



April 2016

Chapter Team

[Debbie Day](#)

[Greg Fansler](#)

[Gwen Harrington](#)

[Jack Hutcheson](#)

[Katie Marquis](#)

[Kelly McCann](#)

[Jordan McCauley](#)

[Ginny Ritenour](#)

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 focused on community service events, semester-end activities, and travel with chapter speakers, 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.

Big Event participation by our chapters continues to grow and we had our most successful year yet. As you'll read in the feature on page 3, more than 25 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 1-3. Watch your email for our planned agenda and registration details coming soon.

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.

Debbie



Chapter Event Highlight: San Diego Chapter Featured on The Price is Right

“San Diego Hokies: Come on Down!”

The San Diego Chapter represented the Hokie Nation on a special “College Rivalry” episode of The Price is Right last month!

Filmed earlier in the month and aired on Friday, March 25th, members of the San Diego Chapter traveled to Hollywood to compete against UVA on this special edition of the popular game show. Hokie pride was on display front and center as chapter president Chris Waskiewicz '05 was invited to Contestant's Row to face off against the University of Virginia!

“It was an awesome experience to meet new friends, see how a show is made, and then see yourself on national TV,” said Ryan Nash.



From left: Chris Waskiewicz '05, Laura Nash '04, Ryan Nash '04, Shannen Knight '15, Jeremy Agee, Jordan Spinney, Travis Willson '98, and Ridwan Alam

Beyond Boundaries: Envisioning Virginia Tech in the year 2047



In May 2015, Virginia Tech President Tim Sands appointed a broad-based steering committee of faculty to guide the “Beyond Boundaries” initiative – an effort to rethink the university of tomorrow. Throughout the past year, Dr. Sands has challenged the university community to engage in a visioning process to support two interrelated goals: advancing Virginia Tech as a global land-grant institution, and strategically addressing the challenges and opportunities presented by the changing landscape of higher education.

This process has included town hall meetings, presentations by guest speakers, and focused meetings with the Board of Visitors. The entire process has been documented on the [Beyond Boundaries](#) website and we encourage you to take a look at the meeting reports and upcoming schedule for this year.

An important piece of the Beyond Boundaries initiative is the “Destination Areas” concept, a cross-disciplinary focus combining our world-leading research, faculty, and technology with a strong experiential component for students.

These [Destination Areas](#) will become important for our alumni chapters as we look to developing programming to support these themes. Once fully defined, we will be promoting speaker events and student programs to highlight these collaborative disciplines and interdisciplinary majors.

Community Service Highlight: The Big Event 2016

by [Katie Marquis](#)

The Big Event is a student-run community service program that has grown into the second largest of its kind in the nation. Every spring, thousands of students, faculty, staff, and alumni come together to complete over one thousand community service projects throughout Blacksburg, Christiansburg the New River Valley, and across the nation.

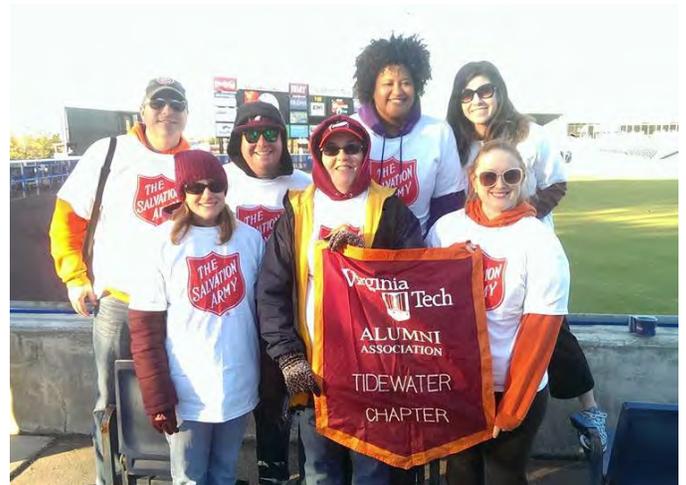
Rooted in our motto *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve), The Big Event provides an opportunity for Virginia Tech to join together to support and thank the surrounding community.

This year, The Big Event celebrated its 15th anniversary with 9,200 volunteers completing 1,102 jobs. It was the biggest (and snowiest) Big Event in Virginia Tech's history. [View Photos from the 2016 Big Event](#)

Starting in 2012, alumni chapters began to host their own Big Event programs in their local communities. This year, 29 chapters came together in service, proudly wearing their Big Event t-shirts. From food banks to beach clean-ups to Habitat for Humanity to volunteering at Goodwill, alumni demonstrated Hokie Nation Serves. The date of next year's Big Event will be announced in May.



The Classic City Hokies in Athens, GA gathered to work at the UGarden, a community of students centered on a sustainable food system



Tidewater Chapter volunteers came out bright and early to volunteer for their local Salvation Army



Western Maryland Hokies contributed manpower for a Habitat for Humanity build project



Minnesota Chapter volunteers take a break helping set up for Habitat for Humanity's Hard Hat & Black Tie Gala



The North Alabama Chapter painted a children's game at their local botanical gardens



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



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



Charlotte Chapter alumni were hard at work at one of their Big Event projects; this is the Adopt-a-Road clean-up crew



The New River Valley Chapter served as color throwers for the annual Color Me Cameron 5K Scholarship Run



The Baltimore Chapter volunteered to plant trees at a local elementary school



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



Central Pennsylvania sorted food at the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank



New England Chapter volunteers helped out at the Cradles to Crayons organization



The Williamsburg Chapter volunteered for cleanup and maintenance at the Williamsburg Botanical Garden



Central Virginia Chapter volunteers take a break from a hard day's work at the Lynchburg Humane Society



The Fredericksburg Chapter sorted and moved inventory at their local Goodwill thrift store



Charlotte Chapter alumni work on another Big Event project: preparing breakfast at Hope Haven



Houston Hokies took part in sorting and prepping food at the Houston Food Bank



First State Chapter alumni had a terrific turnout and beautiful weather for a local Habitat for Humanity build



The Orange County Chapter repaired a backstop and batting cage at the Boys and Girls Club Teen Center



San Diego Hokies gathered on the sand for a beach clean-up project in their community



Another Charlotte Chapter group works together to clean-up the roads

Social Media & Digital Domination: The Time is NOW!



Did you miss our virtual speaker event with Pamplin College of Business's Director of Marketing Donna Wertalik? You can watch the playback [online!](#)

Dates to Remember:

- May 13: [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: [Human and Animal Health – We're All in this Together!](#)
- June 13: [4th Annual Hokie Classic Golf Tournament at the Pete Dye River Course](#)
- June 15: Deadline to submit scholarship recipient information and scholarship fund deposits to our office
- June 25: [3rd 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 8-9: [Alumni and Legacy Weekend: A Day in the Life of College Admissions](#)
- September 1-3: 2016 Chapter Officers Forum



HOKIES on FACEBOOK



Jacksonville Chapter alumni joined together in April for a HokieBird painting session!



The Middle Tennessee Chapter enjoyed dinner with Dave McKee, Director of the Marching Virginians and Virginia Tech's concert bands (front right)



Chattanooga Hokies gathered for an All-ACC Social with alumni from Georgia Tech, Notre Dame, Florida State, and Syracuse



The Denver Chapter's annual Wine Tasting & Silent Auction included this Virginia Tech bike as an auction item



Houston Hokies gathered together in March for a networking event and tour at Karbach Brewing Co.