



March 2013

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,

Spring has arrived and the Alumni Association is gearing up for a busy season of community service and speaker events, as well as planning many exciting reunion and homecoming events for this fall.

This April, many chapters will feature community service-based programs through our Hokie Nation Serves initiative. Chapters have scheduled blood drives, community clean-ups, food drives, and have partnered with other local organizations to continue the Virginia Tech tradition of *Ut Prosim*. If your chapter would like to participate but is unsure how to get started, contact your chapter liaison for more information. Many chapters will host April 16 Remembrance activities across the nation, including 3.2 for 32 walks/runs, remembrance gatherings, and service projects. Please submit your Remembrance event information to [Ginny Ritenour](#) so that we may include it on the [2013 We Remember website](#).

As I shared last month, we are hosting several training opportunities this spring exclusively for chapter officers. Please review the list of sessions on page 2 and plan to attend at least one topic of interest to your chapter. We appreciate the expertise of experienced chapter officers who attend these events to share ideas and helpful advice. If you're interested in learning more now, we have materials from previous officer training events available on our website under "Presentations" on the [Chapter Resources page](#).

Check out the offerings in our [2013 Drillfield Series](#) to be held in Blacksburg, as well as the many exciting [alumni travel tours](#) for the upcoming year.

Deborah A. Day
Associate Vice President for Alumni Relations



Chapter Event Highlight: Virginia Tech License Plates Come to Texas!



On March 5, the Austin, Dallas/Fort Worth, Houston, and San Antonio Chapters celebrated the launch of their brand new, official Hokie license plates in the state of Texas.

The license plate project was spearheaded by Chris Bryan '87 of the San Antonio Chapter, who enlisted support from all four Texas chapters before moving forward with the project. As a result of their coordinated efforts, the Texas alumni chapters will receive 10 percent of the profits from every plate sold to go towards the chapter's scholarship funds.

All four chapters had successful launches of the program and are even hosting a contest for the best customization, with the winner receiving a free plate!



Houston Chapter members celebrate at the Virginia Tech License Plate Launch on March 5, 2013

Upcoming Chapter Officer Training Opportunities

Please mark your calendars and plan on having chapter representatives attend our upcoming webinars. More details will be provided via email as the date draws closer.

April 9th at 7:00 PM (Eastern)

Chapter Leadership Succession Planning
Hosted by Debbie Day

April 27th at 11:00 AM (Eastern)

Broadening Audiences for Chapter Programs
Hosted by Debbie Day

June 5th OR June 6th at 7:00 PM (Eastern)

Chapter Award Requirements Q&A
Hosted by Debbie Day and Ginny Ritenour

Promoting the 2013 Drillfield Series at Chapter Events

You've already heard about our 2013 Drillfield Series events; we encourage you to share these opportunities at your upcoming chapter events.

For your convenience, the last page of this newsletter includes a printable flyer that you may share or post at your next meeting or event.

More details can be found on the [Alumni Association website](#).

- May 10-11, 2013
[Focus on Photography](#)
- June 21-23, 2013
[Corps of Cadets Alumni Weekend](#)
- July 12-13, 2013
[Virginia Tech Admissions Weekend](#)
- July 19-21, 2013
[Women's Getaway Weekend for Alumnae](#)

A \$105 special lodging rate is available at the Inn at Virginia Tech for all events.

Community Service Highlight: Richmond Chapter, Hokies vs. 'Hoos Food Fight

The Hokies vs. 'Hoos Food Fight originated in 2005 as service project where each school competes to raise money and food donations for a local food bank. The friendly competitions allow alumni to get off the sidelines and "get into the game," competing to beat their rival and help their community in the process.

This unique community service project capitalizes on the fierce rivalry between Richmond area Virginia Tech and UVA alumni and fans by encouraging donations to the Central Virginia Food Bank. Eight years of this heated competition have yielded more than 311,000 meals for the hungry in central Virginia, with the 'Hoos holding a 5-3 edge over the Hokies.

For the ninth annual Food Fight, alumni were encouraged to participate in several ways through late January and early February: make monetary donations through the event's website (Hokies earned five points for every dollar donated), donate non-perishable food items and money at all Richmond area Martin's Food Market stores (one point earned for each food item and dollar donated), or volunteer at the Central Virginia Food Bank (points were also earned for volunteering).

The 9th annual Food Fight was a huge success; with the Hokies proudly beating the 'Hoos, 37,127 points to their 33,548 points! Together, Richmond area alumni raised 68,774 meals for FeedMore and the Central Virginia Food Bank.



Richmond Chapter alumni volunteer at the Central Virginia Food Bank



Richmond Chapter Past President, Clota Gerhardt, volunteers at the Central Virginia Food Bank



Communications Corner: We've Got Style!

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

Sometimes you may notice that what you submit on a template is changed when it's sent out to your chapter. All communications sent by the Alumni Association must follow our style guide.

These are some of the things we most frequently change on chapter submissions:

Who you are:

- The _____ Chapter of the Virginia Tech Alumni Association
- We go by your [chapter's official name](#):
The New River Valley Chapter of the Virginia Tech Alumni Association (not New River Valley Hokies Alumni Chapter)

How to ask for payment:

- Make checks payable to "Iowa Chapter – VTAA"

Times:

- 7 PM (if a time occurs at the top of the hour, notice we don't use ":00")
- 8:15 AM
- 9 – 11 PM
- 10:15 AM – 5 PM
- Note: We don't use p.m. or a.m.

Phone numbers:

- 540-231-6285
- Note: We do not use (540)231-6285

Dates:

- Saturday, April 6, 2013
- Saturday, April 6
- Note: We do not use 4/6/13 or 6 April 2013

Email:

- The word "email" is one word with no hyphen.

Words underlined:

- In MS Word, underlining is an easy way to make a word or phrase stand out. With HTML emails, a word underlined appears to be a hyperlink. Therefore, we cannot use underlined text unless it is a web or email link.
- If you want to make text stand out, bold it, make the size larger, or change the color.

Staff Highlight: Patience Larkin, Director of Corps Alumni

Colonel Patience Larkin, USAF (Ret.) is the Alumni Director for the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.

After graduating from Virginia Tech in 1987, Colonel Larkin served over 24 years as an intelligence officer



with deployments to both Kuwait and Haiti. She held a variety of intelligence positions at all levels, from intelligence officer for an F-15 fighter squadron to the Associate Director for Policy and Records at the National Security Agency.

Her final assignment (April 2011) was as the Director, Operations and Outreach in the Office for Cyberthreat Analysis. During this period, she led the Defense Intelligence Agency's outreach efforts to congress, the National Security Staff, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, and Office of the Secretary of Defense.

Colonel Larkin's military education includes Joint Forces Staff College and Air War College. She received her undergraduate degree in Political Science from Virginia Tech and her master's degree in Counseling from Troy State.

During her years in the Corps, Col Larkin was a member of E-Frat 87, Gregory Guard, Scabbard and Blade, Arnold Air Society and served as the Second Battalion S1 her senior year.

For more information about Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets alumni programs and to view the most recent issue of the Corps Review magazine, visit the [Corps alumni website](#).

As part of our 2013 Drillfield Series, the Virginia Tech Alumni Association is hosting a special Corps of Cadets Alumni Weekend on July 21-23, 2013. Visit our [Drillfield Series website](#) for more details and registration information.

Stay Connected!

Visit the Hokie Nation Network for career and job opportunities, "Like" us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, and subscribe to alumni news feeds.



Dates to Remember:

- April 9: Chapter Officer Training: Chapter Leadership Succession Planning
- April 13: [3.2 Run in Remembrance](#)
- April 20: Virginia Tech Spring Game
- April 27: Chapter Officer Training: Broadening Audiences for Chapter Programs
- May 10-11: [Drillfield Series – Focus on Photography 2013](#)
- May 16: 2013 Grad Bash at Holtzman Alumni Center
- May 17: [Spring Commencement](#)
- June 5: Chapter Officer Training: Chapter Awards Requirements Q&A
- June 6: Chapter Officer Training: Chapter Awards Requirements Q&A
- June 15: Deadline to submit scholarship recipient information to our office
- July 12-13: [Virginia Tech Admissions Weekend](#)
- July 19-21: [Women's Getaway Weekend for Alumnae](#)
- September 6-7: Chapter Officers' Forum

Hokies on Facebook!



[Tampa Bay Chapter](#) volunteers at Metropolitan Ministries



[New River Valley Chapter](#) area alumni tour the new Hahn Hurst Basketball Practice Facility



[Atlanta Chapter](#) alumni cheer on the Hokies at the Virginia Tech vs. Georgia Tech basketball game at Georgia Tech



2013 Drillfield Series



Food for Thought: An Indulgence of Wine and Fine Cuisine February 15 – 17, 2013

Return home to your alma mater and enjoy a stay at the Inn at Virginia Tech for a palate-pleasing weekend. Program highlights include a dessert and sparkling wine reception, chef demonstrations, a Mediterranean food and wine pairing, an aperitif reception, and five-course dinner with wine pairing.



Focus on Photography 2013 May 10 – 11, 2013

Year three of this popular program can take your photography to the next level. Instructors will cover processing and editing photos, shooting and editing video, and topics such as lenses, digital exposure, night photography, and photographing campus. A reception and most meals are included.



Corps of Cadets Alumni Weekend June 21 – 23, 2013

Calling all cadet alumni! Come enjoy Tech's campus in summer and reunite with former cadets. Program highlights include a barbecue at the alumni center, a shooting-range contest and paintball, a Civil War presentation, reflections from veterans, and a briefing from the commandant. Meet student cadets, and possibly learn how you might help the corps in your hometown.



Virginia Tech Admissions Weekend July 12 – 13, 2013

Our annual "Day in the Life of College Admissions" is designed to assist 2014 and 2015 high school graduates and their parents in navigating the college application process. Program highlights include pointers for conducting a college search, a behind-the-scenes look at college admissions, application preparation tips, and information on scholarships and financial aid.



Women's Getaway Weekend for Alumnae July 19 – 20, 2013

Bring friends or former classmates for a fun-filled weekend in Blacksburg! Relax, revive, and reminisce. Take some time for yourself and indulge in a weekend especially designed for women. Program highlights include a tapas and wine reception, massages, recreational activities, a champagne brunch, insightful sessions for today's woman, and a dinner with special guests.

Specially reduced lodging in the Inn at Virginia Tech is available. For more details, visit www.alumni.vt.edu.

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ALUMNI ASSOCIATION