



September 2012

Chapter Team

[Josh Burnheimer](#)

[Debbie Day](#)

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[Kelly Griffin](#)

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[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,

We had a great turnout for our Chapter Officers Forum earlier this month, with nearly 90 participants from 35 chapters. The chapter volunteers represented chapters from sea to shining sea; those who traveled the longest distance were from San Diego and San Francisco! Thank you to all who attended. We were also honored to have several National Alumni Association Board Members with us:

- Matt Winston from the Athens, GA Chapter
- Kendley Davenport from the Chicago Chapter
- Morgan Blackwood from the National Capital Region Chapter
- Marvin Boyd from the National Capital Region Chapter
- Erich Windmuller from the National Capital Region Chapter
- Lance Smith from the Pinehurst Chapter
- Karen Torgersen from the Research Triangle Chapter
- Park Lemmond from the Tri-Cities Chapter

We presented 51 Outstanding Chapter Awards and 6 Achievement Awards to deserving chapters around the country. All of the award winners are listed below.

In one of the highlights of the weekend, over 30 scholarship students joined us for an Ut Prosim community service project, where we worked together to clean up around the Duck Pond. Our chapters continue to excel in their involvement in community service projects and we enjoyed the opportunity to work on one so close to our Virginia Tech "home."

The holidays are quickly approaching; you should have your holiday party and bowl watching party scheduled and on the print schedule. If you do not, please complete your [mail/email](#) request by October 22.

Let us know what we can do to help you with your upcoming events and, as always, we appreciate all you do to keep the Hokie Nation connected.

Associate Vice President for Alumni Relations

2012 Chapter Officers Forum Highlights

Our annual fall Chapter Officers Forum took place September 1-3, 2012 at the Holtzman Alumni Center.

Our agenda was centered around a “Focus on Hokie Hospitality” and we had many terrific discussions regarding welcoming practices, planning for speaker events, marketing chapter events, and programming for young alumni. We kicked off the weekend with a community service project at the Duck Pond, joined by chapter scholarship recipients. We also featured two “outside the box” chapter speakers: Cynda Ann Johnson, President and Dean of the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, and John Massey, Assistant Director for Professional Development, University Organizational and Professional Development.

We have posted some new materials from the Forum on our [Chapter Resources webpage](#) and encourage you to look over them and share them with your chapter volunteers. Please contact your chapter liaison or [Ginny Ritenour](#) if you have any questions regarding this information.

The highlight of this event is always our Friday night Chapter Awards Banquet and this year’s was no exception. Following the presentation of awards, we enjoyed our “Go for the Gold!” Olympics-themed buffet and spent time mingling with university administrators and other guests.

On Monday morning, we concluded the weekend with a wonderful Chapter Best Practices Forum, where we heard from many different chapter leaders about their successful events.

If you weren’t able to join us this year, keep watching our newsletters and website as plans become available for the 2013 Chapter Officers Forum.



Ed '69 and Jeanne Wyks, The Villages Chapter



Linda '74 and Bob '72 Allen, NC Triad Chapter, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary with us.



Bill Smith '02 and Craig Dennis '76, Charlotte Chapter



Tom Tillar, Vice President for Alumni Relations, welcomes chapter officers and distinguished guests



Mark Whitehouse '80, NC Triad Chapter, shows "Hokie Hospitality" in orange and maroon



David Stanley '95, New River Valley Chapter, and Matt Jones '09, Patrick Henry Chapter



Charles Steger, University President, mingles during the pre-awards reception



Doug '77 and Susan Moore, Pinehurst Chapter, visit with Tom Curling '79, Franklin County/Smith Mtn. Lake Chapter



Lance Smith, President of the national Alumni Board of Directors, congratulates award recipients

Chapter Awards Announced at Chapter Officers Forum

Outstanding Chapter Awards

Alleghany Highlands	Loudoun County
Annapolis	Middle Tennessee
Atlanta	Minnesota
Austin	National Capital Region
Baltimore	NC Triad
Central Florida	New Jersey
Central Pennsylvania	New York City
Charleston	Palmetto
Charlotte	Patrick Henry
Chattanooga	Prince William
Chicago	Research Triangle
Cincinnati	Richmond
Columbia	Roanoke Valley
Dallas/Fort Worth	Rockbridge
Danville	San Antonio
Denver	San Diego
East Tennessee	Seattle
First State	Shenandoah
Franklin County/SML	South Florida
Fredericksburg	Tampa Bay
Grand Strand/Myrtle Beach	Tideneck
Houston	Tidewater
Iowa	Tri-Cities
Jacksonville	The Villages
Kentuckiana	Williamsburg
Knoxville	

Achievement Awards

Augusta	Pittsburgh
New England	Southeastern Michigan
Philadelphia	Western North Carolina



*Chapter officers enjoy the "Go for the Gold!"
Olympics-themed buffet*

Chapter Superlative Awards

Outstanding Chapter Event:

Richmond Chapter, Central Virginia Wine Festival

Outstanding Chapter Community Service Project:

Charlotte Chapter, The Big Event: Charlotte

Houston Chapter, Elves & More Build-a-Bike Event

Outstanding Chapter Fundraising Event/Activity:

Charlotte Chapter, May Fundraisers

Outstanding Chapter Golf Tournament:

Prince William Chapter, 5th Annual VT Alumni Golf Tournament

Outstanding Chapter Website:

Atlanta Chapter, www.atlantahokies.com

Most Improved Chapter:

Tideneck Chapter

Outstanding New Chapter:

Southeastern Michigan Chapter

Outstanding Chapter Volunteers:

Ernie Flippo, Denver Chapter

Steve '81 and Jean Barry, Middle Tennessee Chapter

Ron Thompson '71, Tideneck Chapter

Outstanding Chapter Officers:

Chris Bryan '87, San Antonio Chapter

Allison Elkins '98, Atlanta Chapter

Hall of Fame for Outstanding Chapter Event:

Alleghany Highlands Chapter, Blue/Gray Banquet



*Debbie Day, Associate Vice President for Alumni Relations,
presents the 2012 Outstanding Chapter awards*

Community Service Highlight: Duck Pond Clean-up Project

To kick-off this year's Chapter Officers Forum, over 40 chapter officers, chapter scholarship recipients, and Student Alumni Associates participated in a Duck Pond clean-up event on Saturday, September 1st.

Josh Burnheimer, Assistant Director of Alumni Relations and chapter liaison, spearheaded the effort and the group collected over 65 pounds of debris surrounding the Duck Pond and along the adjacent roadway.



Alumni, chapter scholarship recipients, and Student Alumni Associates clean up trash around the Duck Pond

As a reminder, we now have Hokie Nation Serves t-shirts with the new HNS logo!

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 ginnyr@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.

Chapter Event Highlight: Allegheny Highlands Chapter, Blue/Gray Banquet

Imagine an event that involves a partnership with a local Rotary Club and the local community college, promotes a culinary arts program, features a prominent speaker, promotes the Civil War, raises money for scholarships and keeps growing in attendance every year.

Your imagination probably couldn't put together a better, more well thought out program and partnership than the Blue/Gray Banquet, hosted annually by the Allegheny Highlands Chapter. This event features favorite chapter speaker Bud Robertson, Alumni Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History, speaking on the Civil War.

The banquet is co-sponsored with the Covington/Hot Springs Rotary Club and Dabney Lancaster Community College. Students from the Culinary Arts program prepare a North/South buffet and describe the dishes for those in attendance. Proceeds support both the chapter scholarship and the local Rotary Scholarship.

For their creativity, partnerships, and longevity, the Alumni Association is honored to enter the Allegheny Highlands Blue Gray Banquet into the Hall of Fame this year.



Alumni Board of Directors member and chapter Scholarship Chair, Nick Moga, Allegheny Highlands Chapter

Chapter Volunteer Highlight: Outstanding Chapter Officers Chris Bryan, San Antonio, and Allison Elkins, Atlanta

Each July, our Chapter Team comes together to determine which chapters and individuals are eligible to receive awards for activities during the previous year. These awards are presented at the annual Chapter Officers Forum in the fall.

Chapter liaisons nominate their most deserving chapter leaders for the coveted Outstanding Chapter Officer Award and the team selects the “best of the best.”

At the 2012 Chapter Officers Forum held earlier this month, the Virginia Tech Alumni Association was pleased to present two such leaders with this prestigious award.

Chris Bryan '87, San Antonio Chapter



Chris accepts the Outstanding Chapter Officer Award, presented by Lance Smith, President, National Alumni Board of Directors; Charles Steger, University President; and Tom Tillar, Vice President for Alumni Relations

Chris Bryan, was instrumental in starting her local chapter over 6 years ago and has been the driving force in making them an “outstanding” chapter every year since. Her excitement and “infectious enthusiasm” encourages many more

Hokies to join the chapter and take on leadership roles.

Chris is often described as the workhorse of the chapter, as she plays a part in nearly every activity the chapter hosts, yet she never expects recognition. She has attended the annual Chapter Officers Forum nearly every year with an open mind, and always come back home with new ideas. Recently, she even went above and beyond her chapter duties to settle a financial aid dispute for a local student, working with the financial aid office to get everything straightened out.

Chris has been known to leave notes on the windshields of cars with Hokie memorabilia and is extremely outgoing and welcoming of all Hokies in the San Antonio area. As one of her fellow officers says, she is the motivational leader of the chapter and can best be described as the “spirit of the Hokies” in San Antonio, Texas.

Allison Elkins '98, Atlanta Chapter



Allison accepts the Outstanding Chapter Officer Award, presented by Lance Smith, President, National Alumni Board of Directors; Charles Steger, University President; and Tom Tillar, Vice President for Alumni Relations

Allison Elkins has been the president of the Atlanta Chapter since 2009. During her first year, she was asked to organize two away-game tailgates from scratch, leading to the creation of THE party for traveling Hokies in Atlanta.

Beyond these large events she has created a community within her chapter – a group of alumni that seek each other out beyond chapter events. Whether it is a large or small group of Hokies, they are socially committed to networking and being with one another – through holiday parties, baseball games, socials, student sendoffs, and very well attended game watching parties.

Under Allison's leadership, the chapter has boosted their online presence, maintained their commitment to community service, and revamped the speaker event program. That success was indicated by comments made by Bill Snizek on a recent visit, "It was one of the best spreads I have ever experienced and the bloody Marys and mimosas weren't too shabby either!"

Please join the Virginia Tech Alumni Association in congratulating Chris and Allison and the San Antonio and Atlanta Chapters!

Dates to Remember:

- October: Watch for information regarding scholarship application updates
- October 13: Virginia Tech vs. Duke [Homecoming Weekend](#)
- November 9: Updated scholarship applications due to our office
- December 21: [Fall Commencement](#)
- February 15-16: Drillfield Series – Food for Thought: Culinary and Wine Experience
- May 10-11: Drillfield Series – Focus on Photography 2013
- July 12-13: A Day in the Life of College Admissions Event
- July 19-21: Alumnae Weekend: Women's Getaway

Communications Corner: September 2012

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

Football Away Game Tailgates and Chapter Game Watching Parties

Be sure to check out our detailed list of football away game tailgates and chapter game watching parties [on our website](#). If you would like to have information added for your chapter, please contact [Ginny Ritenour](#) with the details.

Make plans now to announce your holiday event

Football season has just begun, but it's already time to start thinking about your holiday party. If you plan to have a mailer sent out, **the Alumni Association will need your print request no later than 5 PM on Monday, October 22.** [Email templates](#) will continue to go out within five business days.

Holiday schedule for emails

Submissions received after 5 PM, Tuesday, November 13 will not be processed and sent until the week of November 26. In December, submissions received after 5 PM, Tuesday, December 11 will not be processed and sent until the week of January 7.

Communications Deadlines

October 22 - Deadline for Holiday Party printed mailer requests

November 13 (5 PM) - Deadline for email requests for ACC Championship Watching Parties and Events

December 11 (5 PM) - Deadline for email requests for Bowl Watching Parties and Events