



Introduction



The Year's Highlight's in Alumni Relations:

- The Alumni Center served as headquarters for more than 600 members of media organizations during the week of April 16th.
- Active alumni chapters and clubs through the nation and abroad climbed to 106 in number. 148 alumni chapter scholarships totaling \$141,950 were awarded to incoming freshmen.
- Events for alumni, ranging from traditional alumni chapters to on-campus homecomings and reunions totaled approximately 850 separate events.
- A new Multicultural Alumni Advisory Board was formed to aid in fostering cohesive relationships with Multicultural Alumni constituency groups.
- The annual “Hokie Day” legislative advocacy program in Richmond, in its ninth year, continued to attract increased numbers of alumni and students, with over 90 participants.
- A Hall of Fame Award was created to recognize alumni chapters who previously received a superlative award for a specific event offered on an annual basis.
- The Student Alumni Associates (SAA) implemented the Hokies Respect Campaign during the fall semester, creating a Hokies Respect pledge for students, faculty and staff to sign at campus events, banners and a giveaway item.
- A new online event management database was installed in order to minimize data entry, provide increased security, and offer enhanced reporting tools.
- The Class of 2008 **Gene A. James Ring Collection** was featured at the October Ring Premiere and March Ring Dance. (James, Class of '53, is a former Alumni Association President and Virginia Tech Foundation Chairman)

Alumni Awards and Recognition

The Alumni Association continued a long tradition of service to the university by awarding scholarships to students, excellence awards to faculty and service awards to alumni. Endowments have been established to provide annual funding for professorships and merit scholarships. The total amount awarded to students and faculty was approximately \$287,000. Several awards were presented at Commencement, the Fall Faculty and Staff Awards Ceremony, the Student Honors Dinner, alumni chapter activities and special programs.

In total, fifteen awards were presented to faculty at the Fall Faculty and Staff Awards Ceremony with cash stipends of \$2,000 each. Graduate student awards totaling \$2,750, which recognize teaching and service, were awarded at the spring Graduate Student Awards dinner. Two alumni were recognized at Commencement for their distinguished service to the Association and university. The Humanitarian Award, recognizing an alum who has significantly made an impact on a humanitarian cause with their participation and leadership, was presented to Cheri Nice '76, co-founder of Bridges to Prosperity, a volunteer-based charity that seeks to empower poor rural communities in Asia, South Africa and South American communities through footbridge building.

Awards and scholarships presented in 2006-2007

- Alumni Chapter Scholarships (148 scholarships)
- Alumni Distinguished Professorships (11 continuing appointments)
- Alumni Honors Scholarships (37 scholarships)
- Excellence Awards for teaching, research, extension, service, academic advising, outreach, and international programs (15 awards)
- Outstanding Alumni Chapter Awards (29 with \$400 scholarship awards)
- Outstanding Alumni Chapter Officer (1 recognition)
- Outstanding Chapter Volunteer (1 recognition)
- Outstanding Graduate Alumni Award (1 recognition)
- Outstanding Recent Alumni Awards (9 recognitions)
- Outstanding Students by college (8 recognitions)
- Student Alumni Associates Students' Choice Award (1 faculty recognition)
- "Top 25" Awards for Virginia Tech's nationally ranked athletic teams (football)
- Humanitarian Award (1 recognition)

Alumni Legislative Advocacy



This advocacy group supporting higher education and General Fund appropriations for Virginia Tech continues to provide vocal support on issues of importance to Virginia Tech and to higher education, and to cultivate support among elected officials.

Virginia Tech alumni members of the General Assembly were hosted at a breakfast in Richmond. A reception for Virginia's senators and representatives in the U.S. Congress was held on Capitol Hill (jointly with Virginia Commonwealth University), which included the Northern Virginia alumni business community. The 9th Annual "Hokie Day at the General Assembly" was a successful event with approximately 90 alumni chapter and student representatives visiting legislators in Richmond during the 2007 session. Additionally, Hokies for Higher Education newsletters and legislative updates were mailed on a periodic basis.



Alumni Chapter Programs



Chapters and clubs have been organized throughout the US and abroad to provide opportunities for alumni to gather in their local communities. Chapter activities typically included receptions or dinners hosting faculty speakers, assistance in recruiting students, community service, and providing scholarship support for local students. The primary purpose for chapter programs is to involve and inform alumni about the university, enhancing its image and support from alumni.

The annual Chapter Officers Leadership Forum was held in the fall with attendance of approximately 130 chapter volunteers and Alumni Board members collectively representing 40 chapters. Twenty-nine chapters were presented Outstanding Chapter Awards, receiving \$400 toward each of their student scholarship funds. Chapter superlative awards acknowledged excellence in six areas – Outstanding Admissions Program, Outstanding Community Service, Outstanding Event, Outstanding Fundraising Event, Outstanding Golf Tournament, and Outstanding Website. Achievement Awards were presented to 17 chapters. Additional awards highlighted the Most Improved Chapter, Outstanding New Chapter, Best Chapter Scrapbook, Outstanding Chapter Officer and the Outstanding Chapter Volunteer. A new Hall of Fame award was initiated to recognize chapters who previously received superlative awards for specific events offered on an annual basis.

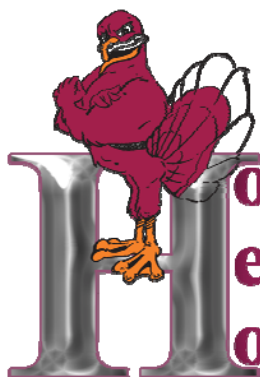
The number of alumni chapters or program areas throughout the nation and internationally reached 106: 31 in-state, 67 out-of-state, and 8 abroad (in Australia, Hong Kong, London, Malaysia, Panama, Paris, Philippines and the Virgin Islands). Approximately one-third of the chapter areas are classified as alumni “clubs.” Clubs label areas that do not have elected officers or boards of directors and hold a limited number of events. Members from 59 chapters participated in the Alumni Admissions Program by assisting the Office of Undergraduate Admissions staff with college fairs, phone calls to prospective students, and scholarships. Forty-seven chapters awarded a total of 148 scholarships totaling \$141,950 to freshmen from their local chapter areas.

The Alumni Association managed the chapter scholarship application process which was transitioned from the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. Admitted students were notified by email about the availability of chapter scholarships, which included a link to the scholarship website and log-in information (User ID and password).

A chapter president’s training weekend was held in January with a total of 33 chapter officers in attendance. Participants heard an Alumni Association update, were informed about changes to the chapter scholarship process, shared ideas about successful chapter programming and motivating volunteers, and received an update on the Hokies Respect initiative. The weekend concluded with a brunch hosting chapter scholarship recipients.

The Students Today, Alumni Tomorrow (STAT) programs included the scholarship brunch, Seniors Movin’ On and Alumni Open House, Adopt-a-Co-op, Senior Celebration and chapter student send-offs.

Alumni Career Services



The CareerLink program enables Virginia Tech students and alumni to network with Virginia Tech alumni for career planning and job search assistance. Users may search for alumni volunteers from the CareerLink database based on major, occupation, employer name, work setting, services offered, schools attended and/or location. The program was featured in college

newsletters, the VTNetLetter, linked on college websites and information was provided at reunion and chapter events. Alumni volunteer mentors and participants served during the past year included:

- 448 active alumni volunteers
- 2,470 total number of users – students and alumni
- 2,918 total online searches by students and alumni

Other services available to alumni included CareerSearch – a database of organizations by industry, and on campus or telephone advising appointments. The National Capital Region Alumni Chapter sponsored the 16th Annual Job Fair in March – approximately 85 companies were represented and 350 candidates. Career and personal counseling services are available to students and alumni at the Northern Virginia Center, conducted by graduate students.

Special Alumni Programs



The Alumni Association, in conjunction with the Division of Continuing and Professional Education, hosted its **16th Annual Civil War Weekend** in March at the Skelton Conference Center and The Inn at Virginia Tech. A total of 240 registrants attended. Featured speakers included: James I. Robertson, Jr. and William C. Davis from the university’s Virginia Center for Civil War Studies. Other speakers came from UNC-Chapel Hill and our faculty. Participants enjoyed informative lectures, a panel discussion, book sales and signings, and a viewing of “Music and Memories of the Civil War: A Living Legacy,” a video concert performance.

The Alumni Association offered two **Summer Around the Drillfield** programs, the first with the theme of **Performing and Creative Arts in a New Era**, which focused on presentations by faculty from the Colleges of Architecture and Urban Studies and Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. The participants had an opportunity for hands-on experience in the Animation Lab, Digital Sound Lab and Recording Studio. Interactive presentations were offered in set painting and digital cinema, a glimpse of life as a Marching Virginian, and an inspirational reading of *Rosa* by University Distinguished Professor Nikki Giovanni. The Colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Natural Resources, and Veterinary Medicine co-hosted the second session. Several of each college’s faculty and students showcased their laboratories and research on topics related to **Global Health**. The program provided a glimpse into the world of food safety, obesity, biological control on invasive forest pests, physiological ecology and wildlife ecotoxicology. Additionally, both sessions featured programs on undergraduate admissions and career services. Participants spent their afternoons visiting popular attractions and taking advantage of recreational opportunities in and around Blacksburg.

A **Hokie Sweethearts Weekend** was held in February offering a romantic and unique getaway. Participants enjoyed a Wine Tasting with local alumni, a dessert reception, couples massages, a tour of the Lane Stadium West Side expansion, a cooking class, a lecture on “Romance and the Civil War,” a chocolate tasting, and dinner and dancing.

A new program co-sponsored with the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, **A Day in the Life of College Admissions** was held for rising high school juniors and seniors and their parents. Approximately 180 participants had the opportunity to attend sessions on preparing for freshman success, conducting an effective college search, applying for scholarships and financial aid, and how to complete an application for admission. In addition, a panel with admissions directors representing various Virginia schools and a student panel were featured.

Alumni Reunions and Homecomings



In the fall, the Alumni Association enjoyed a successful reunion season. Over 2,900 alumni attended six class reunions, eight college homecomings, a Corps of Cadets Reunion, and the Graduate School Homecoming. The Joint Class reunion program for three classes in the '80's, '90's, and '00's decades continued to be successful in attracting younger alumni back to the

university. At their 50th Anniversary Reunion, the Class of '56 was inducted into the Old Guard. The class raised nearly \$600,000 for their anniversary gift to support the Holtzman Alumni Center, Solitude, Newman Library, and scholarships for the University Honors program and the Corps of Cadets. In addition, the class commissioned a bronze outdoor sculpture in the likeness of William Addison Caldwell, the first student to enroll in Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College. All eight colleges hosted College Homecomings on home game weekends. These events provided an excellent occasion for alumni to visit with faculty and other alumni and gave the colleges the opportunity to showcase their programs.

The annual **Old Guard Reunion** was held in the spring and attended by members of the classes of '29 through '56. Highlights of the reunion included: a tour of the Lane Stadium West Side expansion, and presentations by Lay Nam Chang, Dean of the College of Science, and Dr. J. Wallace Grant and Dr. Pete Santiago, Directors of the VT-Wake Forest School of Biomedical Engineering and Sciences. A reunion banquet was held; the reunion concluded with presentations by representatives from the Honors Program, Athletics, the Corps of Cadets and Cranwell International Center at a closing brunch.

The **7th Black Alumni Reunion, Student Empowerment: Lean On Me** was held in March, with over 250 alumni in attendance. Highlights of the reunion included:

breakfast hosted by each of the colleges, an interactive forum on how alumni can be of service to Virginia Tech in areas such as recruitment and campus climate, a luncheon celebrating the 15th Anniversary of the Black Cultural Center, and the Overton R. Johnson Step Show. The weekend concluded with a banquet, featuring a video of Black alumni reminiscing about their Virginia Tech experiences.

The Alumni Relations staff provided staff support of all eight academic colleges, Multicultural Alumni Programs, and the Corps of Cadets.

International Programs for Alumni

The “Hokies Abroad” program, a cooperative effort between the offices of International Programs, Undergraduate Admissions and Alumni Relations, seeks to involve traveling members of the Virginia Tech faculty and administration with university alumni and prospective students who reside abroad. The Alumni Association co-sponsored receptions for international graduates in the fall and spring semesters. A special June event for European alumni was held in London, hosted by Microsoft, in honor of the April 16 tragedy, and attended by several British and American dignitaries.

Alumni Records



Responsibility for maintaining biographical records increased to more than 197,000 records. Through returned USPS mail, email, phone calls and alumni visits to Alumni Hall, the Association received and updated over 70,000 records. Mailing labels and alumni rosters were supplied as a service to colleges, departments, and student organizations throughout the year.

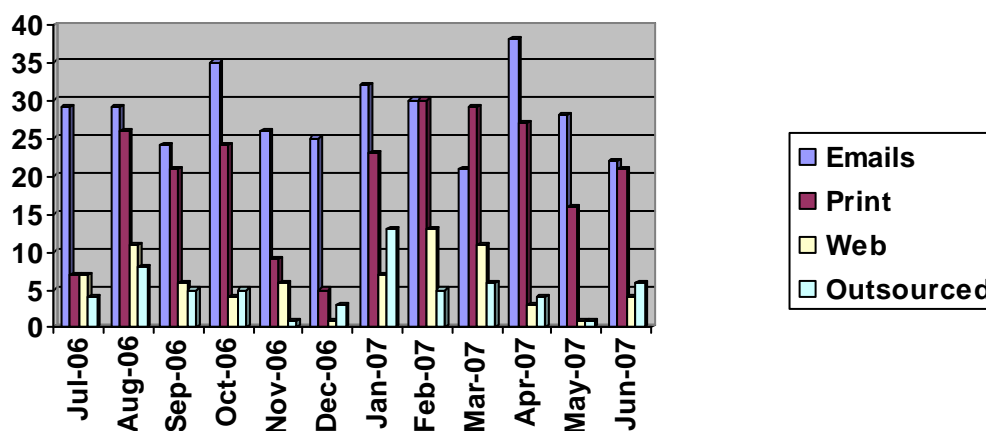
The Alumni Association staff continued its work with the Banner database system to facilitate the recording of additional data and provide for more flexible reporting.

Communications

The Alumni Association’s portal page at www.alumni.vt.edu continues to offer a number of features to welcome and serve alumni. The Alumni Gateway is a password-protected feature and offers access to several university services and informational features, such as accessing alumni record profiles to make updates and additions online, exploring the VTAlumnNet Website for free online educational programs (or “knowledge units”) or a variety of other courses for a fee. Another feature offers registration for class reunions and special programs online, including lodging reservations and reserving football tickets. This gateway helps alumni maintain a closer relationship with those aspects of the university in which they have an interest or may choose to learn more.

Also available to alumni is an online directory, accessed through the Alumni Gateway portal, with search capabilities by name, class year, zip code, city and state.

The Association published and mailed two issues of the *Alma Mater* to all alumni, and an Alumni Travel magazine which was mailed to approximately 25,000 alumni. Other publications included reunion registration invitations, the Class of ’56 *Reunion Bugle*, Handbook for Alumni Volunteers (available on-line), Board of Directors Manual, materials for Ring Dance, invitations for the Student Recognition Banquet, announcements for university events and receptions, and newsletters and event publicity for alumni chapters. Total chapter and event mailings were approximately 723,000 pieces of mail and nearly 400 emails were sent to chapters and constituency groups informing them of upcoming events. Also, news and class notes information were provided for inclusion in the *Virginia Tech Magazine*.



Student Programs



Student programs complemented the mission of Alumni Relations by helping instill a sense of loyalty and pride in students who are soon to become members of the Alumni Association. The Class Officer and Student Alumni Associates (SAA) are two active and respected organizations. They foster special traditions designed to bond students more closely with the university.

During the freshman year, Class Officers are elected to serve lifetime terms and are responsible for promoting and preserving class traditions. Highlights of events for the Classes of '07, '08, '09, and '10 were:

- Election of officers for the Class of 2010
- Class of 2010 Officer Luncheon
- Committee selection and ring design for the Class of 2009
- Class of 2009 Officer Dinner
- Ring Premiere and Ring Dance for the Class of 2008
- Class Officer Picnic
- Senior Celebration for the Class of 2007

The Class of 2008 held a Kickoff Concert and Pep Rally in September and to help advertise their Ring Premiere, handed out t-shirts and other giveaways at the Class of 2008 Day at the Homecoming football game. Class of 2007 held a Senior Celebration before Commencement in May. Class officer elections continue to generate high voter turnout with the online balloting process.

SAA members assisted with registration for alumni reunions and other programs, helping greet alumni and other visitors to the campus. Through the SAA, current students are introduced to the Alumni Association and to various opportunities to serve after graduation. SAA was instrumental in communicating the importance of the Hokies Respect initiative on campus and also assisted with planning of the Scholarship Brunch and other programs associated with the Students Today, Alumni Tomorrow (STAT) initiative. SAA membership includes Class Officers and other student ambassadors. The SAA presented several sessions at the Association of Student Advancement Programs District Conference.

Highlights of SAA activities during the year included:

- Alumni Reunion Registrations
- Hokie Hi! – Welcome Back Picnic
- Student Organizations Showcase
- SAA Retreat (Fall and Winter)
- Fall Home Game Pep Rallies – with spirit item giveaways
- Ghost Tour of Virginia Tech
- Assistance with Old Guard Reunion and Career Fairs
- Participation in the Blacksburg Christmas Parade
- “Seniors Movin’ On” Program
- Faculty Appreciation Day

Alumni and Conference Center



The Holtzman Alumni Center and Skelton Conference Center opened in 2005, and is a beautiful addition to the campus. The Alumni Center continues to be visited by alumni throughout the year, especially during busy fall reunion weekends. The Alumni Gallery provides space for receptions and events and features rotating art exhibits by alumni and other local artists. The Alumni

Museum has display cases and wall hangings of historical memorabilia that exhibits the story of the university's evolution. An Alumni Library has a collection of alumni and university publications, plus volumes written by Tech alumni. The Alumni Relations staff offices are on the top floor of the Center.

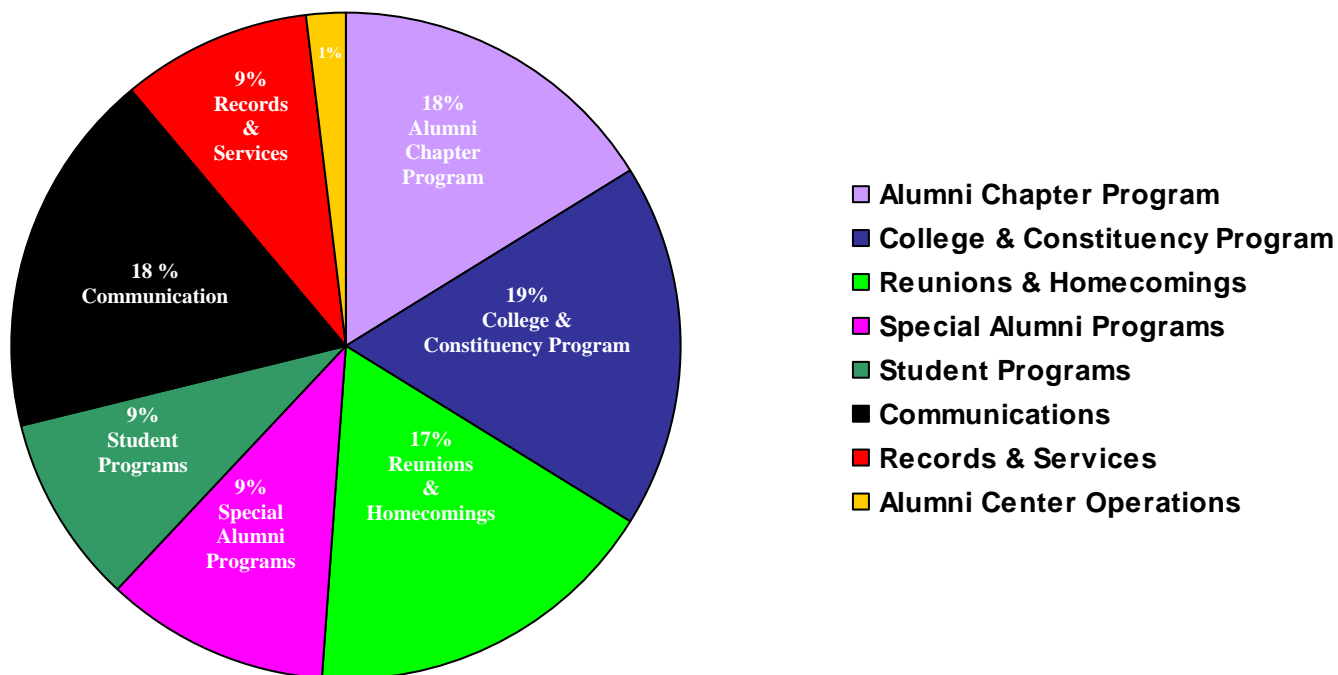
Financial Summary

The staff, programs and services of Alumni Relations were supported with income from seven private sources (no state funds are available for administering alumni programs):

Sources of Income

- Virginia Tech Foundation support (40%)
- Affinity Credit Card royalties (27%)
- Merchandising/Tours royalties (6%)
- Alumni Gifts (1%)
- Reunions and Special Programs income (12%)
- Endowment Income (8%)
- Alumni Directory (1%)
- Revenue carry-forward (5%)

Expenditures by Program Area



Revenue totals for the fiscal year were \$2,692,726 and expenditure totals were \$2,692,726. An agency endowment for the Alumni Association managed by the university's Foundation was valued at \$4,635,461 as of June 30, 2007. Another smaller endowment was valued at \$660,182. Considerable income was generated by the affinity Visa card program. Other programs including on-line banking, an auto and home insurance affinity, home loan program, student loan consolidation program, health insurance program, watches, diploma frames, jewelry and chairs, were revenue producers. Some 161 alumni and friends participated in 14 different tours abroad offered by the Association, providing additional income. Reunion and other alumni programs resulted in positive revenue over expense totals for the year.

Activities Related to April 16



As the events of April 16 unfolded, the Alumni Association offered the Holtzman Alumni Center as the designated media headquarters. Hundreds of media quickly descended on campus; several Alumni staff volunteered for all-night coverage and assisted the media with their myriad of requests, from space needs to requests for photocopies, to providing coffee in the early morning hours.

Over 55 alumni chapters held memorial services and/or candlelight vigils in the subsequent weeks and collectively raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to benefit the Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund.

Tom Tillar was appointed by President Steger to create and chair the permanent memorial committee. The 18 committee members were identified and began meeting within two weeks and submitted their proposal by early June. Construction continued for the following two months and the formal dedication of the completed memorial was held on August 19.

Debbie Day on the alumni staff was on temporary assignment to the Provost's Office during the summer to assist the family liaisons and coordinate a transition to the staff of the Office of Recovery and Support.

At its spring meeting, the Alumni Board of Directors passed several Resolutions of Appreciation in recognition of: President Charles Steger for his leadership; the victims and their families; the Virginia Tech student body for the manner in which they represented themselves and Virginia Tech; the many volunteer agencies who mobilized their efforts and personnel in response to the emergency; and the law enforcement, rescue squad volunteers and medical personnel who came to the aid of the victims, the families and the entire Virginia Tech community.

Collaboration with Other Campus Departments



The Alumni Staff often collaborated with various units and departments on programs serving alumni. These included:

Undergraduate Admissions
University Development
University Relations
Student Affairs
Career Services
Athletics and Athletic Fund
Government Relations
Continuing Education
International Programs
Virginia Tech Richmond Office
Virginia Tech Roanoke Center

President's Office
Provost's Office
Corps of Cadets
Northern Virginia Center
Graduate School
Honors Program
Academic Colleges & Departments
Multicultural Affairs
Southwest Virginia Higher Ed Center
University Outreach
Dean of Students

Current Alumni Relations Staff

- Thomas C. Tillar, Jr., *Vice President for Alumni Relations*
- Samuel V. Albimino, *Associate Vice President for Alumni Relations*
- Carolyn Bain, *Assistant Director* (College of Engineering)
- John Borman, *Print and Mail Room Manager*
- Jebbie Crowe, *Alumni Chapter Support**
- Sharon Croy, *Alumni Records*
- Deborah A. Day, *Associate Vice President for Alumni Relations*
- Karen Denny, *Fiscal Technician*
- Greg Fansler, *Assistant Director of Alumni Relations*
- Shirley Fleet, *Executive Secretary Senior*
- Patricia B. Foutz, *Alumni Coordinator** (College of Natural Resources & Chapters)
- Cathy Gellis, *Reunion Support and Gift Acknowledgements*
- Bonnie Gilbert, *Assistant Director* (Pamplin College of Business)
- Ruth Graves, *Alumni Records*
- Carol Green, *Reunions and Constituency Programs*
- Lea Hamblin, *Special Events Planner*
- Gwen Harrington, *Alumni Travel/Student Programs Coordinator*
- John R. Hutcheson III, *Director, National Capital Alumni Programs*
(Northern Virginia Graduate Center)
- Robin Jackson, *Assistant Director* (College of Science)
- Cathy Lally, *Assistant to the Vice President*
- Elizabeth D. Lee, *Alumni Chapter Coordinator**
- Jamie Lucero, *Assistant Director* (College of Agriculture and Life Sciences)
- Vijay Mallikarjunan, *Technical Services Manager*
- Lynnette Redd, *Director of Multicultural Alumni Programs*
- Richard “Rock” Roszak, *Associate Director for Corps Alumni**
- Jessica Roudabush, *Assistant Communications Director*
- Greg Sagstetter, *Assistant Director of Alumni Relations*
- Laura Snelgrove, *Receptionist**
- Vaughan Twigger, *Postal and Building Assistant**
- Melissa Vidmar, *Communications Director*
- Laura Wedin, *Alumni/Student Programs Manager*
- Kellie Wells, *Assistant Director* (College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences)
- Jan Wilson, *Assistant Director* (College of Architecture and Urban Studies)
- Lynn Young, *Assistant Director** (College of Veterinary Medicine)

**Part-time in Alumni Relations or a shared position with another university department*

Alumni Association Board of Directors

Officers for 2006-2007

- E. Ann Spencer '76, '84 *President*
- J. Thomas Carter '81, '83 *President-Elect*
- David E. Lowe '63 *Vice President*
- Thomas C. Tillar, Jr. '69 *Secretary-Treasurer*
- James E. Smith '66 *Immediate Past-President*

Directors for 2006-2007

- Ronald E. Ball '70
- Jeanne C. DaDamio '75, '76
- Peter S. Darby '90
- Ryan M. Esleeck '97
- Douglas R. Fahl '65
- Elizabeth A. Flanagan
- Douglas S. Graham '94, '98
- Harry N. Gustin '43*
- Joseph M. Harris '68
- Dwight A. Holland '86, '91, '01
- Wayland E. Hundley '84
- Gene A. James '53*
- Gregory B. Jones '77
- William C. Latham '55*
- Mark S. Lawrence '80
- Kevin W. Leclair '95
- Elizabeth L. Leonard '80
- Drew Lichtenbrger '00
- James L. Mahon '73
- Cecil R. Maxson, Jr. '52
- Roberta M. Minish '77
- Thomas W. Moss, Jr. '50*
- Kevin W. Mottley '93
- Coleman G. Rector '86
- Curry A. Roberts '80
- Wayne H. Robinson '80
- J. Thomas Ryan '68
- William E. Skelton '40*
- Brian Slingerland '00
- Melissa Smarr '00
- Charles W. Steger '69
- Jean S. Swartz '86
- G.T. Ward '49*
- John C. Watkins '69

**Lifetime Honorary Member*