



April 2015

Chapter Team

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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,

As we approach the end of the spring semester, the Alumni Association staff is in the midst of a busy season of community service events, semester-end activities, travel with chapter speakers, and Drillfield Series events, in addition to planning many exciting reunion and homecoming events for this fall.

April is always a busy month for our chapters, as we participate alongside our current students with [The Big Event](#) and host various community service projects to honor the victims of the April 16 tragedy.

We had our most successful chapter Big Event projects this year! As you'll read in the feature on page 5, more than 20 chapters participated in a variety of events in their local communities. Many events were also held across the country to show our commitment to our motto of *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve) including Virginia Tech for Life blood drives, Habitat for Humanity builds, Adopt-a-Road clean-ups, and 3.2 for 32 Run/Walk in Remembrance events. For a complete list of remembrance activities, visit the [We Remember website](#).

If you haven't done so already, please mark your calendars for our fall Chapter Officers Forum on September 5-7. [Registration is now open](#).

Thank you for your service to Virginia Tech and please let me or your liaison know how we can help as you continue planning your summer picnics and student send-offs and other upcoming events. It will be football season before you know it!

Debbie



WITH YOUR HELP WE JUST COMPLETED 1,043 PROJECTS WITH 8,050 VOLUNTEERS,
THE BIGGEST BIG EVENT EVER.

Chapter Event Highlight: Scholarship Student Pizza Party

Each spring, the Alumni Association hosts a pizza party for our current students who received chapter scholarships as freshmen. This year's event was held on Tuesday, March 31 in the Holtzman Alumni Center.

With about 60 students in attendance, our Chapter Team staff had the opportunity to mingle with the best and the brightest from our chapter areas across the country. Tom Tillar, Vice President for Alumni Relations, and Ginny Ritenour, Chapter Programs Coordinator, addressed the group, welcoming them to their "home" in the Alumni Center and encouraging them to keep in touch with their local chapter throughout the year.

After taking advantage of photo opportunities with HokieBird and enjoying pizza and snacks, our staff hosted a Virginia Tech trivia game that included lots of enthusiastic participation, laughter, and favorite Hokie gear as giveaways.

This year's chapter scholarship process is in full swing; visit [our website](#) for complete details and contact [Ginny Ritenour](#) for more information.



Alumni chapter scholarship recipients mingle with HokieBird at the Holtzman Alumni Center's annual pizza party

Staff Highlight: Cathy Lally wins President's Staff Award



Cathy Lally (center) is joined by (left to right) Tom Tillar, Vice President for Alumni Relations, Tim Sands, President, and Debbie Day, Associate Vice President for Alumni Relations

The 2015 President's Staff Awards were announced at a reception held on Tuesday, March 31. Our very own Cathy Lally, Assistant to the Vice President, was among the five recipients.

This prestigious award acknowledges Cathy's day to day support of the Alumni Association's activities, as well as her role over many months assisting both the College of Architecture and Urban Studies and the College of Science during extended periods of vacancies in their Alumni Director positions. Both colleges emphasized that their alumni programs never skipped a beat due to Cathy's tireless contributions to help with events, such as the College of Architecture's 50th Anniversary celebration, the College of Science Roundtable, and other annual events for their alumni.

Cathy will be recognized at the Faculty Staff Awards Dinner that is held early in the Fall semester. She is the second member of our Alumni Relations staff to win this honor; Lynn Young, Director of Alumni Relations for the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine, won the award in 2010. [Click here](#) for the full news story. Congratulations, Cathy!



Community Service Highlight: The Big Event 2015

[The Big Event](#) at Virginia Tech started in 2002 as a student-run community service effort that has grown into the 2nd largest event of its kind in the nation. Every spring, thousands of students, faculty, and staff come together to complete hundreds of community service projects throughout Blacksburg, Christiansburg, and the New River Valley.

Projects are completed regardless of need or socioeconomic status; instead, it is The Big Event's goal to simply say, "Thank you" to the community. Seeded in our university's motto of *Ut Prosim* (That I may serve), students and community members come together for a unique experience.

On Saturday, April 11, 2015, more than 8,000 students, alumni, and volunteers completed more than 1,000 projects in the New River Valley and across the country! Our alumni take part in the event simultaneously with students and the result is a partnership of spreading our mission of service.

This year, more than 21 chapters took part in the project, proudly wearing their official Big Event shirts as they served their community.

The Big Event 2016 will be held on Saturday, April 9, 2016. We encourage you to begin making plans now to join in on this special opportunity to serve Virginia Tech and your local community. Along with April 16 Remembrance events, April has truly become a month of service for our alumni, who continue to show the world that the "Hokie Nation Serves."



Click the photo above to see a short video highlighting all the student activities that happened in Blacksburg



Houston Chapter volunteers helped in the warehouse and assisted customers at the local Habitat for Humanity ReStore



Baltimore Hokies participated in TWO events; these alumni provided landscaping labor at the Robinson Nature Center



Central Pennsylvania volunteers take a break from stacking pallets of food at the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank



The Fredericksburg Chapter participated in a service project at the Fredericksburg Area Food Bank



Seattle Chapter alumni get down and dirty with their annual project at Seattle Community Farm



Minnesota Hokies took part in a community clean-up event, the "Waking of the Roses" at Lake Harriet



First State Chapter alumni were hard at work prepping and staining fencing sections for a Habitat for Humanity build



The National Capital Region Chapter also hosted two events; these alumni volunteered at Dumbarton Oaks Park



The New River Valley Chapter volunteered as "color throwers" at the local Color Me Cameron 5K



The Tampa Bay Chapter hosted their quarterly Adopt-a-Road project in conjunction with The Big Event



Roanoke Valley Chapter alumni provided roadside clean-up as part of Roanoke's Clean Valley Day



Kentuckiana Hokies participated in a clean-up at Kosair Charities, where they invited other ACC schools to join in



Shenandoah Chapter volunteers held their annual clean-up event at their local April 16 Memorial



The Williamsburg Chapter helped install a new landscape at the Williamsburg Botanical Garden

Communications Corner: April 2015

From [Dave Hunt](#), [Denise Crawford](#), [Matt Dowdy](#), and [John Vile](#)

Reminder for Email Requests:

Make sure your event is successful by allowing people time to respond!

When submitting your email request, please make sure your RSVP or event date is at least two weeks out.

The Alumni Association needs five business days to send out an email, and there should be at least a week to allow people to open the email, respond to the RSVP or sign up, and plan to attend.

Reminder for Print Requests:

If you are struggling to have your complete event information together far enough in advance to meet the six week deadline for print requests, chapters only need to provide the Alumni Association the following information:

- Event Name
- Date
- Location (if available)
- Contact person (for questions, RSVPs, etc.)
- Chapter website or Facebook page
- Brief summary of the event

As your event details come together, your chapter website or Facebook page can be updated to provide any important final details or event information. On the postcard, we'll draw special attention to your website with verbiage like this: "For updated event details, visit our Facebook page at www.yourchaptersite.com."

Looking for Chapter Networking Event Ideas? Try Webinars!

From [Nancy Brittle](#), Alumni Career Resources Director

If you're interested in planning your chapter's first career networking event or looking for new ideas, consider hosting a professional development evening or luncheon that includes a group viewing of an alumni career webinar followed by a discussion and social.



There are more than 40 webinars available exclusively for Virginia Tech alumni on our [Career Resources](#) site, categorized by

topics that include: Career Management, Job Searching, Interviewing Skills, Social Media, Branding, Leadership, and many more. These webinars are free for our alumni and last approximately 45 minutes.

I have selected four webinars that focus on career topics that are most relevant to professional development. While there are many more to choose from, these selections give you an idea of the quality and relevance to potential viewers:

- [Climbing the Corporate Ladder](#)
- [The Speed of Trust – THE Career Critical Skill](#)
- [The Mechanics of Job Search and Getting Your Next Job Fast](#)
- [The Fine Art of Small Talk](#)

To learn more or view additional options, log on to our [exclusive site](#) and click on the "Events" tab.

We encourage you take advantage of this tremendous resource of speakers and to provide an opportunity to combine these topics with your chapter networking programs.

HOKIES on FACEBOOK



New River Valley Chapter President Cyndy Graham poses with HokieBird at the annual Scholarship Student Pizza Party



The Annapolis Chapter gathered to support their local Special Olympics event



Palmetto Chapter alumni volunteer to work the concession stand at a Greenville Drive baseball game

Dates to Remember:

- May 15: [Spring Commencement](#)
- Mid-May: Chapters will receive lists of incoming freshmen who have accepted their offer of admission to Virginia Tech
- June 5-6: [Drillfield Series: The Rich Heritage of Southwest Virginia](#)
- June 15: Deadline to submit scholarship recipient information and scholarship fund deposits to our office
- June 15: [Third Annual Hokie Classic Golf Tournament at the Pete Dye River Course](#)
- June 27: [Second Annual Summer Beer Festival at Virginia Tech](#)
- June 30: Deadline to submit all chapter annual reports and award nominations (contact your liaison for more information)
- July 10-11: [Alumni and Legacy Weekend: A Day in the Life of College Admissions](#)
- July 17-19: [Drillfield Series: Women's Weekend at Virginia Tech](#)
- September 5-7: [2015 Chapter Officers Forum](#)

