

THE BUGLE
Alumni Association

VOL. I.

... PUBLISHED BY THE ...

HISTORY

SENIOR

TRADITIONS

CLASS.



Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College.

1895.

PRICE, ONE DOLLAR AND A HALF.

POSTAGE, TWENTY-FIVE CENTS.

ADDRESS, THE BUGLE, BLACKSBURG, VA.

Virginia Techforlife

Alumni Association History

Alumni Association Homes Since 1926...

War Memorial Gym



1926 - 1968

Burruss Hall



1968 - 1984

Alumni Hall,
Donaldson Brown Center



1984-2005

Holtzman Alumni Center

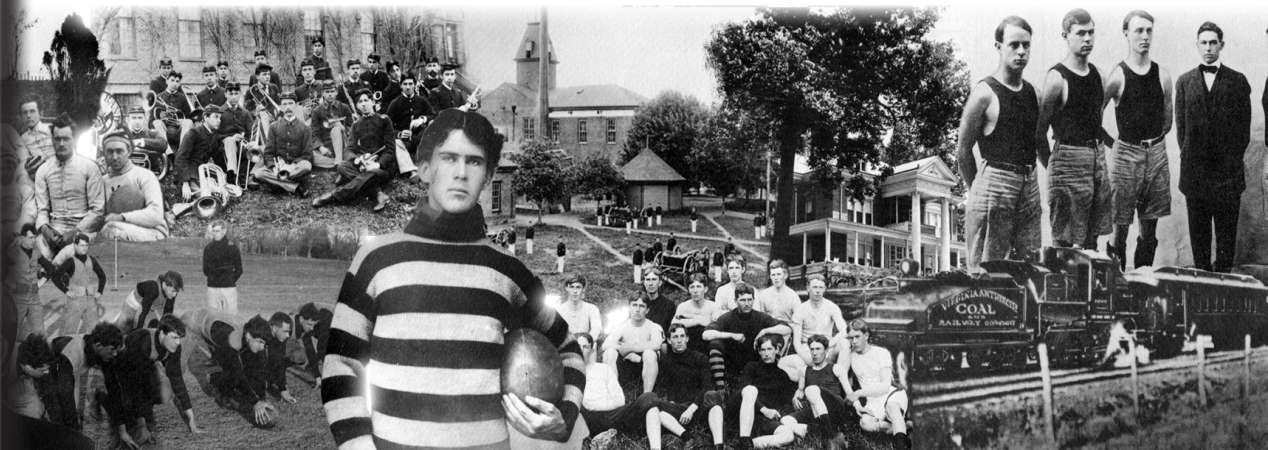


Opened September 1, 2005

On August 11, 1875, an alumni association was formed to cement the loyalty of its first graduates to the young Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College. The land-grant school in rural Montgomery County opened in 1872 and produced its first class of certificate graduates in 1875. This group of twelve students proudly became the first alumni of their alma mater and called themselves “Alumni of VAMC.” William Addison Caldwell, VAMC’s first enrolled student, was elected Alumni Secretary in 1876. Early dues established for a one-year membership in the Alumni Association were \$1. From these modest beginnings by a group of a dozen alumni, the Virginia Tech Alumni Association has become a valuable conduit connecting graduates to their institution’s heritage, and an archive for the successes of over 200,000 alumni since the institution first opened its doors.

The VAMC Alumni Association grew as more classes graduated. In 1891, realizing the benefit that the association could have to a growing college, the board of directors reorganized with an eye towards expansion. A constitution was drawn and an Alumni Register was published. From this point, the Alumni Association became more involved in the college’s affairs. The association’s officers, still all volunteers at this time, maintained a working relationship with the college president who often consulted with the board on the welfare of the institution.

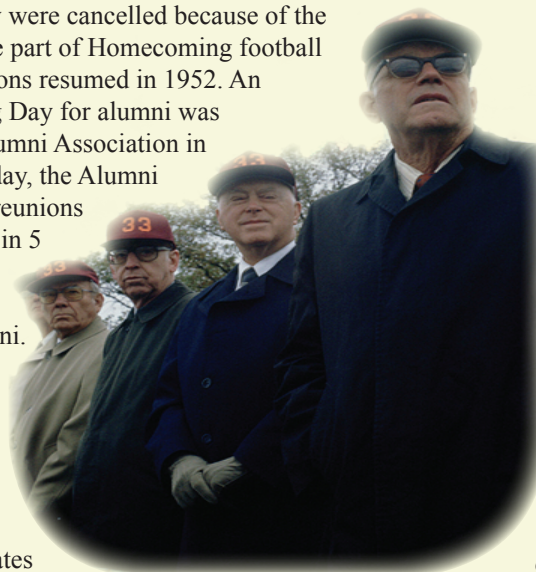
Colonel J.S.A. Johnson, Class of 1898, and H.H. “Bunker” Hill, Class of 1904, spent early years establishing the first records system and were the most active volunteers. It was Hill who devised the first alumni records system to keep track of alumni. The association was formally incorporated on June 23, 1924. Alumni records updates and other business were conducted by dedicated volunteers until 1926, when the association hired Henry B. Redd, Class of 1919, as the first paid alumni secretary. Redd was an integral leader in the growth, organization, and expanding volunteer leadership of the association and served until his death in 1960. The association offices were first located in the War Memorial Gym tower.



Valued Traditions



Class reunions were held at commencement until 1941, when they were cancelled because of the war. They were made part of Homecoming football weekend when reunions resumed in 1952. An official Homecoming Day for alumni was designated by the Alumni Association in September 1928. Today, the Alumni Association holds 6 reunions every fall for classes in 5 year intervals, and 2 joint class reunions for more recent alumni. Each college celebrates its own "homecoming" through the fall football season. A reunion of the "Old Guard" for all graduates of fifty years or more is held each May.



Devised as a way to introduce freshmen to their life as cadets, help turn them into men, and to keep them in line, the "rat" system was part of the Corps during the college's first 50-plus years. It was replaced in 1934 by a system of military and civilian rules. In the early years, sophomores dressed freshmen in a variety of costumes for an annual "rat parade", which featured rats marching through campus and town.

The Class of 1935 held the first Ring Dance in March of its Junior year. Every class since has proudly carried on this tradition. Ring Dance weekend, as it is now known, is comprised of two main events. A celebratory banquet is held on Friday night to kick off the festivities. This semi-formal event includes dinner and entertainment. A black-tie dance and ring figure on Saturday celebrates each class' new ring.



From the school's beginnings as a land-grant and military college to the adoption in 1896 of the university motto "Ut Prosim" (That I May Serve), it is fitting that Virginia Tech has had more Medal of Honor winners – seven – than any other institution, other than Annapolis and West Point (Texas A & M has had seven as well).



A Growing Campus



On October 1, 1872, the Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College officially opened its two doors to students. The faculty gathered early; President Minor unlocked the front door, and he, Lane, Martin, Carroll, and Shepherd [faculty members] filed into the building and somewhat

nervously, it can be imagined, awaited the arrival of the first student. The wait was much longer than had been anticipated, but finally William A. Caldwell from Craig County “drifted” in and was immediately given a state scholarship as the school’s first student. An unverified report hints that Caldwell’s appearance was motivated more by curiosity than by serious scholastic intentions.



The Memorial Chapel is a tribute from alumni and friends to those sons of Virginia Tech who made the supreme sacrifice in our nation’s wars. A shrine to fortify education with worship and inspiration, it was conceived as a central campus structure, giving visual evidence of the ethical

standards which are traditional at Virginia Tech and are based upon the honor system. The memorial is dedicated to those who gave their lives; yet it is designed to inspire those who visit, especially the Virginia Tech graduates of the future.



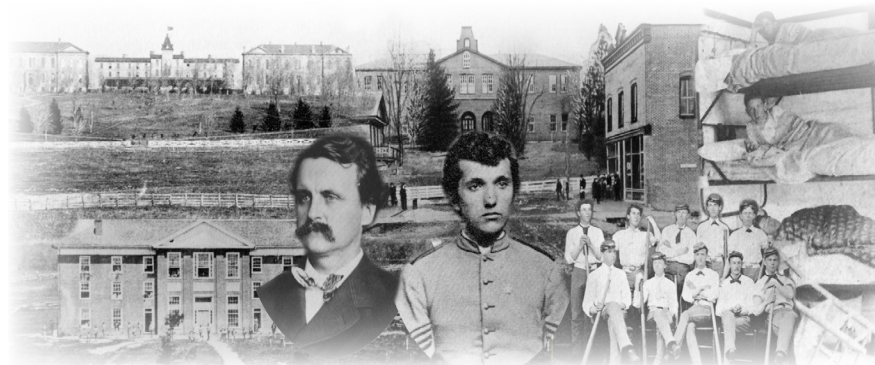
The original Miles stadium seated 3,750 in permanent seats and cost \$101,344. It was built in sections by class donations. The first game played in the stadium was a victory over Roanoke College, September 25, 1926; dedication game played on October 23, 1926 (Tech 6, Virginia 0); seating increased to 16,000, using temporary bleachers; the facility was razed in 1964. The last game played in the stadium was November 7, 1964. Of 95 games played in the stadium, Tech won 66, lost 25, and tied 4. It was named for Clarence P. “Sally” Miles ’01, former director of athletics, graduate athletic manager, professor, and dean. Old Miles Field and the present Miles Hall were also named for C.P. Miles.

The Duck Pond provides a peaceful respite for students and visitors -- as well as for dozens of ducks and geese. The pond was created in 1937. A smaller earlier pond, just north of the Duck Pond, is known as the Ice Pond, so called because it was the source of ice for cadets until a refrigeration plant opened in 1898-99.



In the early years of Virginia Tech’s history, the YMCA performed almost all non-academic functions of the university, consistently working to improve and enrich the lives of Virginia Tech students. In fact, the YMCA published the first Student Handbook and held the first student orientation. The YMCA opened the doors to its first

on-campus building in 1902, signaling the commencement of an era in which the YMCA served as the center of campus life.



Memorable Personalities



First Alumni Secretary - William Addison Caldwell, **Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College's** first enrolled student, was elected in 1876.

Caldwell's Report Card

Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College.
Monthly Report of Scholarship of *Wm. A. Caldwell*
for the Month of *1875*.

SCALE OF MARKS: 10 Perfect; 8 Satisfactory; 7 Tolerable, &c.

PREPARATORY YEAR.	
Mathematics	Latin
English Grammar	Compositions, (written)
Geography	Military Tactics
Education	Farm Work
Dictation	
Pennmanship	

JUNIOR YEAR.	
Mathematics	Latin
English Grammar	Greek
Geography	Compositions, (written)
Physics	Military Tactics
Pennmanship	Farm Work
French	
German	

INTERMEDIATE YEAR.	
Mathematics	Greek
Physics	Drawing
Chemistry	Compositions, (written)
Natural History	Military Tactics
Composition and Rhetoric	Farm Work
French	
German	
Latin	

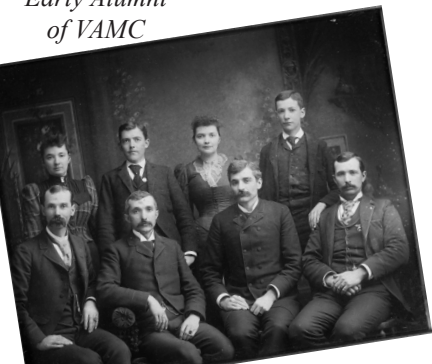
SENIOR YEAR.	
Mathematics	Agriculture
History and English Literature	Technical Mechanics
Moral Philosophy	Mechanical Drawing
Political Economy	Compositions, (written)
Astronomy	Military Tactics
Book-Keeping	Farm Work

Absent from Roll Call *0* times.

Remarks:

C. L. C. MINOR, President
Secretary Faculty.

Early Alumni of VAMC



Early Women

First Commencement:

Five women--transfer student Mary E. Brumfield, Billie Kent Kabrich, Lucy Lee Lancaster, Carrie T. Sibold, and Ruth L. Terrett--and another seven part-time coeds--Lucy Randolph Brown, Lucy Butler Groth, Sarah Gainor Kessler, Hattie Mays, Lena Willis McDonald, Josephine Phlegar, and Margaret Robinson Walker--they enrolled at

Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College and Polytechnic Institute, popularly called Virginia Polytechnic Institute or VPI, in 1921 after its president, Julian A. Burruss, achieved his goal of admitting women as regular students to the previously all-male institution. By that time, the college with the unwieldy name was in its 49th year of operation. Mary Brumfield was the first woman to graduate from VPI and became a graduate student and earned a master's degree in 1925.



Walter Stephenson Newman took over as president on September 1, 1947. He had a master's degree in agriculture, was a member of the VPI agricultural education faculty, state assistant superintendent of public instruction, state supervisor of agricultural education, and president of the Richmond Chapter of the VPI Alumni Association. Upon retirement, he was named president emeritus by the Board of Visitors and also an honorary member of the Class of 1962. In 1977 he became the first recipient of the William H. Ruffner Medal, the university's highest honor.

Eugene Rowe '33, was the former rector of the Board of Visitors and president of the Alumni Association. He was honored by the Alumni Association's designation of the Rowe Fellow donor recognition level of its former Century Club Annual Fund program.



Ambler Johnston Hall was named in honor of J. Ambler Johnston, also known as "Uncle Ambler." Johnston was a member of an architectural firm contracted by President Julian Burruss to set new design standards for campus buildings.



Charles O. Gordon, former Board of Visitors Rector, graduated from Virginia Tech in industrial engineering in 1942. In 1985, Virginia Tech awarded Gordon the Ruffner Medal, the highest recognition given by the university. He also received the College of Engineering's Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1994.



Symbols of Hokie Pride



Marching Virginians formation at Lane Stadium in 2000.

During its almost 27 years as the Spirit of Tech, the Marching Virginians have performed at all home football games and some away games at schools such as the University of Virginia, Clemson, University of Richmond, Duke, West Virginia, Pittsburgh, and Syracuse. The band has also traveled to the 1981 Peach Bowl, the New Peach Bowl in 1986, the 200th Anniversary of the Constitution Parade in 1986, the 1984 and 1994 Independence Bowls, the 1995, 1998, 2001, and 2002 Gator Bowls, the 1996, 2000, and 2005 Sugar Bowls, the 1997 Orange Bowl, and the 1998 Music City Bowl. The Band has also performed at NFL games: RFK Stadium in 1992, Rich Stadium in 1992, and Ericsson Stadium in 1996.



The origin of the term "Gobblers" is disputed, with one story claiming it was coined in the early 1900s as a description of how student athletes would "gobble" their more than ample servings of food. Another story attributes it to the fact that the 1909 football coach, Branch Bocock, wanted to stimulate better spirit amongst his players and initiated them into an impromptu and informal "Gobbler Club." Thus, the

name was already popular when Fred Meade, a local resident chosen by the student body to serve as the school's mascot, had a large turkey pull him in a cart at a football game in 1913. The school's president halted the cart-pulling after one game because he thought it was

cruel to the turkey. But the "Gobbler" was not to last, at least in name. In the late 1970s, the football coach heard the theory that the Gobbler mascot was based on athletes gobbling their food, and didn't like the image. He began promoting the "Hokie" nickname and even removed the gobbler from the scoreboard -- current football coach Frank Beamer had it reinstalled.



In 1883, the ten piece Glade Cornet Band was formed. It was organized by Thomas Schaeffer, the father of the Highty-Tighties. In 1936, the HT's were presented with the white citation cord for meritorious service in the Spanish-American War. According to the HT legend, the cord was pinned on the band commander backward, by Eleanor Roosevelt. It has been worn with the braid on the outside ever since.



The first student organization at Virginia Tech was the Virginia Literary Society, formed in 1872, which was the forerunner of both the Lee and Maury Literary Societies. The Lee and Maury Literary Societies were responsible for the first student publication, the Gray Jacket, which was published sporadically between 1875 and 1906. Since those early days, there have been many student organizations and student publications of various types which have come and gone as well as some that have lasted.



Cheers and Songs

University Alma Mater

Verse:

Sing praise to Alma Mater dear,
For V.P.I. we'll ever cheer;
Come lift your voices, swell the song,
Our loyalties to her belong.

Chorus

So stand and sing, all hail to thee.
VT, all hail to thee.

Verse:

The Orange and Maroon you see,
That's fighting on to victory;
Our strife will not be long this day,
For glory lies within this fray.

Verse:

All loyal sons and daughters, one,
We raise our banner to the sun;
Our motto brings a spirit true,
That we may ever serve you.

Words by L. G. Chase, '42

Music by E. T. Sparks, '40



Tech Triumph

Techmen, we're Techmen, with spirit true and faithful,
Backing up our teams with hopes undying;
Techmen, Oh, Techmen, we're out to win today,
Showing pep and life with which we're trying;
V.P., old V.P., you know our hearts are with you
In our luck which never seems to die;
Win or lose, we'll greet you with a glad returning,
You're the pride of V.P.I.

Chorus:

Just watch our men so big and active
Support the Orange and Maroon. Let's go Techs.
We know our ends and backs are stronger,
With winning hopes, we fear defeat no longer.
To see our team plow through the line, boys.
Determined now to win or die:
So give a Hokie, Hokie, Hokie, Hi,
Rae, Ri, old V.P.I.

Second Verse (seldom used)

Fight, men, oh, fight, men, we're going to be the champions
Adding to our list another victory;
Football or baseball, the games in which we star,
They're the sports which made old VP famous.
Hold'em, just hold'em, you know the Corps' behind you
Watching every movement that you make.
Winning games was nothing for our teams before you --
Keep the "rep" for VP's sake.

Wilfred P. Maddux (class of 1920) and
Mattie Eppes (Boggs).

VPI Victory March

Verse:

You have seen the Hoyas tumble,
You have made the Indians cry;
And you know the Army mule
Once took a kick at V.P.I.
Worthy teams from Lexington
Have fought with all their might;
And now it's time to show the world
That victory is ours tonight!

Break strain:

GO TECH!

GO TECH!

H-O-K-I-E-S, HOKIES!

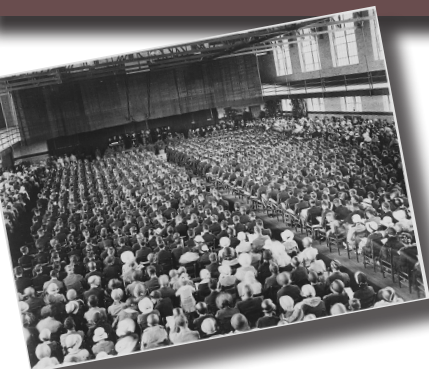
Original Old Hokie Cheer

Hoki, Hoki, Hoki Hy!
Techs, Techs, VPI
Sol-a-rex, Sol-a-rah
Poly Techs Vir-gin-ia
Rae Ri VPI

O.M. Stull, 1896

Virginia Techforlife

Dedication to "Ut Prosim"



1933 Commencement

A major milestone in the history of the college was the graduation of the first class at the end of the third year. On Wednesday, August 11, 1875, at 11:00 a.m., 12 students were awarded graduation certificates (not degrees) by college officials. Six graduated as Associates in Agriculture, three were made Associates in Mechanics, and three were granted diplomas as Associates in Agriculture and Mechanics. All 12 were Virginians. It was not until 21 years later that the "Ut Prosim" motto was adopted, yet it was inspired by the values of those early graduates.



Medal of Honor Recipients

Antoine A.M. Gaujot, Class of 1901, and **Julien E. Gaujot**, Class of 1894, are two of the few brothers ever awarded the Medal of Honor. Antoine Gaujot received the medal for actions as an army corporal at the Battle of San Mateo during the Philippine Insurrection. Julien Gaujot received the medal for actions on the Mexican Border in 1914. He is the only soldier ever awarded the Medal for actions of a peacekeeping nature.

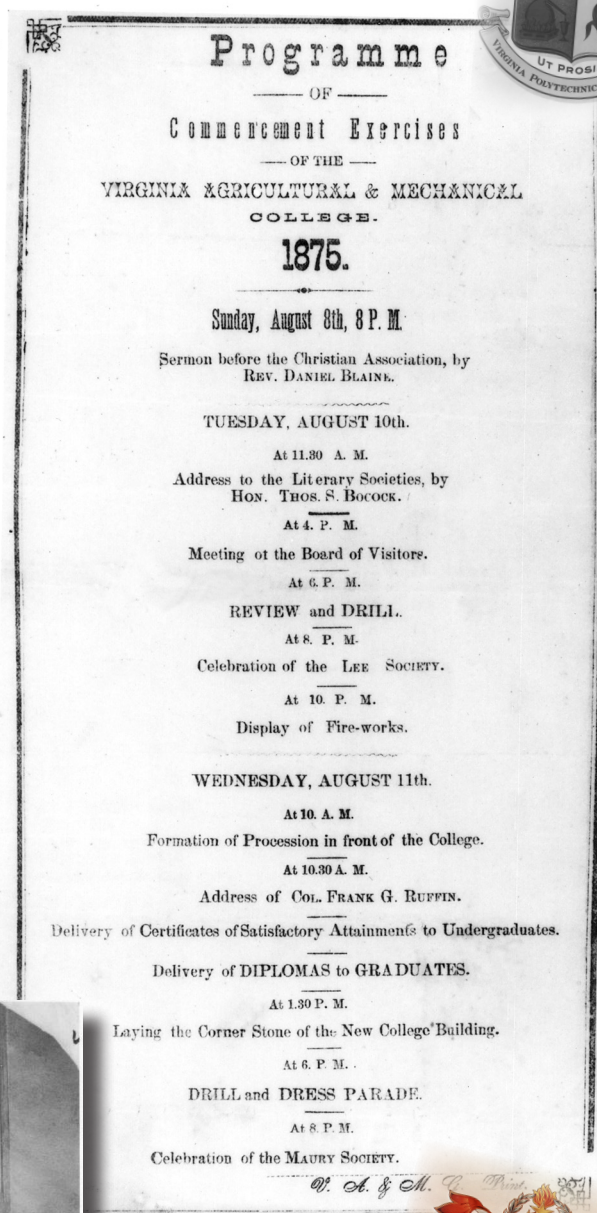
Earle D. Gregory, Class of 1923, received the Medal of Honor for actions as an army sergeant during the Meuse Argonne Offensive in World War I. He is considered to be the first Virginian to receive the medal and was called the Sergeant York of Virginia.

Herbert J. Thomas, Class of 1944, received the Medal of Honor for action on Bougainville Island in World War II while a sergeant in the Marine Corps. Through dense jungle and severe machine gun fire, Herbert Thomas led his men in destroying two enemy machine gun positions.

Jimmie W. Monteith, Class of 1944, received the Medal of Honor for actions as an army lieutenant at D-Day during World War II. Without regard for his own safety, he led the assault over exposed beach to cover a narrow ledge.

Robert E. Femoyer, Class of 1944, was the only navigator awarded the Medal of Honor. On a bombing mission over Germany, he was wounded by enemy aircraft fire. Despite pain and loss of blood, he refused morphine in order to keep his mental faculties clear. He guided the lone bomber through six changes in course around enemy anti-aircraft concentrations with clarity despite pain described as "almost beyond the realm of human endurance".

Richard Shea, Class of 1948, received the Medal of Honor for actions as an army first lieutenant at Pork Chop Hill during the Korean War. Fighting outnumbered, he voluntarily proceeded to the area most threatened, organizing and leading a counterattack. During the bitter fighting, he defended enemies with his trench knife.



A Cadet Officer
in 1874