarke appointed as
veterinary college
dean

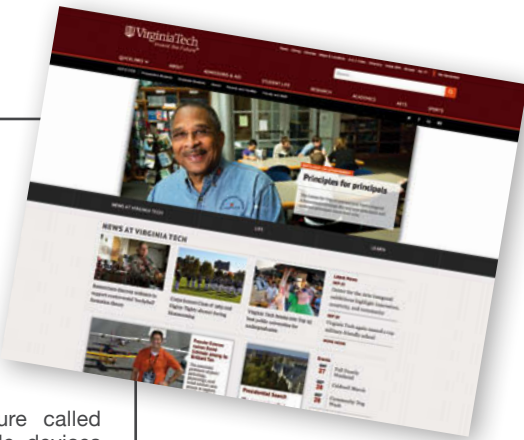
Dr. Cyril R. Clarke has been named dean of the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. Formerly a professor in and dean of Oregon State University's College of Veterinary Medicine, Clarke succeeds dean Dr. Gerhardt G. Schurig.

"Cyril Clarke is a highly respected leader in veterinary medicine and education, bringing with him dean-level experience and an impressive record of leadership and scholarly results. He brings perspective and experience that will serve

Redesigned university website
launched

In August, the university launched the redesigned homepage for www.vt.edu. The new page features a larger display area for images and content, horizontal navigation, a larger search box, dedicated sections to present news and life at Virginia Tech, and opportunities for learning.

The new homepage also uses a coding structure called responsive design to improve its display on mobile devices and tablets. The Web communications team within University Relations, the group responsible for the new redesign, conducted surveys and user tests and researched emerging Web trends to develop a framework that would continue to uphold Virginia Tech's commitment to quality, innovation, and results. Early feedback has been very positive. To submit your thoughts or comments, please send an email to webcomm@vt.edu.



the college, Virginia Tech, and the University of Maryland," said Provost Mark McNamee.

Clarke, a native of Johannesburg, South Africa, is the college's fourth dean. "The

college has established a distinguished record of accomplishment in veterinary education, delivery of clinical and diagnostic services across

a wide range of clinical specialties, and biomedical research in comparative health sciences," Clarke said. "It is particularly well positioned to advance translational medicine and the concept of One Health, which recognizes the close linkage between animal and public



Dr. Cyril R. Clarke

COURTESY OF OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

health. The partnership involving two land-grant universities provides an excellent opportunity for further development of innovative and collaborative programs that meet the veterinary educational and animal health needs of Virginia and Maryland. I am excited to be given the opportunity to lead the college in its next phase of development."

Pamplin restructures M.B.A. program to respond to changing market

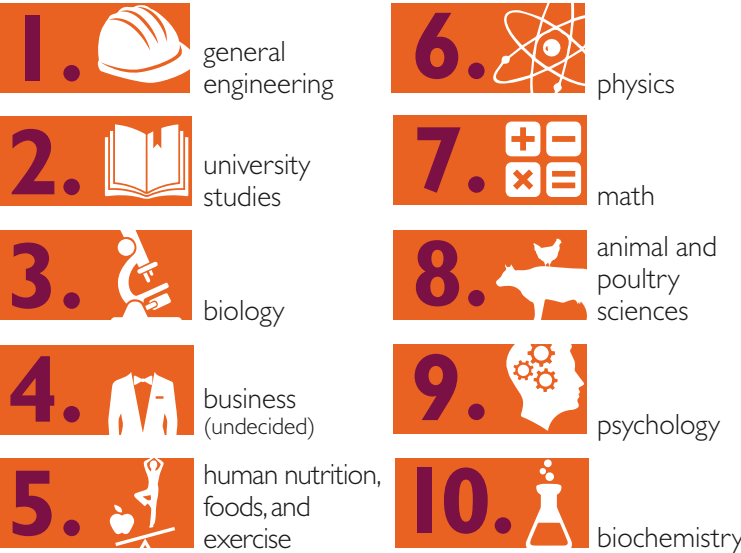
The Pamplin College of Business is restructuring its M.B.A. program in response to changing market conditions for the graduate business degree. Starting in fall 2014, Pamplin will redeploy resources toward expanding enrollments in its part-time M.B.A. formats in Northern Virginia and other major metropolitan areas of the state.

"We're shifting our emphasis from Blacksburg to larger markets in response to student demand," said Steve Skripak, Pamplin's associate dean for graduate programs. "Urban locations like the Northern Virginia market are very attractive to our typical prospects in their 20s and 30s. We see considerable opportunity that could be seized with additional investment in recruiting top students."

Skripak emphasized that the changes will have no noticeable impact on the full-time students who began classes this fall and are expected to graduate from the two-year program in 2015. Courses and support activities for this last cohort of full-time students will go on as usual, he said.

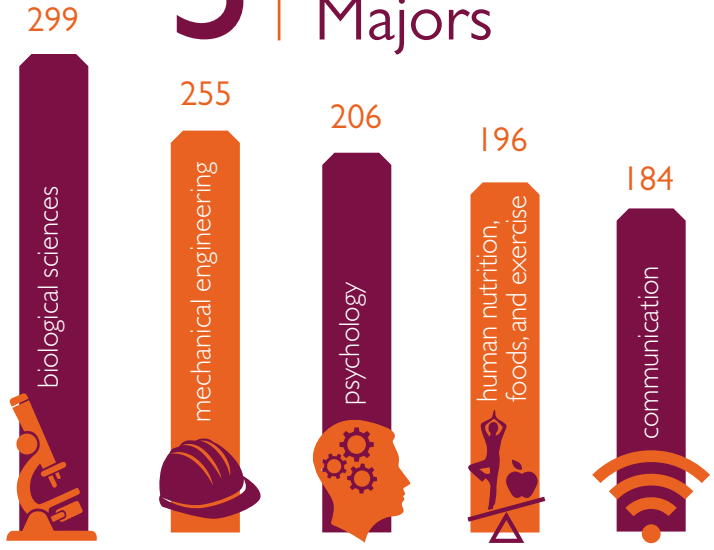
Pamplin will offer three MBA formats designed to meet students' needs for career development and advancement while remaining employed: an executive M.B.A. in the Washington, D.C., area; a part-time program known as the evening M.B.A., also in metro Washington, D.C.; and another part-time program, called the professional M.B.A., that alternates class meetings between Richmond and Roanoke.

TOP 10 INCOMING Freshman Majors



*fall 2013 freshman

TOP 5 GRADUATING Student Majors



*spring 2013 graduates



LOGAN WALLACE

A snapshot of the Class of 2017

The Hokie Nation gained approximately 5,350 new undergraduate students this fall, and they're a smart bunch. The middle 50 percent of students offered admission had grade point averages ranging from 3.78 to 4.23 and SAT scores (critical reading and mathematics) ranging from 1,160 to 1,340.

While the majority of the new students are from Virginia (more than 3,500), about 1,700 represent other states, territories, and countries. The top states of incoming out-of-state freshmen, by order of enrollment, are Maryland (364), New Jersey (275), Pennsylvania (242), North Carolina (146), and New York (96). The top five countries by order of enrollment are China, India, Jordan, Malaysia, and Saudi Arabia.

The Class of 2017 includes 224 international students, 343 students participating in the Corps of Cadets, 152 valedictorians and salutatorians, 1,533 legacies, and 27 sets of twins.

Source: UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS



BABU JUWA

Student's Tanzanian library project gains momentum

When he visited his home in Tanzania this summer, student Mohamed Mwinyi (above) received a hero's welcome. He was greeted by more than 400 students who cheered as he shared his vision for establishing a library in their village.

Mwinyi, a senior majoring in geographic information systems, came to the United States from Boko, a small village outside of Dar-es-salaam in Tanzania. He said the most striking cultural difference he encountered was unlimited access to books. In his hometown, there is no "maktaba," the Swahili word for library. The nearest one requires an expensive, complicated, all-day bus trip. Even if students can get to a library, access to the books is limited.

Mwinyi has been working on the library project for two years, collecting books, raising awareness and funds, and planning the physical location. Through University Distinguished Professor Scott Geller and his wife, Joanne, Mwinyi became involved in Actively Caring for People. He talked to one of Geller's classes, connected with volunteers, spoke to university groups, and generated more than 8,000 donated books on all subjects, which he will ship to Boko.

Now fundraising and gaining support through various community and university groups, Mwinyi is designing a website for the library project and working on an independent study of spatial analysis for the library building. During his trip to Boko, he met with government officials who were enthusiastic about the project. He now has the promise of a small room that will house the books. Teachers have volunteered to organize and secure the books, and Mwinyi is working out the details of a check-out system. "There will not be space to study, just to lend the books. But it is a start," he said.

Rachel Holloway named vice provost for undergraduate academic affairs

Rachel Holloway has been selected as vice provost for undergraduate academic affairs. In the position, Holloway oversees the strategies, programs, and resources that support the undergraduate educational experience. In addition, she works closely with college deans, associate deans, and other vice provosts to coordinate strategic initiatives to advance the university's undergraduate education profile.

"As a faculty member, department head, and associate dean, [Holloway] has demonstrated her commitment to excellence in undergraduate education," said Mark McNamee, senior vice president and provost. "Her experience and knowledge of Virginia Tech will facilitate the development of this redefined vice provost position. I look forward to working with Rachel and the other vice provosts on furthering the growth of our academic programs."



Rachel Holloway

JIM STROUP

Blacksburg, Tech join US Ignite to help advance Internet's future

The Town of Blacksburg and Virginia Tech have joined US Ignite, a White House initiative that aims to realize the potential of fast, open, next-generation networks by facilitating a national high-speed broadband test bed for development and deployment of ultra-fast broadband applications. The initiative began in 2012 with a five-year charge from the National Science Foundation for US Ignite to serve as a coordinator and incubator of the nationwide test bed, which will spur the adoption of ultra-high speed and software-defined networks, jumpstart gigabit application development, and share best practices with its partners.

Plans are under way to enhance the broadband infrastructure in the downtown area in order to enable greater participation in high-speed network connectivity for citizens and businesses. Meanwhile, TechPad CEO and founder Bob Summers (computer engineering '98) has already received funding from US Ignite for his advanced fitness app, KinectHealth.

Locally, participation in the initiative is being led by Blacksburg Town Manager Marc Verniel and Scott Midkiff, vice president of information technology at Virginia Tech.

Helping smokers kick the habit

Addiction can distort decision-making by causing the brain to overvalue immediate, drug-associated stimuli and undervalue longer-term rewards. This excessive discounting of the future is associated with poor treatment outcomes. Our research has shown that people who relapse the most are those who discount the future the most. We speculate that smokers who can't envision the future well are those stuck in their immediate circumstances. So a nicotine craving has an exaggerated effect on them."

—Warren Bickel, professor at the Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute, where he also directs the Addiction Recovery Research Center. Bickel recently received a \$3.2 million grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse for research on improving self-control in smokers seeking to quit.

Biomedical engineer achieves drug-patch breakthrough

An assistant professor in the Virginia Tech-Wake Forest School of Biomedical Engineering has developed a flexible microneedle patch that allows drugs to be delivered directly and fully through the skin. The new patch can quicken drug delivery time while cutting waste and can likely minimize side effects in some cases.

Leading development of the flexible patch was Lissett Bickford, an assistant professor and researcher of biomedical engineering and mechanical engineering in the College of Engineering. Work on the technology was completed while Bickford was a postdoctoral research associate at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and news of the delivery technology was published in a recent issue of the scientific journal Advanced Materials.

Virginia Tech breaks into top 25 best public universities for undergraduates

For the first time, Virginia Tech has moved into the Top 25 public universities as ranked by U.S. News & World Report in its annual survey of undergraduate programs, "America's Best Colleges 2014," released in September. The move to No. 25 among public schools is a bump up from the No. 28 position in the 2013 survey.

Among public and private universities, Virginia Tech ranked 69th in the nation, a move up from No. 72 in the previous survey. Virginia Tech shares the spot with Rutgers, Texas A&M, and the University of Minnesota.

New living-learning community focuses on entrepreneurship

Thirty-five students are immersing themselves in entrepreneurship this semester through an "Innovate" living-learning community. Housed in the Oak Lane community, students from a variety of majors are living in a high-energy environment while interacting with faculty ambassadors, alumni coaches, a live-in residential learning coordinator, a graduate director, and upper-level students.

Hokie Spirit quantified

In The Princeton Review's 2014 edition of its annual college guide, Virginia Tech again earned top honors based on student responses measured against responses from almost 400 colleges and universities. Rankings include



1 "Their Students Love These Colleges"



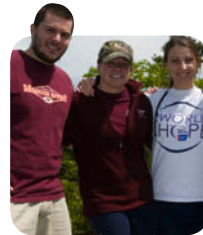
3 "Town-Gown Relations are Great"



4 "Best Campus Food"



5 "Best Quality of Life"



17 "Happiest Students"



17 "Students Pack the Stadiums"



Abuzz: The Department of Entomology's (from left) Troy Anderson, Carlyle Brewster, and Richard Fell monitor hives at Virginia Tech's Prices Fork Research Center.

Researchers study effects of pesticides on honey bee health

Virginia Tech researchers are gathering valuable information about the impact of pesticide exposure on honey bee colony health in Virginia, helping both the apicultural and agricultural industries to reduce the loss of managed bee colonies.

Honey bees allow for the production of such important crops as apples, melons, and squash in the Commonwealth of Virginia, but hives are collapsing at an approximate rate of 33 percent per year, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Continued losses are expected to drive up food costs. Despite active research efforts, a fundamental explanation for bee colony losses remains unclear.

"There are knowledge gaps with respect to pesticide effects on bee colonies," said Troy Anderson, an assistant professor of entomology in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and affiliated member of the Fralin Life Science Institute. "This study will provide important information about the exposure of bee colonies to common-use pesticides and the health risks associated with these exposures."

Funded by a \$1.4 million grant from the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS), Anderson is engaging in the five-year study with Richard Fell, professor emeritus of entomology, and Carlyle Brewster, professor of entomology. The grant itself is funded by pesticide fees collected by VDACS' Office of Pesticide Services.

Pamplin College of Business Dean Robert Sumichrast said the Innovate program allows students to learn about entrepreneurship and build important skills, such as leadership, strategic planning, project management, and how to recognize opportunities. "Through courses in our management department, we have been preparing students to take an entrepreneurial approach in managing within any context, from startups to large organizations," Sumichrast said. "At the end of the program, these students will not only have experience, skills, and knowledge, but also have a network of colleagues and mentors that will help them launch their innovative ideas."

Karen Roberto invited to review National Institutes of Health grant proposals

Karen A. Roberto, professor of human development and director of the Center for Gerontology at Virginia Tech, has accepted an invitation from the Center for Scientific Review at the National Institutes of Health to serve as a member of the Social Psychology, Personality and Interpersonal Processes study section. Her term extends from July 1, 2013, until June 30, 2017.

In this role, Roberto will review grant proposals made to the study section and make

recommendations for funding. Membership represents a major commitment of professional time and energy, as well as a unique opportunity to contribute to the national biomedical research effort.

Roberto also serves as director of the Institute for Society, Culture, and Environment at Virginia Tech and holds the positions of adjunct professor in the Department of Internal Medicine and Department of Psychiatry at the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine.

Researcher's work combines microorganisms, unmanned drones

David G. Schmale III, an associate professor of plant pathology, physiology, and weed science in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, was named one of Popular Science's 2013 Brilliant Ten in the magazine's October issue.

His research using drones—also called unmanned aerial vehicles or UAVs—to explore microbial life in the atmosphere earned him a spot on the prestigious international list of scientists, engineers, and thinkers whose innovations change the world. Schmale and colleagues use research drones

to track the movement of dangerous microorganisms that surf atmospheric waves. These atmospheric waves collect, mix, and shuffle microorganisms across cities, states, and even countries. The research has deepened understanding of the flow of life in the atmosphere, and has contributed unique tools for scientific exploration in the burgeoning field of aeroecology.

(1st and) 10 top tailgating dishes for hungry Hokies

With Hokie football season in full swing, tailgaters are taking over Blacksburg on game weekends—and that means there's plenty of food to go around. Based on the number of re-pins on Virginia Tech's "Tailgate Recipes" Pinterest board, we've created a list of some of the most unique foods that are cooked up at Virginia Tech games.

Krista Gallagher (human nutrition, foods, and exercise '03) and Kris Schoels (fashion merchandising '05), co-authors of the cookbook "A Taste of Virginia Tech," know firsthand just how extravagant tailgating foods can get. As Schoels pointed out, "Hokies' passion for football comes through in their food."

on the menu

For more tailgating inspiration, visit bit.ly/hokie-recipes.





Kicking off a new academic year

Established in 2008, Gobblerfest continues to provide students with a venue to meet each other, explore common interests, and become a part of the Virginia Tech community, all in a healthy, alcohol-free setting. Student organizations, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and Virginia Tech departments offer food, games, free giveaways, and volunteer-service information at booths around the Drillfield.

Recreating the ancient secrets of Damascus steel

This summer, two undergraduate students sought to unravel a historical secret lost centuries ago that has wide-ranging implications—such as lighter, more fuel-efficient cars and more powerful reactors for energy—for our future.

Participating in the Sciencering program, Veronica Kimmerly, a senior chemical engineering and mathematics major, and Beck Giesy, a sophomore mathematics major, put their hands and minds to work on trying to recreate Damascus steel—just one of the several

projects tackled by more than 250 undergraduates conducting research across campus this summer.

The steel, manufactured as far back as 900 A.D. in the area that is now Syria, was known for its overwhelming strength and sharp blade, while also being capable of bending without breaking. But those who made the steel died hundreds of years ago without passing on the process. Researchers recently analyzed ancient pieces and found that the material contained carbon nanotubes—cylindrical constructs made up of a highly structured form of carbon—evenly dispersed

through the metal. At the same time in the laboratory of Barry Goodell, professor of sustainable biomaterials in the College of Natural Resources and Environment, another discovery showed carbon nanotubes could be formed from wood and plant fibers.

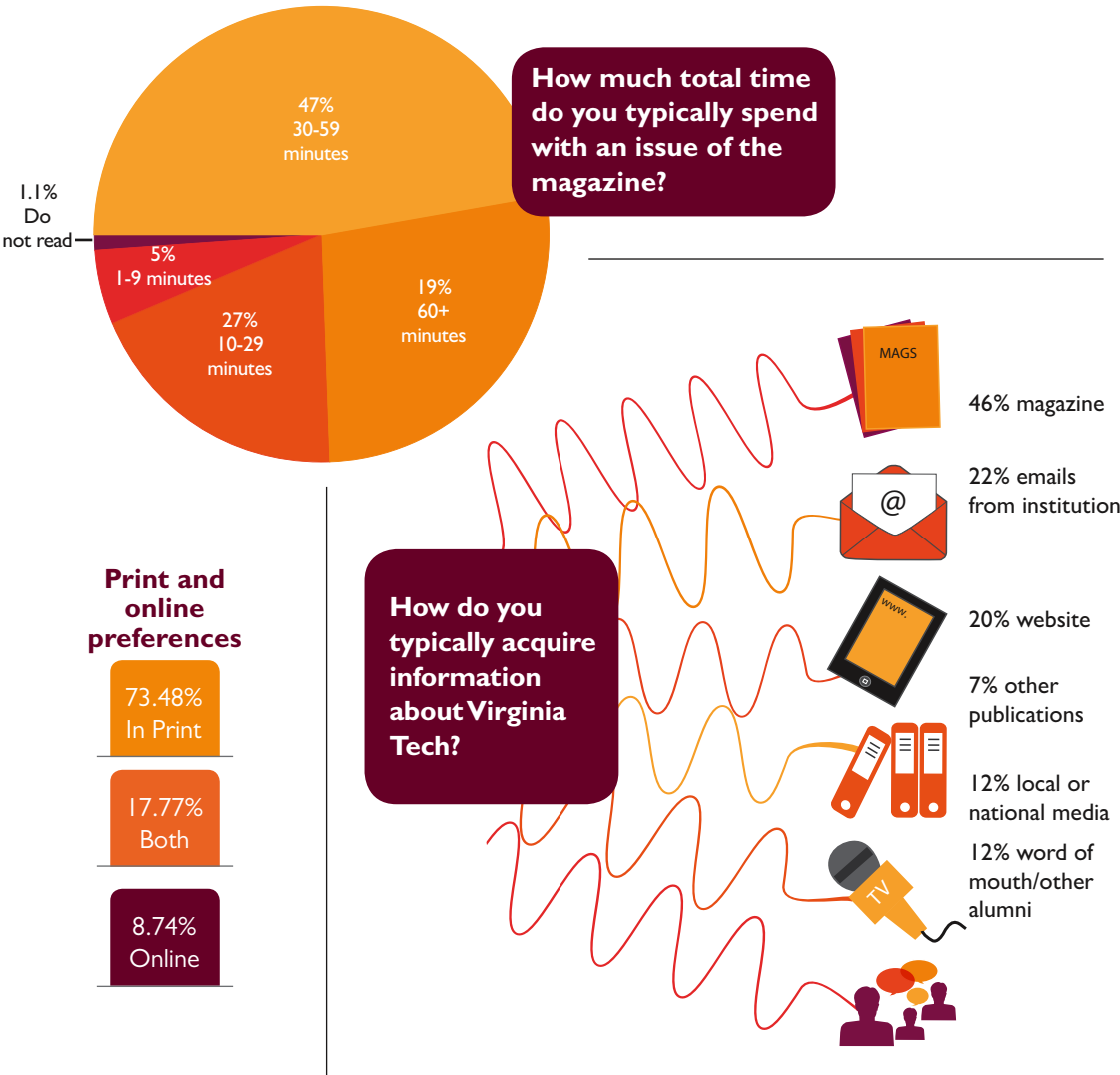
Guided by Goodell and three other faculty members, Kimmerly and Giesy investigated the potential of nanotubes by hammering out steel pieces in the university’s foundry. “We are trying to make samples by pressing pre-carbonized wood fiber in between steel plates,” Kimmerly said. “Basically, we are forming carbon nanotubes

and then trying to press them into the steel.”

The positive learning experience has helped stretch the students’ boundaries. “The purpose of Sciencering is to do interdisciplinary research,” Giesy said. “I decided to take that to the extreme and do something I had absolutely no idea about. With nanotubes, this whole process is about chemistry on a micro-molecular level, which I don’t know much about—I’ve just taken basic chemistry [course work] so far. I am learning it as I go, and it makes it fun.”

Measuring the magazine

Following the fall 2012 edition of Virginia Tech Magazine, we conducted several readership surveys, uncovering a number of valuable insights about the way alumni perceive the magazine and interact with the university. The primary survey of alumni, conducted via the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education, yielded a response rate of 2.87 percent and a margin of error of 3.61 percent. Thank you for participating!

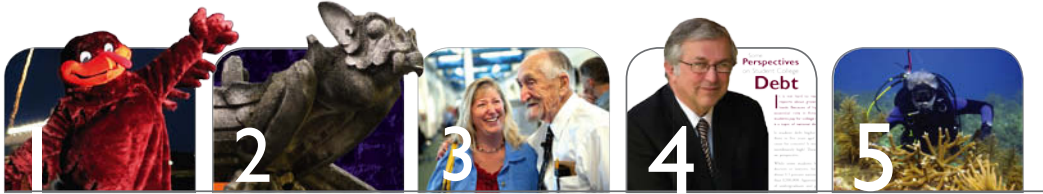


STORY RATINGS

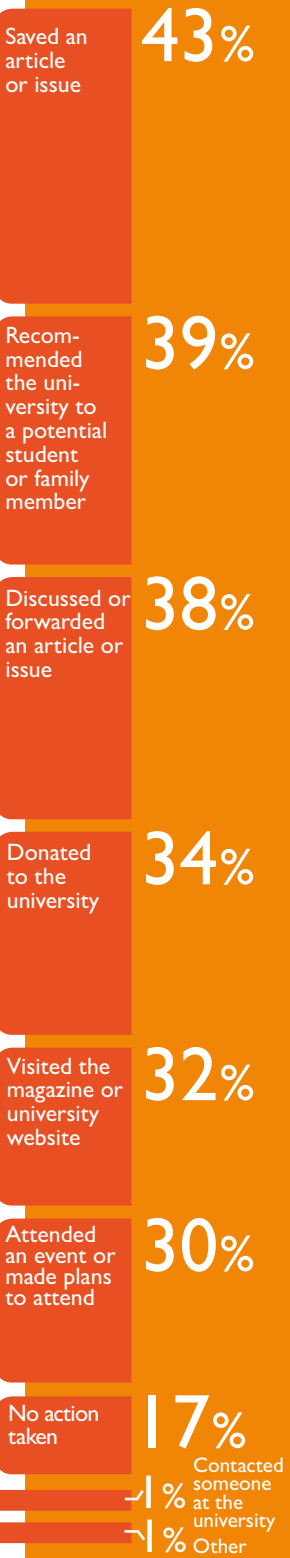
- 1- HokieBird's 25th anniversary
- 2- How Tech Ticks: Gargoyles
- 3- Cover story: The infant respirator
- 4- The president's message on student debt
- 5- Short alumni stories in Class Notes

Respondents were allowed to select “most information,” “some information,” or “no information.” The results are a combination of the “some” and “most” categories.

Respondents rated story quality on a scale.



What actions have you taken as a result of reading Virginia Tech Magazine?



Wheel Whisperers

by HILARY ANDREAS
photos by LOGAN WALLACE

How vehicles talk to a road—and each other—to improve safety

One in seven crash fatalities occurs on a motorcycle, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. That's why Virginia Tech Transportation Institute (VTTI) researchers knew they needed to take action. Researchers partnered with the Motorcycle Safety Foundation to conduct a large-scale real-life study to better understand the crash problems associated with motorcycle riding. Using the Smart Road, a state-of-the-art, closed test-bed research facility located just off Virginia Tech's campus, VTTI researchers are developing devices for both motorcycles and cars that will increase their safety on the road.

VTTI is testing a variety of effective, yet non-obtrusive, methods to deliver warnings to riders. Researchers create different scenarios on the Smart Road for the rider to respond to and then observe the reactions to warnings presented by various approaches, such as LED lights in helmets, vibrating gloves, or Bluetooth earpieces.

One day, vehicles might communicate with each other, alerting drivers to potential hazards. Researchers test the effectiveness of antennas and GPS systems on motorcycles to allow for communication, such as notifying drivers as motorcycles get close, warning cars and motorcycles when approaching dangerous traffic conditions, and providing other information pertinent to increasing awareness on the road.

On the Smart Road and in real-world driving studies, researchers rely on a number of instruments to collect data.

Wheels up:
For a video on Smart Road motorcycles and more, visit bit.ly/smart-road.

A **display screen** provides a visual warning to the rider in the event of an approaching danger.

Five cameras provide researchers with a 360-degree view around the motorcycle, as well as a visual on the rider so they can more fully understand the rider's reaction in various scenarios.

Radar provides information on the location of the motorcycle for surrounding cars and motorcycles, which are also equipped with the technology.

The **data-acquisition system** choreographs sensors around the bike to record acceleration, how far the motorcycle is leaning at various points, how long the response time is between the warning and applying pressure to the brakes, and other kinematic measures.

On-board equipment is mounted in a compartment inside the motorcycle to protect it from the outside elements. This system includes a radio that communicates with roadside equipment during testing, as well as the ability to process possible dangers and signal warnings to the rider. □

Hilary Andreas, a senior English major, was an intern with Virginia Tech Magazine. Aerial photo by Josh Armstrong.

Smart Road facts

The road features **14 pavement sections**, including a zero-crown section designed for flooded-pavement testing.

Light-pole spacing varies along the road to replicate **95 percent** of national highway systems.

Managed by VTTI and owned and maintained by the Virginia Department of Transportation, the Smart Road was **opened in 2000**.

Spanning the road, **75 weather-making towers**, are capable of producing varying amounts of snow, rain, and fog.



511 Virginia, which delivers traffic information throughout the commonwealth, is **monitored 24/7, 365 days a year** from the Smart Road control room.




The **1 millionth minute of research** was logged this spring on the Smart Road, coinciding with VTTI's 25th anniversary.

175'

The bridge, which crosses Wilson Creek and towers above Ellett Valley, is the **tallest bridge in Virginia** at 175 feet.

Wilson Creek

 Ride along

Kathy Hosig: <http://tinyurl.com/Kathyhealth>
Akshay Sharma: <http://tinyurl.com/Akshaymicrogame>
Carla Finkelstein: <http://tinyurl.com/Carlasingapore>

Terry Cobb

Team Player

by DENISE YOUNG
photo by LOGAN WALLACE

Terry Cobb, associate professor of management in the Pamplin College of Business, traces his roots back to his undergraduate days as a political activist. Today, he's a scholar whose work emphasizes a different sort of politics—the inner workings of organizations and how justice is pursued within them. Cobb's greatest passion, however, is his work in the classroom, and the university has recognized his innovative teaching with the 2013 William E. Wine Award and the 2012 Edward S. Diggs Teaching Scholars Award. We sat down with Cobb to discuss organizational justice and his unique approach to pedagogy.

On his research focus in organizational justice:

In my younger years, I was a political activist. When I went on to graduate studies, I was able to expand on that. I became interested in my current research in organizational justice because, to me, organizational politics should be aimed at organizational justice: workers getting their fair share, their fair say, and their fair treatment. So my studies are not dispassionate; they're not just variables and data points.

On what drew him to management:

In my undergraduate days, I was a psychology major. I went on to get a master's in urban planning at Wayne State because the program emphasized the social-political sides of urban planning. I got married, found that political activists don't get paid a lot, and decided to go on for my Ph.D. I went to the University of California at Irvine and studied under Lyman Porter, a well-published organizational psychologist who was focusing on organizational politics at the time. It was a perfect match for me and one of the best decisions I ever made.

Cobb has written a book about his use of student teams in the classroom. He explained his unique twist on the common teaching technique:

I create student project teams to be very much like teams in the real world. Very basic to that real-world experience is the ability for teams to hold one another accountable for their performance: to reward or discipline—even fire—team members. I've found that, in the majority of cases, students want work that challenges them, as long as they see it as meaningful. It's my job to facilitate that.

On the most important thing he wants his students to learn:

I want my students to develop what I call "well-earned self-efficacy"—the kind you get by being in the ring, by picking yourself up after failure, and coming back to succeed. I want my students to know they can take on these kinds of challenges and "learn on the run" to succeed at [the tasks] in the real world and lead others to do so as well.



Kathy Hosig

Malaysian Lessons

by ANDREA BRUNAIS

With a rippling splash, a squid fisherman throws a cast net into shallow waters.

In a community meeting room where health assessments are being conducted, a purring white cat rubs against graduate students and guests.

In a huge fresh foods market, a woman in a colorful head scarf watches, smiling, as Americans taste mangosteen and rambutans, fruits exotic to them, for the first time.

These were among the sights Kathy Hosig witnessed during five days in Malaysia. The associate professor of population health sciences in the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine was one of eight faculty members, selected based on their research interests and the quality of their projects, to participate in the annual International Faculty Development Program. Sponsored by Virginia Tech's Outreach and International Affairs (OIA), the program is funded by OIA and the Provost's Office.

The group met in Singapore before they fanned out to their countries of interest. In Malaysia, Hosig met researchers from the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur and the University Sains Malaysia in Kota Bharu who work with chronic-disease sufferers "very similar to the marginalized populations I work with in the U.S.," she said.

A public health educator, Hosig found kindred spirits in her counterparts. Like her, they try to influence behavior in a nation beset with heart disease, diabetes, and other conditions made worse by obesity and fast foods. The payoffs were many for the academian.

"I learned of ways we could collaborate with the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine at the University of Malaya," Hosig said of the trip, which took place immediately after the spring semester. "Plus, they have student practicum possibilities for our students. The opportunities are amazing."

"This international program transforms lives and professional careers," said Guru Ghosh, OIA vice president. "The experience raises the profile of our faculty members across the university. The program gives them access to high-level researchers and professionals across the world. It broadens the scope of their work beyond the geographic boundaries of one nation."

In its eighth year, the program ventured into Southeast Asia for the first time. Ghosh has designated South Africa as the springboard for next year's trip.

Other participants in the 2013 trip included

- Alan Abrahams, Pamplin College of Business, visited Thailand to research extracting different forms of business value from social media.
- Carla Finkelstein, College of Science, focused on environmental factors influencing breast cancer in Singapore.
- Deborah Milly, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, went to Indonesia to research human migration in Asia.
- Biswarup Mukhopadhyay, Virginia Bioinformatics Institute, journeyed

to Indonesia, researching tuberculosis and whooping cough vaccines and establishing a formal tie between Virginia Tech and Institut Teknologi Bandung, Indonesia's premier science and engineering university.

- Akshay Sharma, College of Architecture and Urban Studies, met with Malaysian researchers to demonstrate a financial-literary game that he and his students created for women in developing countries.
- Robert Weiss, College of Science, studied the impact of tsunamis on coastal areas in Singapore.
- Yang Zhang, College of Architecture and Urban Studies, visited China to research the vulnerability of populations to disasters. □

Andrea Brunais, the communications director for Outreach and International Affairs, also took the photo below.

Participants in the 2013 International Faculty Development Program



Joe Merola Good Chemistry

by DENISE YOUNG
photo by LOGAN WALLACE

Joe Merola sees chemistry everywhere—every water droplet, every leaf bursting with chemical reactions. For his inspiring teaching of an often difficult-to-grasp subject, Merola, professor of chemistry in the College of Science, received the university's 2013 William E. Wine Award. We sat down with Merola to discuss what makes good chemistry in the classroom—and in the world around us.

On the surprising ways chemistry affects people's everyday lives:

Everyday life is chemistry. ... Most people don't know that. One example is washing your hands. [From] what goes into making the soap to the act of washing your hands—even the grease on your clothes—those are chemical reactions. The sad part of that is that people view chemicals as bad things. Products are labeled “chemical free.” But water is a chemical. We need a better understanding of what chemistry is. The trees around us do wonderful things with chemicals. ... They are amazing things for giving us clean air and food to eat. That is chemistry.

On what drew him to chemistry:

I can't actually think of a time when I wasn't interested in chemistry. One of my earliest requests for a Christmas present was a chemistry set. As an 8-year-old, just the fact that you could mix two colorless things together and make blue, that you could mix two liquids to form a solid, was fascinating to me.

On the art of teaching science—and the hazards of PowerPoint:

There's such a great tendency to pack so many bells and whistles into a PowerPoint presentation. So fairly early on, I started adopting these tablet PCs that allow me to write on the screen. That slows things down. And over the last several years, I've adopted wireless projection capabilities so I'm not stuck at the podium. That seems trivial, but the fact that I could walk around to break down that physical space, the students like that. Ultimately, what I think is important in teaching is [providing] individual attention as much as we possibly can. I think [our students] deserve nothing less.

On mentoring and developing a rapport with his students:

Part of it has to do with [the fact that] I have an extremely quirky sense of humor. I'm a big '60s and '70s movie trivia buff. I throw in all of that quirkiness, along with the science. ... It breaks down the formal barriers between “The Professor” and “The Student.” We can talk about chemistry and that's really the very serious part, and when we talk about that other stuff, it makes the communication easier. By showing students that you can have fun, that science isn't drudgery—yes, you can be a nerd but you can also have a good time—that makes it easier for the students to see themselves in this career path.

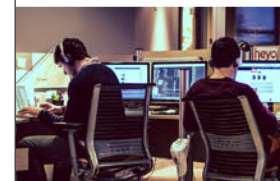
On what teaching magic at Hogwarts and teaching chemistry at Virginia Tech have in common:

When you think back to chemistry classrooms, we try to make things come alive. And there's a certain amount of a pyrotechnic gene that goes along with being a chemist. And you worry that that's just entertainment, but on the other hand, the student sees that what looks like nothing on paper is really amazing. In “Harry Potter,” they don't just read spells, they do them. Just like that, in chemistry, we try to make things come alive. □



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

Tech-Savvy Success in the Heart of Blacksburg

by HILARY ANDREAS and EMILY GOODRICH
photo by JIM STROUP

“We call ourselves Modeans,” proclaims the graphic on the Modea website, which showcases the company’s 2011 Ad Age Small Agency Culture of the Year award. Modeans are proud of this award, and it’s easy to see why they earned it.

About the series

In this installment of our series on the region’s tech sector, we continue to explore the vibrant drivers of the area’s economic growth.

The head of this group, David Catalano (finance ’06) has learned the importance of collaborative spaces in an ever-changing field. Catalano’s adaptability and commitment to his employees have fostered the success of Modea and its culture, and the company’s strategic proximity to a major research university has led it further down the road to success.

Catalano and co-founder and business partner Aaron Herrington (business finance ’00) quickly discovered that, despite the lack of people already working in digital advertising in the New River Valley, Blacksburg has many advantages, not the least of which is the ability to hire talent directly out of college. “Virginia Tech provides us with a steady stream of high-quality interns who often become full-time [employees] upon graduation,” Catalano said.

Because of the surrounding area and the university, Modea has also been able to hire successfully from pools of applicants who prefer to work in small towns rather than big cities. “Another great benefit for a lot of our employees is [that Blacksburg is] a very comfortable place to raise families,” said Catalano. These sentiments echo recent reports that have ranked Blacksburg as the top place to raise children—the region topped both Bloomberg Businessweek and www.realestate.com’s lists on the subject.

After the company secured talented employees who wanted to live, work, and collaborate in Blacksburg, the culture developed on its own from there. “Maintaining a good culture

is of the highest importance for us. If our people aren’t happy, then they’ll leave. The talent of our individuals is in sum total the talent that our agency has, so when our people leave, so do our capabilities and our strengths,” Catalano said.

“You can’t define what a culture is going to be; you can try, but it depends on the people you bring in,” Herrington said. “We tried to bring in like-minded people and created a culture where people ... feel comfortable enough to talk when they have a problem.”

Modea’s work evolves with the market; the small digital shop is now beginning to break into more traditional media. “The more value you can prove to [clients], the more trust they have in you, and the more opportunities that you get,” said Catalano. “[Now] we’re helping [clients] drive their overall brand strategy and go to market strategy, across all media, not just digital exclusively. Our role has expanded rapidly over the past six years.”

Despite the overall success, Modea still faces hurdles common among small businesses. Early in 2012, Modea lost a major client and was forced to cut staff in the division that focused on content creation to support the launch of smartphones.

The loss impacted the overall drive of the company. Modeans became more focused, Catalano said, and worked diligently to make up the lost revenue by spending the next few months working on intense business-development efforts. Now, Modea has grown back to approximately the same size it was prior to the layoffs last year.



Advantages: Aaron Herrington ’00 (left) and David Catalano ’06 (right) say the culture of their agency, Modea, is well-suited to Blacksburg.

“[Catalano] has had to learn to manage in great times and in hard times,” said Doug Juanarena (electrical engineering ’75), a friend and mentor to Modea’s leaders and the vice president of Rackspace’s Blacksburg operations. (*Editor’s note: Rackspace is another example of the region’s thriving tech sector. See the story in the winter 2012-13 edition of Virginia Tech Magazine.*) Catalano’s relationship with Juanarena speaks to the growing network of mentor relation-

ships in the region, which Catalano said he has seen improve in the past five years.

Catalano also credits the Roanoke Blacksburg Technology Council (RBTC) with implementing programs to allow for more knowledge-sharing among local businesses, which benefits everyone involved.

With existing business infrastructures like RBTC, access to high-quality talent, and Blacksburg’s attractive quality of life, this

small digital agency continues to grow in the region. “Fortunately,” Catalano said, “when people move their families to Blacksburg to work at Modea, they seldom leave.” □

Hilary Andreas, a senior English major, and Emily Goodrich, a junior English major, were interns with Virginia Tech Magazine.



Elevating the Arts

Q-and-A previews the Center for the Arts grand opening

by HILARY ANDREAS
photo by JIM STROUP

Ruth Waalkes (above), executive director of the Center for the Arts and associate provost for the arts, visited with Virginia Tech Magazine's Hilary Andreas about the center's opening this fall.

How will the Center for the Arts enhance education at Virginia Tech?

The center is the cornerstone of a comprehensive arts initiative that was launched here in 2005, and that came from [President Charles W.] Steger's vision for the arts on campus. The phrase he has used is "educating the whole person," so when we think about the educational benefits ... [it's] our hope that all students have exposure to new opportunities and experiences through the Center for the Arts and the programs we're doing.

Beyond the more targeted educational aspects, the incredible new facility will house a professional presenting program. We now have the ability to bring to campus very diverse performing arts companies and artists of all kinds, and we can support them in this space in a way that we cannot in the existing venues here in the region. We will be connecting their work with other areas and departments on campus and tapping into the community.

How did you choose the programs for the first year?

Given the broad goals we have for enhancing student learning, being a bridge to the community, and helping to lift up Virginia Tech's stature as a comprehensive research university, one of the starting points ... has been to look at the programming at other institutions that have very strong arts programs. We wanted to have a diverse breadth of programs so there

Coming soon:

Join Waalkes at bit.ly/centertour for a video tour of the center under construction.

would be an opportunity for everyone to find something of interest. At the same time, we want to find opportunities to go deeper with those artists and projects, so we will have pre- and post-performance talks, master's classes, and different workshops. ... We want students to come in and be curious and ask questions.

How will the center affect the regional economy and quality of life?

The center is such a wonderful bridge between the town and the university, strategically located on the edge of campus. It is a chance for the community and students to come together and have these shared experiences, and I think that is a very rich opportunity for both [groups]. It serves as a gathering place and an arts destination for the region.

As we look at companies we want to locate here and [at] existing companies recruiting employees, place matters a lot. Studies recently show that people are making choices on place first, and then they figure out what they want to do there. It's really important to think about the overall offerings of a community. Likewise for retirees, more and more people are looking to retire in a place like this. College towns have a lot of activity, so you attract all phases of life with this kind of amenity.

How do the center's presentations of world-class talent influence the arts scene here?

There is a very active presence of the arts in Blacksburg, with the establishment of an arts and cultural district and the work to expand College Avenue, all of which are part of trying to create a vibrant downtown. The Center for the Arts and its programming lend a tremendous amount to that vibrancy. We're expanding the kinds of arts

experiences people can have here. There is a lot going on already, with contemporary theater, chamber music programs, heritage music, and bluegrass music, things that are indigenous to Southwest Virginia. I think we have an opportunity to bring slightly different kinds of cultural expressions that enhance and complement all of that.

Tell us about your role in the provost's office to implement campus-wide goals for the arts and how the center fits within the university.

[The overall arts initiative] encompasses all the academic, curricular, and co-curricular efforts happening on campus. We have the Center for the Arts, the Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology (ICAT), academic programs, and programs in Student Affairs that are arts-related. My job is largely facilitating and advocating arts programs on campus and trying to find resources to support those.

The center will work closely with the colleges and the schools in the arts. The center is enhancing what we have in Squires [Student Center], Burruss [Hall], and various galleries, not replacing them. Those spaces will continue to be vital for academic programs. The center is complementary, and we want to bring in programming that is also complementary and [offers] different ways of connecting and engaging with campus.

What makes our center unique compared to centers at other institutions?

Housed within the center is a research institute, ICAT, exploring the intersections among engineering, science, art,

and design, with a very strong commitment to K-12 education. [ICAT] brings these areas together for different types of projects, including those that can impact new learning environments, as we work with educators and students.

Another venue in the building is what we call "The Cube." It's a four-story room, like a black box theater, only it's taller and has catwalks around all four levels. It has full theatrical capabilities with a lighting grid and sound systems, but also has an incredible amount of infrastructure and networking to serve as an experimental space as well. Sometimes it will be an intimate performance space, sometimes we'll have video installations in there, and other times it will be a research and experimental space for ICAT.

We have outdoor spaces, too—the west wall outside The Cube serves as an informal amphitheater. We will be able to project onto that wall, so we could have video or art installation projects; and we can have small live performances out there or in the courtyard outside the center.

We are also a part of national organizations, one of which is the Alliance for Arts at Research Universities. We are one of about 20 founding universities, all seriously looking at how to embed the arts more deeply into curricula on campus, and also how to measure the impact and assess the value of the arts. □

Hilary Andreas, a senior English major, was an intern with Virginia Tech Magazine.

Editor's note: Be sure to catch our extensive coverage of the center in the winter edition, to be published in mid-January 2014.

The first season:

To learn more about the center and the inaugural season's performances, visit www.artscenter.vt.edu.

The Architect of Growth

How a visionary president enabled exponential growth and developed the modern land-grant university

by JESSE TUEL and DENISE YOUNG
photo by JIM STROUP

When he became president in 2000, President Charles W. Steger assessed where the university stood. "As we enter a new period of challenge and change, we are fortunate that Virginia Tech enjoys a great deal of positive momentum," Steger said in his inauguration speech. "Our programs are solid and well recognized, our entering class this fall will be the most qualified in history, and our private resources have grown significantly. Now we must capitalize on this momentum to reach a new level of excellence and service."

Nearly 14 years later, as Steger prepares to step down, those words are still true.

President Steger at the Center for the Arts



I think the Hokie Nation is really indebted to Charles for his **effective leadership** over a challenging and productive era. Words don't come very easily anymore after Parkinson's, but they don't limit my praise for Charles. We owe him."

—T. Marshall Hahn Jr., Virginia Tech president from 1962 to 1974

In a Midwestern studio this fall, a likeness of President Charles W. Steger awaited John Boyd Martin, the renowned painter who has done the portraits of the past three Virginia Tech presidents.

To the artist, the image—a painting study—represents the sum of his impressions from a spring visit to Blacksburg. Martin dined with Steger, observing the president's mannerisms and personality. He shot black-and-white photos and then conducted the painting study, a two- to three-hour sitting that helped him record skin tones.

"Being around them [portrait subjects] is how you bring out the personality," Martin said in his studio in Overland Park, Kan. "We did the sitting at his home, and I felt very comfortable. I think he has a down-to-earth quality that was resonating."

When asked what he saw in Steger's personality, Martin pointed to the painting study. "That image tells you somewhat because of the thoughtful look," he said, adding that he found Steger to be very much "at ease, very relaxed," articulate, and well-versed on student and university concerns.

It will take Martin an estimated one month of eight- to 12-hour days to complete the life-size painting that will one day be displayed in Burruss Hall, thus preserving the legacy of Charles W. Steger at Virginia Tech.

On a much larger canvas, with much broader strokes, Virginia Tech's 15th president has brilliantly colored the campus, the commonwealth, and the globe.

At his inauguration in April 2000, Steger outlined a bold vision. He pledged to focus on research, economic development and outreach, partnerships with other universities and the private sector, innovations in information technology, and more. He challenged the university to rank among the top 30 research universities in America, increase enrollment and diversity, address critical space needs, enhance the arts, significantly increase private giving, and recruit the best and brightest students as ways to stimulate the entire academic enterprise.

In May, the president announced his intention to step down. The search for his successor is under way, and Steger will stay on board until a new president takes office. Taking stock of his tenure, one could almost call his 2000 speech prophetic. Virginia Tech's architect of growth, Steger has achieved the majority of his goals through a rare ability to exhibit both the artistic touch to craft a vision and the pragmatic know-how to implement it, along with an aptitude to spot and interpret trends well ahead of others and empower a dedicated leadership team to help him position the university on the right trajectory.

Since 2000, Virginia Tech has increased its total research expenditures from \$192 million to more than \$450 million, increased graduate enrollment by 12 percent, raised more than \$1 billion in private funding, finished or started building more than 3 million square feet of space, formed a

school of biomedical engineering and a school of medicine, and much more. The university has exported its excellence out of Blacksburg, expanding its presence in Roanoke, Southside Virginia, Northern Virginia, Europe, Asia, and elsewhere.

"I think [Steger] has provided visionary leadership," said T. Marshall Hahn Jr., Virginia Tech's president from 1962 to 1974. "You could tick off just a number of things and hardly scratch the surface. He's driven the university forward on all fronts."

A lofty vision

The notion of accelerated growth was launched in 2000 by Steger's stated emphasis on research. "When he became president, the single most powerful and effective thing he did was to raise the bar in terms of the top-30 rhetoric," said University Distinguished Professor and Senior Fellow for International Advancement Paul Knox, the College of Architecture and Urban Studies (CAUS) dean from 1997 to 2006. "That is a simple strategy or tactic, but it really thoroughly ran through the whole university."

"One of the things that [Steger] never lost sight of is if we want the university to grow to a higher level of distinction, then incremental growth is not going to be sufficient," said Virginia Tech Provost Mark McNamee, hired by Steger in 2001. "We thought in terms of big leaps forward. And I think Charles' legacy is going to be defined by those big, giant steps."

Steger knew that Virginia Tech couldn't accelerate its position as a major university by chasing the the likes of Harvard. "Instead of climbing the ladder, I view it as a pole-vaulter. You've got to have a pole that's got some flex in it and some elasticity and some potential energy that flips you over the bar. You can't get there by playing the existing game. You have to create the new environment," Steger said in an interview in August.

The strategy to achieve such an audacious vision—one of giant steps and new environments—arose from a mind uniquely suited to the university presidency, from a man of international standing who puts students at ease, from a man who renders the complex simple and inspires the talent around him. What's more, this architect-president—a three-time alumnus with bachelor's and master's degrees in architecture and a Ph.D. in environmental engineering and sciences—was laboring on behalf of his alma mater.

The campus architect

Steger's architectural training has served him well. An architect in the early phases of design deals with complex problems with many variables, some unquantifiable. "It requires a level of creativity, a development of other areas of the intellect for complex problem-solving and pattern recognition, basically, and then a sense of judgment of aesthetics," Steger said. "And I don't mean it just in terms of what one thinks is pretty, but in terms of efficiency and economy and beauty and all these things at the same



As dean of the College of Architecture and Urban Studies from 1981 to 1993, Steger took care to preserve the legacy of his predecessors.

time, in the same way that a mathematical equation can be aesthetically pleasing. You solve the problem in a way that's most efficient and most elegant."

When retiring Clemson University President James F. Barker accepted the dean's post in Clemson's College of Architecture in 1986, he sought out the advice of Virginia Tech's then-CAUS dean, Charles Steger. "I've observed that an architectural education is not deep, but it is wide," Barker said. "That kind of wide thinking is what a president's job requires. You must lead teams of creative people to make connections and solve problems. Charles Steger has excelled in this role."

"People in [architecture] ... understand and can see patterns of things—whether it's patterns of opportunity [or] patterns of design in a building. It's part of the

DNA. And [Steger] has that—to be able to see patterns, to connect the dots that other people maybe can't see as easily," said Jim Bohland, professor emeritus of urban affairs and planning in the School of Public and International Affairs and the interim vice president and executive director of National Capital Region (NCR) Operations.



He's more than an architect. He's more of a planner. I think that's his strength."

—Paul Torgersen, Virginia Tech president from 1994 to 2000

A project planner and architect, then assistant head of the urban planning department, then manager of the urban planning department at Wiley and Wilson, in Lynchburg, Va.

A lifetime of service

Charles W. Steger arrives on campus as a freshman

1965

Finishes the bachelor of architecture and master of architecture programs

1970 and 1971

1971-74

Returning to the academy

After finishing his master's degree, Steger joined Wiley and Wilson, an architectural and engineering firm in Lynchburg, Va., where his capacity for planning—and overall skill—was quickly recognized. In his mid-20s, he was placed in charge of the firm's urban-planning division.

Meanwhile, the last-minute departure of a faculty member at Virginia Tech opened a spot for Steger as a visiting lecturer in 1973-74. As he also managed an environmental impact study on a highway relocation for Wiley and Wilson, with 13 Ph.D.-level consultants evaluating everything from noise radiation to sedimentary build-up in streams, Steger recognized the ecological movement's emergence and that he needed a doctorate to become a better architect and planner.

As Steger studied for a Ph.D. in environmental engineering and sciences and taught in CAUS, Wiley and Wilson wasn't ready to let him go. The firm continued to pay him the same salary, minus the work duties, and iced the cake with an IBM Selectric typewriter and a year-end bonus. But Steger, hooked on the academic environment, opted to stay on at Tech. By 1976, when he was in his late 20s, he was named chair of the urban-design graduate program.

A short time later, Charles Burchard, founding dean of CAUS, who had decided to retire, was walking across the Drillfield with then-Provost John Wilson. Said Steger, "He asked Burchard, 'Is there anyone in the college you think should succeed

you as the dean?' And so Burchard gave him my name. Wilson later told me, many years later, 'I thought the man had lost his mind.'" Steger was a candidate that time around and wasn't chosen, but the position soon opened up again—and at the age of 33, Steger became the youngest dean of an architecture school in the nation.

The new dean took care to understand the pedagogy of the college and to preserve the essence of Burchard's legacy. "You had to be the guardian of those key things," he said, "so that's what I tried to do."

Steger intuitively grasped how the college could participate in the university's growth, and the college's research program tripled, becoming one of largest in the nation. Said Knox, "I remember when I first came to the college [in 1985]. [Steger] was dean and drew a small number of us aside because, even back then in the mid-80s, he was aware that the university ... was going to be having to rely more on externally funded research. And that was our charge ... to increase that as fast as we could."

Exporting excellence

Steger was already thinking boldly. Building upon the university's land-grant mission, Steger, as dean, established an architectural presence in Northern Virginia. The Washington-Alexandria Architecture Center now encompasses five buildings and hosts an international consortium of architecture schools.

"[The center] was impressive. That was entirely Charles' doing," said David Roselle, Virginia Tech's provost from 1983 to 1987, who later served as president of the University of Kentucky and the University of Delaware. "When he became dean, there was no real concern about that aspect of architectural education. He saw it, he designed a solution, [and] it was pretty bold for the time." Added Roselle, the center was "a precursor of what he's done, locating people away from Blacksburg and in other parts of the state."

Perhaps it should come as no surprise that Steger, who as student-body president at Henrico County High School in Richmond, Va., had brought the first-ever international student to the school, would later internationalize his collegiate alma mater.

In Riva San Vitale, Switzerland, Virginia Tech's Center for European Studies and Architecture was once a study-abroad program led by Olivio Ferrari, an Alumni Distinguished Professor and a masterful design teacher, Steger said. Recognizing that Ferrari was irreplaceable and that the program needed a permanent facility, Steger started the process to acquire a building. "Believing in the value of this international study, I wanted to institutionalize the international study dimension by having a facility," Steger said. "I wanted to own something and not have it rented or leased, because I wanted it to be permanent."

Ph.D., environmental sciences and engineering. Dissertation: "An Integrated Modular Watershed Planning Model Applied to the Upper South River Watershed, Waynesboro, Virginia"



JIM STROUP



LOGAN WALLACE



LOGAN WALLACE

When asked what he enjoys about his job, Steger didn't hesitate: "I enjoy being around the students the most." In late summer, Steger (clockwise from left) spoke to Summer Academy students, visited Hokie Camp leaders, and helped during move-in day. The president prioritizes interaction with students, holding two luncheons per month, one with undergraduate and one with graduate students. Organized by student representatives to the Board of Visitors, the luncheons are typically attended by 15-20 students.

University establishes the Washington-Alexandria Architecture Center

Appointed dean of the College of Architecture and Urban Studies, the youngest leader of a school of architecture in the U.S.

On diversity

Issues of diversity have long been at the forefront of Steger's mind. In his May 2013 commencement address, the president noted that since 2005, the university increased its enrollment of underrepresented undergraduate students by 55 percent and that the number of underrepresented students in the fall 2013 entering class was up 9 percent over the previous year.

William Lewis, vice president for diversity and inclusion, noted that Steger has repeatedly demonstrated his commitment to diversity, whether through his interactions with the Board of Visitors, his support for the Principles of Community, or providing resources to Lewis's office. Said Lewis, "He meets regularly with the Black, LGBT, and Hispanic and Latino faculty and staff caucuses. It is under his leadership that the Virginia Tech Principles of Community [were] crafted and adopted by the Board of Visitors. He has championed access to Virginia Tech through the Presidential Scholarship Initiative and Funds for the Future."

Steger's philosophy of planting the Tech flag beyond Blacksburg is partially pinned to perception. "Without these other dimensions, we would be perceived as being parochial in a way," he said. "And so this provides an opportunity for our students to work and travel and have internships all over the world. It really adds another set of dimensions to the educational experience for the student. It also raises our visibility tremendously."

The statesman

In the Ag Quad in August, Steger posed for the first of a series of photos for the magazine. The overcast afternoon was sweltering, but Steger wore a suit and tie. "It's my uniform," he said.

Donning the uniform as the public face of Virginia Tech, its primary lobbyist, is one of Steger's most critical functions—and he excels, according to Ralph Byers, executive director of government relations. "The fact is, if you're president of a major state university, just about anything that happens can become a political issue," Byers said. "And [Steger] is very attuned to that and has maintained his relationships with successive governors and state legislators, members of Congress, senators, representatives. ... It's a tremendous job, and he has never let up."

The relationships with lawmakers are based on trust, said Steger, drawing an example from his meetings with former U.S. Sen. John Warner. The chairman of powerful committees would have 10 aides in the room, all of whom already knew what Steger would request. "If Warner gave the nod, it happened. If he didn't give the nod, it didn't happen. And it was my job to get him to nod in the right direction," Steger said. "And a lot of it is that confidence in the university—Virginia Tech is very highly regarded by these people—and the fact that they trust you. It's the institution,

but there's also a personal side to this that you can't underestimate."

Steger understands the personal side well. Warner, as a young man, spent his summers working on a farm owned by a family full of Hokies, and Steger knew of the affection Warner had for the university. When other presidents might tend to press him for money, Warner said, his conversations with Steger centered on agriculture, football, and mining. "I always looked forward to his visits," said Warner, who served in the Virginia Senate post from 1979 to 2009. "I've never questioned his veracity ever. Ever."

State Sen. John Watkins (horticulture '69), who served as a state representative from 1982 to 1998 before his election to the Senate, said that Steger always took the time to listen. "And he's done his homework. He's not over the top, but he doesn't leave you with a lot of questions," Watkins said.

"One reason [Steger] has the respect he does is that he's always so modest and self-effacing," Byers said. "Especially since he's from Virginia, his style is something that fits very naturally with the political culture of the state. He just instinctively understands how to deal with different types of people in different situations. ... He makes it seem easy, but it's a very tough thing to do."

The journey has not always been smooth, however. In fall 2010, Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) responded to a General Assembly request to reduce costs, yet maintain a local presence throughout the commonwealth. The proposed restructuring plan came under fire as the public and lawmakers debated which offices to cut and how scarce resources should be allocated. Steger, as agency head, bore the brunt of displeasure toward VCE's plan

to meet the legislatively mandated budget cuts. In consultation with legislators and constituents, he decided to withdraw the plan and go back to the drawing board. A dynamic, new Extension director was hired, and funding was restored by the General Assembly. Today, Extension is thriving, with more agents across the state than have been seen in many years.

Largely, however, the relationship equity that Steger built up with lawmakers paved the way for beneficial ventures, particularly the public-private partnerships that he set out to achieve in his inauguration speech. The plan to form the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine and Research Institute was announced in early 2007, and the first class of medical students started in fall 2010. "That was a decision that evolved very quickly and could've been stalled at any point. It was not the typical thing universities did," said McNamee, who added that Steger's clear vision and focus carried the project through.

In true land-grant fashion, the medical school and research institute aren't powering only Virginia Tech forward. Both are a "major game changer for Roanoke," said John Dooley, the former vice president for Outreach and International Affairs who is now the Virginia Tech Foundation's CEO. "It's going to position [Roanoke leaders] to be able to develop a new and different economic strategy that better leverages the health resources there, but also attracts entrepreneurs to the area."

Early in his presidency, Steger became a leader of the commonwealth's Council of Presidents, where he represented the



If he hadn't taken the lead as he did, I'm not sure we would've made the progress."

—Linwood Rose (economics '73), former James Madison University president, on Steger steadily pressing Virginia governors and lawmakers for research funding for the commonwealth's colleges and universities



The Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine and Research Institute in Roanoke, Va.

interests of both Tech and Virginia's higher-education community. Nationally and internationally, Steger was able to offer learned wisdom to other presidents without being "arrogant or aloof, which can happen with such a large, dynamic university," said Linwood Rose (economics '73), James Madison University president from 1998 to 2012. "I think that's his real legacy. ... So often, Charles would certainly be looking out for his institution, but would have a statesman's hat on and look out for the other institutions and how they could be involved."

Under Steger's leadership, Virginia Tech partnered with the University of Virginia (U.Va.) and the College of William &

Mary to persuade state lawmakers to approve the Restructured Higher Education Financial and Administrative Operations Act in 2005. The act gave the university greater flexibility in capital outlay and new construction, long-range planning, revenue streams, personnel, purchasing, information technology, and other administrative areas.

John Casteen, U.Va. president from 1990 to 2010, credited much of the restructuring effort's efficiency to Steger, explaining that Steger was able to carry the torch for Virginia's higher-education community. "Good presidents are never cowboys," he said, referring to Steger's ability to collaborate and share the podium with others.

1990

Named a Fellow in the American Institute of Architects

1990

Became acting vice president for public service, while serving concurrently as dean



A university president has to have the vision to recognize the goals and opportunities and has to communicate clearly to all of his or her constituencies so that [they] can embrace and understand the goals. And the first step in that process is a clear vision of what the university can and should become.”

—T. Marshall Hahn Jr., Virginia Tech president, 1962-74

The visionary

“One of the great qualities that Charles has is he has great foresight,” said Dooley. “He can, to some degree, predict opportunities five, even 10 years out. He’s got this uncanny way to look at what is, but also project what could or should be. He’s always doing that.”

With Steger, substantive action follows those predictions. Cognizant of the federal government’s trend toward funding large multidisciplinary grants rather than individual projects, Virginia Tech shifted toward cross-cutting initiatives using a business model that invested in seven large research institutes. The institutes’ managerial structure allowed the university to compete for and win larger research awards while also focusing resources in areas of strength so that the university could complete globally for the best and brightest minds.

With the likes of the Virginia Bioinformatics Institute (VBI), the university was also responding to shifts in how the federal government prioritized research spending toward, for instance, life sciences. Founded in 2000, VBI now employs more than 250 faculty and staff and has amassed more than in \$100 million in research projects.

The institutes are an important part of why Tech’s research funding has skyrocketed. And even if the notion of becoming a top-30 institution wasn’t reached, the ambition yielded substantial results. “The significant part is that we’ve moved one heck of a long way from where we would have moved had we not had such a goal,” said Ray Smoot (English ’69, M.S. education administration ’71), a long-time administrator and former CEO of the Virginia Tech Foundation. Smoot also pointed out the benefits associated with the research component—graduate placement rates, corporate philanthropy, and university reputation.

Another critical trend Steger detected was that major research institutions would get bigger—and he knew that Virginia Tech could not be left behind. In the “bimodal distribution of institutions,” Steger said, “the strong major institutions are getting stronger at an accelerating rate. ... The resources are flowing to those institutions. ... If you have one machine that costs \$750,000 that someone in electrical engineering needs, they can’t do half their work for [half of that]. They don’t do it all. It’s like the rocket. Either you reach the speed to get into orbit or you don’t get there; you crash. And so that’s why we had to grow. That was part of the reason for the emphasis on research. We had to grow the critical mass of capital that we could invest in the future of the institution. We still need to grow the enterprise. I’d like to see us get to about \$600 million [in research], and I think we will over time.”

LARRY HINCKLER



The Center for European Studies and Architecture in Switzerland was an early example of President Steger’s push to internationalize Virginia Tech.

Vision backed by strategy

The grand goals in the 2000 inauguration speech grew out of Steger’s ability to crystallize and articulate a vision and then draw others into the plan. Indeed, the seeds of ideas planted during his career would be nurtured by the talent around him.

After a three-year stint as acting vice president of public service, a role he held concurrently with the dean’s post, Steger was named vice president for development and university relations in 1993. As he led the university from the perspective of fundraiser-in-chief, Steger further considered how to advance the institution. By the time he was named president in late 1999, he was more than ready to outline his strategy.

University establishes the Center for European Studies and Architecture in Switzerland

“I’d been thinking about [the goals] for a long time,” said Steger, who, as a dean, had chaired the university’s strategic planning committee. “When ... I met with the [presidential] search committee, I said, ‘If you choose me, this is what I’m going to do, and it’s going to be a very aggressive program.’ And so they said, ‘Okay.’”

Soon after taking office, the president met with key administrators and Board of Visitors (BOV) members to map out the university’s path forward. According to those who have worked with him for decades, Steger sets broad parameters and then steps back to let his team enact the plan. “I’d give him high marks in understanding this, the importance of having a solid team and engaging that team in the process,” said Minnis Ridenour, who was executive vice president when Steger took office. “And that was one of the pleasures I had of working with Charles ... being part of his team and feeling like you really were empowered.”

“He set expectations and did not meddle as long as he felt his senior management team was working to make significant things happen,” Smoot added.

Current BOV Rector Michael Quillen (civil engineering ’70, M.S. ’71) marveled at the audiences a president must satisfy, from athletic and elected leaders to physical-plant personnel and fundraisers. “There are a lot of different constituents that see things so differently, but the president is required to manage all of those, so it’s a very complex job, similar to being CEO of a major corporation,” Quillen said. “Just managing all of that has been the thing that has impressed me about Charles the most.”

Appointed vice president for development and university relations

A modest brilliance

Steger’s unpretentious personality may just be disguising a brilliant intellect. Serving on the CAUS advisory committee, G.T. Ward (building design ’51, M.S. architecture ’52) got to know the dean well in the 1980s. “Even then, [Steger] knew a lot about every major, every curriculum, every college,” Ward said. “He’s able to converse with anyone on campus about almost any intellectual [subject].”

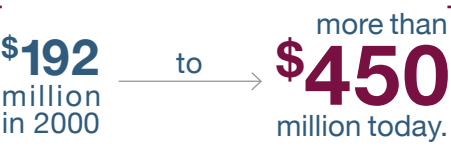
In 2000, Stephan Bieri was the CEO and vice president of the board for the Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology, an educational system that partnered with Virginia Tech and the World Bank to create the World Institute for Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and conduct research on mitigating global natural disasters.

By way of DRM and also VBI—whose scientific advisory board Bieri chairs—Bieri came to appreciate Steger’s intellectual capacity and academic vision as the two men explored topics with faculty members. “He wasn’t just swimming on the surface, but [was] deep into the problem,” Bieri said. “You cannot have such a job as [Steger] has had without the intellectual capacity yourself. This is not only a management job. Virginia Tech has an intellectual person of great analytical depth as the leader.”

Even so, said McNamee, “He’s very modest about his ideas. He’ll sometimes preface and say, ‘This may be the worst idea in the world, but I’ve been thinking about X.’ And it’s actually a pretty good idea.”

An explosion of research

Under Steger, annual sponsored research moved from



The university aggressively invested in **seven** large centralized research institutes:

- Virginia Tech Transportation Institute
- Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science
- Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute
- Virginia Bioinformatics Institute
- Fralin Life Science Institute
- Institute for Society, Culture, and Environment
- Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology

Finishes directing the Making a World of Difference fundraising campaign, raising \$337 million and exceeding the goal by \$87 million

It's in Steger's nature to put people at ease. "He was able to make [people] feel good when [they] went to his office—he still does," Knox said. "One of those notorious things about President Steger is that he puts people at ease. There's a phrase, 'He can walk with commoners and talk with kings.' He's that kind of person."

As a high school student-body president, Steger learned to tailor his messages for the ages of his various audiences. Even today, he connects well with students. Brian Montgomery (industrial and systems engineering '03), the 2001-02 Student Government Association president and a 2002-03 BOV representative, recalled how Steger encouraged him and other students to move ahead with their bold ideas—Relay For Life, the Big Event, and Hokies United. "It would've been much tougher to get those events off the ground without his support," Montgomery said. "For both the Big Event and Relay For Life, he came out in the pouring rain during the first year to support them."

Steger's rapport with alumni is similar, said Montgomery, who now serves on the Alumni Association Board of Directors. "His level of engagement and dedication and ability to network is second to none. He makes a lot of alumni feel connected to the university still today."

A sunny outlook despite the rain may characterize Steger best. "He has this sense of optimism about the future, and I think that colors his way of looking at a situation or creating a goal that's really achievable,"



BRAD KLODOWSKI

said Tom Tillar, Class of 1969 (biological sciences '70, M.A. student personnel services '73, Ed.D. '78), the vice president for alumni relations. "He's never one to ignore challenges or perhaps the downside of trying something, but he is one who can see more clearly than anyone I've known at Virginia Tech that something can be achieved."



My response to [Steger's] appointment was simply that this made eminent sense, that it was exactly what Virginia Tech should do. Each one there was an extraordinary choice. I have thought over the years that Virginia Tech simply has a knack for getting it right. Charles was another step in that sequence."

—Former U.Va. President **John Casteen**, reflecting on Tech's presidents, from Hahn, Lavery, and McComas to Torgersen and Steger.

Pulling through

In the dark days and months following the tragedy of April 16, 2007, Steger's steady hand of leadership and his personal resolve inspired the university to pull together and recover.

Casteen, the former U.Va. president, commended Steger's statesmanlike, kind, and thoughtful response to the unprecedented

event and found especially striking the "self-control and selflessness" that Steger and his team exhibited. "I remember wondering whether we would have the grace and the wisdom in a hard time to do the same," Casteen said.

Said Smoot, "The way he was able to keep this university together—students, faculty, staff, alumni—and continue at the same time, after a momentary pause, to advance the programmatic agenda ... is absolutely incredible to me. To me, that is just real leadership that you don't often see."

In special remarks at the May 2007 Commencement, Steger shared one of the thousands of messages of sympathy and condolences the university had received: "Your loss is great, but your goal is our children's future." Continuing, he told the crowd, "How can we not be resolute and determined to go forward when we are reminded so poignantly—and by so many—of why Virginia Tech is here and what it stands for?"

"I think it was critical that we had this sense of community and [that] great affec-

Early in his presidency, Steger threw his support behind student efforts to launch the Big Event (below) and Relay For Life (left). "It would've been much tougher to get those events off the ground without his support," said Brian Montgomery '03, the 2001-02 Student Government Association president.



KELSEY KRADEL

tion for the institution was well entrenched before the tragedy occurred," Steger said in August. "And there's a lesson there in terms of how you manage relationships, whether with the town or whatever else or business problems. If you don't have a relationship before the problem, you can't build it after the problem occurs."

Steger recalled the days and weeks after the tragedy, sleeping only a couple hours a night and being escorted everywhere by security guards. When he speaks annually to business students at a management symposium, he emphasizes the lifelong process of developing values. "You work on it your whole life. But you have to start. You have to start today," Steger said. "When these types of very trying circumstances emerge, that's when you really have to look into yourself and know what you believe and have the internal strength to survive."



Late in the year, Steger is named the new president; he would take office on Jan. 1, 2000.

1999

Inaugurated as president

2000

 **The speech**
To read Steger's inauguration speech, visit bit.ly/steger-speech.

University launches the Virginia Bioinformatics Institute

2000



Not since Marshall Hahn has a president had such a **positive impact** on this institution.”

—Paul Torgersen, Virginia Tech president, 1994-2000

The evolving land-grant

A hallmark of Steger’s legacy is the way in which he has deepened the definition of the modern land-grant university, increasingly utilizing the university’s intellectual capital to generate economic development as a way to meet society’s needs. As corporate research and development funding shifts toward development alone, research—the discovery and pursuit of knowledge—is increasingly the domain of the university. The new model of innovation, then, is “combining the fruits of academic research with the spirit of entrepreneurship into commercial ventures that create new jobs,” Steger wrote in a white paper on the subject.

The concept is uniquely embodied in the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (IALR). Not long after Steger had been named president, a group of business and community leaders from Danville, Va., approached him. Long dependent on the declining tobacco and textile industries, the Southside region was struggling, and the group hoped Virginia Tech could help jumpstart the economy.

Ben Davenport (business administration ’64), a former BOV rector, was part of that team of civic leaders. “I met with him one-on-one,” said Davenport. “I never will forget; I went in there believing he was going to say no. He said, ‘I feel that Virginia Tech, as a land-grant university, needs to do what we can to help the different economies in Virginia, especially those that are in dire need.’”

Today, in large part because of IALR, the economy in Southside Virginia has found new life, attracting such companies as IKEA and General Motors. “As much as anything, it’s made an impact to win people’s minds and souls back in the region. Many of them felt downcast, but now they’re feeling much more hopeful about the region,” Davenport said.

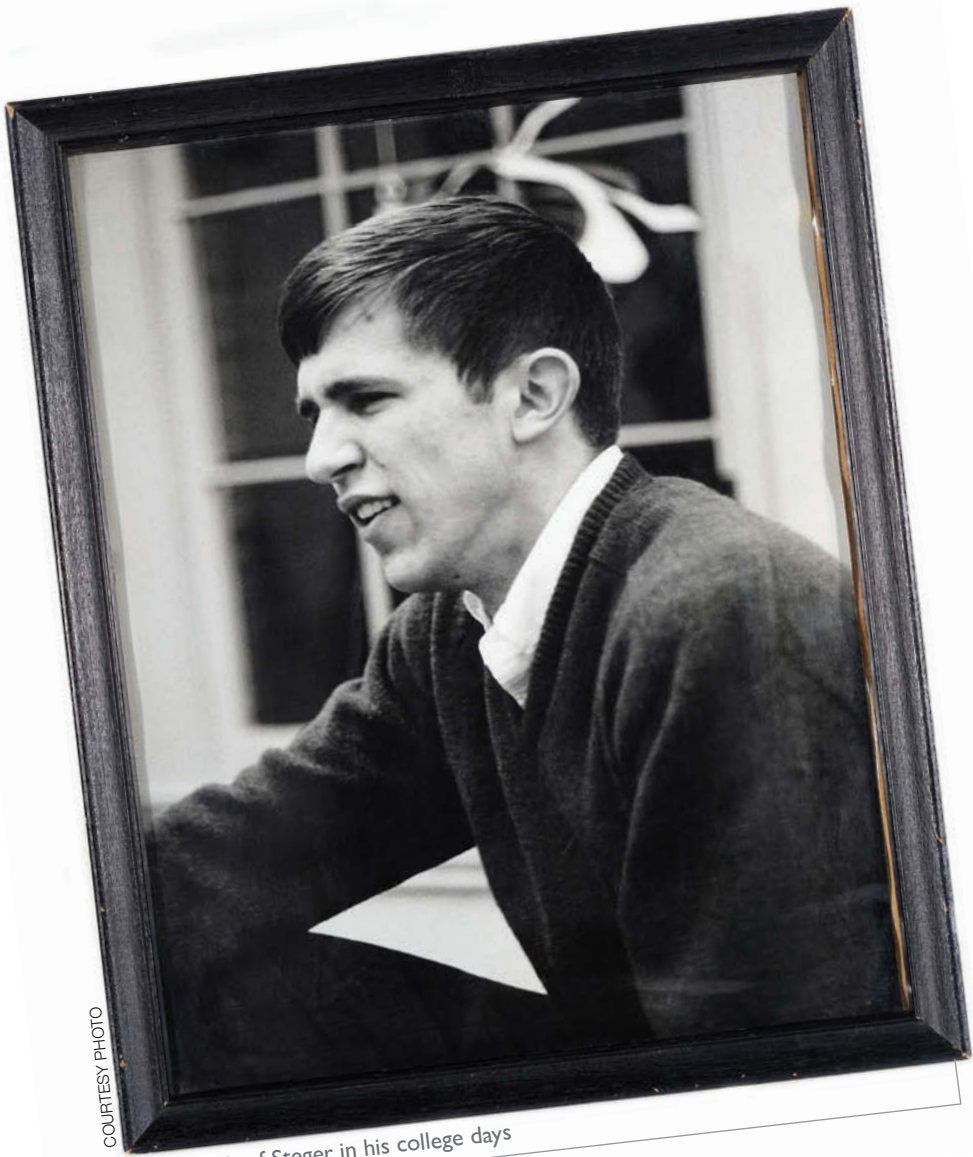
“Charles has been a significant contributor at the national level in helping define what a contemporary land-grant university should be,” said Dooley. “[IALR] is part of that. ... It contributes to the local region and leverages the unique assets of the university to help that region.”

The same model applied to another region with entirely different circumstances: Northern Virginia, a hub for technology research, especially in fields such as cybersecurity and national security. Steger and others wanted to connect Tech’s research capabilities to private and public sector organizations. Now, the Virginia Tech Research Center — Arlington, completed in 2011 and located in the city’s Ballston district, operates near federal science and research agencies and private-sector technology companies. “[The center] enhances our ability to be a key player in research and development as a whole for the state,” said Bohland. “We’ve helped the state develop a major presence in cybersecurity that it did not have before.”

On campus, the Corporate Research Center (CRC) is expanding to double its square footage, and the university is exploring a research park in Newport News. “[Steger’s] fingerprints are on the desire of the university to be more relevant to all the people in the state of Virginia, not just what goes on in Blacksburg,” said CRC president Joe Meredith (aerospace engineering ’69, Ph.D. industrial and systems engineering ’97).

Plugging into innovation

Deborah Wince-Smith is president and CEO of the Council on Competitiveness, a national coalition of CEOs, university presidents, and labor union leaders that pursues policy solutions to enhance U.S. competitiveness in the global marketplace. She cited Steger’s role in bringing a Rolls-Royce aerospace facility to Virginia as a model for the country in how collaboration allows both the “industry and [the] university [to] derive value for their core missions,” while also spotting the same level of innovation in Tech classrooms. “Not only has the university really developed 21st-century oriented curricula, but [it] has linked their research capabilities into the education of undergraduates,” she said. “[Steger is] not just a promulgator of next-generation thought, but a leader who has a capacity to implement [a vision] and show that these ideas work.”



Casteen worked alongside Steger in a global collection of university heads, government officials, and corporate and foundation CEOs who meet periodically at Windsor Castle in England for the purpose of acting on significant issues. There and in other arenas—whether in Switzerland or in India, where Tech is now launching a campus with a substantial research presence—Steger has sought to engage Virginia Tech’s experts in addressing global problems.

“Charles had no doubt that the world was moving toward a global arrangement and the university needed to expand out from Blacksburg,” said Jaan Holt (architecture ’64), who has directed the Alexandria architecture center since Steger appointed him to the role in the ’80s.

Said Steger, “There are many nodes of innovation around the world, and you have to be plugged into them to stay ahead of the curve. And I want to institutionalize this.”

Given the revolution in communications and information technology, the game has changed. “As a result of that, to be a major institution the standard of quality changes,” Steger said. “It’s not who’s the best engineering school in Virginia. Nobody cares. The question is, who’s the best in the world?”

“The whole effort [of outward expansion] was basically predicated on the notion that universities in the next 10 to 15 years are going to have to behave differently,” Bohland said. “They can’t be insular—they can’t be just a residential campus. They’ve got to look at where the centers of excellence are in terms of innovation.”

A university with ambition



We have the will to act.
We have the capacity to take risks.”

—Steger in his 2000 inauguration speech

Born in 1947 in Richmond, Steger, the oldest child, has two sisters and a brother. His father worked for C&O Railroad, now part of CSX. Coming to college, Steger and other members of the Class of 1969 set foot on a campus inspired by growth. (Perhaps it comes as no surprise that so many of Steger’s colleagues at the university came from the much-heralded class.)

“We came here when Marshall Hahn was about three years into his presidency, and the excitement that he had created—about expanding the size, the array of academic offerings, the athletic program, [and] the engagement within the state ... was large,” said Smoot. “Charles and I—and many, if not most, others—got caught up in that excitement. Everything [Steger] has done over the last 40 years is related to making significant and good things happen for Virginia Tech. He enjoys seeing significant things happen.”



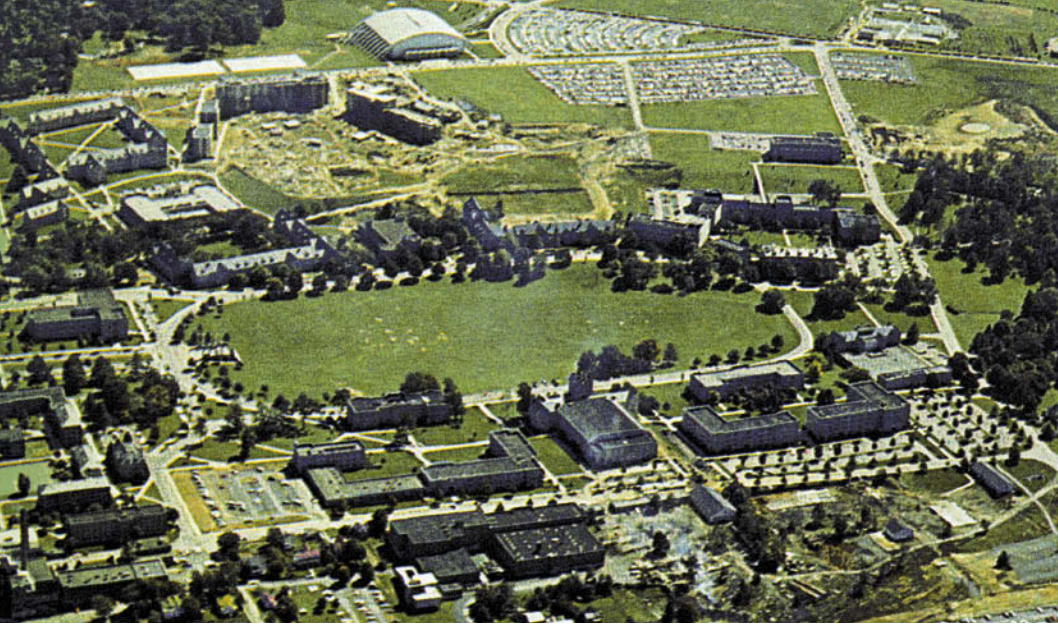
The Virginia Tech-Wake Forest University School of Biomedical Engineering and Sciences is formed

University opens the building for the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research in Danville, Va., which was founded in 2000

Tech joins the Atlantic Coast Conference



Steger and others realize the General Assembly’s passage of a groundbreaking restructuring act that provides greater autonomy to universities



1967 BUGLE

An aerial view of campus in the 1967 yearbook captures the sense of growth that members of the Class of 1969 encountered when they arrived on campus.

Tillar and Steger met each other in the first week or so. Their small group of friends, living on the same floor of Vawter Hall, dined together, laughed together, and secured rooms closer to each other in their sophomore year. “There was something unique about Charles that struck me then,” Tillar said. “He had a great wit. He could talk on any subject, broadly educated.”

As enrollment mushroomed with an influx of baby boomers, the campus expanded to keep up with the demand. “We saw the campus as a place under construction,” Tillar said. “Just over from where our residence hall was, there were two dorms under construction, O’Shaughnessy and Lee. Lane Stadium was under construction. Virginia Tech to us represented this growing institution that was offering a lot of opportunities for students to come to college.”

In the architecture college, created in 1964, Steger found himself face-to-face with Dean Burchard and other faculty members. Burchard had studied under the founder of the Bauhaus movement, which transformed the field and “defined a whole new path in architectural design,” Steger

said. “When I came, I didn’t realize that I was lucky enough to arrive in a sort of golden age. ... [The] period was extraordinary in terms of the level of innovation in architectural education.”

As Steger completed his bachelor’s and master’s degrees, his high school sweetheart, Janet—one year behind him academically—transferred to Virginia Tech for her senior year, earning a bachelor’s in art in 1970. The couple married in September 1969.

The architect of growth

Known as “Crane City” during Hahn’s tenure in the ’60s and early ’70s, the university has expanded even more under Steger. In fact, the campus footprint has grown more in Steger’s 14 years than in the entire period from 1872 to 1960. During Steger’s tenure, 40 major buildings totaling more than 3 million square feet have been constructed or are now under construction.

Continuous construction, of course, can’t happen without funding, and the president brought his background in raising private funds to Burruss Hall. The Signature Engineering Building is a prime example of how Steger and his team have leveraged philanthropy to take big leaps.

“The resources needed to propel the university in the direction we want are not provided by the state—not just the issue of quantity, but also in terms of flexibility,” Steger said. “I’d say virtually every innovative thing we do builds upon our private financial basis.”

In the equation of capital construction, philanthropy has a multiplying effect. Seeking state support, the university proposed splitting the engineering building’s cost 50-50. “That’s a very powerful tool,” Steger said.

Donations also beget other donations. “These are coupled equations,” said College of Engineering Dean Richard Benson. “In other words, the willingness of alumni, friends, and others to come forward in support of a project helps sell the state on funding it. But meanwhile, the state’s willingness to invest also helps bring in philanthropic dollars. They go together.”



Carry the Principles of Community with you when you leave here. If you treat people genuinely with dignity and respect, they will be there for you. If you act with fairness and honesty and follow through on your promises, you will likely inspire them to do the same.”

—Steger in his May 2013 Commencement address

University adopts the Virginia Tech Principles of Community
2005

Student growth

Although Virginia experienced two recessions during the Steger presidency and severely reduced appropriations, the university still **expanded in-state undergraduate enrollment by 12 percent** during Steger’s tenure.



Over the course of his presidency, Virginia Tech has increasingly become a **first-choice school in the mid-Atlantic region for high-achieving students.**

Overall enrollment increased from 27,869 to 31,087.



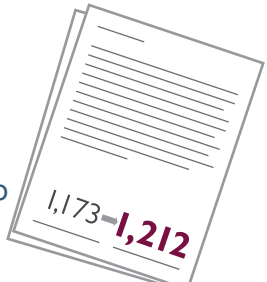
Concurrent with the expansion of research efforts, **graduate enrollment also increased by 12 percent.**



The **grade point average of incoming freshmen** moved from 3.54 to **3.92** (on a 4.0 scale)



The **SAT average** rose from 1,173 to **1,212** during his time at the helm.



The project attracted donations from alumni, friends of the college, and corporations. One firm that gave generously toward construction was Newport News Shipbuilding. “We have a long and very successful relationship with Virginia Tech, which will continue with the opening of the new engineering building next fall,” said Matt Mulherin (civil engineering ’81), president of the shipyard. “As a Hokie, I am personally very proud to be associated with this project. As the largest industrial employer in Virginia and builder of the most-complex nuclear-powered ships in the world, we have a continuous hiring demand for engineers. This new facility will not only help produce great engineers, it will help us produce our next generation of great shipbuilders.”

Knowing that the college competes at the highest echelon for engineering talent,

alumni rallied to the cause, as did Steger, Benson said. “We couldn’t have done it without them,” Benson said, adding that Steger “has played a vital role as president. In critical moments on both sides, for donations and state support, he has come forward and put the prestige of his office, his own personal track record, behind it, and this is influential.”

The Signature Engineering Building does more than serve a single college. Vice President for Administration Sherwood Wilson explained the symbolism of the entire north end’s redevelopment. “In the past, when you came to campus on Prices Fork your first impression was formed by Derring Hall and a gravel parking lot. You were essentially coming in the back door where the power plant was the most iconic feature. The Signature Engineering Build-

ing and redevelopment of the north end provide a new front-door experience that reflects the university we are today. We are an internationally renowned research university, and it’s important that the campus reflect that,” Wilson said.

Leading the university through The Campaign for Virginia Tech: Invent the Future, which raised more than \$1.1 billion, Steger has guaranteed a lasting legacy. “Having a president with Charles Steger’s fundraising experience, not to mention his charisma and leadership, has made it possible to engage donors in a tremendously effective manner,” said Vice President for Development and University Relations Elizabeth “Betsy” Flanagan. “Fundraising is so important in higher education, and our president’s strength in this regard has made an impact not only across campus but throughout this region and the world.”

University establishes the Steger Poetry Prize. The purse ranks among the most generous for undergraduate poetry competitions in the nation.

2006

Leads the university during the difficult days following the April 16 tragedy

2007





The Signature Engineering Building, now under construction on the north side of campus along Prices Fork Road, illustrates President Steger's ability to leverage private giving in order to secure state support.

MICHAEL KERNAN

2009

2010

Tech adopts the Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment and the accompanying Sustainability Plan

University launches the Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute as the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine welcomes its first class of students

“

As president, Dr. Charles Steger molded Virginia Tech into the world-class research and development powerhouse it is today. Under his leadership, the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine brought together Tech's nationally recognized work in science and engineering with Carilion Clinic's commitment to providing top-quality care in Southwest Virginia. And of course, I will never forget standing on the field at Lane Stadium with Dr. Steger and announcing that the Hokies were admitted to the ACC. Dr. Steger has left a truly indelible mark on the commonwealth.”

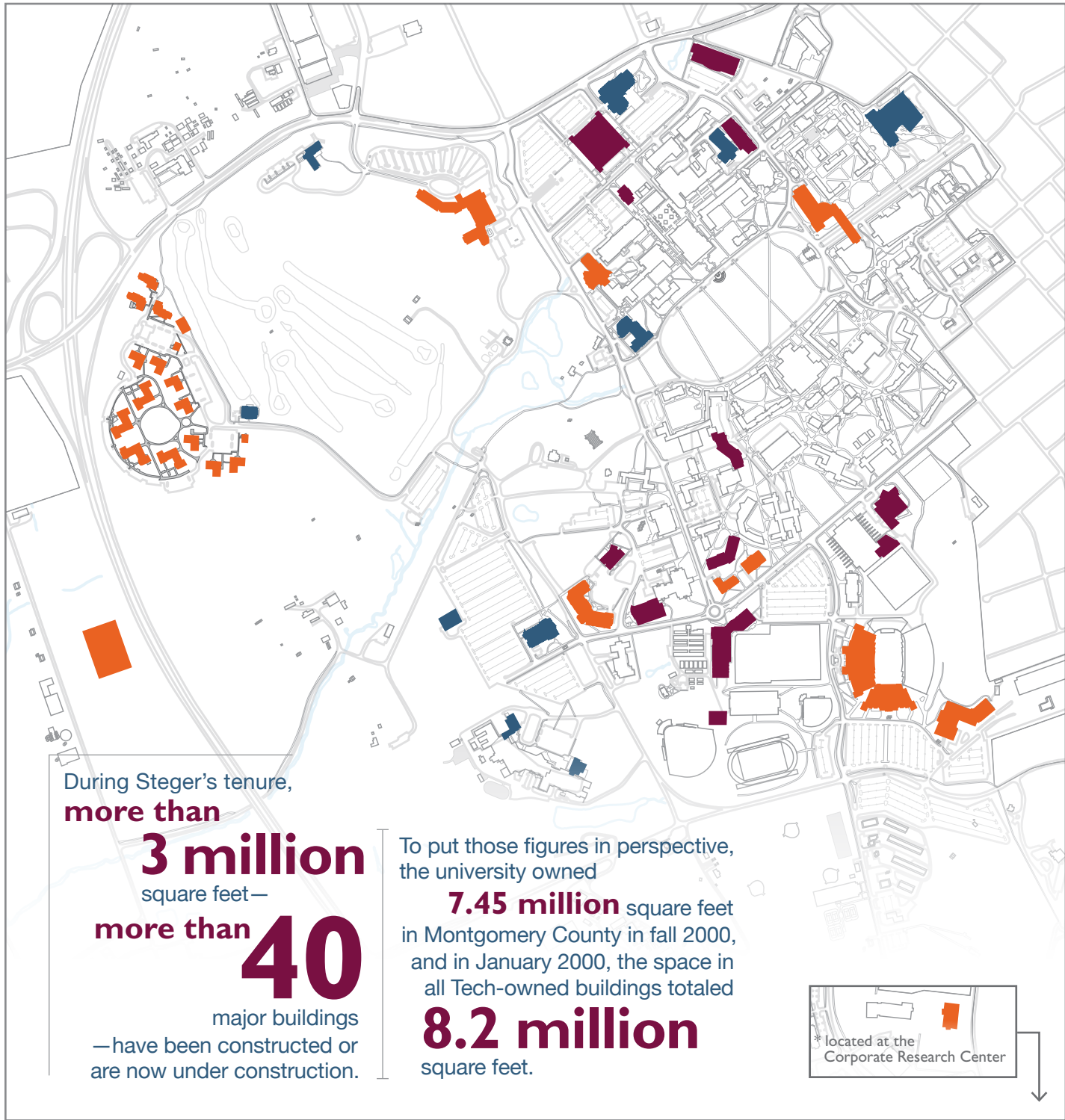
—U.S. Sen. Mark Warner

BoomTown

2000-05 2006-10 2011-14

major buildings built or started

buildings located off campus



During Steger's tenure, **more than 3 million** square feet—**more than 40** major buildings—have been constructed or are now under construction.

To put those figures in perspective, the university owned **7.45 million** square feet in Montgomery County in fall 2000, and in January 2000, the space in all Tech-owned buildings totaled **8.2 million** square feet.

* located at the Corporate Research Center

Electric Service Facility (Blacksburg, Va.)

Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine and Research Institute (Roanoke, Va.)

Haygrove Tunnel (Blackstone, Va.)

National Institute of Aerospace Hampton (Hampton, Va.)

The
search
for a new
president

In August, Mike Quillen, Board of Visitors rector, fielded our questions about the presidential search. Searches, he said, average six months to a year in length or more. Throughout the summer, various constituents have offered their input via town hall meetings.

The search's pace would "pick up immediately with the start of the academic season," he said. The earliest an announcement could be made would be January, while the search could certainly be completed by June. "There's a lot of interest. It's obviously an attractive

job ... in terms of ... the university's reputation. We're already confident that there's a lot of interest in the position," Quillen said.

Minnis Ridenour, who is assisting the search committee in its work, noted that the process is quite challenging — "and it's a challenge because of the success Charles has had."

To learn more about the search process, visit www.presidential-search.vt.edu.

A win for athletics

Ushering Virginia Tech into the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) was a key development in Steger's presidency. There was a time, said Director of Athletics Jim Weaver, when Tech was seen as being left out in the cold. "Dr. Steger was very instrumental in getting us involved in the process," he said, particularly in collaborating with then-Gov. Mark Warner in order to earn an invitation. "That has been a very important accomplishment for us, especially the way it's unfolded the last 10 years."

Smoot said the move to the ACC is indicative of Steger's focus on big leaps: to recognize that the ACC meant a boost to athletics—and then much, much more.

"It has to do with the perception of the university, the engagement with alumni and friends," Smoot said. "It provides a window, if you will, in the media to showcase the university."

On a national scale, Steger led fellow university presidents toward a decision that yielded the football playoff system. Chairing the Bowl Championship Series (BCS) Presidential Oversight Committee, Steger started one discussion by outlining the likely reactions from sports fans if the group didn't come to a consensus on a playoff. "That's Charles," said Bill Hancock, executive director of the BCS and the college football playoff, with a laugh. "He wants to be prepared."

"He has remarkable intelligence, and his wit allows him to get along with people so well," Hancock said. "We needed a consensus builder. ... He was the right person at the right time for us, and the right person at the right time for college football. I suppose they might've gotten there without Dr. Steger, but I'm glad we didn't have to find out."

A Hokie through and through

Steger, a cross-country runner in high school, likely relates well to the advice former president Hahn offered to the next Virginia Tech president. "The next president needs to always keep in mind that the responsibility is not a sprint; it's



JIM STROUP

Steger in his Burruss Hall office

a long-distance race. You keep the goals constantly in mind. You may get pushed off the track here and there, but you keep focusing on the long-range goals, and that Charles has done extremely well."

On a Saturday morning in early September, however, Steger had lighter matters on his mind. Two hours before the Hokies kicked off versus Western Carolina, The Grove's front doors were wide open for a pregame reception on a gorgeous fall day, the sky painted such a perfectly clear blue so as to be unfair to other climates that claim to have good football weather. Steger and his wife circulated around the first-floor rooms and the patio, pleasantly engaged in their role as the university's hosts. Even the Stegers' dog worked the room, greeting guests and searching for dropped crumbs.

A name tag identifying him as "Bo Steger" dangled off his collar, nearly reaching the ground. Naturally, he's named after a famous architect, Mario Botta.

Dressed in a tie and blazer and cloaked in a lifetime of dedication to Virginia Tech, President Steger wears his uniform well. He mirrors the university, and the university mirrors him.

"His personality and what it reflected are really the personality of the institution, and it would be really hard to separate the two," said Rose. □

Albert Raboteau, director of development communications, contributed to this story.

“I have great faith in your future and in the future of our alma mater. Virginia Tech is a dynamic university with an indomitable spirit, an entrepreneurial culture, the creativity and the ability to leverage our strengths, and the willingness to take calculated risks that sets us apart from other universities and propels us forward. The promise of this university eclipses all the challenges.”

—Steger in his May 2013 Commencement speech

Steger on video

Don't miss the video interview with President Steger at bit.ly/stegervideo as he reflects on a lifetime of service to Virginia Tech.



University opens the Virginia Tech Research Center — Arlington

2011

The Campaign for Virginia Tech: Invent the Future tallies \$1.11 billion raised

2011



Announces his intention to step down as the university's 15th president

2013

University opens the Center for the Arts

2013



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3P9

corps of cadets



by MAJ. GEN. RANDAL D. FULLHART

Needed now, more than ever

There was a time—thankfully long past—when the future of the Corps of Cadets at Virginia Tech was in doubt. Today, one has only to look at the construction projects on the Upper Quad and the faces of the young men and women in a corps now numbering more than 1,000 to know that the embodiment of *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve) is stronger than ever.

Construction of two new residence halls for the Corps of Cadets began this summer. Scheduled to be completed in just three years, they will form a home for cadets for decades to come. Also rising is the new Corps Leadership and Military Science Building, which will serve as the home for the commandant's staff, the Rice Center for Leader Development, the Corps of Cadets museum, ROTC staffs, and classrooms.

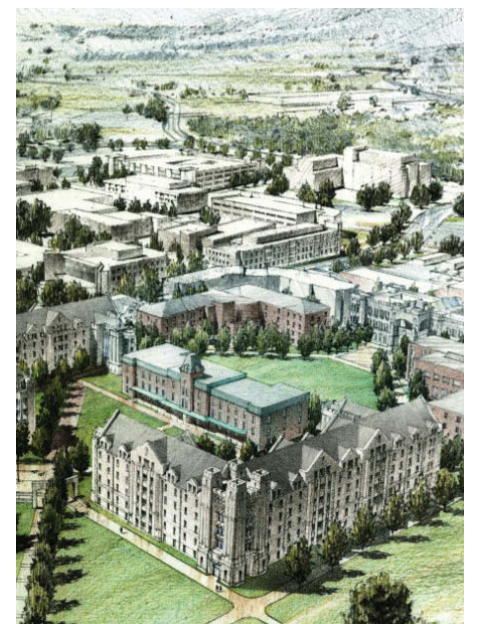
The corps is a four-year, multigenerational, in-residence, leader-development community that prepares young men and women

to be global, ethical leaders in the public and private sectors, as well as to pursue commissions in the armed services.

As one of only six senior military colleges in the country and the only one to offer an accredited academic minor in leadership, the university has drawn the attention of corporate, social, and government leaders who recognize the value a corps experience adds to a Virginia Tech graduate's capabilities to make a difference in their organizations.

Nowhere is the growth more evident than in the corps' Citizen-Leader Track. Once a relatively small percentage of the overall corps, cadets in this track now number more than 220—and the numbers keep rising. Rather than pursuing a military commission, these cadets are preparing for meaningful service in the public and private sectors. Recruiters from household names such as General Electric, Deloitte, DuPont, Advanced Auto, Disney, Target, and the FBI, as well as defense-related organizations, all realize that they are getting so much more with a corps graduate and are lining up to talk to them.

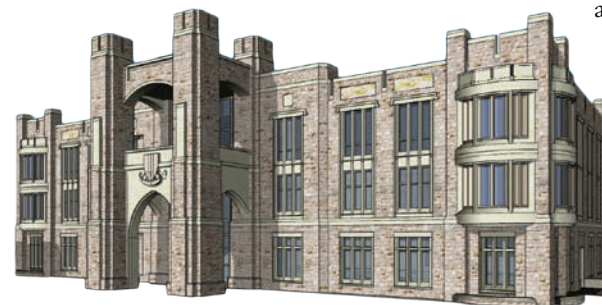
With their support for corps facilities and programs, President Charles W. Steger, the Board of Visitors, alumni, and others have demonstrated their appreciation for the corps and its value to Virginia Tech. That support has also extended to



those in the commonwealth's executive and legislative branches, who are stepping up to ensure the right amount of funding for a growing corps.

With the arrival of the Class of 2017, the corps is marching forward to its 150th anniversary as one of the most visible, enduring, and valued representations of Virginia Tech's land-grant origins. With the complex challenges facing our nation and the world, now, more than ever, it is time for the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. *Ut Prosim.* □

Maj. Gen. Randal D. Fullhart, U.S. Air Force (retired), is the commandant of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.



Renderings of the Upper Quad (above right) and the Corps Leadership and Military Science Building, courtesy of the Clark Nexsen firm.

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Book Notes

BOOKS BY ALUMNI

nonfiction

Rodney D. Barfield (M.A. history '68), "America's Forgotten Caste: Free Blacks in Antebellum Virginia and North Carolina," American history, Xlibris.

Melinda "Mindy" Conklin (family and child development '90, M.S. '94), "Richly Exposed," grief, faith, Tate Publishing.

Neil C. Damgaard (industrial engineering and operations research '75), "A History of Dartmouth Bible Church—the First Fifty Years (1963-2013)," local church history, WestBow Press.

Jerry Gaines (Spanish '71), "40 Stories High: A Compelling Account of a Teacher's Life-long Passion for Mentoring," education, ForWord Publications.

Newton Lee (computer science and application '83, M.S. '84), "Counterterrorism and Cybersecurity: Total Information Awareness," counterterrorism history, technologies, and strategies, Springer.

fiction

Kimberly Johnson Conn (family and child development '94), "Buying the Farm," family, Southern U.S., novel, self-published.

Edward Doney (mining engineering '65), "Target: Heartland," thriller, novel, Abbott Press.

Bill Prins (M.Eng. systems engineering '91), "Legends of the Ebu Gogo," archeology, historical, adventure, novel, Barnhardt & Ashe.

Jessica Buttner Sherry (English '00), "Sea-Devil: A Delilah Duffy Mystery," mystery, Christian, novel, Martin Sisters Publishing.

young adult/ children's

Cliff "Cliffie" Coates (mechanical engineering '04), "The Tale of Emerys Treasure," young adult fantasy/romance, novel, Book Baby.

Submission guidelines are available online at www.vtmag.vt.edu/bookreview.html. To submit a book, mail it to Book Notes, Virginia Tech Magazine (MC0109), 205 Media Building, Virginia Tech, 101 Draper Rd. NW, Blacksburg, VA 24061. You can also email your name, the name of the publisher, the genre, and a brief description of the book to booknotes@vt.edu. We must receive the book within one year of its publication date. Photos by Logan Wallace.

book notes

featured author

Adam David Russ (agricultural economics '94, M.S. '96) is assistant editor of the Blue Moon Literary & Art Review. His short stories have appeared in *Paradigm*, *The Battered Suitcase*, and the collection "All in the Game." A former Peace Corps volunteer, economist, and mathematics teacher, the award-winning writer is currently working on his next narrative nonfiction book. He lives in Northern California with his wife and son.

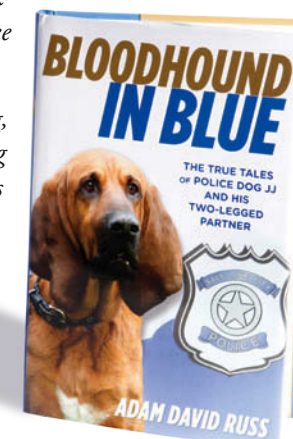
"Bloodhound in Blue: The True Tales of Police Dog JJ and His Two-Legged Partner" features police officer Michael Serio (sociology '95) and JJ, Utah's first police bloodhound. Their partnership resulted in finding missing children and tracking down hundreds of suspects and led to the addition of more than a dozen police bloodhounds in the Salt Lake City area. Below is an excerpt, reprinted with the author's permission:

"All units, be advised: Carjacking just occurred. Suspect vehicle crashed into car at intersection of 2300 East and Parleys Way. Female victim injured at the scene reports carjacking suspect fled on foot."

Serio arrived at the scene within a few minutes. The front end of a 1984 silver Nissan Maxima was wrapped in a violent embrace around the right rear bumper of a brand new black Jeep Cherokee. Officer Cody Lougy stood by the crash trying to gather information from a young woman crying and talking nonstop. A hitchhiker had taken her car with her in it, drove erratically, crashed, and ran off. Witnesses at the scene confirmed the last part; they had seen a tall white male, medium build, exit the car and run south.

Serio got JJ out and harnessed him up. Despite having a witness-confirmed direction, the start of the scent trail was going to be difficult. The crash had occurred near a busy intersection where two main roads met in a V and merged to form a larger road. Although it was 1:15 in the morning, traffic continued to pass by. Serio introduced JJ to the driver's seat of the silver Nissan Maxima, commanded "Go find!" and started casting his dog on the outer edges of the busy intersection. Officer Jeff Bedard followed, his first time behind a bloodhound. JJ picked up a track on the pavement and headed southwest through the empty parking lot of a Papa Murphy's Take 'n' Bake and behind a Phillips 66 gas station.

Serio worried a little that JJ wasn't baying, but he felt confident that, nostrils flaring and working like a Hoover upright across the asphalt, JJ was on to something.



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| Dave Hunt | Communications Director |
| Shirley Fleet | Class Notes Editor |



The Stegers relax on a balcony at The Grove with their dog, Bo.

The legacy of a friend

Normally my fall commentary is centered on the past year of Alumni Association programs, which are summarized annually. They are on the following pages of this issue. Indeed, it was another successful year, partly due to a donor who matched the scholarship dollars raised by our alumni chapters, virtually doubling the amount awarded during 2011-12. This dollar-for-dollar match was made possible by Virginia

Tech President Charles W. Steger, long an advocate for student support generated by our chapters. This is but one example of the visionary leadership that my friend and colleague has provided our alma mater for about four decades.

Little did two freshmen know when we first met in 1965 that we would spend our careers serving Virginia Tech. Charles and I were hall mates that year and in several

classes together. We continue to observe a pact we made as freshmen never to reveal the indiscretions of our youth! In our early friendship I observed very special qualities in him. Now, the entire universe of Tech alumni and thousands more have observed that same passion for our university and so many examples of his strategic leadership. Without question, his legacy will be one of providing transformative leadership as Vir-

ginia Tech's third-longest-serving president.

Charles and I were students during the administration of T. Marshall Hahn Jr., experiencing the university's transformative years of growing enrollment, attracting faculty with strong credentials, advancing research and scholarship, and strengthening athletic programs and facilities. We both served in the following administrations of presidents Bill Lavery, Jim McComas, and Paul Torgersen, as Charles built on the foundation his predecessors laid to move Virginia Tech higher in the rankings with expanded enrollment and programs. Charles served as a key leader in each of those three administrations. His experience helped shape his vision for transforming the university to higher levels of excellence. His management style has been one of choosing leaders to help him accomplish goals, inspiring them, and finding resources to help them be successful. A truly resolute leader, Charles takes the long view on how to strategically accomplish goals in measured stages, wisely allocating limited resources across myriad programs to advance them in total.

Through our years working together, Charles has always been able to view challenges with optimism, placing great faith in what our university can be on the global stage. His actions and legacy have proven that. Today Virginia Tech is among the very best with many top-ranked programs, expanded facilities, the brightest scholars,

soaring research, a new medical school, and membership in the competitive Atlantic Coast Conference. The university is truly an exceptional value in the higher-education marketplace.

Charles has been blessed to be supported by his partner and wife of 44 years, Janet, and their sons, Christopher and David. His devotion to his family has always been his highest priority and they have supported his 24/7 commitment to the presidency as well as his earlier roles in the administration. His immediate family, along with his brother, two sisters, and their families, have stood with him throughout his career. In joyful times as well as in the university's darkest days, Charles could not have had a more loving family to support him. I remember his closing remarks in a speech at Commencement during very challenging times for the Hokie Nation—four powerful words, "I love you all." Indeed, he does love the Hokie Nation, and he has proven that, with more than 48 years committed to his alma mater since he first set foot on campus. His is a legacy that all associated with Virginia Tech will celebrate for decades to come.

A grateful friend,

Tom Tillar '69

Vice President for Alumni Relations

2012-13 Annual Report

500 volunteers served through alumni chapters, reunions, and other events.



149 community service projects were conducted by 52 alumni chapters to help their communities in the spirit of *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve).



108 members of the Student Alumni Associates supported Alumni Association events.

A record 196 alumni and students visited with legislators at the university's annual Hokie Day.

879 chapters and clubs held events.



38 total awards were presented to faculty, students, and alumni.

232 scholarships for freshmen were presented by alumni chapters.

21 tours led 283 travelers to global and domestic destinations.



More than 3,600 attended class reunions, college homecomings, corps alumni events, multicultural alumni events, and Drillfield series events on campus.

More than 24,650 alumni and friends participated in programs on campus and around the nation and abroad.

For their excellence in various disciplines, 22 faculty members received alumni awards with stipends.



Thank You

The Alumni Association wishes to thank those who have supported and sponsored the association and the Hokie Nation.

Gold Level



Silver Level



Bronze Level



Annual Report

Alumni Awards

William H. Ruffner Medal:
Michele “Shelley” Duke

University Distinguished Achievement Award:
Tracy D. Wilkins

Alumni Distinguished Service Awards:
Ben J. Davenport Jr. (business administration '64), David E. Lowe (business administration '63)

Graduate Alumni Achievement Award:
Dhruv Grewal (M.B.A. '85, Ph.D. business, marketing '89)

Superlative Awards

Outstanding Chapter Event:
Denver
Inaugural Denver Hokie Ski Day at A-Basin

Outstanding Community Service Project:
Denver
Hokies Adopt a Denver Family at Christmas

Outstanding Golf Tournament:
Grand Strand/Myrtle Beach
2013 Virginia Tech Myrtle Beach Golf Tournament

Innovation Award:
Baltimore
VTea Event with Random House

Broadening Alumni Engagement Award:
New River Valley
“Behind the Scenes” Campus Events

Most Improved Chapter:
Seattle

Outstanding New Chapter:
Charlottesville

Outstanding Chapter Volunteer:
Doug Ewell (mathematics '80), Shenandoah

Outstanding Chapter Officer:
Rachael Spruill (English '09), San Diego

Awards for Faculty Excellence

Graduate academic advising: Subhash C. Sarin, industrial and systems engineering
Undergraduate academic advising: Andrew S. Becker, foreign languages and literature
Extension: Jennifer L. Gagnon, forest resources and environmental conservation
International education: Glenn R. Bugh, history
International outreach: Kathleen A. Alexander, fisheries and wildlife science
International research: Russell A. Green, civil and environmental engineering
Outreach: Shannon E. Jarrott, human development
Outreach (team): John W. Blankenship Jr., Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE)-Tazewell County; Jocelyn D. Dailey, VCE-Goochland County; Brian L. Hairston, VCE-Henry County; Jeremy C. Johnson, VCE-James City County; Robert R. Meadows, 4-H director emeritus; Tonya T. Price, VCE-Northern District; Glenda M. Snyder, Extension agent emerita
Research: Jeffrey R. Walters, biological sciences; Joseph C. Pitt, philosophy
Teaching: Marlene M. Preston, communication; Lisa M. Tucker, interior design
William E. Wine Awards in teaching: Anthony T. Cobb, management; Joseph S. Merola, chemistry; Daniel B. Thorp, history
Graduate student teaching: Kevin Buffardi, computer science; Brandon Bear, physics (honorable mention)
Graduate student service: Zenithson Ng, biomedical and veterinary sciences; Shane McCarty, psychology (honorable mention)

Outstanding Recent Alumni Awards

John L. Koontz (food science and technology '00, M.S. '03, Ph.D. '08), College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Jonathan B. Eisen (architecture '90, M.S. architecture '91), College of Architecture and Urban Studies
Maria V. Anderson (business information technology '09), Pamplin College of Business
Robert E. Bishop (mining engineering '02), College of Engineering
Sastry V.S. Kompella (Ph.D. computer engineering '06), College of Engineering
Robert L. Fried (political science '09), College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences
Amanda Rosenberger (Ph.D. fisheries and wildlife '03), College of Natural Resources and Environment
Matthew D. Shoulders (chemistry '04), College of Science
Kristi D. Graves (Ph.D. psychology '02), College of Science
Jennifer A. Landolfi (D.V.M. '03), Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine

Outstanding Chapter Award

Gold:
Alleghany Highlands, Atlanta, Charlotte, Denver, National Capital Region, San Antonio, Seattle, Tidewater

Silver:
First State, Kentuckiana, Minnesota, N.C. Triad, Shenandoah

Bronze:
Baltimore, Central Florida, Central Pennsylvania, Charleston, Chattanooga, Cincinnati, Columbia, Dallas/Fort Worth, East Tennessee, Emporia/Roanoke Rapids, Franklin County/Smith Mountain Lake, Fredericksburg, Grand Strand/Myrtle Beach, Houston, Jacksonville, Knoxville, Middle Tennessee, New River Valley, Palmetto, Prince William, Research Triangle, Richmond, Roanoke Valley, Rockbridge, San Diego, San Francisco Bay Area, South Florida, Tampa Bay, The Villages, Tideneck, Williamsburg



An address from Alumni Association Board President Matt Winston

It is with great pleasure and overwhelming humility that I begin my tenure in this new role as president of the Virginia Tech Alumni Association Board of Directors. Our Alumni Association has celebrated many successes over the years, delivering strong programming and services while operating with a high level of financial strength and viability. This is due to the careful stewardship and professionalism of Vice President for Alumni Relations Tom Tillar and the entire staff who serve our alma mater.

It is because of all those accomplishments, and especially the dedication of Hokies around the world, that I am excited about what lies ahead for our association and all we might accomplish together. Our goal is to further advance the mission of the association and contribute to the overall success of our great university.

Unlike what you might find at other colleges, your membership in our Alumni Association requires no dues. I encourage you to take advantage of that and become engaged. Find an alumni chapter close to you. Volunteer and get involved in its ac-



Matthew M. Winston Jr. '90

ROBERT NEWCOMB, UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA PHOTOGRAPHIC SERVICES

tivities, happy hours, and service projects. Help with the philanthropies that help fund projects for local communities or scholarships for the next class of Hokies. Come back to campus for reunions and activities hosted by the Alumni Association. Whatever you wish to do and however you wish to go about it, your goals can be accomplished with the support and camaraderie of your fellow alumni. Again, thank you for your service to the Virginia Tech Alumni Association and to our beloved alma mater. Go, Hokies!



COURTESY PHOTO

Cotillion Club 100th

In April, Cotillion Club alumni celebrated the 100th anniversary of the club's 1913 founding on campus. In 1970, the club transitioned into Pi Kappa Alpha, reactivating the fraternity's Epsilon chapter, which was originally founded on campus in 1873. The organization had a healthy rivalry with the German Club (founded in 1892), sponsoring formal dance weekends and jointly producing concerts.

2014 travel tours



Pearls of Southeast Asia

AHI, MV Aegean Odyssey
Jan. 16-Feb. 3 | \$3,995*

Asian Wonders

Go Next, Oceania Cruises' Nautica
Feb. 4-22 | \$6,299* (air included)

Cuban Discovery

Go Next
Feb. 7-14 | \$4,599*

Splendors Down Under

Go Next, Oceania Cruises' Marina
Feb. 21-March 11 | \$6,499 (air included)

**Alumni Campus Abroad - Peru,
featuring Machu Picchu**

AHI
March 13-20 | \$3,095*

Tahitian Jewels

Go Next, Oceania Cruises' Marina
March 26-April 5 | \$3,299* (air included)

Belize Scuba Adventure

April 6-26 | \$2,199* per diver,
\$1,699 per non-diver

Historic Reflections

Go Next, Oceania Cruises' Riviera
April 20-May 1 | \$3,499* (air included)

**Alumni Campus Abroad - Normandy,
70th anniversary of D-Day**

AHI
April 22-30 | \$2,995*

Mediterranean Marvels

Go Next, Oceania Cruises' Insignia
May 7-15 | \$2,499* (air included)

Greek Isles Odyssey

Go Next, Oceania Cruises' Riviera
May 14-22 | \$2,499* (air included)

Virginia Tech Grad and Young Alumni Trip

Alumni World Travel
May 27-June 14 | \$3,675*

Discover Wales and Yorkshire

AHI
May 31-June 11 | \$2,499*

Alumni Campus Abroad - Tuscany

AHI
June 11-19 | \$2,795*

Alpine Lakes and Scenic Trains

Collette
June 13-22 | \$2,999*

www.alumni.vt.edu/travel

**Provence - International Lifestyles
Explorations**

AHI
July 12-Aug. 3 | \$3,390*

Alaskan Frontiers and Glaciers

Go Next, Oceania Cruises' Regatta
July 14-24 | \$2,999* (air included)

Canadian Rockies Family Discovery

Collette
July 20-26 | \$2,199 per adult, \$1,149 per
child*

**The Wild West and Yellowstone Family
Adventure**

Collette
July 26-Aug. 1 | \$1,699 per adult, \$1,099
per child*

Great Pacific Northwest

Go Next, American Express
July 26-Aug. 3 | \$3,795*

Cruise the Waterways of Russia

AHI, River Victoria
Aug. 7-20 | \$3,895*

Baltic Treasures

Go Next, Oceania Cruises' Nautica
Aug. 21-Sept. 1 | \$4,299* (air included)

**Ireland - Kilkenny, Killarney, and
Dublin**

Go Next
Sept. 19-27 | \$2,499*

Spanish Serenade

Go Next, Oceania Cruises' Marina
Sept. 23-Oct. 4 | \$3,999* (air included)

Accent on the Rivas

Go Next, Oceania Cruises' Marina
Oct. 3-11 | from \$2,499* (air included)

Treasures of Southern Africa

AHI
Oct. 8-22 | \$7,320*

Cruise the Panama Canal

AHI, Crystal Cruises
Nov. 19-30 | \$3,290*

Old Fashioned Holidays in the South

Go Next, American Queen
Dec. 5-13 | \$2,549*

Caribbean Getaway

Vacations To Go, Celebrity Reflection
Dec. 6-13 | \$764*

*For more information, visit www.alumni.vt.edu/travel, contact alumnitravel@vt.edu, or call 540-231-6285. Dates and prices are subject to change. Pricing is based per person on double occupancy without air, except as noted. Free air is based from North American gateway cities. The Alumni Association encourages all alumni to consider purchasing travel insurance. Learn more at www.alumni.vt.edu/travel/insurance.

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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 (0102), 901 Prices Fork Rd., Blacksburg, VA 24061; email the news to fleets@vt.edu; or submit the news online at www.vtmagazine.vt.edu/submit-class-note.php, where photos may also be uploaded for consideration.

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

- career accomplishments
- weddings
- births and adoptions
- deceased

'54 William E. Anderson (BAD), Danville, Va., 6/20/13.

Charles V. Bashara (BAD), Norfolk, Va., 1/23/12.

Bill O. Hardy (GBUS), Danville, Va., 4/14/13.

Bill M. Haydon (CHE), South Charleston, W.Va., 4/28/13.

Jim J. Hewlett Jr. (CE '55), Lynchburg, Va., 6/17/13.

Robert F. Hutchinson (AGED), Tappahannock, Va., 5/23/13.

Charles W. Kibler (ARCH '56), Charlotte, N.C., 4/5/13.

Harry W. Lee Jr. (ME), Richmond, Va., 3/10/13.

Frank C. Martin Jr. (BAD), Roanoke, Va., 5/11/13.

Earl H. Rakes (EE), Fincastle, Va., 6/12/13.

Mac E. Rein (MATH, MATH '57), Bethesda, Md., 6/14/13.

Mike Womeldorph (IE), Cincinnati, Ohio, 5/27/13.

'55 Jim Bishop Jr. (GBUS), Rome, Ga., 3/26/13.

Beatrice Ramsey Gilbert (EDBS), Fayette, Ala., 6/8/13.

Phil Rutledge Jr. (CE), Henrico, Va., 4/8/13.

'56 Bob Epperly (CHE, CHE '58), Mountain View, Calif., wrote a book entitled "Growing Up After Fifty: From Exxon Executive to Spiritual Seeker."

Bill R. Carr Jr. (GAG), Nathalie, Va., 5/27/13.

Bryce S. Genzlinger (IE), Lake Worth, Fla., 3/24/13.

Pete H. Papadakis (ME), San Antonio, Texas, 5/23/13.

Kenny Dale (FW), Newport News, Va., 3/30/13.

Patrick A. Romano Sr. (CE), Bluefield, W.Va., 7/4/12.

Charles Smathers (BIOL '50), Jacksonville Beach, Fla., 6/1/13.

Charlie E. Spitzer (ARE), Springfield, Va., 5/3/13.

Don Trotter (CE '50), Williamsburg, Va., 4/5/13.

'50 Blair Brooks (BC), Cocoa, Fla., 4/9/13.

Ray Dovell (CHE), Wilton, Conn., 5/19/13.

Joe C. Grey Jr. (ME), Charlotte, N.C., 5/6/13.

Jimmy Houck Sr. (DASC), Fredericksburg, Va., 8/1/12.

Russ Hummel Jr. (CE), Richmond, Va., 3/24/13.

Andy E. Johnson Jr. (PHYS), Hardyville, Va., 3/25/13.

Charlie F. Payne Jr. (IE), Midlothian, Va., 6/7/13.

James J. Slovic (ME), Aiken, S.C., 4/26/13.

Roy A. Sommers (IE), Winston-Salem, N.C., 4/20/13.

Jim B. Young (ASE), Gainesville, Fla., 5/19/13.

William C. Yowell Jr. (IAED), New Bern, N.C., 4/9/13.

'51 Jack J. Baker (CERE '52, CERE '52), Strasburg, Va., 5/26/13.

Gib Greer (AGED '52, AGED '52), Troutdale, Va., 6/26/13.

Charles J. Kerns Sr. (AGE), Gloucester, Va., 4/24/13.

Kirk L. Kuykendall Jr. (ME), Indianapolis, Ind., 5/17/13.

Charlie D. Rynex Jr. (CE), Williamsburg, Va., 4/16/13.

Richard A. Snyder (CHE), Wilmington, Del., 5/27/13.

'52 Bill C. Calhoun (BAD), Hagerstown, Md., 5/5/13.

Al D. Gammon (FW), Denver, Colo., 9/7/12.

Dink H. Gordon Jr. (IE '53), Greensboro, N.C., 5/15/13.

John S. Long (AGED, EDAD '57), McGaheysville, Va., 3/31/13.

Pat W. Patterson (CE), Gaithersburg, Md., 3/23/13.

Herbert C. Reuter Jr. (FW '54), Grass Valley, Calif., 4/7/13.

'53 Ed D. Graham (CHEM), Roanoke, Va., 6/7/13.

Bob E. Hicks Jr. (ANSC '52), Evinston, Va., 5/11/13.

W. Crawford Jenkins (BAD '53), Norfolk, Va., 5/26/13.

Robert J. Matos (BAD), San Juan, Puerto Rico, 6/28/13.

Robert C. Perdue (EE '55), Salem, Va., 4/26/13.

Flip W. Phillips (CERE '57), New Hope, Ala., 5/4/13.

Stanford H. Roberts (CHE), Delray Beach, Fla., 4/12/13.

James T. Vaughan (BAD '56), Livermore, Calif., 2/8/13.

'39 Robert S. Dicks Jr. (CHE), Chapel Hill, N.C., 5/1/13.

'40 Bob Fulton (ME), Baltimore, Md., 5/25/13.

'41 H. Barnes "Cope" Copenhaver (ANSC), Blacksburg, Va., 3/23/13.

John T. Faircloth Jr. (AGED), Courtland, Va., 4/16/13.

John E. Wetsel (AGED), Winchester, Va., 4/3/13.

'42 Dan K. Corell (AGEC), Pinehurst, N.C., 7/5/13.

Al F. Giacco (CHE), Wilmington, Del., 6/27/13.

Wincie Osborne Howell (GHEC), Texarkana, Texas, 1/5/13.

'43 Don N. Fox (HORT), Graham, N.C., 5/15/13.

Charlie M. Hall (AGEC), Buckingham, Va., 6/18/13.

L.C. Shelton Jr. (BAD), Portsmouth, Va., 5/2/13.

'44 Vaughan E. Calder Jr. (METE '46), Richmond, Va., 5/17/13.

Duval Dickinson (DASC), Fredericksburg, Va., 3/10/13.

Walt S. Medding (CE '47, CE '47), Fredericksburg, Va., 6/21/13.

Tom Sydnor Jr. (ME), Lynchburg, Va., 4/10/13.

'45 Dick Carroll Jr. (ME '47), Whiting, N.J., 1/5/13.

Tom J. Chaffin Jr. (ME '48), Lynchburg, Va., 4/16/13.

Lewis B. Connelly (CHE '47), Kingsport, Tenn., 4/25/13.

Nat W. Covington Jr. (SOC '47), Richmond, Va., 3/30/13.

Mildred Hudson Henderson (GHEC '44), Cincinnati, Ohio, 5/3/13.

James G. Jones (ME), Lynchburg, Va., 4/12/13.

Robert L. Retallack (EE '48), Columbus, Ohio, 4/3/13.

Doug Winquist Jr. (CHE), West Bend, Wis., 4/3/13.

'46 Guy C. Lewis (EE '48), Richmond, Va., 4/16/13.

F. Lynn Padan (CERE), Jonesboro, Ark., 4/16/13.

'47 Bob Keith (DASC), West Boylston, Mass., 4/22/13.

Gloria Kuhn Koenig (GHEC), Ann Arbor, Mich., 3/20/13.

Joe R. Loring (EE '48), Arlington, Va., 5/30/13.

'48 Ernie Rorer Jr. (ANSC), Ridgeland, S.C., 5/2/13.

Jack R. Stebbins Jr. (BAD), Richmond, Va., 4/15/13.

A.B. Windham Jr. (IE), Greenville, S.C., 6/3/13.

'49 William E. Beamer (GSC), Newport News, Va., 4/8/13.

Hugh D. Clark (ASE), Maitland, Fla., 6/30/12.



RUDY DUONG, ACTION ACADEMY

Paul Darnell '05

Superman's stunt double has Hokie roots

by AMY LOEFFLER

It's a bird! It's a plane! It's ... a Hokie?

Paul Darnell (human nutrition, foods, and exercise '05) spent his childhood like many American kids: playing sports, climbing and jumping off things, and pretending to be a superhero. But unlike most, Darnell recently got a chance to live out his fantasies when he was cast in “Man of Steel” as a stunt double for Henry Cavill, the film’s Superman.

“I remember pretending to be Superman in my parents’ backyard with a towel wrapped around my neck,” Darnell said. “So to put on the actual Superman costume, it was fulfilling one of those lifelong dreams.”

While at Tech, Darnell started preparing for his stunt career through both his nutrition-focused major in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and as a member of the club gymnastics team. Post-graduation, Darnell made the move to California, where he has rubbed elbows with some famous company. Darnell performed as a stunt double for actor Adam Sandler in 2008’s “You Don’t Mess With the Zohan,” as well as for Robert Pattinson in several films, including “Twilight.” Darnell also did stunt work in such movies as “Race to Witch Mountain,” “The Other Guys,” and “Battleship” before taking on the iconic Superman this past summer.

Beyond his growing list of film credentials, Darnell spends much of his time practicing freerunning, a sport that combines athletic skill with creativity. Though he can’t quite leap over buildings in a single bound, Darnell does quite a bit of leaping between buildings and doing flips off every surface he can find. He often incorporates his freerunning tricks into his stunt work, but he has also found a more rewarding use for his unique skill set.

In the spirit of *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve), Darnell, along with friends, opened the Tempest Freerunning Academy in Los Angeles. Children and teens learn freerunning skills from professionals in a safe gym environment. The academy opened in 2011 and its promotional video boasts more than 6 million views on YouTube. “[The gym] has changed our lives for the better,” said Darnell, “and [I] hope that we can instill in children what we have learned and that anything is possible.”

To read the full version of this story, written by Amy Loeffler in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, visit [bit.ly/stunt-double](#).

'57 **Bill Cantees Jr.** (IE), Chapel Hill, N.C., 3/13/13.
Paul V. Childress Jr. (ME '58), Roanoke, Va., 4/25/13.
Mike Hudson (EM '65, CE '65), Williamsburg, Va., 3/27/13.
William E. Kidd Jr. (FW '65, FW '65), Morgantown, W.Va., 6/1/13.
John E. Kurz Jr. (VOED '60), Bethpage, N.Y., 3/22/13.
W.A. Lindamood (RS '58), Manassas, Va., 4/2/13.
Ken Parcell (BAD), Torrance, Calif., 5/4/13.
Rodney F. Pierce Jr. (ME), Prospect Heights, Ill., 4/12/13.
Herb R. Teets (CE), Highlands Ranch, Colo., 6/7/13.

'58 **Frank M. Ballentine Jr.** (ME), Bradenton, Fla., 3/30/13.
Carlos Carter (ME), Dayton, Tenn., 5/25/13.
Iris L. Phillips Carthron (GHEC '59), Kennesaw, Ga., 11/18/12.
Benjamin N. Joyce (IAED), Stuart, Va., 4/12/13.
Allen R. Stickley Jr. (FW '57), Starkville, Miss., 4/18/13.

'59 **Bob B. Kilgore** (EE), Abingdon, Va., 4/4/13.
Conley Stone Sr. (ARE, ARE '60), Destin, Fla., 4/1/13.

'60 **Dick T. Crowder** (AGEC, AGECE '62), Alexandria, Va., was named the C.G. Thornhill Professor of Agricultural Trade by the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors.
Jim Johnson (ANSC, EXT '67), Roanoke, Va., was awarded, along with his wife, Janet, the Ruby C. McSwain Outstanding Philanthropist Award by the National Agricultural Alumni and Development Association.

Terry Adair (IE), Williamsburg, Va., 4/12/13.
James T. Clemons (SOC), Orange Park, Fla., 5/11/13.
Rich B. Elsea (EE '59), Camarillo, Calif., 6/5/13.
Carl R. Howard (EDBS), Petersburg, Va., 4/1/13.
William L. Sellars (CE), Moneta, Va., 5/23/13.
Linwood H. Tucker (EDBS), Vinton, Va., 4/10/13.

'61 **Don E. Boswell** (CHEM, CHEM '63), Wilmington, N.C., 6/19/13.
Howard R. Jeter (EM), St. Johns, Fla., 3/22/13.
Charlie B. Perkins Jr. (EE), Cedar Park, Texas, 4/20/13.
Jack W. Stadler (ACCT), Midlothian, Va., 4/29/13.

'62 **George F. Chandler III** (ME '63), Houston, Texas, 5/23/13.
George L. Maddrea Jr. (EE), Yorktown, Va., 4/2/13.
Bob E. Simons (BAD), Burlington, N.C., 5/17/13.
Charles G. Smythers (EDBS), Austinville, Va., 12/24/12.

'63 **Dave E. Lowe** (BAD), Blacksburg, Va., received Virginia Tech's 2013 Alumni Distinguished Service Award.

Dick S. Courtney Jr. (ARCH, URS '64), Atlanta, Ga., 5/31/13.
Ralston Lecky III (EE), Mobile, Ala., 5/30/13.
Frank B. Meador Jr. (ME), St. Leonard, Md., 4/18/13.
Gene E. Wood Jr. (BAD), Waynesboro, Va., 4/9/13.

Hollis B. “Skeets” Cahoon (electrical engineering '63), who developed and officially registered the Virginia Tech tartan, died March 16. After the Corps of Cadets alumnus served in Korea, he owned a plumbing and HVAC construction company and established an electrical and mechanical engineering consulting practice. He helped to create Collegiate Tartan, a company that designs and registers tartans for colleges and universities.

'64 **Ben J. Davenport Jr.** (BAD), Chatham, Va., was elected chair of the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation and received Virginia Tech's 2013 Alumni Distinguished Service Award.

Robert Pitera Sr. (CE), Falls Church, Va., 3/17/13.

'65 **Steve R. Huggins** (ASE), Madison, Ga., retired from the Goodrich Corp., received a doctoral degree from the University of Georgia, and began teaching history at the university in fall 2013.
Pete L. King (EE), Newark, Del., co-authored a book entitled “The Product Wheel Handbook: Achieving Balanced Flow in Multi-product Process Operations.”

Renny R. Lacy Jr. (ME '65), Lexington, S.C., 5/14/13.

'66 **Sandy F. Seay Jr.** (ENGL '67), Orlando, Fla., was appointed to the St. John Neumann Catholic Academy Board of Governors in Blacksburg.

John W. Bartholomew (EE), Oak Island, N.C., 4/1/13.
Bob E. Dillard (EUS '67, ARCH '67), Charlottesville, Va., 1/2/13.
William H. Hancock Jr. (ACCT), Roanoke, Va., 6/24/13.
Norm Prillaman (ME), Forest, Va., 6/19/13.
Joseph T. Wu (CE), Springfield, Va., 5/15/13.

'67 **William H. Gordon** (HPE '68), Lynchburg, Va., was inducted into the Waynesboro (Va.) High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

- career accomplishments
- weddings
- births and adoptions
- deceased

Bob S. Miller III (CE), Virginia Beach, Va., was inducted into the Hardy Cross Hall of Fame by the Old Dominion University Civil and Environmental Visiting Council.
Mary “Dianne” Murphy (BIOL), Alexandria, Va., received the Excellence in Public Service Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics for her distinguished service to the nation's children, adolescents, and young adults.

W. Southard Jones Jr. (ANSC), New Castle, Del., 6/17/13.
Bill L. Seiver (CE '68), Hawk Point, Mo., 2/6/13.
Randy W. Sinclair (HIST), Danville, Va., 4/22/13.

'68 **Cary B. Adkins Jr.** (CE), Midlothian, Va., 5/24/13.
Ray H. Barker Jr. (ASE, ASE '69), Alexandria, Va., 5/3/13.
Bruce Hollett (ANSC), Athens, Ga., 4/23/13.

'69 **David McClinton** (BAD '69) and Susie Kane, Tucson, Ariz., 3/25/13.

David W. Brown (EDBS '70), Sebastian, Fla., 4/10/13.
Bill Pruitt Jr. (ECAS), Crozier, Va., 5/25/13.
Al Sauvageau Jr. (MGT), Roswell, Ga., 4/17/13.
Phil D. Ward (BIOL), Buffalo Junction, Va., 4/16/13.

'70 **Dan M. Dick** (IE), Keswick, Va., was inducted into the Virginia Tech Academy of Engineering Excellence and the Circleville High School Alumni Achievement Hall of Fame.
Dave O. Smith (ENGL), Blacksburg, Va., received the Virginia Sports Information Directors Distinguished Service Award.

Melvin J. Almarode Jr. (ENGL '71), Orange, Va., 6/10/13.
Jane M. Dail (CTRA), Emery, S.D., 1/5/13.
R.L. Goble (EM), Yorktown, Va., 6/8/13.
Peggy Bailey Rusek (EDVT '71), Gate City, Va., 4/27/13.

'71 **David Foglesong** (BION), San Antonio, Texas, was appointed the Sister Joseph Marie Arner Endowed Chair of Biology at the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio.

'72 **Mary Guy Miller** (ELED, INFS '85, EDCI '96), Blacksburg, Va., received the 2013 Virginia Tech College of Engineering Distinguished Alumna Award.

John G. Lewis Jr. (ARCH), Richmond, Va., 3/30/13.
Howard K. Sumner (ACCT), Mount Airy, N.C., 6/8/13.

'73 **Rodger P. Fitzgerald** (EDBS), Woodbridge, Va., 6/21/13.
John E. Foltz Jr. (METE), Monroe, Va., 5/17/13.
Mary Liesfield Taylor (MAED), Stuart, Va., 1/13/13.
Stephanie Burner Traube (GEOP), Woodbridge, Va., 1/5/13.
Jon G. Zelif (BUS), Canby, Ore., 3/28/13.

'74 **Jerry W. Spessard** (DASC), Mercersburg, Pa., invented the Eagle Eye Electronic Home Plate product, to be released in late 2013.

Carol Andria Brown (EDBS '75), Scottsdale, Ariz., 1/30/13.
William M. Hannah (MGT), Radford, Va., 5/21/13.

'75 **Donald T. Stuck** (GBUS '76), The Villages, Fla., retired after 28 years with the U.S. Army as a pilot and 10 years with Federal Service as an aviation analyst for future operations.

Michael J. Johnson (GBUS), Pearisburg, Va., 6/19/13.
Lucy Bransford Nicholas (HEED), Arlington, Va., 4/17/13.

'76 **Sam P. Saufley** (AGED), Grottoes, Va., 6/16/13.
Brenda Blackburn Talbott (EDCI), Grundy, Va., 6/12/13.
Tom H. Twine Jr. (ETE), Altoona, Pa., 5/18/13.

Dan T. Burnett (EDSP), Rocky Mount, Va., 5/21/13.
Judy Imhoff Mundy (ANSC), Eagle Rock, Va., 5/26/13.
George L. Sims III (MKTG), Virginia Beach, Va., 4/30/13.

'78 **Rolando J. De Leon** (BIOL), Miami, Fla., is chief of staff at Mercy Hospital.
Bob D. Hull (AGRN), Falls Church, Va., is the community outreach specialist for the Annandale Campus of Northern Virginia Community College.

Chris E. Mandel (MGT), Nashville, Tenn., is senior vice president for strategic solutions at Sedgwick Inc.
Doug J. Nelson (ME, ME '79), Blacksburg, Va., received his fourth National Science Foundation Outstanding Long-Term Faculty Advisor Award.

'79 **Sam R. Holliman** (ETE), Durham, N.C., invented a criminal and forensics product called the FOCOS2 Forensic Optical Comparator & Examination System.
Wayne A. Hubert (FIW), Laramie, Wyo., received the Gerald E. Cross Alumni Leadership Award from Virginia Tech's Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation and the College of Natural Resources and Environment's Leadership Institute.

COURTESY PHOTOS



Tornado relief in Oklahoma

When a May 20 tornado devastated Moore, Okla., the Hokie Nation responded. Working with co-worker, friends, and Virginia Tech alumni in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area, Gregory Azar (housing, interior design, and residential management '01), pictured above, collected more than \$4,000 in supplies within a week and led a convoy to Oklahoma. The volunteers delivered chainsaw oil, work gloves, water and Gatorade, diapers and baby wipes, shovels and rakes, respirator masks, pet supplies, toys, groceries and more. Several weeks later, 40 volunteers from Texas returned with more than \$35,000 in donations, also helping a half-dozen homeowners with repairs and debris removal. *Ut Prosim*, indeed.

Michael M. Malta (BIOL), New Market, Ala., 6/11/13.
Joe L. Marsan (URPL '81), Newington, Conn., 4/11/13.
Mike E. Piner (BC), Wilmington, N.C., 4/24/13.
Susan Dewar Zajac (EDVT '80), Arlington, Va., 6/7/13.

'80 **Noel L. Chitwood** (FIN '81), Summerfield, N.C., received the 2013 Pamplin College of Business Distinguished Alumnus Award for his outstanding career accomplishments and contributions to the college.
Cathie Mahoney Crummet (PAD), Mount Crawford, Va., is assistant vice provost of university programs at James Madison University.

Patricia Martin Dove (AGRN), GEOL '84), Blacksburg, Va., was elected to the National Academy of Science and was named a University Distinguished Professor at Virginia Tech.

Robert A. Hopkins (CE), Lynchburg, Va., is a senior project manager in the water and wastewater sector at Herbert, Rowland, & Grubic Inc.
Bob R. Putman (CHE), Charleston, S.C., was promoted to process control group leader at Kapstone Paper.
Helen L. Reed (ESM, EM '81), Bryan, Texas, received the 2013 Presidential Professor for Teaching Excellence Award from Texas A&M.

Diane Mannino Bisbee (CS '89), Herndon, Va., 6/6/12.
Chris C. Heasley (PSYC, IEOR '88), Fairfax, Va., 4/13/13.
Beth Keathley (CS), Englewood, Fla., 3/22/13.

'81 **Chris Rosenthal** (ACCT), Edgewater, Md., is president-elect of the Baltimore Estate Planning Council.
Gary J. Saunders (COMM), Fairhope, Ala., is CEO of DixieDining, a southern premiere culinary website.

Dane M. Giles (EE), Pickerington, Ohio, 5/31/13.
Jana H. Hammer (PSYC), Littlestown, Pa., 5/15/13.
Rich H. Puryear (MKTG), Stanardsville, Va., 2/15/13.

'82 **Scott A. Couture** (ME, ME '86), Arlington, Va., is the principal advisor for nuclear plans and policies to the undersecretary of the U.S. Air Force.
Lawrence N. Sewell (CSA), Laurel Fork, Va., received the Governor's Award for Innovation for his work in designing and constructing the core service systems at the Math Emporium at Virginia Tech.



DANIEL BUI

CHRISTINA WILLIAMS, NONCHALANT VIEW PHOTOGRAPHY

Jennifer Robinson (PSCI '02, MPA '04) and Walter Robinson Jr. (ME '03, MS '05), Eagle River, Alaska, a son, Aiden James, 05/17/12.

'83 **Truman Capone** (EDVT), Blacksburg, Va., received the grand prize in an international art exhibition with his pieces "Chromatmos I" and "Chromatmos II."
Kevin M. Wills (FIN '84), Blacksburg, Va., is senior project manager for McDonough Bolyard Peck.
 Richard N. Mensch II (MATE), Quakertown, Pa., 5/3/13.
'84 **Marcia Pizoli Bates** (ARCH), New Freedom, Pa., is a certified registered nurse anesthetist at OSS Health.
Glenn A. Costie (ME), Bellbrook, Ohio, is the CEO and medical center director at a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Gaynor Richardson Flynn (BIOL), Chesapeake Beach, Md., earned a master's in public health degree from George Mason University.
 Melissa M. Groves (FCD, FCD '87), Chico, Calif., 3/15/13.
Michael J. Heath (EE), Catonsville, Md., 3/25/13.
Christopher M. Higdon (BC), Atlanta, Ga., 4/24/13.
'85 **Tom A. Dingus** (IEOR, IEOB '87), Blacksburg, Va., director of the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute, was honored by the White House as a Champion of Change for helping shape national and global change in public policies for driver,



DANIEL BUI

Walter Renard Hackett (ISE '05) and Hiwot Seife, Manassas, Va., 5/11/13.



LINDSAY BLANCHARD

David Blanchard (BIT '03) and Lindsay K. Jones Blanchard (HD '04, EDCI '06), Herndon, Va., a daughter, Emma, 4/30/2013, with her brother Jack.

passenger, and pedestrian safety and for advancing the design of vehicles and infrastructure to improve safety.
Dhruv Grewal (GBUS, BMKT '89), Wellesley, Mass., received Virginia Tech's 2013 Graduate Alumni Achievement Award.
 Brian J. Psioda (ARCH '87), Las Vegas, Nev., 8/18/12.
'86 **Jodi Ecker Detjen** (MSCI), Newton Highlands, Mass., is co-author of a book entitled "The Orange Line: A Woman's Guide to Integrating Career, Family, and Life."
 Jennifer B. Breslin (FIN), Midlothian, Va., 5/21/13.
Judy Sedlar Lubnow (MSCI), Falls Church, Va., 5/5/13.
'87 **John C. Taylor** (ME), Seaford, Va., 5/12/13.

'88 **Michael D. Erskine** (VM), Woodbine, Md., is the interim director of Virginia Tech's Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center.
'89 **Robert A. Bergeron** (COMM), Alexandria, Va., is executive director and CEO of the Society of Government Meeting Professionals.

Richard T. Nielsen (MGT) and **Christine A. Espinoza Nielsen** (MSCI '91), Bristow, Va., a daughter, 12/20/12.
'90 **Douglas K. Clark** (LASC), Springfield, Va., was promoted to colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps.
Michael P. Maxwell (FIN), Hartland, Wis., was appointed by Wisconsin Gov. Scott K. Walker to serve on the State Public Defender Board.

Jerryanne T. Bier (EDSP), Ferrum, Va., 6/27/13.
Roger L. Zimmers (COMM), Raleigh, N.C., 6/1/13.
'91 **Jennifer Poff Cooper** (MKTG), Christiansburg, Va., received a master of arts in liberal studies from Hollins University.

Diane Coy Mayer (ISE), Weston, Mass., 5/1/13.
'92 **Kevin R. Mitchell** (ARCH, ARCH '95), Clackamas, Ore., is a project management professional with Smith-Root Inc.
'93 **Scott L. Christopher** (EE), Virginia Beach, Va., earned his registered Communications Distribution Designer credential.
'94 **Elliott M. Gordon** (COMM), Sherman Oaks, Calif., launched an iPhone app called Kid Notice that shares a child's emergency-information profile privately with trusted care providers.
Michael M. Taylor (HIST), Leesburg, Va., is senior vice president, general counsel, and corporate secretary for Inmarsat Government, a satellite communications company.

Richard M. Wardrop III (BIOL), Raleigh, N.C., won The Teaching Attending Award of the year at WakeMed.

Jesse M. DeShazo (PHED) and **Natalie S. Saunders DeShazo** (CT '03), Portsmouth, Va., a daughter, 9/28/12.
Jason M. Mennard (HIST), Winchester, Va., a daughter, 6/11/12.

'95 **Matthew J. Lohr** (AGED), Broadway, Va., is president of the Southern Association of State Departments of Agriculture.

Kevin M. Phillips (CE), Poquoson, Va., 6/16/13.

'96 **Joshua R. Lorenz** (PSCI), Murrysburg, Pa., was named a 2013 Rising Star on the list of up-and-coming attorneys in Pennsylvania.
Randi Richards Lutz (HIDM), Culpeper, Va., received the National School Administrator of the Year award from the Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America organization.

Karl W. Gross (PSCI, BAD '99) and Jennifer Mills, Atlanta, Ga., 5/5/12.

Kimberly D. Wheeler Staton (PSYC), Pensacola, Fla., adopted two boys.

'97 **Jonathan C. Caron** (CE), Warrenton, Va., is president of Jonathan Caron Construction Inc.
Marlene M. Preston (EDCI), Roanoke, Va., received Virginia Tech's 2013 Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Bridget D. Anibal (CT), Annandale, Va., 2/13/13.

Brian K. Pollack (ACCT), Fairfax, Va., a daughter, 8/23/12.

'98 **Matthew Ames** (EDCI), Roanoke, Va., designed artwork for solar-powered trash-compacting receptacles in the Roanoke area.
Janet R. Wojcik (HNFE), Charlotte, N.C., is associate professor at Winthrop University and exercise-science program coordinator.

Douglas S. Graham (FW '94, VM), Blacksburg, Va., a son, 5/21/13.
Michelle Carter Parks (MKTG), Arlington, Va., a daughter, 4/10/13.

Architecture firm packed with Hokies wins award

Architecture firm Bohlin Cywinski Jackson which counts among its employees a number of Hokies, was recently honored with the Good Design is Good Business Lifetime Achievement Architecture Award, presented by Architectural Record in association with the American Architectural Foundation. The award recognizes exceptional contributions to bettering how businesses and institutions perform using architecture. Ray Calabro (architecture '94), a principal of the firm, is joined by other alumni, including senior associates Kirk Hostetter (architecture '93), Denis Schofield (architecture '97), Robert Aumer (architecture '95), and Natalie Gentile (architecture '82); associates Rachel Lehn Antin (architecture '99) and Christopher Moore (architecture '98); and Nguyen Ha (architecture '95) and Jason Kilgore (architecture, English '05).



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White House honors 2 ‘Champions of Change’

For their work in addressing critical transportation issues in the U.S., two alumni were among those dubbed “Champions of Change” by the White House. Tom Dingus (M.S. engineering and operations research '85, Ph.D. '87) and John Hillman (M.S. civil engineering '90) were among a small group of innovators honored in May. This year's theme was “Transportation Technology Solutions for the 21st Century.”

Dingus has served as director of the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute (VTI) since 1996. An endowed professor of civil and environmental engineering in the College of Engineering, Dingus also serves as director of the institute's National Surface Transportation Safety Center for Excellence.

“The award also recognized all of those working at VTTI,” said Dingus. “As the second-largest university-level transportation institute in the U.S., we are conducting research to save lives, save time, save money, and protect the environment. Our researchers and students are continually helping shape national and global change in public policies for driver, passenger, and pedestrian safety and are advancing the design of vehicles and infrastructure to improve safety.”

Hillman, founder and president of HC Bridge Company LLC, has been employed as a structural engineer in the inspection, construction, and design of unique bridges for more than 27 years. He holds four U.S. patents for the unique bridge technology known as the Hybrid-Composite Beam (HCB), which helps address the growing number of structurally deficient or functionally obsolete bridges in the U.S.

“The HCB provides an alternative solution for new construction and bridge reconstruction that provides for longer service lives because of the corrosion-resistant nature of the composite materials,” said Hillman. “In addition, because they're lighter weight and can be installed very quickly, there's less inconvenience to the traveling public. In the long term, there's definitely a financial benefit to using this technology.”

John Hillman '90 (below) and Tom Dingus '85, '87 (far below) were named “Champions of Change” by the White House for their work in transportation technology.



COURTESY PHOTO



LOGAN WALLACE

'99 **Kristin R. Sears de Ruiter** (FW) and Darryl de Ruiter, College Station, Texas, 8/18/12.

'00 **Kimberly R. Burnop** (MSCI), Chesapeake, Va., celebrated 10 years of owning a business as a farrier, trimming, shoeing, and boot-fitting horses.

Ryan Carey (OE), Gulfport, Miss., received the 2012 Morell Medal from the Society of American Military Engineers for his service in the U.S. Navy.

Timothy J. Murphy (CHE '01), Vienna, Va., is an associate in the law firm of Cantor Colburn LLP.

William D. McShane (AE, OE), Arlington, Va., a son, 4/16/13.

Kevin A. Secrest (ACCT), Wynnewood, Pa., a daughter, 9/19/12.

'01 **Robert A. Weaver** (CE), Hanover, Pa., completed the climb to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro on March 3.

Brian K. Cabacar (MATH), Woodbridge, Va., a son, 5/20/13.

Giles A. Gray (VM, BMVS '06) and **Kerri Carico Gray** (APSC '02, VM '06), Bluff City, Tenn., a daughter, 2/4/13.

Mary Wilkins Hunt (PSCI) and **John B. Hunt** (ENGL '03), Henrico, Va., a son, 1/1/13.

'02 **Oddbjørn Hestnes** (MATH), Blacksburg, Va., received Virginia Tech's 2013 XCaliber Award for excellence as a member of a group involved with technology-assisted teaching.

Eric J. Melniczek (ELPS), High Point, N.C., received the Outstanding Professional Award from the North Carolina Association of Colleges and Employers.

Antony J. Schaeffer (CE), Roanoke, Va., is an area engineer for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Nature Resources Conservation Service.

Erica Weikel Muddiman (HTM) and **Bryan A. Muddiman** (MGT '03), Marietta, Ga., a son, 6/18/13.

Britta Long Petrich (COMM) and **Jan Petrich** (EE '09), Danville, Va., a daughter, 1/27/13.

Antony J. Schaeffer (CE) and **Meghan S. King Schaeffer** (PHED '04), Roanoke, Va., a son, 6/23/12.

David R. Spracher (ME) and **Erika L. Murtaugh Spracher** (HNFE '05), Simpsonville, S.C., a son, 2/12/13.

'03 **Jeremy R. Moss** (PSCI, SOC), Alexandria, Va., was named a 2013 Rising Star by both Virginia Super Lawyers and Washington, D.C., Super Lawyers.

David E. Blanchard (BIT) and **Lindsay K. Jones Blanchard** (HD '04, EDCI '06), Herndon, Va., a daughter, 4/30/13.

Elizabeth Lee Senft (BIOL) and **Michael S. Senft** (MINE), Spring Lake, N.C., a son, 3/23/13.

Erin B. Szczurek (HD), Marlton, N.J., a son, 11/21/12.

'04 **Sebastian A. Burzacchi** (ISE), Old Greenwich, Conn., is vice president of operations at Vineyard Vines.

Deborah A. Daley (ENGL), West Point, N.Y., a daughter, 3/16/13.

Danielle R. Straus Donahue (BIOL), Germantown, Md., a daughter, 4/5/12.

Brian J. Donovan Jr. (MATH) and **Candace L. Baracat-Donovan** (COMM '05), Leesburg, Va., a son, 12/17/12.

Erin E. Brush Forsys (HTM, HTM '05) and **Brent M. Forsys** (BIT '06), Toano, Va., a daughter, 5/9/13.

Ashleigh Gardner Volker (EE, EE '06) and **Daniel P. Volker** (EE), Kennesaw, Ga., a son, 2/12/13.

'05 **Marc L. Fisher** (GSCR, ENT '06), Carmel, Ind., is the global technology transfer leader for Dow.

Gary C. Harrison (FIN), San Diego, Calif., earned a juris doctorate from University of San Diego School of Law and will be joining the firm of Morris, Sullivan, & Lemkul LLP.

Gregory J. Overkamp (ARCH), Reston, Va., is a licensed architect in the State of Maryland.

Kathleen A. Glymph (BIOL) and **Christopher N. Hagedorn** (HIST), Harrisonburg, Va., 4/20/13.

Walter R. Hackett (ISE) and Hiwot Seife, Arlington, Va., 5/11/13.

Matthew W. Kelly (FIN) and Jordan R. Smith, Falls Church, Va., 4/6/13.

Kevin R. Denholm (ISE) and **Shannon Baker Denholm** (COMM), Charlotte, N.C., a son, 11/19/12.

Cheryl D. Simpson-Freeman (VM), Spout Spring, Va., a daughter, 11/19/12.

Zoom in on the future.



Zach Gajewski has a lot of questions. Undergraduate research gave him the chance to look for some of the answers. For the aspiring marine biologist, studying a rapidly spreading fungal disease affecting amphibians has been the opportunity of a lifetime.


A recipient of the Senora Pritchard Memorial Scholarship, Zach was able to focus on research and study without distraction. Thanks to scholarship assistance, he is one of many inquisitive students at Virginia Tech who are able to direct their enthusiasm and curiosity to academics and special projects.

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Ashley Gwaltney Smith (MKTG) and **Charles A. Smith** (ME), Greenville, S.C., a son, 12/31/12.

'06  **Jennifer Basham Bachelor** (COMM), Nokesville, Va., a daughter, 6/11/13.


Heather Hewitt Lockridge (AAEC), Winchester, Va., a daughter, 4/1/13.


 **William E. Gibson Jr.** (ELPS), Chesapeake, Va., 5/30/13.

'07  **Michael S. Wall** (CHEM) and **Meghan Kees Wall** (HTM '09, BAD '12), Gretna, Va., 6/9/12.

 **James W. Berger** (BIOL) and **Amanda L. Blakeney Berger** (HNFE '09), Ballwin, Mo., a daughter, 9/16/12.

Duane A. Kuykendall (HIST) and **Kelly M. Schnabel** (BIOL), Culpeper, Va., a daughter, 12/22/12.

'08  **Laura P. Prangle** (COMM), Brooklyn, N.Y., appeared in the Comedy Central television series "Inside Amy Schumer."

'09  **Allison B. Chambliss** (CHE), Baltimore, Md., was selected to attend the annual Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy, Mars Inc., the National Science Foundation, and Oak Ridge Associated Universities.


Emily A. Hiller (MKTG), Arlington, Va., is assistant category manager for the category management team at Perrigo Nutritional.


Robert L. Jimenez (ARCH), Berwyn, Pa., is employed at the Home and Education Studios at TruexCullins.

James A. Kennedy IV (IDST), Roswell, Ga., is working for a nonprofit organization and travels to Kenya and Haiti to facilitate community development and the alleviation of poverty.


Bradford L. McDaniel (BIOL), Roanoke, Va., earned a doctor of pharmacy degree from Virginia Commonwealth University School of Pharmacy.


Wencong Su (EE), Raleigh, N.C., is a tenure-track assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering at the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

 **Andrew J. Pafford** (HNFE) and **Elisabeth Bogart Pafford** (PSCI '10), Rockville, Md., 10/20/12.

'10  **Sarah M. Hilbert** (EPP), Chantilly, Va., is an associate attorney for the law firm of Roetzel's Real Estate Group.

Dennis P. Hollich (MSE), Arlington, Va., is an engineer at the U.S. Marine Corps Systems Command.

 **Brittany D. Worrell** (PSCI) and Michael C. Boyce, Norfolk, Va., 10/13/12.

'12  **Randi H. Brazeau** (CE, GSCR), Denver, Colo., published a paper that reports that hot-water recirculating systems touted as "green" actually use both more energy and water than their standard counterparts.

Doray A. Sitko (EDPE), Baltimore, Md., is a project management professional certified by the Project Management Institute.

obituaries

faculty/staff

Colleen Carlson, a research associate in the College of Natural Resources and Environment, died June 30. Carlson, who worked in the field of forestry and biometry for more than 22 years in the U.S., New Zealand, and South Africa, was most recently on the forest productivity cooperative team in the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation.

Robert D. Dryden, former head of the Grado Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, died July 7. Dryden left Virginia Tech in the mid-1990s to become dean of engineering at Portland State University. He served in that position for 13 years, stepping down in 2008 to join its engineering and technology management department. His areas of research were rehabilitation engineering, construction productivity, human factors engineering, and safety.

Hayward "Woody" Farrar Jr., the Gloria D. Smith Professor of Africana Studies and associate professor of history in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, died May 31. Farrar was the advisor of the Virginia Tech chapter of the NAACP from 1992 to 2005, the Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity since 1999, the Kemetec Benu Order Inc. from 1995 to 1998, and the Enlightened Gospel Choir. He received numerous awards for his efforts, including the 2005 Overton Johnson Presidential Award, the 1999 and 2000 Black Caucus Leadership Award, and the 1998 Black Caucus Faculty Member of the Year Award.

Col. James Robert Finton, a professor of air science at Virginia Tech from 1963 to 1967, died April 26. The World War II veteran served in various U.S. Air Force capacities at the Pentagon, Andrews Air Force Base, and elsewhere. He received numerous awards, including the Air Force Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster and the Air Force Commendation Medal.

Marco Frascari, former professor of architecture, died June 2. Frascari served as G.T. Ward Professor of Architecture from 1998 to 2005. He last returned to Virginia Tech in 2010 to give the keynote address at the Constructing Imagination symposium, which marked the 11th anniversary of the Ph.D. program he founded at the Washington-Alexandria Architecture Center.

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D.W. Murphree, adjunct professor of history in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, died on July 9. Murphree earned a bachelor's degree in history from Radford University in 1988 and a master's in history from Virginia Tech in 1991, and was preparing to defend a science and technology studies doctoral dissertation in early August. Beginning in 1995 and continuing regularly since then, Murphree taught a variety of courses in history, religion and culture, and science and technology in society. Murphree also served as co-chair of the LGBT Caucus and officiated the 2013 Lavender Commencement Ceremony.

Donna L. Taylor, financial aid processing manager in the Office of University Scholarships and Financial Aid, died May 23. Taylor worked for 27 years in the office. Her colleagues at Virginia Tech and across Virginia described her as "dependable, professional, eager to help, reliable, hard working, knowledgeable, genuine, compassionate, kindhearted, encouraging," and as a "training enthusiast and mentor, with a good sense of humor, and contagious smile."

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A stable friend: President Charles W. Steger visits his old friend, Running Bond, at Campbell Arena. Steger, who gave the retired thoroughbred racehorse to the university in 2008, grew up around horses and is at ease with them. “I spent a lot of rainy Saturdays in the stable when my mother was mad at me,” he said.

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