Driven by Tradition
We Forge Ahead.

Traditione acti, procedimus

Class Colors: Black, Gold, and Vermillion

TRADITION

The Virginia Tech Class ring embodies and invokes memories, traditions and pride that tie Hokies, young and old, together. The tradition began in the 1911–1912 school session when four classes (1911–1914) designed their rings. The Class of 2011 has the honor of celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Virginia Tech ring.

Since the beginning, each Virginia Tech class has designed a ring distinctive and unique to its class. Today, Virginia Tech is one of only a few colleges and universities that redesign their ring collection each year.

Each year, the sophomore class selects a Ring Design Committee responsible for designing and marketing their class ring collection, adding elements that reflect their class experiences on the class side. All ring designs have an eagle and crossed sabers, usually found on the university side and symbolizing the military heritage and traditions of the Corps of Cadets. The chain links that have encircled the ring bezel on Virginia Tech rings since 1940 represent class unity, the strength of many united as one.

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. In recognizing alumnus president Dr. Charles W. Steger ’69 and his wife, Janet Steger ’70 as their class namesakes, the Class of 2011 celebrates the 20th anniversary of this special tradition.
The Class of 2011 has chosen Dr. and Mrs. Charles Steger as their class ring namesakes and are proud to honor them for their many years of exemplary service to Virginia Tech.

Charles W. Steger, Jr., Virginia Tech’s 15th president, has strong ties to Virginia Tech spanning four decades. His undergraduate and two graduate degrees are from Virginia Tech: Bachelor of Architecture (1970), Master of Architecture (1971), and Ph.D. in Environmental Sciences and Engineering (1978). Leaving a career as a professional architect and planner, he followed his passion for teaching and returned to Virginia Tech to teach in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies. He subsequently served as Dean of that college (1981–1993) and Vice President for Development and University Relations (1993–2000) before being named President in 2000.

As a faculty member, Dr. Steger won two teaching excellence awards. Among his many publications, he authored a portion of a textbook that has been adopted by 230 universities and is now in its 7th edition. Most recently, he has written book chapters on the topics of the business of education and the university presidency.

While Dean of the College of Architecture and Urban Studies, Dr. Steger was the driving force behind the establishment of Virginia Tech’s Center for European Studies and Architecture, CESA, spearheading intensive negotiations for four years to obtain the necessary Swiss approvals to acquire the Villa Maderni and establish the Center. Hundreds of students from across the university have studied at the Center, and many have expressed that it had a profound effect on the path of their careers and their lives.

Under President Steger’s leadership, the university has charted a course to expand its research enterprise and establish Virginia Tech among the nation’s top research universities. Since he became president, the university’s annual research expenditures have increased 300 percent, and the Virginia Bioinformatics Institute was created. He has provided visionary leadership in the creation and implementation of a bold vision and strategic plan. The University underwent a restructuring that led to the creation of the College of Science and the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. Among the highlights of his presidency to date are the university’s adoption of the Principles of Community (2005) and the Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment (2009), and the fulfillment of Virginia Tech’s 50-year-old dream to join the Atlantic Coast Conference (2003). Perhaps the most exciting of the new initiatives on the horizon is the establishment of the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine and Research Institute, which is under construction in Roanoke. The medical school has received preliminary accreditation and will admit its first class in the fall of 2010.

Dr. Steger is President of the Council of Presidents of the Southeastern Universities Research Association (SURAA). He is a member of the National Council on Competitiveness, the Association of Governing Boards, the Senior Advisory Group of the Northern Virginia Technology Council Board of Directors, and the Board of the Innovative Technology Authority that oversees Virginia’s Center for Innovative Technology.

For his contributions to the profession in the field of architectural education and research, he was inducted into the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) in 1990, and received the Distinguished Achievement Award (1996) and the prestigious Noland Award (2001) from the Virginia Society of the AIA.

Among his recent awards, he received the 2009 Chief Executive Leadership Award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, District III. For visionary thinking and leadership in the field of information technology, the New Century Technology Council awarded him its 2004 Compass Award, and in 2002, the National Conference for Community and Justice awarded him the NCCJ Humanitarian Award.

While a student, Charles Steger served as a member of the Class of 1969 ring design committee. He and his then future wife, Janet Baird, attended the Class of 1969 ring dance together. Since the beginning of his presidency in 2000, they have attended and presided over the formal ring dance ceremonies each year.

Janet Baird Steger, also an alumna of Virginia Tech, received her bachelor of science in art in 1970. She supports and leads many university and community groups, and serves as official hostess for many university events.

Dr. Steger is an accomplished equestrian and classical guitarist and enjoys golf and canoeing. The Stegers have two sons, one of whom is also a Virginia Tech alumnus.
CLASS SPONSORS
Jack Davis – Dean of Architecture and Urban Studies
Linda Davis – Nutrition Educator at the Schiffert Health Center

Jack and Linda Davis honor our class by serving as our Class sponsors. The Reynolds Metals Endowed Professor of Architecture, was appointed Dean of the College of Architecture and Urban Studies in the spring of 2007. He acted as the interim Dean for nine months prior to his appointment and also served the college as the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

Prior to coming to Tech, Jack taught at the University of Florida and later at the Boston Architectural Center. He practiced with Cambridge Seven and Associates in Cambridge, Mass., and in Basel, Switzerland for Suter and Suter. Since 1984 he has been principal and co-principal investigator on more than $2.5 million in research grants and a professor in the professional program in Architecture at Tech.

Jack became a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Accredited Professional (LEED AP) in August 2007 and a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects (FAIA) in 1999. He has received design excellence awards from the Blue Ridge Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), as well as from the Virginia Society AIA and the Virginia Masonry Council. His teaching interests are in design, construction and environmentally sustainable issues. He was recently named one of 26 nationally Most Admired Educators of 2009 by Design Intelligence.

Davis received a bachelor of architecture and a master of architecture from Virginia Tech in 1974 and 1975, respectively.

Linda Davis is a native of Idaho and after two years of undergraduate study at the University of Idaho, she completed a bachelor of science in sociology at Virginia Tech in 1973. She also has a bachelor of science in clinical and community dietetics from the University of Florida and a master of science from Boston College.

As a registered dietician since 1978, Linda has worked in a variety of roles and community service related to nutrition and dietetics in the New River Valley. She has focused extensively in the areas of eating disorders and cardiac and diabetic diet therapy. From 2003–2007 she served as an adjunct faculty member in human nutrition and fitness education in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Since 1999, she has been a part-time dietician at the Virginia Tech Schiffert Health Center.

The Davis’ have two children and have resided in Blacksburg since 1985. In their free time, they enjoy motorcycle touring.

DEAR CLASS OF 2011,

From numerous Hokie sporting events to the rigors of challenging academics, we have each created our individual path to where we stand today. Our diverse experiences make us a unique, but very united class. We have successfully completed our freshmen and sophomore years and now embark on our junior year. Over the past two years we have participated in many traditions and legacies that are engrained at Virginia Tech. Hokie spirit engulfs each of us, and we truly know what it means to be a Hokie.

Our class enjoys the distinction of celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Virginia Tech ring tradition. As the centennial class, we move forward with the strength of 100 years of traditions and the many events that have made Virginia Tech what it is today.

I encourage each of you to take advantage of this opportunity and participate in this long-standing tradition of the class ring. We have earned the right to wear a piece of Virginia Tech for the rest of our lives. So let’s do it!

We stand united to take on the world. Our time at Virginia Tech is one of a kind and we have impacted this community in so many ways. We, as the Class of 2011, can make a difference and will forge ahead long into the future.

With the spirit of 2011,

Nathan Lavinka
President, Class of 2011

Four Virginia Tech rings were realized in the 1911–1912 school session – in this order, 1913, 1912, 1914, and 1911 which was created by Fred Prasser, Class of 1911, after that Class graduated. The 1911 ring was not technically the first ring but its design formed the basis for all future Virginia Tech rings.

First class to select a committee for ring design.

Celebrating 100 Years of Tradition

Nathan Lavinka
Photo by: David K. Glenn ‘11
CLASSMATES of 2011,

As we transition through the mid-point of our college careers, we are offered an opportunity to reflect. We have experienced two years of growth together, built on decades of history that have molded Virginia Tech into the university we are proud of and call home. Our graduating class will mark the 100th anniversary of the ring tradition at Virginia Tech, making our program one of the oldest and most popular among students in the country. We have a commitment to make sure this tradition is continued.

Virginia Tech is one of a few schools where the ring is re-designed each year by students. The design captures each class’ experience and offers a glimpse into the past. As the university changes and grows, so does the ring. From the simple signets of the past, to the elaborate full shanks of the present, we see an ever-evolving Virginia Tech. The Class of 2011 ring is a symbol of our place in time and what Virginia Tech means to us. Our ring is a physical representation of our experience, and it is up to us to fill that time with meaning.

I encourage you to have a full and significant Virginia Tech experience, so that when you look at your class ring, you will know you are part of something bigger than yourself – you are a Hokie.

When you finally get to put your ring on at Ring Dance, realize that it is a piece of history you helped write. Wear it with pride!

GO HOKIES!

Charles Petty
Ring Design Chair, Class of 2011

For each class, the Ring Design Committee is chosen in the sophomore year. The committee members brainstorm for months, striving to gather the most important elements of our Virginia Tech experience. The 2011 Ring Committee chose meaningful elements from Blacksburg and the Virginia Tech campus to represent the experiences and events that shaped our lives as Hokies. Given that 2011 is the 100th year of ring tradition at Virginia Tech, the committee was tasked with commemorating this event for the class and the university. This year’s ring contains elements from not only our class experience, but from a rich history of past class rings.

1922
First women’s miniature ring offered. Miniature rings were often used as engagement rings. (1925 ring depicted)

1923
The first year “Virginia Polytechnic Institute” is spelled out around the bezel.

1935
First ring dance is held on April 27, 1934 by the Class of 1935.

1937
The saber arch was first introduced at what was also the first military-civilian ring dance.

1940
The rope motif that usually encircles the bezel is replaced by an interlinking chain and is still used today to represent class unity, usually in the form of linking class numerals. Teaching and Administration Building (named Burruss Hall in 1944) first appears on the side of a ring as an element.

1942
Fred Waring’s Moonlight and V.P.I. is first performed at Ring Dance.

1944
Due to World War II, Ring Dance is suspended from 1944 – 1946.
CONSTRUCTION

In partnership with Balfour and after many meetings and sketches, the committee presents its work to an artist who professionally renders it on a ring shank drawing. After several rounds of revisions and improvements, the art is digitized and then drawn in a Computer Aided Design (CAD) program for the manufacturer. Balfour uses this CAD file to create a wax version of the ring for final approval by the committee. Once approved, a master mold is created. The ancient lost wax process is used to make the detailed rings that Hokies cherish. Each class ring is made to order, passing through the skilled hands of at least 30 craftsmen and is subjected to seven detailed inspections to ensure it meets all our quality standards.

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: If through normal wear and tear a ring is worn beyond satisfaction, it may be exchanged for a new ring. There is no charge for this remake. If a ring is damaged beyond satisfaction outside of these parameters, another ring can be purchased for the cost of Balfour’s existing remake charge.

CONDITIONS AND ASSOCIATED CHARGES FOR ORDERING ADDITIONAL RINGS: Additional rings may be ordered at any time. After December 31, 2011, 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 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.

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.

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CELEBRATING 100 YEARS of TRADITION

CLASS of 2011
Men’s Collection

CLASS of 2011
Women’s Collection
University Side

TORGERSEN HALL & LOGOS: Dedicated in 1960, the pylons portray the elements of the Virginia Tech class ring. Features include the standing ear of corn, and a chemical retort and graduate. Born out of a Class of 1964 rivalry between Virginia Military Institute and Virginia Tech, the Cannon was designed by alumnus Colonel Harry D. Temple, ‘34. The design of the shield was created to represent the coat of arms from the navy bureau of Heraldry.

BURRESS HALL: A campus landmark, Burruss Hall is known for housing architecture degrees here at Virginia Tech.

LANE HALL: The centerpiece of the Upper Quad, Lane Hall serves as a historical landmark for the Corps of Cadets and is the second oldest academic building still in use on campus.

CORPS SHIELD: A symbol of pride, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets shield was designed by alumnus Colonel Harry D. Temple, ‘34. The design of the shield shows the words to receive a format of Arms from the Navy bureau of Heraldry.

DRILLFIELD: At the center of the university lies the Drillfield. Students from across the states remember the windy winter mornings they braved traveling across the Drillfield from the residential communities to the academic side. At other times the Drillfield serves as the grounds for a variety of student activities, from pickup soccer games to Corp of Cadets game in reviews.

SKIPPER CANNON: A historic football tradition, the famous Skipper cannon is shot off in a circle of Old Glory Hickory between Virginia Military Institute (VMI) and Virginia Tech.

MEMORIAL STONES: Thirty-two symbolic blocks of Hokie stone border the Drillfield. The stones are the pride of Virginia Tech and serve as a reminder of the university’s dedication to progress amidst adversity while still respecting the beloved traditions of Virginia Tech.

HOKIE STONE: The Hokie stone layer continuing along the shank of the ring reminds students of the enduring architecture on campus grounds. Founded in 1798 by William Black, Blacksburg offers a place for the Virginia Tech community to enjoy local restaurants, shopping and events. An integral part of the city’s culture, it is home to Blacksburg, along with Virginia Tech.

DOWNTOWN BLACkSBURG: Founded in 1798 by William Black, Blacksburg offers a place for the Virginia Tech community to enjoy local restaurants, shopping and events. An integral part of the city’s culture, it is home to Blacksburg, along with Virginia Tech.

LUNCH PAIL: Representing the Hokie attributes of diligence and teamwork, the lunch pail is a proud symbol of Virginia Tech work ethic.

SYCAMORE TREE: Situated at the bottom corner of the class side, the sycamore tree serves as a reminder of our class’ dedication to sustainability. Planted about the time of Virginia Tech’s founding, this sycamore has been set into a mirror image: thus connecting the class year and the university into one unified symbol.

Class Side

RISING SUN: A rising sun exemplifies the class virtue of resilience just as it men brings new light to each day. the Class of 2011 brought a new, brighter Light to Virginia Tech.

VIRGINIA MOUNTAINS: The beloved Blue Ridge and Alleghany Mountains are unique features in the skies surrounding Virginia Tech. The shape of the one mountain shows the heritage of Virginia Tech as the Commonwealth’s premiere land grant university.

VT IN CLOUDS: the modern athletic logo of Virginia Tech is outlined in the clouds above Cassell Coliseum.

HOKIE TRACKS: Placed over the New River Valley are two Hokie tracks, symbolic of our journey from Blackstock to beyond.

CASSELL COUSELL: Home to basketball, wrestling, volleyball and other Virginia Tech athletic events, Cassell Coliseum serves as a reminder to the enjoyment of our education well beyond the classroom.

“Z”: The “Z” on the wall of Cassell Coliseum pays tribute to the late Dr. Sandra L. Hess. Dr. Hess presided over the launch of Student Affairs during the Class of 1911’s first year on Virginia Tech. Dr. Hess consequently passed away in Fall 2008. The commemorative “Z” recognizes the accomplishments and strength of her service to the University.

HOKIE “WORLD” SYMBOL: The Hokiebird was born on the fourth of July, 1930. Virginia Tech is out-lined in the clouds above Cassell Coliseum.

FIGHTING Gobbler: The “Fighting Gobbler” symbol debuts in 1971, debuting in several year anniversaries before the current high school mascot was established in 1997.

LANE STADIUM: Home to Virginia Tech football and many other traditions, Lane Stadium is consistently recognized as one of the loudest stadiums in college football.

FIREWORKS ABOVE LANE: Fireworks bursting above Lane Stadium represent Virginia Tech’s many victories on and off the field. The fireworks contain all of the elements of the Hitching Post, Ring Tradition, with Ring Premiere and Ring Dance unraveling high-energy wild fireworks displays.

CLASS LOGO: To create a Class emblem, the university’s wildlife have been set into nature images, thus connecting the class year and the university into one unified symbol.

MOTTO: “TRADITION ACTI PROCEDIMUS” Driven by tradition and the pride of history, the class motto reflects our designation to progress amidst adversity while still respecting the beloved traditions of Virginia Tech.
Over the past seventy-five years, Virginia Tech students and faculty have gathered to celebrate the beloved and lasting tradition of Ring Dance. Established by the Class of 1935, Ring Dance weekend takes place in the spring of a student’s junior year.

The two-day celebration opens with a banquet that features elegant dining and entertainment. The ceremonial ring presentation takes place on the second evening and begins with a couple’s first steps into Squares Commonwealth 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. “Moonlight and V.P.I,” a song written specifically for the Ring Dance in 1942 by Fred Waring with lyrics by Charles Gaynor, is performed in the background as rings are presented to class members. For most Junior Cadets, this is their first view of the 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.
DEAR CLASS of 2011:

As we embark on the third year of our college experience at Virginia Tech, it is now our turn to participate in the time honored tradition of Ring Dance. Our Ring Dance has the unique pleasure of celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Virginia Tech ring. With 100 years of ring design tradition as a foundation, our Ring Dance promises to be an unforgettable event to celebrate this tradition that is so unique to our university.

The Ring Dance Committee of 2011 cordially invites you to join us in the tradition of Ring Banquet and Ring Dance. As a committee, we are working diligently to plan two memorable evenings to be shared with those who have impacted you the most during your time at Virginia Tech. Beginning our Ring Celebration weekend will be Friday’s Ring Banquet with fine dining and entertainment. The Ring Dance on Saturday night promises to be a romantic affair celebrating the Junior Class and the receiving of rings through the Corps of Cadet’s Ring Figure and Sabre Arch. After a memory-filled evening, we invite you to gather on the Drillfield for a fireworks display at midnight to conclude our ring celebration.

Please join the Class of 2011 Leadership in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Virginia Tech ring tradition. We are certain that the 2011 Ring Dance weekend will be one of your most memorable experiences at Virginia Tech.

With Virginia Tech Pride,

Marian Kaitlin Watkins
Ring Dance Chair, Class of 2011