



April 2013

Chapter Team

[Josh Burnheimer](#)

[Debbie Day](#)

[Greg Fansler](#)

[Patty Foutz](#)

[Kelly Griffin](#)

[Jack Hutcheson](#)

[Jordan McCauley](#)

[Ginny Ritenour](#)

[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,

As we approach the end of the spring semester, the Alumni Association staff is in the midst of a busy season of community service events, semester-end activities, travel with chapter speakers, and Drillfield Series events, in addition to planning many exciting reunion and homecoming events for this fall.

April is always a busy month for our chapters, as we host various community service events to honor the victims of the April 16 tragedy. Many events were held across the country to show our commitment to our motto of *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve) including Virginia Tech for Life blood drives, Habitat for Humanity builds, and 3.2 for 32 Run/Walk in Remembrance events. For a complete list of remembrance activities, visit the [We Remember website](#). We continue to be grateful for our chapter volunteers' continued support of April 16 families.

If you haven't done so already, please mark your calendars for our fall Chapter Officers Forum on September 5 through 7, 2013. More details follow on page 7.

Thank you for your service to Virginia Tech and please let me or your liaison know how we can help as you continue planning your summer picnics and student send-offs or other upcoming events.

Deborah A. Day
Associate Vice President for Alumni Relations





Community Service Highlight: Big Event 2013

Big Event at Virginia Tech is a student-run community service effort that has grown into the second largest event of its kind in the nation. Every spring, thousands of students, faculty, and staff come together to complete hundreds of community service projects throughout Blacksburg and the New River Valley. Rooted in Virginia Tech's motto *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve), Big Event has provided an opportunity for the entire Virginia Tech community to join together and thank their surrounding communities.

In April of 2012, the [Charlotte Chapter](#) joined in by hosting their own Big Event – Charlotte on the same Saturday as the event in Blacksburg. Inspired by their success, many more chapters from across the country participated this year, completing a wide variety of service projects in their local communities. Chapters were asked to register with Big Event on-campus organizers and were able to order their official 2013 Big Event t-shirts ahead of time.

On April 6, 2013, over 7,000 students, alumni, and volunteers completed nearly 1,000 projects in the New River Valley and across the country!

The Charlotte Chapter participated once again this year, with multiple projects in the Charlotte area that involved 75 volunteers. Their projects included sorting and packing at the Loaves and Fishes Food Bank, clothing sorting at the Crisis Assistance Ministry, and lending a hand at the Habitat for Humanity Metal Recycling Center.

The [Fredericksburg Chapter](#) gathered a group of 13 volunteers who split their efforts across two service projects, including trash pickup along the riverbank at a local park, and stuffing bonus bags for the Fredericksburg Food Bank.



*Charlotte Chapter volunteers at the
Loaves and Fishes Food Bank*



*Fredericksburg Chapter volunteers gather at the
Fredericksburg Food Bank for a morning of service*



*Kentuckiana Chapter volunteers get ready to work
at the Cardinal Hills Rehabilitation Center*

In Louisville, Kentucky, the [Kentuckiana Chapter](#) joined together to do an indoor spring cleaning of physical therapy equipment at the Cardinal Hills Rehabilitation Center (Easter Seals). They also did some sprucing up of the center's outdoor therapy garden.

[National Capital Region Hokies](#) participated in Big Event by lending a hand to several local community service projects. About 60 Hokies, including alumni and graduate students, worked at three Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia sites, the Goodwill of Greater Washington's store in Arlington, and an invasive species removal project at a local park.

In [New England](#), alumni gathered in Boston for a project that benefited a local organization called Cradles to Crayons. The organization had recently received a large donation of fleece and volunteers helped to create crib bedding; they also wrote "well wish notes" that were included in 30,000 new backpacks full of supplies to be distributed to needy area students.

The [Orange County, California Chapter](#) joined in on Saturday by cleaning up the beach front at the Huntington Beach State Park. Following the event, the group returned to chapter president Larry Morgan's home for a hot dog social.



National Capital Region Hokies finish up their project at the Goodwill of Greater Washington Store

[Seattle Hokies](#) headed to Marra Farm, an urban community farm that generates tons of fresh, organic produce each year for local residents and schools. Alumni volunteers of all ages helped to move soil, plant food, and harvest produce.

More than 20 volunteers from the [Tampa Bay Chapter](#) partnered with Operation Gratitude to write letters to soldiers and collect supplies to send to the troops serving overseas.

At Independence Middle School in Virginia Beach, [Tidewater Chapter](#) volunteers helped perform a spring spruce up that included landscaping work, mulching flower beds, and installing new plants in an effort to beautify the school grounds.

The [Western Maryland Chapter](#) has adopted a 4.8 mile stretch of road in Gambrill State Park (Frederick, MD); 15 volunteers gathered on Saturday to host their first Adopt-a-Road cleanup.

Big Event 2014 will be held on Saturday, April 5, 2014. We encourage you to begin making plans now to join in on this special opportunity to serve Virginia Tech and your local community. Along with April 16 Remembrance events, April has truly become a month of service for our alumni, who continue to show the world that the "Hokie Nation Serves."



Tidewater Chapter alumni and friends prepare for day of service at Independence Middle School



New England Chapter volunteers created fleece blankets for local organization Cradles to Crayons



Charlotte Hokies sort clothing at the Crisis Assistance Ministry



Western Maryland Chapter alumni complete their first Adopt-a-Road project in Frederick, Maryland



Virginia Tech students gather on the Drillfield to prepare for Big Event 2013 on April 6th



2012 Drillfield Series

Promoting the 2013 Drillfield Series at Chapter Events

You've already heard about our 2013 Drillfield Series events; we encourage you to share these opportunities at your upcoming chapter events. More details can be found [on our website](#).

For your convenience, the last page of this newsletter includes a printable flyer that you may share or post at your next meeting or event.

- May 10-11, 2013
[Focus on Photography](#)
- June 21-23, 2013
[Corps of Cadets Alumni Weekend](#)
- July 12-13, 2013
[Virginia Tech Admissions Weekend](#)
- July 19-21, 2013
[Women's Getaway Weekend for Alumnae](#)

A \$105 special lodging rate is available at the Inn at Virginia Tech for all events.

Chapter Volunteer Highlight: Ruth Ann Vaughan '91, Kentuckiana Chapter

Ruth Ann Vaughan, a 1991 graduate with a B.S. in Family & Child Development, has been the president of the Kentuckiana Chapter since October 2009. The chapter includes all alumni in the greater Louisville, KY area, including southern Indiana.

For the past several years, Ruth Ann has organized many different types of events, including game watching parties, community service projects, and social events, such as dinners with featured speakers, to help build the chapter.

One of Ruth Ann's favorite chapter activities for the last two years has been hosting Virginia Tech's Newman Community students for dinners with alumni, both in their homes and at local restaurants, during spring break week. The students are in the Louisville area to serve in the local community with recent refugees and are able to enjoy a "home away from home" with local alumni volunteers.

Additionally, Ruth Ann has worked with Undergraduate Admissions to promote Virginia Tech at local high schools and college fairs. In fact, her favorite recruit is her son Matthew, who is now finishing his first year at Tech. He plans to graduate in 2015 with both his bachelors and masters in geography.

Ruth Ann has re-energized the Kentuckiana Chapter during her tenure as chapter president, leading them to receive the Chapter Achievement Award in 2010 and reaching Outstanding Chapter status in 2011 and 2012. Under her leadership, the chapter awarded \$2,000 in local scholarships in 2012 (a total of \$4,000 with Dr. Steger's match that year).



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



*Kentuckiana Chapter alumni enjoy a Virginia Tech football game watching party
(Ruth Ann and husband Doug on far right)*



The Vaughan family attends the 2013 Spring Game at Virginia Tech

Communications Corner:

April 2013

From [Dave Hunt](#), [Denise Royal](#), & [John Borman](#)

Reminder for Email Requests: Make sure your event is successful by allowing people time to respond!

When submitting your email request, please make sure your RSVP or event date is **at least two weeks out**. The Alumni Association needs five business days to send out an email, and there should be at least a week to allow people to open the email, respond to the RSVP or sign up, and plan to attend.

Reminder for Print Requests:

If you are struggling to have your complete event information together far enough in advance to meet the six week deadline for print requests, chapters only need to provide the Alumni Association the following information:

- Event Name
- Date
- Location (if available)
- Contact person (for questions, RSVPs, etc.)
- Chapter website or Facebook page
- Brief summary of the event

As your event details come together, your chapter website or Facebook page can be updated to provide any important final details or event information. On the postcard, we'll draw special attention to your website with verbiage like this: "For updated event details, visit our Facebook page at www.yourchaptersite.com."

See the example below that the Birmingham Chapter sent for their Hokie Holiday Mixer.



VirginiaTechforlife. Birmingham Chapter

You are invited to join us for our

Hokie Holiday Mixer

with guest speaker **Josh Burnheimer**
Assistant Director of Alumni Relations

December 9, 2011 • 6 - 8 PM

Fox and Hound
3425 Colonnade Parkway
Birmingham, AL 35243

Join us for a Hokie Holiday Mixer! Catch up with fellow Hokies in Birmingham while enjoying light hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. There will also be a special presentation by Assistant Director of Alumni Relations Josh Burnheimer from Virginia Tech.

For more information, contact Maggie Crouch at mcrouch1977@yahoo.com or 703-731-1832. We look forward to seeing you in December!

Staff Highlight: Donna Wardell, Director of Alumni Relations in the College of Science



Donna Wardell joined the alumni staff in January 2013 as the director of alumni relations in the College of Science.

Prior to joining Virginia Tech, Donna was the director of communications for the Rutgers School of Social Work in New Jersey. Her primary focus was on alumni relations and management of the communications operations for the school. In addition, Ms. Wardell was a member of the social work faculty, and taught social work classes at the bachelor's and master's levels. Ms. Wardell's professional background also includes management roles in nonprofit organizations.

Donna received her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, and a Master of Science in Social Work, Administration and Planning Concentration, from the University of Texas at Austin. She enjoys running, reading and spending time with her husband, David and daughters Silvia and Cara.

Upcoming Chapter Officer Training Opportunities

Please mark your calendars and plan on having chapter representatives attend final upcoming webinars. More details will be provided via email as the date draws closer.

June 5th OR June 6th at 7:00 PM (Eastern)

Chapter Award Requirements Q&A
Hosted by Debbie Day and Ginny Ritenour

SAVE THE DATE!

Chapter Officers Forum, September 5-7, 2013
Stay tuned for more details and registration information!

Dates to Remember:

- May 10-11: [Drillfield Series – Focus on Photography 2013](#)
- May 16: 2013 Grad Bash at Holtzman Alumni Center
- May 17: [Spring Commencement](#)
- June 5: Chapter Officer Training: Chapter Awards Requirements Q&A
- June 6: Chapter Officer Training: Chapter Awards Requirements Q&A
- June 15: Deadline to submit scholarship recipient information to our office
- July 12-13: [Virginia Tech Admissions Weekend](#)
- July 19-21: [Women's Getaway Weekend for Alumnae](#)
- September 6-7: Chapter Officers' Forum



2013 Drillfield Series



Food for Thought: An Indulgence of Wine and Fine Cuisine February 15 – 17, 2013

Return home to your alma mater and enjoy a stay at the Inn at Virginia Tech for a palate-pleasing weekend. Program highlights include a dessert and sparkling wine reception, chef demonstrations, a Mediterranean food and wine pairing, an aperitif reception, and five-course dinner with wine pairing.



Focus on Photography 2013 May 10 – 11, 2013

Year three of this popular program can take your photography to the next level. Instructors will cover processing and editing photos, shooting and editing video, and topics such as lenses, digital exposure, night photography, and photographing campus. A reception and most meals are included.



Corps of Cadets Alumni Weekend June 21 – 23, 2013

Calling all cadet alumni! Come enjoy Tech's campus in summer and reunite with former cadets. Program highlights include a barbecue at the alumni center, a shooting-range contest and paintball, a Civil War presentation, reflections from veterans, and a briefing from the commandant. Meet student cadets, and possibly learn how you might help the corps in your hometown.



Virginia Tech Admissions Weekend July 12 – 13, 2013

Our annual "Day in the Life of College Admissions" is designed to assist 2014 and 2015 high school graduates and their parents in navigating the college application process. Program highlights include pointers for conducting a college search, a behind-the-scenes look at college admissions, application preparation tips, and information on scholarships and financial aid.



Women's Getaway Weekend for Alumnae July 19 – 20, 2013

Bring friends or former classmates for a fun-filled weekend in Blacksburg! Relax, revive, and reminisce. Take some time for yourself and indulge in a weekend especially designed for women. Program highlights include a tapas and wine reception, massages, recreational activities, a champagne brunch, insightful sessions for today's woman, and a dinner with special guests.

Specially reduced lodging in the Inn at Virginia Tech is available. For more details, visit www.alumni.vt.edu.

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