

# *Virginia Tech Class of 2007*



EMBRACING THE PAST, DEFINING THE FUTURE





*Solitude 1935, Special Collections, Digital Library and Archives, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.*

Members of the Class of 2007,

Virginia Tech has maintained a Class Ring tradition for 95 years, and a Ring Dance tradition for 72 of those years. Our Class Ring program is one of the most unique in the nation and Virginia Tech alumni around the world wear their Class Rings with pride and distinction.

I vividly remember my junior year at Virginia Tech, eagerly awaiting the opportunity to receive my class ring. As a member of the Class of 1969 Ring Design Committee, I enjoyed the experience of designing a ring that both symbolized the lasting traditions of our university and reflected the unique spirit of our class. I hold fond memories of that experience and, to this day, my Virginia Tech Ring reminds me of lasting friendships from those years and the pride we share for our alma mater.

Congratulations as you share in this meaningful tradition. I look forward to being with you in March when you officially receive your rings and celebrate your Class of 2007 Ring Dance.

Sincerely,

Charles W. Steger  
President  
Class of 1969

Dear Class of 2007,

Since orientation, our time here at Virginia Tech has been the most meaningful of our lives. We have come to challenge ourselves and test our abilities, both personally and intellectually. It is a time like no other during which we have built friendships, community, and embraced our Hokie spirit.

Over the past few years, we have seen change to our campus aesthetics such as additions to the stadium and new academic buildings. As our surroundings have changed, so have we as a class. We have become more unified in our approach to our learning and our contributions to the Virginia Tech community. We have also embraced a new way of communicating our Hokie pride as members of the ACC. Through all these changes and experiences we have grown closer to our classmates and this great institution we call home.

At Virginia Tech, we have not only become a part of, but have created our own Virginia Tech traditions. I would like to encourage everyone to help continue our longstanding ring tradition. The 2007 class ring will be a reminder of your great memories at Virginia Tech. How ever far you may roam or how high you may climb, your class ring will always keep you a Hokie at heart.

Sincerely,

Russell Davis  
Class of 2007 President



To the Class of 2007,

What an amazing two years it has been for the Class of 2007. I believe that we have only begun our time here at Virginia Tech, and that great things are to come through academics, friendships and activities. We are privileged to be afforded the opportunity to grow and learn at an institution that is steeped in tradition.

Virginia Tech is one of the few large universities to encourage and promote traditions such as the Virginia Tech Class Ring. This tradition embodies that certain feeling of 'Hokie Pride' by capturing the present and embracing the future through the ring design process. Since 1912, the Virginia Tech Class Ring has been redesigned each year by a committee that is selected by the class. As the 95<sup>th</sup> Ring Committee we have embraced the challenge and joy of designing the Class of 2007 ring, a challenge that we hope represents both the tradition and change that have marked your time here at Virginia Tech.

In the future, when you glance at your Class Ring, I hope that it reminds you of those moments that have made your time at Virginia Tech unique and special. Let us remember that we are a part of Virginia Tech history. Enjoy your Class Ring as symbol of your history making; a remembrance of the tradition that you have created that will live beyond our years.

Sincerely,



Michael Carisetti  
Ring Design Chair, Class of 2007



### VIRGINIA TECH 2007 RING COMMITTEE

#### BACK ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT):

Russell Davis – Class of 2007 President  
Brian Torgersen – Ring Design Committee Member  
Randall Hopper – Class of 2007 Male Member-at-Large  
Michael Carisetti – Class of 2007 Ring Design Chair

#### FRONT ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT):

Elizabeth Hart – Class of 2007 Ring Dance Chair  
Kristen Mitchell – Class of 2007 Cadet Member-at-Large  
Jennifer MacDonald – Advisor  
Kelly Scanlon – Class of 2007 Female Member-at-Large  
Kirsten Blanton – Ring Design Committee Member

## DUCK POND 2003



# *History of the Virginia Tech Ring*



The Virginia Tech ring collection has become one of the University's most revered and prestigious traditions since its beginning. The Ring program is unique from other colleges in that the collection is completely redesigned each year, making it a highly anticipated tradition within the University.

Fred Prosser, 1911 Class President, first began the Virginia Tech Ring tradition when he brought his ideas to his fellow classmates during a senior class meeting where a consensus on a class ring could not be met. Upset at the lack of a class ring, Prosser, now a

graduate student at the University, decided that the Class of 1911 needed a class ring to symbolize their time at Virginia Tech. After appealing to his former peers, the class of 1911 decided to go forward with creating the first class ring at Virginia Tech. Prosser then went to a jeweler with his own drafted drawing of the design which included a screaming eagle, a cannon barrel, a Victorian shield, a crossed sabre and rifle, and oak leaves. The first class ring had a flat flush stone (many being amethyst) with a bezel top. Prosser himself arranged for the sale and shipment of the rings. It is from Fred Prosser's beginning idea that the very first

## *The Virginia Tech Ring Timeline*



1911



1912



1934



1944



1956



1969

Virginia Tech class ring was born and with it a tradition that has lived on for 95 years!

The Class of 1914 was the first to choose a committee to design a ring that would be unique and significant to each graduating class. Since that time a Class Ring Design Committee has been selected from members of the sophomore class who are challenged with the task of creating a collection symbolizing the spirit of the class, combined with the pride of the University. Along with designing the collection, a namesake is bestowed: a tradition that was founded by Julian A.

Burruss in 1991. The Class of 2007 is presenting the namesake to Ms. Mary J. Berry.

The ring collection is unveiled to the class in the fall of their junior year at Ring Premiere. Since 1934, the rings are officially presented to the class the following spring at Ring Dance. Recognizing time-honored traditions, the class of 2007 has designed a collection that pays tribute to the University and the rich history that accompanies it, while hoping to leave its imprint on the University.



1975



1984



1992



2000



2003



2006



## *Heritage of the Ring Design Tradition*



First Ring Dance, Spring 1934, V.P.L. Special Collections, Digital Library and Archives, University Libraries, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

The first Class Ring at Virginia Tech belonged to the Class of 1911 but it was the Class of 1914 that selected the first Ring Design Committee, a special group of students charged with the task of designing a Class Ring that would be unique and meaningful to their class. Ninety-five years later, the Ring Design Committee of the class still has the unique responsibility of designing a ring collection that represents Virginia Tech and serves as a reflection of the memories and traditions that each class will take with them when they leave Tech.

The Committee today is comprised of eight members and has been advised by the Virginia Tech Alumni Association since 1993. Chosen by the Class Officers in the fall of their sophomore year, the Committee includes a Design Chair, Dance Chair, two at-large committee members, the Class President, and the Male, Female, and Cadet Member-at-Large Class Officers. It is the responsibility of each member to represent the diverse interests and aspects of campus life at Virginia Tech. Each year the Committee strives to create and name a set of rings that their classmates will wear with pride.

The Ring Design Committee oversees one of the largest class ring accounts in the nation and takes on the challenge of designing a distinctive and unique ring collection that best represents their class. Although the

traditional class rings differ in design between class years, certain traditional elements included each year make the Virginia Tech Ring one of the most prominent and distinguished in the nation. The screaming eagle, American Flag, crossed sabres, university seal and interlocking chain around the bezel all contribute to its recognition. The design of the traditional ring combines elements of importance from both the University and the Class. The University side is more formal and time-honored and usually includes symbols of Tech's military heritage, campus buildings such as Burruss Hall and the Pylons, the screaming eagle, and the University seal among others. On the other hand, the class side is more creative and includes elements of significance for that particular class. Since 1991 the design process has included the recognition of a distinguished alumnus, alumna or university president. The design, collection, and the namesake are revealed to the Class during the fall of their junior year at Ring Premiere. This year, the Class of 2007 has chosen to honor Mary Virginia Jones Berry.

The Ring Design Committee for the Class of 2007 has strived to embody the heritage of Tech traditions in the design of the ring and also include elements meaningful to '07. With pride, they present the 2007 Mary Jones Berry Collection to their Class.

# *The Tradition of the Virginia Tech Ring Dance*

CLASS OF 2006 RING DANCE

Over the past seventy years, Virginia Tech students and faculty have gathered to celebrate the beloved and lasting tradition of Ring Dance. Established by the Class of 1935, the Ring Dance weekend takes place in the spring of a student's junior year.

The two-day celebration opens with a festive banquet honoring the ring collection's namesake, and features elegant dining and entertainment. The ceremonial ring presentation takes place on the second evening and begins with a couple's first steps into Squires Ballroom as they receive ribbons in their class colors, used to tie each other's rings on their wrists for their ring presentation. Traditionally, the women wear the darker ribbon while the men wear the lighter ribbon.

A time-honored ritual performed by the Corps of Cadets marks the ring presentation. Marching into the ballroom, Junior Cadets form the Ring Figure of their graduating class year, followed by the formation of the Sabre Arch. Under this arch, Freshman Cadets escort each Cadet's date. The president of the University ceremoniously announces the formal presentation of the rings.

With "Moonlight and V.P.I", a song written specifically for the Ring Dance in 1942 by Fred Waring with lyrics by Charles Gaynor performed in the background, rings are presented to class members. For most Junior Cadets, this is their first view of their class ring, since they have been picked up and hidden by their Freshmen escorts until the dance. At the conclusion of the song, hundreds of balloons are released on the couples below. A tradition that began as a Corps prank many years ago is the release of a small live pig into the ballroom for a brief period after the ring presentation. The great finale of the evening takes place at midnight with a spectacular show of fireworks over the Drillfield. Finally, "Silver Taps" is played and a report from the Skipper Cannon concludes the event.

The Class of 2007 cordially invites you to join us on March 24 and 25, 2006 as we take part in the distinguished, time-honored Virginia Tech Ring Banquet and Dance.



Class of 2006 Ring Dance. John McCormick, University Relations, Virginia Tech.

# Manufacturing and Craftsmanship

Your ring will be produced using the ancient lost wax process. Years of experience are needed for an artisan to gain the touch, insight, and intuition needed to master the techniques required of this process. Great care is taken at every stage of production to ensure an exceptionally clear and finely detailed casting. Each and every ring passes through the skilled hands of at least 30 craftsmen and is subjected to 7 detailed inspections to ensure it meets all our quality standards.

## Balfour®

DESIGN ► TOOLMAKING ► WAX PATTERNS ► CASTMAKING ► CHASING ►  
STONE SETTING ► ANTIQUING ► POLISHING ► ENGRAVING ► FINAL INSPECTION





# *The Mary Jones Berry Ring Collection*



Mary Jones Berry

Mary Jones Berry has a record of attaining “firsts” for women engineers. Her pioneering career represents the epitome of a lifetime of achievements.

For many years, her allegiance to her alma mater came at a time when she was truly the only active alumna who served as a role model to Virginia Tech’s female engineering students. In 1998 the Society of Women Engineers awarded her the rank of Fellow for her contributions to women in engineering.

In terms of career “firsts” as a woman, Mary Berry holds many distinctions. She was the first woman registered as a professional engineer by the Commonwealth of Virginia. This affiliation occurred five years after her graduation from Virginia Tech, Mechanical Engineering Class of 1962. (She was the only woman in her class.) She was the first woman appointed to the State Board of Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Landscape Architects, a position she held from 1984-88. She was the first female engineer appointed by a Virginia Governor to serve on the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors, 1984-88. She was the first woman to receive her alma mater’s highest honor, the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award. Until about 12 years ago, she was the only woman to have served on the Virginia Tech College of Engineering’s Advisory Board. (She also chaired this board.) She was also the first woman to receive the College of Engineering’s Distinguished Service Award. She was President of the Virginia Tech Alumni Association in 1999.

Ms. Berry’s career spans more than four decades with Aerojet General Corporation (formerly Atlantic Research Corporation) where she started as a structural engineer. Ms. Berry is the Executive Director of Engineering at the Gainesville, Virginia facility. In 1992 the Society of Women Engineers gave her the Upward Mobility Award in recognition of her advancement in the engineering industry.

Ms. Berry’s technical achievements are admirable. Her expertise is in solid propellant rocket motor design. During the early part of her career, she conducted structural and thermal analysis of metal and plastics parts and solid propellant, as well as the mechanical design of hardware. She devoted part of her career as the chief engineer on the Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS). Aerojet subsequently produced more than 500,000 of these rockets.

During National Engineers Week in 2002 the District of Columbia Council of Engineering and Architectural Societies awarded her the “Engineer of the Year” award. In 2004 she was the first woman to be inducted into the Academy of Engineering Excellence at Virginia Tech. “I hope that I will always be able to serve Virginia Tech. When I started college in 1958 Virginia Tech had the only College of Engineering in the Commonwealth that would admit women. It was not until Title IX that the other engineering schools were forced to offer equal opportunities to women. I will always be grateful for the opportunity,” Ms. Berry said.

Berry and her husband Dallas reside in Gainesville, VA.

## CLASS OF 2006 CADETS



Rock Roszak, Alumni Association

# *The Virginia Tech Class of 2007 III*



COMMONWEALTH



TRIUMPH



VIRGINIAN



TECHMAN



STATESMAN



ALLEGIANCE

# Mary Jones Berry Ring Collection

Women's Collection



COMMONWEALTH



PRIMROSE



TECHLADY



SCHOLAR



REFLECTION



LIBERTY



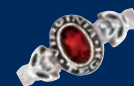
BRILLIANCE



JUSTICE



SHARI B. MALONE



AFFINITY



HARMONY



PRIDE



VIRGINIA



LEGACY



TRADITION



VIRTUE





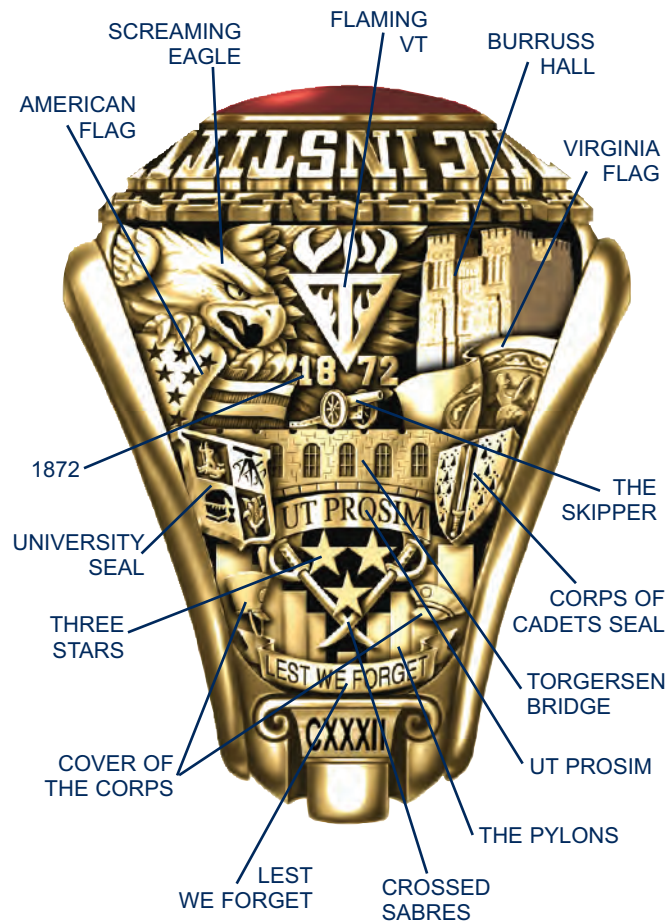


## Virginia Tech Class of 2007 Ring-Class Side

- 2007 Interlocking Chain – Aside from being a tradition on Virginia Tech rings since 1940, the interlocking chain represents '07's Class pride and unity.
- Cloud in the Shape of Virginia – The cloud not only represents the Commonwealth of Virginia but also the usual, unpredictable Blacksburg weather.
- Crane – The building cranes have been a prominent part of the Tech skyline and demonstrates the constant construction around campus.
- Hourglass – Stands for the precious time spent at Virginia Tech as well as *Enter Sandman*, the popular tune played before athletic events to pump up the team and the crowd.
- Lane Stadium After Remodel – The Class of 2007 saw half the football games in the old stadium and the other half in the new stadium, as well as watched the whole construction process.
- ACC Champs – Taking on the first season in the Atlantic Coast Conference, the Hokie football team became the Conference Champions, and the men's and women's basketball teams have proved to be a definite threat.
- Fighting Gobbler – An early logo representing the University's rich history as the "Fighting Gobblers".
- Duck Pond – A favorite campus location near "Solitude", the oldest structure on campus.
- Drillfield – Just as students spend a large amount of time walking across the Drillfield, the Drillfield plays just as large a part on the ring.
- "Pro Iam Et Cras" – The Latin version of the Class of 2007 motto: "Embracing the Past, Defining the Future".
- Hokie Tracks – Hokies, young and old, are 'on track' with this distinctive footprint.
- Eggleston – The epitome of Virginia Tech architecture as well as a symbol of remembrance for the "dorm years".
- Beat UVA – "Beat UVA" is a traditional slogan that has been included on Virginia Tech rings for many years.
- VT Alumni Hall – Formerly called 'Faculty Dining Hall', this 1935 campus structure was home to the Alumni Association from 1991-2005 and is the site of fall pep rallies.
- Hokie Bird – The beloved campus mascot – representing every Hokie.
- Sunset Over the Mountains – Symbolizes the wonderful sunsets on Brush Mountain which rims the north side of Blacksburg.



# *Virginia Tech Class of 2007 Ring-University Side*



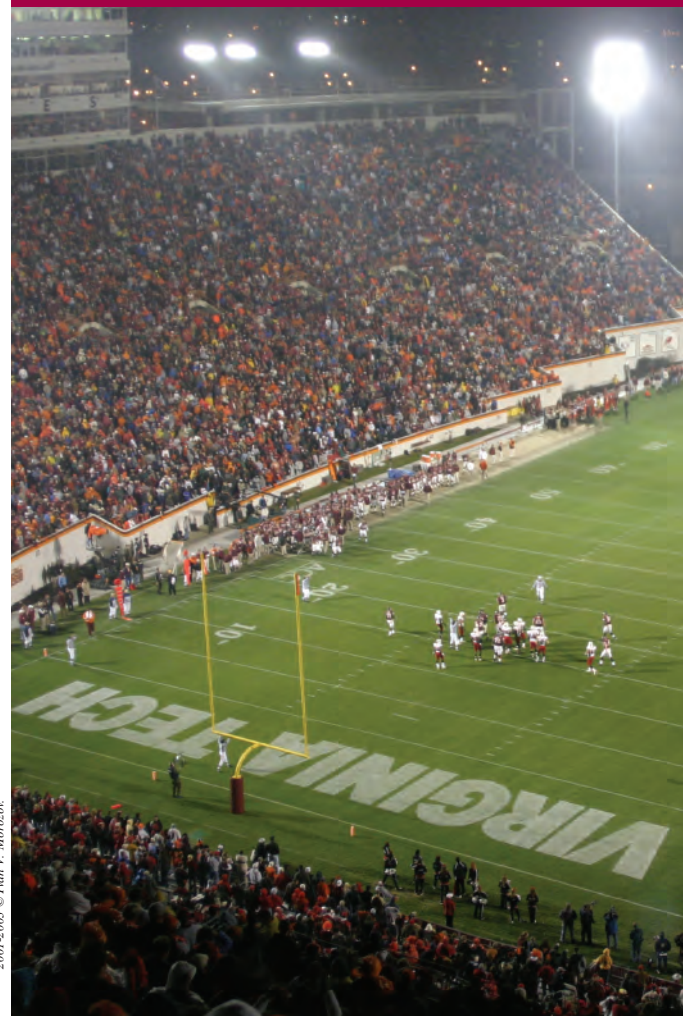
- Flaming VT – A dramatic Homecoming pep rally tradition and a symbol of Hotel Company of the Corps of Cadets.
- Burruss Hall – The central building of campus, a favorite among students, it was built in 1936 and honors Tech's 8th president, Julian A. Burruss who was part of the Class of 1898.
- Virginia Flag – Virginia Tech is the Commonwealth's land-grant university.
- The Skipper – The boom from this famous cannon is heard by thousands at VT football games and other important events. The name "Skipper" honors the late US President John F. Kennedy.
- Corps of Cadets Seal – A great source of pride to the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets and designed by Colonel Harry D. Temple '34.
- Torgersen Bridge – The building named after Dr. Paul Torgersen, VT's 14th President.
- "Ut Prosim" – The Virginia Tech motto "That I May Serve", adopted in 1896.
- The Pylons – Eight Pylons of the War Memorial represent the founding values of Virginia Tech: Brotherhood, Honor, Leadership, Sacrifice, Service, Loyalty, Duty and Ut Prosim.
- Crossed Sabres – An honored Corps symbol and ring tradition.
- "Lest We Forget" – Remembrance of those alumni who gave their lives in service to their country, these words are on the "The Rock", a memorial on the Upper Quad that honors V.P.I. alumni from World War I.
- Cover of the Corps – The Corps uniforms have changed over the years but the foundation of the Corps tradition is solid.
- 3 Stars – Symbolize the Past, Present, and Future men and women of Virginia Tech that have served and lost their lives in service to our country.
- University Seal – the official University Seal, created in 1896.
- 1872 – The year the Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College was established, later to become Virginia Tech.
- American Flag – "Old Glory" flies proudly on the Virginia Tech campus.
- Screaming Eagle – A traditional icon that has appeared on every Virginia Tech Class ring.



TRADITIONAL BEZEL

2001-2003 © Ivan V. Morozov

LANE STADIUM 2004







### PAYMENT OPTIONS FOR THE CLASS OF 2007

**PAY IN FULL:** Receive a \$10 discount when you pay in full at time of order.

**TIME PAYMENT:** Your balance will be divided into 2, 4, or 6 equal payments on your MasterCard, Visa, Discover, or American Express and charged at 30-day intervals until the balance is paid in full. **C.O.D.:** Leave a \$75 deposit when you place your order and pay the balance due when the ring arrives.

Men's Styles	10K	14K	18K	Celestrum
Commonwealth 40 dwt	\$551	\$713	\$988	\$139
Commonwealth 34 dwt	\$487	\$639	\$853	\$139
Commonwealth 28 dwt	\$464	\$566	\$729	\$139
Commonwealth 22 dwt	\$414	\$490	\$612	\$139
Triumph	\$325	\$406	\$467	\$139
Virginian	\$283	\$364	\$425	\$139
Techman	\$283	\$364	\$425	\$139
Statesman	\$301	\$391	\$464	\$139
Allegiance	\$301	\$391	\$464	\$139

Women's Styles	10K	14K	18K	Celestrum
Commonwealth 12 dwt	\$325	\$406	\$508	\$139
Commonwealth 5 dwt	\$277	\$314	\$380	\$139
Primrose	\$281	\$321	\$381	\$139
Legacy	\$281	\$321	\$381	—
Scholar	\$271	\$291	\$362	\$139
Reflection	\$294	\$342	\$385	\$139
Liberty (CZs)	\$297	\$317	\$387	\$175
Liberty (Diamonds)	\$401	\$421	\$491	\$279
Brilliance (CZs)	\$356	\$372	\$440	—
Brilliance (Diamonds)	\$582	\$599	\$666	—
Justice	\$264	\$272	\$335	—
Shari B. Malone (CZs)	\$333	\$353	\$423	—
Shari B. Malone (Diamonds)	\$541	\$561	\$631	—
Affinity (CZs)	\$284	\$301	\$365	—
Affinity (Diamonds)	\$341	\$357	\$422	—
Harmony (CZs)	\$315	\$335	\$405	—
Harmony (Diamonds)	\$471	\$491	\$561	—
Harmony (Diamond/Simulated Stones)	\$331	\$351	\$421	—
Pride	\$261	\$281	\$351	—
Virginia	\$271	\$291	\$362	\$139
Techlady	\$271	\$291	\$362	\$139
Tradition	\$264	\$272	\$335	\$139
Virtue	\$278	\$311	\$389	\$139



# *Stone Pricing & Limited Lifetime Warranty*

Diamonds		Cubic Zirconia	
1 PT.	\$ 35	1 PT.	\$ 10
2 PTS.	\$ 45	2 PTS.	\$ 15
3 PTS.	\$ 70	3 PTS.	\$ 18
5 PTS.	\$100	5 PTS.	\$ 25
10 PTS.	\$110	10 PTS.	\$ 25
20 PTS.	\$175	20 PTS.	\$ 28
25 PTS.	\$375	25 PTS.	\$ 50

Genuine Stones	13X11	12X10	8X6
Palmeira Citrine Topaz	\$150	\$110	\$ 30
Medium Aquamarine	\$460	\$380	\$ 80
Swiss Blue Topaz	\$200	\$155	\$ 40
London Blue Topaz	\$200	\$155	\$ 40
Lapis Lazuli	\$ 55	\$ 55	\$ 40
Rhodolite Garnet	\$495	\$325	\$130
Mozambique Garnet	\$195	\$155	\$ 90
Medium Amethyst	\$230	\$170	\$ 70
Carnelian	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 20
Hematite	\$ 35	\$ 30	\$ 25
Blood Stone	\$ 35	\$ 25	\$ 20
Aventurine Quartz	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 15
Green Agate	\$ 20	\$ 20	\$ 15
Hope Blue Star Sapphire	\$100	\$ 90	\$ 50
Honey Tiger Eye	\$ 40	\$ 40	\$ 30
Brown Tiger Eye	\$ 40	\$ 40	\$ 30
Wyoming Jade	\$ 40	\$ 30	\$ 30

## 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, 2007, 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 their 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 Balfour'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 or her original choice of finish, refinishing would be completed at no charge.

**CONDITIONS ON HOW REPAIRS ARE MADE, WHOM TO CONTACT, AND HOW SHIPPING RATES ARE HANDLED:** Prior to graduation, service dates will be established to handle any adjustments. All shipping, handling and insurance costs will be the responsibility of Balfour during these sessions.

Contact information:

[www.classof2007.alumni.vt.edu](http://www.classof2007.alumni.vt.edu)

[www.VaTechAlumni.com/classrings/](http://www.VaTechAlumni.com/classrings/)

BURRUSS HALL 2000





### CLASS MOTTO

EMBRACING THE PAST, DEFINING THE FUTURE

*PRO IAM ET CRAS*

### CLASS COLORS

BLUE, MAROON AND SILVER

### CLASS SPONSOR

COACH SETH GREENBERG

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