



The Year's Highlights in Alumni Relations:

- Events for alumni, ranging from traditional alumni chapters to on-campus homecomings and reunions totaled approximately 650 separate events.
- 143 alumni chapter scholarships totaling \$144,900 were awarded to incoming freshmen.
- The Student Involvement Initiative was introduced to facilitate connections between students and alumni.
- E. Scott Geller and Ezra “Bud” Brown were named Alumni Distinguished Professors, bringing the number to 11 standing appointments.
- The first Annual Graduate School Homecoming was held with over 100 participants.
- The Northern Virginia and Maryland National Capital Chapters were merged to create the National Capital Region Chapter.
- The first Humanitarian Award was awarded to Tom Bagamane '83, founder of *The Giving Spirit*, a volunteer organization dedicated to helping the homeless of Los Angeles.
- The Principles of Community were endorsed by the Alumni Board of Directors on behalf of all alumni and signed by the Board president along with other university representatives.
- A record 26 Alumni Chapters received Outstanding Chapter Awards at the Fall Officers Forum and Awards Program.
- The Class of 2006 *Paul E. Torgersen Ring Collection* was featured at the October Ring Premiere and March Ring Dance.
- A new Outstanding Chapter Volunteer Award, recognizing a chapter volunteer for outstanding service to their chapter, was presented at the Fall Officers Forum.
- An on-line directory was launched for alumni, and they were encouraged to continue use of their vt.edu email PID.

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 \$450,000. 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 of \$1,000 which recognize teaching and service were awarded at the spring Graduate Student Awards dinner. Three 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 for the first time to Tom Bagamane '83, founder of *The Giving Spirit*, a volunteer organization dedicated to helping the homeless of Los Angeles.

Awards and scholarship presented in 2004-2005

- Alumni Chapter Scholarships (143 scholarships)
- Alumni Distinguished Professorships (11 continuing appointments)
- Alumni Honors Scholarships (varies)
- Excellence Awards for teaching, research, extension, service, academic advising, outreach, and international programs (15 awards)
- Outstanding Alumni Chapter Awards (26 with \$500 scholarship awards)
- Outstanding Alumni Chapter Officer (1 recognition)
- Outstanding Chapter Volunteer (1 recognition)
- Outstanding Graduate Alumni Award (1 recognition)
- Outstanding Young Alumni Awards (8 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 and a reception for Virginia's senators and representatives in Congress was held on Capitol Hill (jointly with Virginia Commonwealth University), which included the Northern Virginia alumni business community. The 7th Annual "Hokie Day at the General Assembly" was a successful event with 75 representatives from 16 chapters and 13 students visiting legislators in Richmond during the 2005 session. Additionally, Hokies for Higher Education newsletters and legislative updates were mailed on a periodic basis.

Alumni were asked to provide support for the Restructuring Initiative legislation, which will provide the university greater control in managing its financial and administrative operations.

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 72 chapter volunteers and Alumni Board members representing 37 chapters. Twenty-six chapters received Outstanding Chapter Awards, receiving \$500 toward each of their student scholarship funds. Chapter superlative awards acknowledged excellence in six areas – Outstanding Community Service, Outstanding Event, Outstanding Fundraising Event, Outstanding Golf Tournament, Outstanding New Member Plan, and Outstanding Web Site. Achievement Awards were presented to 14 chapters. Additional awards highlighted the Most Improved Chapter, Best Chapter Scrapbook, Outstanding Chapter Officer and a new award for the Outstanding Chapter Volunteer.

The number of alumni chapters or program areas throughout the nation and internationally reached 114 (32 in-state, 72 out-of-state, and 10 abroad in Australia, Hong Kong, Lebanon, London, Malaysia, Nicaragua, 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 58 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. Fifty-one chapters awarded a total of 143 scholarships totaling \$144,900 to freshmen from their local chapter areas. Chapters were established or reactivated in Albuquerque, New Mexico; Charleston, South Carolina; Fayetteville, Arkansas; Franklin County, Virginia; Piedmont Region (Virginia); Savannah, Georgia; Starkville, Mississippi; and Wyoming (Greater Yellowstone Region).

A new Student Involvement Initiative was introduced to facilitate connections between students and alumni and offer programming to involve current students and keep them involved after graduation. Programs included a brunch for current scholarship students and a tailgate prior to the Spring football game, which included representation from several chapter areas.

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. Volunteer information update requests were conducted and updates to the system were completed. The program was featured in college newsletters and linked on college websites. A more accessible user login procedure was instituted as well. Alumni volunteer mentors and participants served during the past year included:

- 1,385 active alumni volunteers
- 1,420 total number of users – students and alumni
- 8,942 total online searches by students and alumni

Other services available to alumni include eRecruiting, an on-line system which enables alumni to publish a resume and apply for jobs; CareerSearch – a database of organizations by industry; and on campus or telephone advising appointments. The National Capital Region Alumni Chapter sponsored the 14th Annual Job Fair in March. Approximately 48 companies were represented and 200 candidates. Career and personal counseling services are available to students and alumni at the Northern Virginia Center, conducted by graduate students.

ExecuPlanet, an out-sourced, fee-based service firm provides professional career services to Virginia Tech alumni. With 150 offices throughout the United States, alumni have access to monthly job search workshops in most major cities. ExecuPlanet had 913 alumni registered on the CareerTools site, and several alumni participated in career service seminars.

Special Alumni Programs

The Alumni Association, in conjunction with the Division of Continuing Education, hosted its 14th Annual Civil War Weekend in March. A total of 298 registrants attended. Featured speakers included: James I. Robertson, Jr., Alumni Distinguished Professor of History; William C. Davis, Director for the university's Virginia Center for Civil War Studies; Bobby Horton, a musician and producer of Civil War music; J. Holt Merchant, chairman of the history department at Washington and Lee University; John V. Quarstein, Administrator of Historic Services at the Virginia War Museum; Emory M. Thomas, professor emeritus at the University of Georgia; and Peter R. Wallenstein, Professor of History at Virginia Tech. Participants enjoyed informative lectures, book sales and signings, and a concert featuring Civil War music.



Alumni Reunions and Homecomings



In the fall, the Alumni Association enjoyed a successful reunion season. Over 2,650 alumni attended six class reunions, seven college homecomings, a Corps of Cadets Reunion, the Graduate School Homecoming, and a 20th anniversary reunion for Order of the Gavel members. 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 '54 was inducted into the Old Guard. The class raised \$377, 236.61 for their anniversary gift which was designated for endowed scholarships for the University Honors program and the Corps of Cadets and for the Library in the new Alumni Center. College Homecomings were held on home game weekends for all eight colleges. 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 Graduate School held its first homecoming with over 100 alumni in attendance.

Spring reunions were held for several constituencies including the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, International Students and Scholars and the College of Veterinary Medicine's 25th Anniversary Celebration.

In the spring, the Old Guard held its annual reunion, which was attended by members of the classes of '29 through '54. Highlights of the reunion included: a presentation from Tom Tillar, Vice President for Alumni Relations, featuring the new Holtzman Alumni Center, Skelton Conference Center and The Inn at Virginia Tech, and tours of the Virginia Bioinformatics Institute and the new athletic training facility. Participants were served a picnic lunch in the Bowman Room in the Jamerson Athletic Center. A reunion

banquet with music and dancing was held and the reunion concluded with presentations by representatives from the Honors Program, Department of Athletics, the Corps of Cadets and the Cranwell International Center at a brunch.

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.

The second International Student Reunion was held in the spring in conjunction with International Week with over 50 alumni in attendance.

Alumni Records

Responsibility for maintaining biographical records increased to more than 185,000 records. Through returned USPS mail, email, phone calls and alumni visits to Alumni Hall, the Association received and updated over 60,000 records. Mailing labels and alumni rosters were supplied as a service to colleges, departments, and student organizations throughout the year.



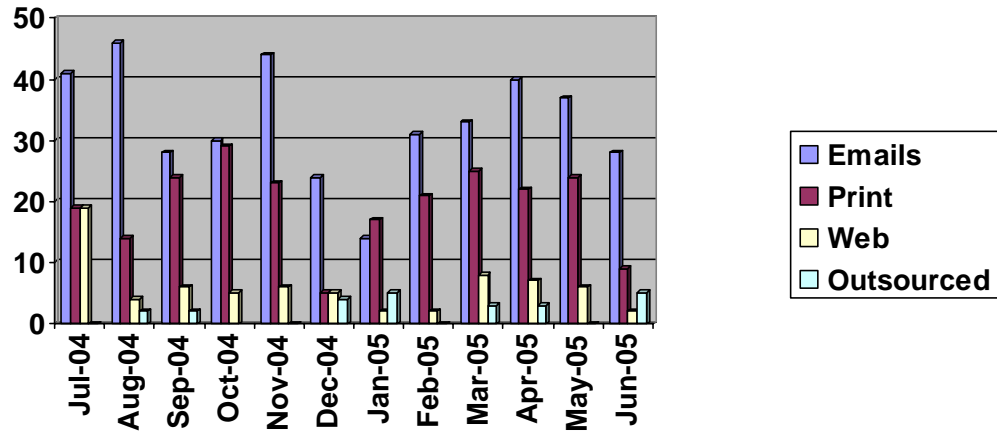
The Alumni Association staff continued its work with the Banner database system to facilitate the recording of additional data and provide for more flexible reporting.

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 and city and state.

The Association published and mailed two issues of the *Alma Mater* (former *Alumni Association News*) to all alumni. Other publications included reunion registration invitations, the Class of '54 *Reunion Bugle*, Handbook for Alumni Volunteers (available on CD-Rom), Board of Directors Manual, announcements for university events and receptions, and newsletters and event publicity for alumni chapters. Total program mailings were approximately 680,000 pieces of mail and approximately 560 emails were sent to chapters and constituency groups informing them of upcoming events, an increase of over 35 percent over the previous year (see chart below). 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 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 '05, '06, '07, and '08 were:

- Election of officers for the Class of 2008
- Class of 2008 Officer Luncheon
- Committee selection and ring design for the Class of 2007
- Class of 2007 Officer Dinner
- Ring Premiere and Ring Dance for the Class of 2006
- Senior Celebration for the Class of 2005
- Joint Class Holiday Dinner

The Class of 2006 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

2006 Day at the Homecoming football game. Class of 2005 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 assisted with planning of the Scholarship Brunch and Spring Tailgate, programs associated with the Student Involvement Initiative. SAA membership includes Class Officers and other student ambassadors. Highlights of SAA activities during the year included:

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

The SAA presented several sessions at the Association of Student Advancement Programs District Conference including a Pep Rally, Essential Europe Presentation, Student Involvement Initiative and the Class Ring Tradition.

Principles of Community

The Alumni Association was pleased to be invited to endorse the Principles of Community advanced to the Board of Visitors for adoption as a statement of the values of inclusion of all who are represented in the Virginia Tech family. The Alumni Association is committed to inclusion and, as such, will demonstrate commitment through its programs for alumni, friends, faculty, staff and students.

Alumni and Conference Center



Construction on the new Alumni and Conference Center neared completion. The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center scheduled a July 2005 opening with the Holtzman Alumni Center expected completion in September. A dedication weekend for the Center was scheduled for October, 2005.

Financial Summary

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

- Virginia Tech Foundation support (44%)
- Affinity Credit Card royalties (31%)
- Merchandising/Tours royalties (8%)
- Alumni Gifts (2%)
- Reunions and Special Programs income (11%)
- Endowment Income (4%)

Revenue totals for the fiscal year were \$2,421,236 and expenditure totals were \$2,233,237. An agency endowment for the Alumni Association managed by the university's Foundation was valued at \$3,949,400 as of June 30, 2005.

Considerable income was generated by the affinity Visa card program. Other programs including an auto and home insurance affinity, home loan program, student loan consolidation program, health insurance program, watches, campus scene prints, diploma frames, jewelry and chairs, were revenue producers. Some 228 alumni and friends participated in 16 different tours abroad offered by the Association, providing additional income. Reunion and other alumni programs resulted in a modest net profit over expenses for the year.

Collaboration with Other Campus Departments

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

Undergraduate Admissions	President's Office
University Development	Provost's Office
University Relations	Corps of Cadets
Student Affairs	Northern Virginia Center
Career Services	Graduate School
Athletics and Athletic Fund	Honors Program
Government Relations	Academic Colleges & Departments
Continuing Education	Multicultural Affairs
International Programs	Southwest Virginia Higher Ed Center
Virginia Tech Richmond Office	University Outreach
Virginia Tech Roanoke Center	

Current Alumni Relations Staff

- Thomas C. Tillar, Jr., *Vice President for Alumni Relations*
- Marybeth Abramson, *Receptionist**
- John Borman, *Print and Mail Room Manager*
- Sharon Croy, *Alumni Records*
- Deborah A. Day, *Associate Vice President for Alumni Relations*
- Karen Denny, *Fiscal Technician*
- Shirley Fleet, *Executive Secretary Senior*
- Patricia B. Foutz, *Alumni Coordinator** (College of Natural Resources & Chapters)
- Cathy Gellis, *Alumni Records and Reunion Support*
- Ruth Graves, *Alumni Records*
- Carol Green, *Reunions and Constituency Programs*
- J. Andrew Hall, *Interim Assistant Vice President for Alumni Relations*
- John R. Hutcheson III, *Associate Director* (Northern Virginia Graduate Center)
- Robin Jackson, *Assistant Director* (College of Science)
- Debbie Jenkins, *Technical Services Manager*
- Cathy Lally, *Assistant to the Vice President*
- Elizabeth D. Lee, *Alumni Chapter Coordinator**
- Jamie Lucero, *Assistant Director* (College of Agriculture and Life Sciences)
- Jen MacDonald, *Student Programs Coordinator*
- Taris Mullins, *Coordinator of Alumni and Community Relations*
- Richard S. Roszak, *Associate Director for Corps Alumni**
- Laura Snelgrove, *Receptionist**
- Linda Stroh, *Director* (College of Engineering)
- Kellie Trail, *Assistant Director* (College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences)
- Douglas Tschetter, *Assistant Publications Manager*
- Seth Tuttle, *Assistant Director*
- Vaughan Twigger, *Postal and Building Assistant**
- Melissa Vidmar, *Publications Manager*
- Amanda Walters, *Chapters/Reunion Support*
- Laura Wedin, *Students Programs Assistant/Alumni Travel Coordinator*
- 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 2004-2005

- Kimble Reynolds, Jr. '88 *President*
- James E. Smith '66 *President-Elect*
- E. Ann Spencer '76 *Vice President*
- Thomas C. Tillar, Jr. '69 *Secretary-Treasurer*
- Paul M. Saunders '54 *Immediate Past-President*

Directors for 2004-2005

- Ronald E. Ball '70
- Scott C. Cappiello '94
- J. Thomas Carter '81
- Peter S. Darby '90
- 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*
- Kevin W. Leclaire '95
- Elizabeth L. Leonard '80
- Drew Lichtenbrger '00
- David E. Lowe '63
- Susan L. Lucas '77
- James L. Mahon '73
- Cecil R. Maxson, Jr. '52
- Roberta M. Minish '77
- Thomas W. Moss, Jr. '50*
- Kevin W. Mottley '93
- Melissa B. Nelson '92
- Coleman G. Rector '86
- 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
- Lee C. Tait '41*
- Nicholas P. Valdrighi '57
- G.T. Ward '49*
- John C. Watkins '69

**Lifetime Honorary Member*