



September 2013

Chapter Team

[Josh Burnheimer](#)

[Debbie Day](#)

[Greg Fansler](#)

[Patty Foutz](#)

[Kelly Griffin](#)

[Jack Hutcheson](#)

[Jordan McCauley](#)

[Ginny Ritenour](#)

[Betty Lee Robertson](#)

Don't Forget

You are REQUIRED to have a Virginia Tech PID (vt.edu email address) to access the Chapter Forms database.

The Chapter Newsletter is a communications tool between the Virginia Tech Alumni Association and its chapters.

If you have any comments or suggestions, please send them to your chapter liaison. If you have problems viewing the newsletter, please contact [Ginny Ritenour](#), Chapter Program Coordinator.

Dear Chapter Volunteers,

We had an excellent turnout for our Chapter Officers Forum earlier this month, with 82 participants from 37 chapters. The chapter volunteers represented chapters from all over the country; those who traveled the longest furthest were from San Diego and Seattle! Thank you to all who attended. We were also honored to have several National Alumni Association Board Members with us:

- Bill Aden from the New River Valley Chapter
- Marvin Boyd from the National Capital Region Chapter
- Kendley Davenport from the Chicago Chapter
- Lisa Carter Ellison from the Chicago Chapter
- Jean Montague from the New River Valley & Richmond Chapters
- Carole Pratt from the New River Valley Chapter
- Glenn Reynolds from the New River Valley Chapter
- Judy Springer from the First State Chapter
- Karen Torgersen from the Research Triangle Chapter
- Jim Wade from the Roanoke Valley Chapter
- Erich Windmuller from the National Capital Region Chapter
- Matt Winston from the Athens, GA Chapter

We presented 44 Outstanding Chapter Awards and 7 Superlative Awards to deserving chapters around the country. All of the award winners are listed below.

In one of the highlights of the weekend, more than 50 scholarship students joined us for an *Ut Prosim* community service breakfast, where we were treated to a presentation on Actively Caring for People with [Justin Graves](#).

The holidays are quickly approaching; you should have your holiday party and bowl watching party scheduled and on the print schedule. If you do not, please complete your [mail/email](#) request by October 21.

As always, we appreciate all you do to keep the Hokie Nation connected.

Associate Vice President for Alumni Relations

2013 Chapter Officers Forum Highlights

Our annual fall Chapter Officers Forum took place September 5-7, 2013 at the Holtzman Alumni Center.

Our agenda was centered around our theme of “Broadening Alumni Engagement” and we had many enlightening discussions regarding chapter engagement. We kicked off the weekend on Thursday with a tour of the new Center for the Arts and opened Friday with an Admissions Update from Kelly Rawlings, Associate Director of Undergraduate Admissions. Patty Perillo, Vice President for Student Affairs, presented “Engagement is Essential for Student Affairs,” prompting a discussion about alumni involvement with current students and ways that chapters may become more involved in campus programs. We also enjoyed the opportunity to provide feedback to the Presidential Search Committee and shared ideas for best practices.

We have posted materials from the Forum on our [Chapter Resources webpage](#) and encourage you to look over them and share them with your chapter volunteers. There are also pictures from the weekend posted on our [Flickr site](#). Please contact your chapter liaison or [Ginny Ritenour](#) if you have any questions regarding this information.

The highlight of this event is always our Friday night Chapter Awards Banquet and this year’s was no exception. Following the presentation of awards, we enjoyed our “Favorite Dishes From the Grove” themed buffet in honor of Dr. and Mrs. Steger, and spent time mingling with university administrators and other guests.

On Saturday morning, we concluded the weekend with a community service breakfast with chapter scholarship recipients that included a presentation from [Justin Graves](#) and an SAA spirit rally.



Chapter officers get a behind-the-scenes look at the new Virginia Tech Center for the Arts



Exploring the lobby of the new Center for the Arts in renovated Shultz Hall



Enjoying gelato in the new Turner Place Dining Hall in Lavery Hall following the tour



Charles Steger, University President, welcomes chapter officers and university administration to the 2013 Annual Meeting and Chapter Awards Presentation in Latham Ballroom at the Inn at Virginia Tech



Gold Level Outstanding Chapter Award Winners with Tom Tillar, Vice President for Alumni Relations, Charles Steger, University President, and Matt Winston, President, Alumni Association National Board of Directors



Barry '79 and Nancy Grizzard, Emporia-Roanoke Rapids Chapter



Meghan Neel '11, Minnesota Chapter, and Ed Wyks '69, The Villages Chapter



Erin Machaj '08, Seattle Chapter, with Laura '76 and David Noel, Fredericksburg Chapter



Rochelle Ko '09 and Alex Gray, National Capital Region Chapter

Chapter Awards Announced at Chapter Officers Forum

Outstanding Chapter Awards

BRONZE

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

SILVER

First State
Kentuckiana
Minnesota
NC Triad
Shenandoah

GOLD

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

Chapter Superlative Awards

Outstanding Chapter Event:

Denver Chapter, Inaugural Denver Hokie Ski Day at A-Basin

Outstanding Chapter Community Service Project:

Denver Chapter, Hokies Adopt a Denver Family at Christmas

Outstanding Chapter Golf Tournament:

Grand Strand/Myrtle Beach Chapter, 2013 Virginia Tech Myrtle Beach Golf Tournament

Innovation Award:

Baltimore Chapter, VTea with Random House

Broadening Alumni Engagement Award:

New River Valley Chapter, "Behind the Scenes" Campus Tours

Most Improved Chapter:

Seattle Chapter

Outstanding New Chapter:

Charlottesville Chapter

Outstanding Chapter Volunteer:

Doug Ewell '80, Shenandoah Chapter

Outstanding Chapter Officer:

Rachael Spruill '09, San Diego Chapter



Silver Level Outstanding Chapter Award Winners with Tom Tillar, Vice President for Alumni Relations, Charles Steger, University President, and Matt Winston, President, Alumni Association National Board of Directors



Bronze Level Outstanding Chapter Award Winners with Tom Tillar, Vice President for Alumni Relations, Charles Steger, University President, and Matt Winston, President, Alumni Association National Board of Directors

Community Service Highlight: Denver Chapter, Hokies Adopt a Denver Family at Christmas



Denver Chapter alumni gather at the home of Debbie and Ernie Flippo to organize and wrap gifts for their adopted local family at Christmas

For the month of December 2012, the Denver Hokies participated in the Denver Rescue Mission Adopt a Family Program. This program requires the family to be nominated by someone else in the community. The chapter's adopted family had five members: mother, father, Javier (12 years old), Isidro (3 years old), Arely (2 years old). According to Javier's teacher, he is an excellent student and she was happy to nominate them for the program.

The chapter was thrilled with their family selection and was given a wish list for the entire family as coordinated through the Denver Rescue Mission. This wish list included "necessity items" and "gift items". Necessity items included new bed sheets, winter coats, shoes, jeans, etc. Gift items included a Pittsburgh Steelers jersey, Harry Potter Books and DVDs, dolls, coloring books, etc. The chapter received an outpouring of donations that included food, toys, clothes, gift cards and household items. Everything on the wish list was accounted for and then some!

At the chapter's annual Christmas potluck, alumni collected all the items, wrapped and tagged everything and created stockings for the kids that included toiletries, vitamins, small toys and candy. Chapter leaders then drove to the family's house and delivered the gifts and all the food. The family was so amazed with the amount of items that, not even an hour later, they received an email from the teacher thanking them and letting them know she is grateful that there are still people and organizations that care so much. The following month the chapter received not one but three thank you cards expressing the family's gratitude.

The Denver Hokies are planning to make this an annual community service program and to extend their reach to at least two families during the 2013 Holiday season.

The chapter used their local email list and Denver Hokies Facebook page to promote the project and seek donations; it was also promoted at the last two Hokies football watching parties.

Due to the unique nature of this project and its impressive results, the Virginia Tech Alumni Association was pleased to present the Denver Chapter with the Outstanding Community Service Project Award at this year's Chapter Officers Forum.



Lance Altizer Jr. '15 and Tory Cottle '15, Denver Chapter with Tom Tillar, Vice President for Alumni Relations, Charles Steger, University President, and Matt Winston, President, Alumni Association National Board of Directors

Chapter Volunteer Highlight: Outstanding Chapter Officer Rachael Spruill, San Diego Chapter

Rachael Spruill '09 grew up in San Diego and took a college tour with her father down the east coast in November of 2003; they stopped at Virginia Tech to earn "brownie points" with her mother, Rae Watts Spruill '81. As she toured campus she said, "Why hasn't anyone told me about this place? I have to go here!" and the rest is history.

Rachael was the recipient of the San Diego Chapter scholarship her freshman year and spent five years in Blacksburg, earning her BA in English in 2009. After graduation, she returned to San Diego and the west coast weather she loved.



Rachael Spruill, President, and fellow San Diego Chapter officers welcome Jim Wightman, former Alumni Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, for the chapter's "Beer Appreciation Day"

After being home for a year and missing the camaraderie of fellow Hokies, Rachael contacted San Diego Chapter then-president Vickie Burke '88 and attended some game watching parties and other events. After serving for several years, Vickie was soon ready to pass the torch and Rachael took over as chapter president in 2010.

Working with Patty Foutz, her chapter liaison, Rachael began to plan a variety of events to appeal to a broader group of alumni, including game watching parties, all-ACC barbecues, alumni socials, wine tastings, and speaker events. Under Rachael's leadership the San Diego Chapter earned the "Most Improved Chapter" superlative award at the 2011 Chapter Officers Forum and awarded their first chapter scholarship that fall. They have earned Outstanding Chapter status in the past two years and are going strong.

Rachael is quick to recognize the support of her chapter volunteers; she says their help, patience, and positive outlook on the potential of their chapter have all served to generate growth and interest from local alumni and attendance at chapter events around the area. They have another busy year planned, with football game watching parties already in progress at the local Hokie-owned Bub's Dive Bar!



Rachael accepts the Outstanding Chapter Officer Award, presented by Tom Tillar, Vice President for Alumni Relations, Charles Steger, University President, and Matt Winston, President, Alumni Association National Board of Directors

The Outstanding Chapter Officer is nominated and selected by the chapter liaisons. Please join the Virginia Tech Alumni Association in congratulating Rachael!

Communications Corner: September 2013

From [Dave Hunt](#), [Denise Royal](#), and [John Borman](#)

Football Away Game Tailgates and Chapter Game Watching Parties

Be sure to check out our detailed list of football away game tailgates and chapter game watching parties [on our website](#). If you would like to have information added for your chapter, please contact [Ginny Ritenour](#) with the details.

Make Plans Now to Announce Your Holiday Event

Football season has just begun, but it's already time to start thinking about your holiday party. If you plan to have a postcard sent out, **the Alumni Association will need your print request no later than 5 PM on Monday, October 21**. [Email templates](#) will continue to go out within five business days.

Holiday Schedule for Emails

Submissions received after 5 PM, Tuesday, November 19 will not be processed and sent until the week of December 2. In December, submissions received after 5 PM, Tuesday, December 17 will not be processed and sent until the week of January 6.

Send Us Your Chapter Logo

In preparation for upcoming improvements to our email templates, we are collecting chapter logos. Please send the highest quality version of your logo to [Denise Royal](#).

Communications Deadlines

October 21 - Deadline for Holiday Party printed mailer requests

November 19 (5 PM) - Deadline for email requests for ACC Championship Watching Parties and Events

December 17 (5 PM) - Deadline for email requests for Bowl Watching Parties and Events

Dates to Remember:

- October: Watch for information on scholarship application updates to begin the 2014 process
- October 4-5: [Homecoming Weekend](#)
Virginia Tech vs. North Carolina
[Alumni Association Homecoming Tailgate](#)
[Class of 1963 50th Anniversary](#)
- October 11-12: Virginia Tech vs. Pittsburgh
[Class of 1983 30th Anniversary](#)
- October 25-26: Virginia Tech vs. Duke
[Class of 1973 40th Anniversary](#)
[Class of 1978 35th Anniversary](#)
- November 15: Updated scholarship applications and letters due to our office
- November 15-16: Virginia Tech vs. Maryland
[Class of 1968 45th Anniversary](#)
- December 20: [Fall Commencement](#)
- December 24 through January 1:
All university offices closed

Staff Highlight: Penny White, Director, Parent and Alumni Relations

Penny Helms White was appointed Director of Parent and Alumni Relations within the Division of Student Affairs at Virginia Tech in May 2012.



Penny, who previously held the role of director of development for student affairs and parent support within University Development, is responsible for leading, managing, and directing parent and alumni relations

for the Division of Student Affairs.

Before coming to Virginia Tech, Penny served as assistant director of admissions, associate director of admissions, and director of special and annual giving at Radford University. She also received a bachelor's degree in finance and an M.B.A. from Radford.

During her time with University Development at Virginia Tech, she spearheaded creation of the Division of Student Affairs Parent Committee, the division's advisory board for former student leaders, and the alumni speakers' panel.

Penny will be working with our chapters program to begin helping alumni chapters to incorporate current student families in upcoming events and projects. Be on the lookout for more information from her as family-related events are scheduled for your area, or contact your chapter liaison to talk about ways your chapter can become more involved with current students and families.

HOKIES on FACEBOOK



Roanoke Valley Chapter alumni compete in a Dragon Boat fundraiser for a local charity



Denver Chapter alumni celebrate football season with a Kick-Off Party Pig Roast



Western Maryland Chapter volunteers participate in their Adopt-a-Road Community Service Project