



June 2012

Chapter Team

[Josh Burnheimer](#)

[Debbie Day](#)

[Greg Fansler](#)

[Patty Foutz](#)

[Kelly Griffin](#)

[Jack Hutcheson](#)

[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,

While the pace is a little bit slower on campus during these warmer months, our staff is busy working with chapters on summer picnics and student send-offs, finishing end-of-the-year reports, and developing programs for this fall and beyond.

If you haven't already done so, it is imperative that you complete all of your year-end reports and activities to ensure consideration for the Outstanding Chapter Award. The due date is July 1, which is right around the corner. Please touch base with your chapter liaison if you need assistance in completing your reports. All requirements and forms may be found online in the chapter database. Visit the [Alumni Association website](#) to log-in.

You won't want to miss this year's Chapter Officers Forum taking place on Labor Day weekend, September 1 through 3, 2012. Now is the time to register! More details follow on page 2.

Also, be sure to take advantage of the opportunity for your chapter to receive our new Hokie Nation Serves t-shirts (page 2). These are ideal for wearing at community service projects to identify your team.

As we gear up for yet another busy fall, please let us know how we can help you in planning your events for the upcoming year. We look forward to seeing you back on campus this fall for Chapter Officers Forum, our class reunions, college homecomings, or Homecoming Weekend.

Enjoy your summer!

Associate Vice President for Alumni Relations

Chapter Officers Forum: September 1–3, 2012

[Registration is now open](#) for the 2012 Chapter Officers Forum to be held at the Holtzman Alumni Center at Virginia Tech on September 1st through 3rd.

We look forward to seeing you back on campus for an exciting weekend of networking and idea-sharing with a "Focus on Hokie Hospitality." This year's Forum will be followed by watching the Hokies take on the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets on Monday night!



San Antonio Chapter volunteers share a photo-op with HokieBird at the 2011 Chapter Officers Forum

Update your PID password!

According to Virginia Tech's new password policy, all PID users (that includes chapter officers) are required to change their password every year. You may need to make this change before being given access to the Chapter Officers database.

To update your password, you will need to log in to <http://my.vt.edu> and follow the update process. If you experience any problems during the process, please contact [Vijay Mallikarjunan](#), our Technical Services Manager at (540) 231-6285.

Reminder: Hokie Nation Serves T-shirts Available!

As shown below, we have new Hokie Nation Serves t-shirts with our new HNS logo! Hokie Nation Serves is the Virginia Tech Alumni Association's service program, encouraging all chapters to host service projects with an extra emphasis in the month of April.

These shirts are intended for chapters who plan to host a service event in the near future. The supply of shirts is limited. To receive shirts for your event, please contact Ginny Ritenour at ginnyrit@vt.edu as soon as possible for an application form.

Additionally, we ask for a picture of the group wearing the shirts **in action** at your community service event, as well as the submission of an event report through our chapter database in order to be considered for future items for Hokie Nation Serves.

This is a great way to show our Hokie pride while continuing the Virginia Tech *Ut Prosim* tradition.



Research Triangle Chapter volunteers model the new Hokie Nation Serves t-shirts at a recent community service project with a Food Bank in the Raleigh, NC area

Community Service Highlight: Hokie Nation Serves in April

In support of the Day of Remembrance, Relay for Life, the Big Event, and other campus initiatives, we encourage chapters to participate in community projects throughout the month of April to show our support for *Ut Prosim*, our university motto.

We shared photos in the April Chapter Officers Newsletter of the 3.2 for 32 Run in Remembrance events held across the country, but many chapters have participated in a wide variety of projects in their local communities.

From VirginiaTechforlife blood drives and Habitat for Humanity builds, to food pantry and Adopt-a-Highway cleanup projects, our alumni are engaged in helping to meet the needs of their local communities, carrying on our Virginia Tech tradition of service.

If your chapter is looking for the right service project in your community, be sure to be in touch with your chapter liaison for assistance.



First State Chapter (Delaware) volunteers chip in on a Habitat for Humanity build project



Chicago Chapter alumni participate in a volunteer service day at the local Ronald McDonald House



Research Triangle Chapter (North Carolina) alumni help sort and process supplies at a local food bank



Richmond Chapter president Clota Gerhardt donates a pint at the Chapter's April 16 Blood Drive

Chapter Volunteer Highlight: Rachael Spruill, San Diego, CA

by Patty Foutz

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.

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.



San Diego Chapter president Rachael Spruill accepts the award for 2011 Most Improved Chapter

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 will be awarding their first chapter scholarship this fall.

Rachael is quick to recognize the support of her core team of chapter volunteers: Vice-President Tyler Campbell '08, Secretary Deirdre Lusin '09, Treasurer John Hays '89, Scholarship Chair Carrier Phillips '10, Communications Chair and Webmaster Melissa Harrison '06, and Golf Tournament Chair Chris Waskiewicz '05. She says their help, patience, and positive outlook on the potential of their chapter have all served to generate growth in interest from local alumni and attendance at chapter events around the area.

Rachael sees big things for the San Diego Hokies and is looking forward to reaching all their goals in the near future.

Staff Highlight:

Lynn Young, Director of Alumni Relations, Virginia–Maryland Regional College of Veterinary

Medicine



Lynn began her career with Virginia Tech in 1984. She has worked with the Alumni Association for the past 17 years, 12 of which have been as director of alumni relations with the Virginia-Maryland

College of Veterinary Medicine (VMRCVM). Another component of her position was to serve as the VMRCVM director of student affairs from 2004-2010. She travels regionally and nationally to plan alumni receptions in conjunction with VMRCVM meetings and conferences. She also travels throughout Virginia and Maryland coordinating continuing education programs and visiting veterinary hospitals where alumni are employed. In 2000, she implemented and continues to coordinate the VMRCVM Alumni Society Board of Directors and serves as Secretary and Treasurer. She oversees the annual VMRCVM Open House which draws hundreds of visitors. She is responsible for various events throughout the college including class reunions and the annual college homecoming. Most recently, she created the new VMRCVM Retired Faculty/Staff and Volunteer Program. She also coordinates the VMRCVM component of the AG Governor's School. She was a recipient of the 2007 Virginia Veterinary Medical

Association Friend of the College Award as well as the 2010 President's Award for Excellence. Lynn received both her undergraduate and master's degrees from Virginia Tech. She resides in Christiansburg with her son, Nick, and daughter, Hannah. Her hobbies include Zumba, antiques, genealogy, and traveling.

Chapter Awards Program to Change for 2012–13 Fiscal Year

Our Chapter Team and the Board of Directors Chapters Committee have been hard at work to update our chapter awards program. In an effort to improve record-keeping and provide opportunities for growth, some changes will take effect this year that will have an impact on your planning and goals as you move forward as a chapter.

Please join us for one of our summer webinars where we will discuss these changes in more detail. We have arranged to present the webinars on three different occasions to provide an opportunity for everyone to join in when convenient.

- Thursday, July 26 at 3:00 pm (EDT)
 - Wednesday, August 1 at 7:00 pm (EDT)
 - Saturday, August 18 at 11:00 am (EDT)
-

Dates to Remember:

- July 27: Football Watching Party Mailer Requests due to Communications
- July 27-28: [A Day in the Life of College Admissions](#)
- August 27: Start of Fall Semester
- September 1-3: [Chapter Officers Forum](#)
- October 13-14: [Homecoming Weekend](#)
- December 21: Fall Commencement

Communications Corner: June 2012

from [Dave Hunt](#) and [Denise Royal](#)

Make plans now to announce your football watching parties!

It's already time to start thinking about your football watching parties. If you plan to have a postcard sent out, the Alumni Association will need your print request **no later than Friday, July 27**. After July 27, we will only accept email requests for football events.

We're working to standardize our print designs and simplify our submission processes. Football postcards will include the football season schedule, the Hokie Sports web address to check for updated game information, and the Alumni Football Festivities page (see image below of last year's postcard). You should only provide:

- **Venue location, address, and website (if available)**
- **Brief summary of event(s)** (100 words or less including contact information):
Join your fellow [chapter name] Hokies to cheer on the football team to another successful season! Arrive up to 30/60/90 minutes prior to kick off. Please check www.hokiesports.com for game times and TV schedule.
For more information, contact [name, email, phone number] or visit [chapter's website and/or Facebook page].
- **Contact information with name, email, and chapter website and/or Facebook page**

Postcards for football watching parties will include two emails (with same content) that will go out in August and October.

Email templates: if you do not submit a print request for your football events but would like to send emails, we can accommodate two email requests during the football season.

VirginiaTechforlife. Minnesota Chapter

You are invited to join us for our

2011 Football Watching Parties

Poor Richard's Commonhouse
8301 Normandale Boulevard
Bloomington, MN 55437
www.poorrichardscommonhouse.com • 952-835-8308

Join your fellow Minnesota alumni to cheer on the Hokies to another successful season! Arrive up to 30 minutes prior to kick off. Please check www.hokiesports.com for game times and TV schedule.

Periodic fundraisers will be held for the Minnesota Chapter Scholarship Fund. Contact Mark Gingrich at gingrich@vt.edu or 612-239-6215 for more information. You may also join us on Facebook under: "Minnesota Chapter of the Virginia Tech Alumni Association."

2011 Virginia Tech Football Schedule	
Appalachian State: Sept. 3	Wake Forest: Oct. 25
East Carolina: Sept. 10	Boise State: Oct. 22
Arkansas State: Sept. 17	Ohio State: Oct. 19
Miami: Oct. 8	Virginia Tech: Oct. 12