The 1983 Ring Collection

Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University
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OFFICIAL RING BOOK

CLASS OF 1983

The Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Blacksburg, Virginia
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
by Greg Brainerd

The 1983 class officers acknowledged the fine tradition of the Tech ring. Winter quarter of our sophomore year we began to organize the fourteen member committee. Ten were selected from nearly 100 enthusiastic applicants. The four remaining committee members are the class president and three members-at-large.

The committee’s goal has been the design of meaningful rings that would incorporate quality at a reasonable price. For this reason, the ring committee chose Josten’s to manufacture our rings. To make the design as meaningful as possible, the committee conducted an extensive survey in which each class member had the opportunity to make suggestions. Each suggestion was carefully considered by the ring committee and Josten’s, who faced the difficult task of selecting complementing elements to create the 1983 rings.

Class rings are a proud tradition at Virginia Tech. The Tech ring has developed into the nation’s largest ring contract, since its beginning in 1914. The 1983 rings are unique, yet still retain the qualities which have distinguished them from other university rings. The ring committee proudly presents the rings that we, the entire class, have chosen to proudly wear.

Artist Jim Lindberg shows transitional drawings for Committee approval. All elements used on the Class jewelry are carefully developed as drawings and considered critically before being accepted. All members of the committee must agree on the final designs.
Years of experience in designing the great college rings of America instruct the hand of George Flynn shown here putting the final touches on one more great ring in Tech's history. Committee members stand by with advice and consent.

HISTORY OF THE RING — Jo Preuninger

The class ring has been worn as a symbol of devotion to VPI & SU and graduating classes since its introduction in 1914. Each year the ring program has been modified and expanded, becoming the most prestigious program of university rings in the country.

Traditionally, the ring contains those elements symbolic of our university ideals and class beliefs. An eagle has always appeared on the ring, representing freedom and strength along with our national flag. An oval stone enclosed by a chain bezel has been a trademark of a Tech ring and the unity within each of its graduating classes.

Previous classes have designed rings using symbols which represented the events and movements which influenced their lives during college. Past rings have used an ecology flag in place of the national flag, clasped hands, and the earth. The eagle has been used in varying forms with arrows or olive leaves to represent a period of war or peace.

To meet the changing needs of class members, a diversified ring program has evolved capable of satisfying all tastes. Rings of all sizes, designs and metals are available with the most comprehensive warranty offered to any university.

Simple and small by modern standards the 1914 ring was military in spirit as represented the character of VPI at that time. This ring started the tradition.
THE RING COMMITTEE

Shelly Calvert  Greg Brainerd  

Josten executive Craig Glanon listens intently as Committee members discuss exactly how they want the 1983 Official Ring to be rendered in metal. Many hours were devoted to these significant details which in total comprise the style and substance of the Ring.

Gretchen Dix  Bruce C. Carver  Joe Dotson  James A. Foster, III

Sue Hunt  John S. Malone  Jo Preuninger  Freda Rosso

Barbara Russell  Kirk Slack  Kenton Waddell  Beth Wojtech
CONTINUING A TRADITION by Bruce C. Carver

Once the 1983 Ring Committee was selected, the members faced the challenge of choosing a company that would manufacture and assist in the design of the 1983 Tech ring, one of the nation’s largest ring contracts.

Three of the country’s largest and most prestigious ring companies competed for this prized contract. Each company presented a comprehensive eight hour competitive bid presentation and written bid proposal, which had to conform to the stringent specifications of the University and The Ring Committee. Upon the completion of all competitive presentations and the receipt of final written bids, the ring committee faced the difficult task of evaluating and comparing every aspect of each company’s bid proposal in order to select a company to produce the 1983 Tech rings. Important on our minds was cost, service, quality, and design in continuing this valued Tech tradition.

After many hours of deliberation, Josten’s was selected the official representative for the 1983 Tech Ring Committee.

Josten’s and the Ring Committee enthusiastically worked together at the challenge of designing the official 1983 rings. At the end of spring quarter, after hours of meetings and design sessions, the designs were completed.

At a summer meeting in August, Josten’s presented the collection of finished 1983 Tech rings to the committee for approval. At this time the Official 1983 Ring Book and Ring Premier were finalized.

Many hours of diligent efforts have gone into your 1983 Virginia Tech Class Ring. This is why the “Tech Ring” has established itself as a proud tradition.

Long hours of deliberation culminate in the exciting moment when the new designs are unveiled. It is a festive occasion of celebration! The rings look great!
THE BEZEL by Freda Rosso and Kenton Waddell

In celebration of Tech tradition, the 1983 bezel breaks the trend of the past several years and returns to the bold and traditional oval bezel. This bezel concept adds noticeably to the distinctively handsome ring shape and enhances the design and symbolism of the ring. To complement this dynamic style, high-pitched san serif lettering gives the design a masculine appearance. Framing this clean bezel concept is a distinctive chain of interlocking “83’s” which represents our class’ well rounded and united nature, and completes this elegant design. In all, the bezel style crowns the classic ring design with an exceptional beauty, unmatched by other designs. No other bezel design could add the traditional look the committee was attempting to achieve.

Continuing with the very classic bezel design the committee offers the very popular and attractive honor point or bezel divider. The divider not only serves as a handsome design element but allows each student to personalize his class ring. The student can choose from options for the honor point ranging from initials, organization logos, Greek letters, class symbol, to a diamond or cubic zirconia stone. The bezel can be further individualized by the wide variety of high quality genuine and synthetic stones.

The 1983 ring committee is proud to be able to offer you a bezel that combines the best of tech tradition, class representation, and individual personalization.

ALLOYS by John S. Malone

The 1983 Ring Committee has committed itself to designing and manufacturing a quality ring which is affordable and attractive to all members of our class. Josten’s Inc., recognizing this commitment has developed a precious metal alloy, Techium, especially formulated to lighten the financial burden of a ring purchase while retaining the brilliance and beauty found in all Tech rings.

Techium is a unique blend of nature’s elements whose durability and wearability characteristics are closer to gold than any other metal blend. Techium is being offered as either a white or yellow gold substitute and is also a viable option for those class members who are unable to wear gold. It is fully warranted to endure for a lifetime.
THE UNIVERSITY SIDE
by John Malone and Kirk Slack

The university side of the 1983 official ring delineates the respect of the class for the everlasting ideals and traditions of our fine university. Our perception of the traditional elements — the eagle, VPISU, Ut Prosim, Burruss Hall, the flags — has created an image which is unique to the class of 1983.

This image was attained by placing Burruss, the hallmark of our education, in the center and framing it with symbols of varying degrees of traditionalism. The university motto “Ut Prosim” (That I may serve) is engraved on a banner which rests on the powerful towers of Burruss Hall. Above the motto the eagle is boldly grasping VPISU with his keen talons symbolizing the sheer determination and sharp direction which our class has undertaken in tackling the obstacles of college life. Finishing off this side, our class symbol forms a foundation for our central figure, Burruss, along with the mountain ranges in the background and the dogwood flowers on each side of Burruss.
THE CLASS SIDE by Jim Foster and Gretchen Dix

The class side of the official ring was designed to reflect the spirit of the very diverse members of the class of 1983. Atop the ring resides a powerful eagle, surrounded by the sabre, symbolizing the long-standing tradition of the corps. The torch, displaying a flaming 111, heralds the 111th graduating class. In the firm grip of the eagles' talons our graduating year 1983 is boldly displayed.

Framing the base of the ring is our class symbol with the year of our university's founding, 1872. Our class symbol forms the foundation for the War Memorial Chapel, symbolizing the ideals that are Tech. Returning to tradition, your curriculum will be proudly displayed in bold, block lettering, crowning the War Memorial Chapel.

We believe that this design embodies the spirit of the class of 1983 and we hope that you will be as proud to wear it as we were to design it for you!
THE OFFICIAL MINIATURE by Shelly Calvert and Bruce Carver

In the 1983 Virginia Tech Women’s Official Miniature we chose to depict only the most significant elements of the Men’s Official Ring. Each side incorporates clean, crisp, well defined elements that accentuate the feminine styling of the ring.

The university side is dominated by four major design elements: an impressive VPISU treatment, Ut Prosim, the Virginia Dogwood, and our distinctive ’83 VT arrangement. The VPISU treatment is a statement of our pride in this fine established Virginia Institution. The representation of Ut Prosim is characterized by the hope of every Tech student, “That I May Serve.” The dogwood blossom’s bold detailed character matted on a background of dogwood leaves represents the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The class side is dominated by three major design elements: the 1983 class date, the curriculum affiliation, and our distinctive ’83 VT arrangement. The 1983 class date symbolizes our commitment to the class system and our pride in being the 111th graduating class at Virginia Tech. The centralized individual college shield represents the diversity of academic thought at Tech.

We chose to symbolize the bond between the class and the university by continuing our distinctive ’83 VT design as a finale to both sides of the ring.

The aim of our committee was to achieve the traditional femininity of this ring with delicacy and concise design. We wanted the ’83 Tech woman to see meaning in the symbolism we carefully chose.
WOMEN'S DINNER RING
by Barbara Russell and Sue Hunt

The formal dinner ring of the class of 1983 is uniquely distinguished by its daintiness. This is by far the most feminine ring ever presented at Virginia Tech and was specially designed by Josten's for our class.

This ring brilliantly depicts the tradition of Virginia with a stunning dogwood blossom which rests in the center of a trio-cluster of the flower's leaves. The slender band of the ring gracefully blends into the lower, prominent, dogwood leaf; framing "VPI" and "83" in the formal script letters on either side of the dinner ring.

Finally, the elegance of the ring is enlightened by a long, but petite, oval-shaped stone; the most popular choice among Tech women.

We are therefore very pleased and proud to present this stylish ring to the women of Virginia Tech.
THE 1983 SIGNET RING
by Joe Dotson and Beth Wojtech

Our growth as a class is based upon our growth as individuals. The individuality of the Class of 1983 is expressed in the personalized signet ring. Each class member has the opportunity to incorporate his or her own ideas into a unique and special creation. The ring committee decided upon smooth, sleek shanks in conjunction with a bold, cushion-antique top which leaves ample room for the wearer to fashion his own design. The detail of each design will be emphasized in raised gold, highlighted by a black background. This personalized ring will link the wearer's thoughts and ideas to an important aspect of the University, making it a very special ring indeed!
This year's signet collection offers many varied and exciting options. The owner of this particular ring can be assured of wearing a distinctly unique jewelry creation. This year the committee decided to offer two additional rings that had been highly regarded. One of the available options is the ever popular octagonal onyx top encrusted with the University abbreviation. Also available is the oval onyx stone bearing the Virginia Tech logo.
SPECIAL INFORMATION TO HELP IN ORDERING

Gold in a pure state is 24 Karat and impractical for use in the manufacture of class rings. It is soft in its original state and requires the addition of other alloying materials, primarily copper, silver and zinc.

Josten’s will formulate for your VPISU class ring, a special 10K and 14K “Plumb” alloy. 10K rings will contain in excess of 41% pure gold and 14K rings will contain in excess of 58% pure gold.


STONES — All Jostens synthetic stones and many of the genuine stones are cut and polished to exacting specifications by master cutters in the Herbert Stephan Factory in Idar Oberstein, West Germany. Synthetic stones are not an imitation, but actually synthesized, or man-made — “grown” under controlled conditions — the result of 20th century technological advances.

They have all the same chemical, physical, and optical characteristics (such as molecular structure, hardness and brilliance) as their natural stone counterpart. Virtually all types of gem stones have been synthesized — even emeralds and diamonds. Jostens by maintaining its’ own stone cutting and grading lapidaries insures finest quality.

The widest selection of thirty-four stone options is available at Official Ring base prices. A full complement of genuine (natural) stones is also made available and includes jade, turquoise, opals and diamonds, plus additional selections.

ORDERING AFTER GRADUATION:
A letter should be sent to the Vice President for Student Affairs, 121 Patton Hall, indicating your full name, year of graduation (or the class with which you are affiliated) and a current mailing address. You will receive a copy of a letter sent to Josten’s indicating that you are eligible to purchase a 1983 class ring. You should then write to: Josten’s Inc., “VP Customer Service”, 148 Broadway, Owatonna, Minnesota 55060, for an order form and current prices.

ORDERING DURING YOUR SENIOR YEAR:
Josten’s representatives will be on campus several times during the year to take new orders or to make adjustments. Watch the newspaper or check with the Office of Student Affairs, 121 Patton Hall, for the exact dates. Should you wish to place a ring order at a time other than those planned, come to 121 Patton Hall for an authorization form. Your class dues can be paid at the time you order.

UNIBALANCE RINGS
A revolutionary new patented process in class ring manufacturing that permits elimination of excess gold (non-functional interior portion) without altering or affecting the size, shape, contour or wearing durability. The Men’s Traditional, Proportioned and Classic sizes of the VPISU Ring will be available in UniBalance construction resulting in a savings of considerable magnitude. The full selection of VPISU ring sizes and constructions (weights) insures the widest choice in all price ranges.

ALTERNATIVE ALLOYS
This year for the first time, members of the class of ‘83 will be given the option to order non-gold alloys in both a yellow or white color. These alloys have been specially formulated for the Tech rings to provide the luster and durability to which all Tech rings are known to possess. This alloy is available in both yellow and white and is a unique blend of nature’s elements featuring Paladium — a metal even more rare than gold — a precious metal of the Platinum group found only in the very smallest quantities today as well as gold, silver and other alloys. You’ll like the brilliance and beauty of Techium in either the whiter than white coloration or the rose gold coloration. Many individuals who would like to wear either yellow or white jewelry are not certain as to which to choose. will choose yellow Techium as the middle of the road. It complements either type of jewelry. Techium — An exciting new alternative in VPISU rings. Affordably priced and fully warranted.
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<th>PRICES</th>
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<tr>
<td>WOMEN’S OFFICIAL</td>
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<tr>
<td>SIGNET (Black Onyx/All Metal)</td>
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<td>Dinner</td>
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<td>Miniature</td>
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| MEN’S OFFICIAL |
| MEN'S SIGNET (Onyx/All Metal) | 135.00 | 202.00 | 262.00 |

| OFFICIAL CLASSIC |
| Unibalance | 285.00 | 382.00 |
| Solid Back | 304.00 | 416.00 |

| OFFICIAL PROPORTIONAL |
| Unibalance | 293.00 | 398.00 |
| Solid Back | 339.00 | 469.00 |

| OFFICIAL TRADITIONAL |
| Unibalance | 392.00 | 551.00 |
| Solid Back | 426.00 | 609.00 |
| Heavyweight, Solid Back | 488.00 | 704.00 |

TECHIUM is available in white or yellow.

**OFFICIAL RING** BASE PRICES ABOVE INCLUDE INDIVIDUAL CHOICE (WHERE APPLICABLE) OF THE FOLLOWING 34 STONES: Yellow Gold, White Gold or Green Gold. Full Name Engraved inside (Block, Script or Facsimile), City and State or Social Security Number, Sunburst Stones, Encrusting, Custom top and Bezel Divider (where applicable).

Jostens suggests that students strongly consider the unibalance ring for its comfort and value. There is no difference in warranty and appearance between unibalance and the solid back rings.

RING BASE PRICES ABOVE INCLUDE INDIVIDUAL CHOICE (WHERE APPLICABLE) OF THE FOLLOWING STONES: YELLOW GOLD, WHITE GOLD OR GREEN GOLD, FULL NAME ENGRAVED OR INITALS, TWELVE BIRTHSTONES PLUS TOURMALINE, BLUE SPINEL, SARDONYX, BLACK ONYX, GREEN ONYX, MOTHER OF PEARL AND TAHITIAN PEARL, SUNBURST, ENCRUSTING AND CUSTOM TOP WHERE APPLICABLE.

Cubic Zirconia — Scientific progress allows Jostens to offer to the Class of ’82, Cubic, Zirconia, the most convincing diamond substitute yet created. A new man-made diamond simulant, "grown" at nearly 5000° F, Cubic Zirconia has a combination of optical properties which produce a brilliance remarkably close to nature's own diamond.

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<th>12 Synthetic Birthstones</th>
<th>Other Synthetic Stones</th>
<th>Genuine Stones</th>
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<tr>
<td>Garnet</td>
<td>Ruby</td>
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<td>Kunzite</td>
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<td>Amazonite</td>
<td>White Spinel</td>
<td>Ivy Green</td>
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PRICES SHOWN HERE ARE GUARANTEED ONLY THROUGH THIS SCHOOL YEAR. DO NOT DELAY IN ORDERING! FUTURE PRICES WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE MUCH DIFFERENT FROM THOSE NOW QUOTED.