

# *Virginia Tech*

## *Class of 2004*



*Burns Hall from Memorial Hall, 1944*



Class Title
Via Praemium Est
Class Colors
Red, Black & Silver
Class Sponsor
D. Jeffrey W. Johnson

*Class Motto*

“Via Praemium Est”

“The Journey is the Reward”

*Class Colors*

Red, Black & Silver

*Class Sponsor*

Dr. James P. Wightman



## Journey of Tradition Timeline

## Journey of Tradition Timeline

## Tech Timeline: 1914

*The Class of 1914 joined the first ring design committee and was charged with the challenging task of creating a one-of-a-kind ring symbolizing the University and the experiences of the Class of 1914.*



## Tech Timeline: 1944

*"My class ring symbolizes my association with my classmates and my ties with the University."*  
—Mr. Henry Dekker



## Tech Timeline: 1934

*"It is the embodiment of four years of outstandingly memorable youth and the camaraderie of life-long splendid classmates."*

*—Col. Harry Temple*



## Tech Timeline: 1963

*"My class ring has been a source of pride and a valued reminder of an important time in my life with special memories and friendships."*  
—Mr. David Lowe



## Tech Timeline: 1969

*"My class ring represents the greatest time of my life—great friends, great moments personally, football, and my education."*  
—Coach Frank

Banner

“The memories of the experience are vivid. They reflect lasting friendships and attachment to the University, which are symbolized by the ring.”  
—President Charles Steyer

Sieger

*"My class ring is  
an enduring*

reminder of my association with Virginia Tech. It is an outward and visible symbol of our shared Hokie

—Dr. Raymond Sison

*"My ring sparks  
fond memories of*

my undergrad years  
and my sense of  
pride in being a  
Tech alum. "

—Dr. Tom Tilley



## Tech Timeline: 1977

"Almost 30 years and three VT degrees later, I still proudly wear this token of my alma mater."



-Dr. Ray Van Dyke

## Tech Timeline: 1984

*"While growing up I admired how my mother always wore her class ring, an elegant black onyx signet ring. So when it was my turn to choose a class ring, I chose the same style."*



*Tech seal. I wanted to be able to wear it with everything and still look classy. I love it!"*  
—Debbie Day Shelton

## Tech Timeline: 1992

"Virginia Tech is very unique. Our Ring Traditions have lasted all these years, despite the tremendous growth and diversity in our student body."  
—Dr. Melissa Byrne Nelson, MD

—Dr. Melissa Byrne Nelson, MD



## Tech Timeline: 2000

*"My class ring signifies my pride and love for Virginia Tech. The University seal incorporates Hokies near and far, young and old, with ties to our beginnings in 1872."*

-*Erin Brunst*

## Tech Timeline: 2002

*"Every time I look down at my finger and see my class ring, I know that I'm a true*





A group of students from the Class of 1914 gathered to design a ring that best reflected their experiences at Virginia Tech. This was the founding of our school's Ring Design Committee.

Ninety years later, the Ring Design Committee still has the sacred responsibility of designing a ring collection that represents this grand University and the memories that each class will take with them when they leave Virginia Tech.

The Class of 2004 Ring Design Committee consists of the Ring Design Chair, two committee members selected by the class officers, the Ring Dance Chair, the Class President, the Cadet Member-at-Large, the Female Member-at-Large, and the Male Member-at-Large. The goal of this year's committee was to remind the class of the rich heritage the ring has at Virginia Tech and to produce a collection that everyone will wear with pride.



**RING DESIGN COMMITTEE**

Front row (L to R): Rebecca Carr, Sara Kennedy, Nicole Reynolds, Meghan Grice  
Back row (L to R): Matt Hall, Chandler Terry, Sean McConnell, John Tabb

<b>John Tabb</b>	Ring Design Chair
<b>Matt Hall</b>	Committee Member
<b>Chandler Terry</b>	Committee Member
<b>Meghan Grice</b>	Ring Dance Chair
<b>Sara Kennedy</b>	Female Member-at-large
<b>Sean McConnell</b>	Male Member-at-large
<b>Rebecca Carr</b>	Cadet Member-at-large

<b>Nicole Reynolds</b>	President
<b>Katie McCoy</b>	Vice President
<b>Katie Weeks</b>	Secretary
<b>Keara Murphy</b>	Treasurer
<b>Sabrina Chin</b>	Historian



Beginning with the Class of 1911, the presentation of the Virginia Tech Class ring has been one of the most honored and anticipated traditions within the University. Every year class representatives design a new and unique ring incorporating the lush history of Virginia Tech with the unique and exciting changes each class experiences during their stay at Virginia Tech.

Each year, symbols have been incorporated into the traditional ring, dating as far back as 1914. The first ring featured a pair of eagles, symbolizing strength and freedom. Since then, every ring has had at least one eagle on its shank, earning the name of “The Screaming Eagle”. Each class has chosen to include symbols reflecting Virginia Tech’s military heritage, campus buildings, the Class logo and motto, and many aspects of social life on campus.



John and Sue Ellen Rocovich,  
Ring Dance, 1965

The deep tradition and detailed design of each Virginia Tech ring has distinguished itself from all others and helped to make it one of the most loved traditions at Virginia Tech. The Class of 2004 Ring Committee has designed a collection of rings that symbolizes the spirit of the class as well as the pride of the University.

Established by the Class of 1935, the lasting tradition of Ring Dance takes place during the spring of a student’s junior year. Created twenty-one years after the inception of the Ring Program, the Ring Dance weekend has grown to be one of the most prestigious events celebrated by students and faculty of Virginia Tech. Even in its sixty-ninth year, the Ring Dance tradition continues to embody the spirit and strength of the university.

Ring Dance weekend commences with an elegant semi-formal banquet to honor the namesake of the collection. The following night the tradition of the Virginia Tech Ring culminates in the Ring Presentation Ceremony.

Upon arrival to the ballroom, each couple receives ribbons in their class colors. Traditionally the woman wears her date’s ring on her wrist with the darker ribbon, while the gentleman will wear his date’s ring on his wrist with the lighter ribbon until the formal exchange of the rings. The Ring Presentation is begun with a time-honored ritual performed by the Corps, as the Junior Cadets march into the ballroom forming the year of the graduating class. Following is the traditional formation of the sabre arch under which each Junior Cadet’s date is escorted by a freshman Cadet. The President of the University then ceremoniously announces the formal exchange of Rings. As each couple presents their rings, “Moonlight and VPI”, written specifically for the Ring Dance by Fred Waring with lyrics by Charles Gaynor, is sung. At the conclusion of the song, hundreds of balloons are released on the couples below. The evening comes to a close at midnight with fireworks over the Drillfield, accompanied by the playing of “Silver Taps”.

The Class of 2004 cordially invites you to join us in embracing and





Mr. John and Dr. Sue Ellen Rocovich are the quintessential Hokie couple. Both born and raised in the Roanoke and Blacksburg area, they were Hokies at birth. Since they began dating when he was 16 and she was 15, the couple has made their mark on the world. Their influence has spread throughout the state and the country.

John Rocovich has held numerous positions and has helped many people during his lifetime journey. He is a member of the Virginia Tech Class of 1966. He was a shot-putter on the track team and a

member of the Corps of Cadets. John went on to receive law degrees from the University of Richmond and NYU. Since that time, he has served numerous terms on the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors and is currently Rector. He is a partner in the Roanoke law firm, Moss and Rocovich. He has chaired the Major Gifts Committee campaign for Virginia Tech, is a member of the College of Engineering Committee of 100, and performed the duties of president for the Virginia Tech Foundation and the Alumni Association. He has been a member of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Foundation. Currently, John is a trustee of Mary Baldwin College, serves on the Wachovia and Virginia College Fund Boards, and is also head of the Harvey Peters Foundation.

Sue Ellen did her graduate work at Virginia Tech and in 1977 graduated with a Ph.D. in genetics. She also received a medical degree from the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine. She has served on the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors as well as the Virginia Tech Foundation. She has been appointed to the VMI Board of Visitors and to the Virginia State Board of Medicine. Sue Ellen is a specialist in osteopathy and surgery in the emergency department at Allegheny Regional Hospital.

Currently, the couple is working on building and financing the new Edward Via Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine in the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center, which began construction in early 2002. This is a joint project for the Rocoviches. They are also involved with many other projects across the country.

There is no question about where they call home. The Rocoviches have been a very influential and important couple in the advancement of Virginia Tech. It is obvious that they are lifetime Hokies, and their loyalties are in Blacksburg.



## **The Mr. John and Dr. Sue Ellen Rocovich Ring Collection**







Rock (Square)



Ramoke (with spellout)



Determination  
(without spellout)



Director



Distinguished



Spirit



Journey



Heritage



Rock (Round)



Unity



Sue Ellen (Round)



Benevolence



Pride



Sue Ellen (Square)



Executive



Service



Reward



Foundation



Rock (Round)



Virginian



## Class of 2004 Ring — Class Side



## Class Side

**Class Motto** Via Praemium Est — The Journey is the Reward

**New Stadium Expansion** The addition increased stadium capacity by 11,000 to accommodate the growing enthusiasm for Hokie Football.

**Downtown** Symbolizing the active social life of Virginia Tech students, this scene can be viewed from Squires Student Center by looking down College Avenue.

**Fighting Gobbler** An entry logo placed on the ring to represent our university's rich history as the "Fighting Gobblers".

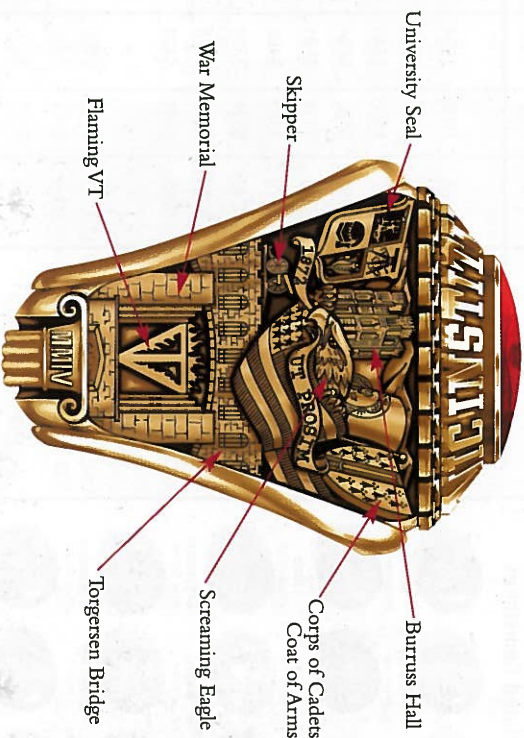
**Clasped Hands** The clasped hands in front of the globe represent the unity, diversity and willingness to serve of our ever-increasing global community.

**Ribbon** Recognizes those who have lost their lives for our country in times of tragedy.

**Hokie Pokie** Represents the traditional dance led by the tuba players of the Marching Virginians that Hokie fans perform during home football games.



## Class of 2004 Ring — University Side



## University Side

**Burruss Hall** Named after the 8th president, Julian A. Burruss, this building was completed in 1936 and serves as the administrative hub for the university. Its striking appearance has made it a strong symbol of Virginia Tech.

**War Memorial** Completed and dedicated in 1960, this memorial honors those of the university that lost their lives in battle since WWI. The eight limestone pylons represent the founding values of Virginia Tech: Brotherhood, Ut Prosim, Leadership, Loyalty, Sacrifice, Service, Honor, and Duty.

**The University Seal** Created in 1896 and officially adopted in 1963, the seal depicts in the four quadrants of the shield: the Great Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia; the surveyor's level and leveling rod superimposed over a scroll; a partially husked standing ear of corn; and a chemical retort and graduate.

**The Corps of Cadets Coat of Arms** Designed by Col. Harry D. Temple and granted to the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets in 1965, the simplified coat of arms appearing on the ring includes an ermine background, red pale, sword and the gold hilt of the sword signifying courage and determination, military training, and quality, respectively.

**Screaming Eagle** The screaming eagle evolved from a pair of twin eagles used on the first Virginia Tech ring, symbolizing the twin virtues of strength and freedom.

**Skipper** First fired in 1963, this cannon, donated by the classes of 1961-64 to honor President Kennedy and the 5th year seniors of the Corps, is now fired at ceremonies, including pass-in-reviews, retreats, fireworks displays and Hokie touchdowns.

**Flaming VT** This giant VT, lit by the HOTEL Company Commander, burns in the night sky and is then lowered and burned into the Alumni Hall lawn. This tradition is a significant mark of pride



## Simulated Gemstones



## Special Stone Options

**Payment Options for the Class of 2004**  
Pay in full Receive a \$10 discount when you pay in full at time of order.  
Time payment Your balance will be divided into 3. A one time annual maintenance fee of \$10.00 is required.

	10K	14K	18K	Siladium
<b>MEN'S STYLES</b>				
Rock 40 DWT	\$488	\$636	\$904	\$158
Rock 34 DWT	\$426	\$572	\$775	\$158
Rock 28 DWT	\$402	\$508	\$640	\$158
Rock 22 DWT	\$355	\$435	\$534	\$158
Virginian	\$245	\$318	\$391	\$158
Service	\$275	\$363	\$463	\$158
Pride	\$242	\$314	\$389	\$158
Director	\$260	\$341	\$428	\$158
Executive	\$260	\$341	\$428	\$158
<b>WOMEN'S STYLES</b>				
Sue Ellen 12 DWT	\$275	\$359	\$459	\$158
Sue Ellen 5 DWT	\$230	\$271	\$336	\$158
Spirit	\$218	\$235	\$310	\$158
Achievement	\$216	\$242	\$297	n/a
Heritage	\$227	\$259	\$321	\$158
Foundation	\$254	\$286	\$348	\$158
Distinguished	\$260	\$302	\$354	\$188
Reward	\$246	\$274	\$332	\$183
Journey	\$219	\$247	\$307	\$158
Roanoke I	\$257	\$294	\$349	\$197
Roanoke II	\$369	\$406	\$461	\$309
Determination I	\$257	\$294	\$349	\$197
Determination II	\$369	\$406	\$461	\$309
Unity I	\$309	\$342	\$395	n/a
Unity II	\$540	\$574	\$626	n/a
Benevolence	\$234	\$240	\$294	n/a

## Diamonds

1 Pt.	\$35	13 x 11	\$150	12 x 10	\$110	8 x 6	\$30
2 Pts.	\$45		\$150		\$110		\$30
3 Pts.	\$70		\$200		\$155		\$40
5 Pts.	\$100		\$200		\$155		\$40
10 Pts.	\$110		\$200		\$155		\$40
20 Pts.	\$175		\$200		\$155		\$40
25 Pts.	\$375		\$200		\$155		\$40

## Cubic Zirconia

1 Pt.	\$10	13 x 11	\$150	12 x 10	\$110	8 x 6	\$30
2 Pts.	\$15		\$200		\$155		\$40
3 Pts.	\$18		\$200		\$155		\$40
5 Pts.	\$25		\$200		\$155		\$40
10 Pts.	\$25		\$200		\$155		\$40
20 Pts.	\$28		\$200		\$155		\$40
25 Pts.	\$35		\$200		\$155		\$40

## Full Lifetime Warranty

Lengths and conditions of guarantee regarding defects in material and workmanship: The rings are warranted to be free of defect in workmanship and materials.

Length and scope of guarantee regarding stones and stone decoration: Any damaged simulated stone will be replaced at no charge regardless of the cause of damage.

Conditions and associated charges for ring resizing and ring adjustments: The ring will be resized at any time at no charge.

Conditions and associated charges for replacement of damaged rings: Any damaged encrusted stone will be replaced at no charge regardless of cause of damage.

Conditions and associated charges for ordering additional rings: Additional rings may be ordered at any time. After December 31, 2004, the rings may be ordered at the prevailing price at time of order. Prevailing price will be determined according to cost of gold and stones at the time of ordering.

Conditions and associated charges for changes in academic college destination: A classmate who changes colleges at Virginia Tech after a ring is purchased may return the ring to be remade with proper designation at no charge.

Refund policy for rings returned for students who fail to graduate with the class designated on the ring: A classmate who fails to graduate with your Class may return the ring for a full refund less class dues.

Responsibility and procedures for resolving disputes regarding the validity of warranty clauses: Disputes as to the validity of the warranty clauses will be resolved by the Ring Design Committee. With ArtGard's philosophy that the customer is always right, such arbitration by the Committee should never be necessary.

Conditions and associated charges for restoring ring finish: Should a classmate not be totally satisfied with his







Dear Class of 2004,

It has been a great honor and absolute pleasure to serve as your class president. I cannot explain to you how grateful I am to have been given this privilege. Over the past year, I have truly believe that these four years will be an amazing experience and impacting years of our lives. We have created and will continue to generate a legacy of memories and irreplaceable experiences shared among us, honored by the bonds we have formed and the traditions we have celebrated. We are extremely privileged to be a part of this great university and have the opportunity to put our education to good use. As a class, we have a history of excellence and traditions. The experiences we live and the moments we create will never be replicated. Your class ring will be a symbol of everything that makes our era here at the university and will be the common link that joins the greater than four thousand of us together.

Let us make the most of our short journey here at Virginia Tech. Join us and embrace the traditions that so many of our predecessors have before us. As we continue with the next page of our lives, whatever challenges and successes we will always have our ring, our pride, our memories, and each other.

Yours sincerely,

Nicole M. Reynolds

Nicole M. Reynolds

PRESIDENT CLASS OF 2004

Dear Class of 2004,

Think 50 years into the future. Quickly glancing down at your finger, a brilliant shine is cast by your Tech ring. Instantaneously, the best memories of your life flash before your eyes. You remember crossing the drillfield on that blustery winter day, tailgating for Hokie football, staying up late to study for that exam or maybe even the party that you went to instead.

Everyone will remember Blacksburg differently, but regardless, your Tech ring will never fail to be a reminder of your strong love for Virginia Tech as well as the great sensation of Hokie pride.

I cannot articulate enough how honored I am to have been chosen to assist in the design of our class's ring. Many of this university's great leaders have sat on their ring committees in the past and have continued to give back upon graduating. I hope to demonstrate my appreciation for all Virginia Tech has done for me by upholding this tradition.

Several people deserve recognition for their hard work on this endeavor. I was blessed with outstanding committee members whose creativity and energy truly contributed to this collection of rings. The entire ArtCarved staff was also wonderful to work with and always catered to the committee's demanding needs. Last but definitely not least, none of this would have been possible without the help we received from Shari Malone and Laura Weidin.

Always wear your ring with pride and the memories you have of Virginia Tech will remain with you forever.

Sincerely,

