



April 2014

Chapter Team

[Debbie Day](#)

[Greg Fansler](#)

[Kelly Griffin](#)

[Gwen Harrington](#)

[Jack Hutcheson](#)

[Jordan McCauley](#)

[Ginny Ritenour](#)

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 participate alongside our current students with The Big Event and host various community service projects to honor the victims of the April 16 tragedy.

Following the success of our chapters in hosting Big Event projects last year, many more joined in to make 2014 even more successful! As you'll read in the feature on page 4, more than 15 chapters participated in a variety of events in their local communities. Many events were also 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, Adopt-a-Road clean-ups, and 3.2 for 32 Run/Walk in Remembrance events. For a complete list of remembrance activities, visit the [We Remember website](#).

If you haven't done so already, please mark your calendars for our fall Chapter Officers Forum on August 28-30. More details are coming soon.

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.

Debbie



Chapter Event Highlight: Annual Admissions Events

In partnership with the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, our chapters participate in several different activities throughout the year to connect with local area high school students (and potential future Hokies!). Taking part in an Admissions-related activity is now a requirement to achieve the Silver level Outstanding Chapter Award.

In late August, we send out the Undergraduate Admissions travel schedule that lists all the **college fairs** that Virginia Tech will be participating in. National requirements mandate that there may only be 3 people staffing a college fair booth at any one time, so Admissions lets us know where there staff will be and how we can support them. **All college fair participation must be coordinated directly through Undergraduate Admissions** to ensure that all requirements are met and that the appropriate materials are available.

Another way that our chapters support Admissions efforts is to host **yield events** in the spring. All students are notified of their offer of admission to Virginia Tech by April 1 and we receive those lists in our office in early April. Chapters may then host a yield event where they invite all offered students

and their families to meet alumni and learn more about the student experience at Virginia Tech. The intent of these events is to give the students the information they need to make a well-informed acceptance decision by May 1. In many cases, the Office of Undergraduate Admissions and the Division of Student Affairs will send representatives to participate by meeting families and answering their questions. All yield events must be held between the time the offer is made (April 1) and the acceptance decision deadline (May 1). If your chapter is interested in hosting one of these events, contact [Ginny Ritenour](#) for more information.

Yet another opportunity to assist with Admissions activities is to **contact students directly** once they have received their offer of admission. With the lists provided in early May, chapters may contact these students via email or phone to congratulate them on the offer and offer assistance to help with the decision making process. We have guidelines available to help with these contacts.

Our alumni play a vital role in ensuring that Virginia Tech continues to have a vibrant and diverse community of students and we encourage you to get involved with this important and exciting process!



Houston Chapter volunteers represent Virginia Tech at a local college fair in October 2013



Charlotte Chapter alumni mingle with prospective parents and their families at an April 2014 yield event

Staff Highlight: Chapter Liaisons Patty Foutz and Betty Lee Robertson Retire



Patty Foutz (left) retired from the Virginia Tech Alumni Association in December 2013; Betty Lee Robertson (right) retired in February 2014

It's so hard to say goodbye! Beloved chapter liaisons Patty Foutz and Betty Lee Robertson recently retired from the Virginia Tech Alumni Association after serving alumni for many years.

We like to joke that Patty retired many times from Virginia Tech but she has finally made it official. We can't thank Patty enough for her more than 16 years of service to the Alumni Association. Patty has had a long and successful career with the university as a professor in Computer Science and Statistics, Director of the VT Co-Op Program, and at our extended campus at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center in Abingdon,

VA. She has partially retired several times, but chose to stay solely with the Alumni Association for the last several years. Over the years, she has worked directly with 30 chapters and has helped us expand our chapter footprint in the western states. Patty has been a loyal, energetic, and passionate member of our team. She splits her time between Blacksburg and her second home in Las Vegas and has promised to stay in touch and continue to serve as an ambassador to Virginia Tech, as well as a local volunteer with the Las Vegas Chapter.

Betty is a two-time alumna of Virginia Tech, completing both her masters in Education and doctorate in Educational Administration, leading to her career as a high school principal in Roanoke City Schools. After retirement, she joined the Alumni Association as a part-time chapter liaison, serving over 25 chapters throughout her career. She served the central and Eastern Virginia chapters, as well as Texas. She also coordinated the alumni legislative advocacy program, working tirelessly every January to ensure that Virginia Tech was fully represented at the Virginia General Assembly on our annual "Hokie Day."

While serving as a chapter liaison for over 14 years, Betty met her future husband, Bud Robertson, Alumni Distinguished Professor of History Emeritus, one of our most popular alumni chapter speakers. Together, they have traveled all over the country to share educational opportunities for our alumni and represent the university at many institutions and travel destinations.

We are grateful to have had the opportunity to work with such outstanding leaders and to benefit from their many years of experience. They truly embody the spirit *Ut Prosim* and are avid supporters of Virginia Tech, the Virginia Tech Alumni Association, and the Hokie Nation. We miss them on a daily basis but they have made themselves available to be our mentors, university ambassadors, and enthusiastic fans in the coming years.



Community Service Highlight: The Big Event 2014

The Big Event at Virginia Tech started in 2002 as a student-run community service effort that has grown into the 2nd 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 through Blacksburg, Christiansburg, and the New River Valley. Projects are completed regardless of need or socioeconomic status; instead, it is The Big Event's goal to simply say, "Thank you" to the community. Seeded in our university's motto of *Ut Prosim* (That I may serve), students and community members come together for a unique experience.

In April 2012, the Charlotte Chapter joined in on the project at the prompting of one of their volunteers, Nathan Lavinka '11. Nathan was co-director of The Big Event as a student in 2011 and was interested in seeing alumni take part in the experience. They conducted 3 service projects around Charlotte and the day was a big success.



Western Maryland Chapter volunteers participated in the first ever Adopt-a-Road project at Gambrill Park

Nathan challenged more chapters to join The Big Event in 2013 and alumni answered the call, with service projects from Seattle to New England.

On April 5, 2014, more than 8,000 students, alumni, and volunteers completed nearly 1,000 projects in the New River Valley and across the country! Our alumni take part in the event simultaneously with students and the result is a partnership of spreading our mission of service.

The Big Event 2015 will be held on Saturday, April 4, 2015. 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."



Central Florida Chapter alumni and friends volunteered at The Mustard Seed Clothing Bank



New River Valley Chapter volunteers arrived bright and early in Pulaski, VA to assist with a local Color Run fundraiser



Alumni and future Hokies from the Charlotte Chapter sorted and packed food at the Second Harvest Food Bank



Prince William Chapter alumni complete their quarterly Adopt-a-Road project for The Big Event



Grand Strand/Myrtle Beach volunteers take a break from their work at the Children's Recovery Center



The Houston Chapter participated in a service project at the Houston Food Bank



In partnership with the Clean Valley Council, Roanoke Valley alumni worked at the Hanging Rock Battlefield Trail



Baltimore Chapter alumni get down and dirty with a clean-up project at Robinson Nature Center



Fredericksburg Chapter volunteers completed a roadside cleanup at the Wilderness Battlefield

Volunteer Highlight: Nathan Lavinka '11

Young alumnus Nathan Lavinka received his dual degree in Marketing and Communications in 2011. During his student career at Virginia Tech, Nathan held many leadership positions, including president for the class of 2011. He also served as the chair of the Commission on Student Affairs, German Club recruiting chair, Hokie Ambassador, Pamplin Ambassador, and was a member of the Student Alumni Associates. In addition to these responsibilities, he also worked as a Hokie Camp counselor, orientation assistant, orientation leader, and was co-director for The Big Event.

Following commencement, Nathan moved to Charlotte, NC where he worked for the Thomas James Company for two years.



Nathan Lavinka '11 delivers a speech at Lane Stadium after being crowned Virginia Tech's 2010 Homecoming King



Nathan Lavinka '11 (back row, second from left) joins the Charlotte Chapter for The Big Event 2013

Having worked for the Alumni Association for several years in SAA, Nathan knew the value of connecting with local alumni and immediately became actively involved with the Charlotte Chapter, serving as their Community Service Chair and then President-Elect. Having been co-director of The Big Event as a student, Nathan led the local group to host the first chapter-run Big Event project: The Big Event – Charlotte in 2012. With more than 16 chapters joining the initiative in 2014, this has now become a feature event for our alumni chapters across the country.

Nathan recently moved to Philadelphia where he accepted a position as Regional Manager with Balfour, affording him the opportunity to work once again with his alma mater through the class ring program. He continues to serve the Alumni Association and we look forward to celebrating his future successes.



Nathan Lavinka '11 represents Virginia Tech during a trip to Fisterra, Spain

Communications Corner:

April 2014

From [Dave Hunt](#) and [Denise Royal](#)

Send Us Your Chapter Logo

In preparation for upcoming improvements to our email templates, we are collecting chapter logos. If your chapter has a logo and you haven't done so already, please send the highest quality version to [Denise Royal](#). Note: this will be the only way your logo can be included in emails once the Alumni Association switches to the new email templates in the coming months.

Chapter Logo Guidelines

- Logos must include the chapter name (Austin, San Antonio, Charlotte, etc.).
- HokieBird and VT logos should not be altered in any way. The HokieBird, VT logo, and the word "Hokies" in a logo or graphic treatment require the ® registration mark.

- All logos must be approved by the Alumni Communications Office before use (Dave Hunt, davehunt@vt.edu or Denise Royal, kdenise@vt.edu). After the Alumni Communications Office approves, logos are sent to University Relations for their approval. Once approved, email the highest quality version to Denise Royal (kdenise@vt.edu) for Alumni Association's records, advertising, and chapter email templates.
- Logos should uniquely distinguish your chapter's city or region.
- We encourage you to review other chapter logos by visiting their website and Facebook pages. The full list of locations can be found on our [Chapter Contacts](#) webpage.

Official Virginia Tech Colors

- Chicago Maroon: PMS 208 | C:40, M:100, Y:50, K:15 | R:102, G:0, B:0 | (hex code =660000)
- Burnt Orange: PMS 158 | C:0, M:65, Y:90, K:0 | R:255, G:102, B:0 | (hex code =FF6600)



2014 Drillfield Series

Join us in Blacksburg for a series of weekend programs designed for Virginia Tech alumni, family, and friends.

Specially reduced lodging is available at the Inn at Virginia Tech.

Learn more at www.alumni.vt.edu

Focus on Photography

May 30-31, 2014

Top of the Mountain at Mountain Lake

June 6-7, 2014

Hokie Classic Golf Tournament

June 16, 2014

Summer Beer Festival at Virginia Tech

June 28, 2014

A Day in the Life of College Admissions

July 10-11, 2014

Happy and Healthy Pet Weekend

August 8-9, 2014

HOKIES on FACEBOOK



National Capital Region alumni visit with Nikki Giovanni, University Distinguished Professor of English, and Virginia Fowler, Professor of English



The New England Chapter gathered at a local restaurant for their Spring Thaw Happy Hour



San Antonio Chapter alumni visit the new Moss Center for the Arts at Virginia Tech

Dates to Remember:

- May 15: Grad Bash at Holtzman Alumni Center
- May 16: [Spring Commencement](#)
- May 30-31: [Drillfield Series: Focus on Photography](#)
- June 6-7: [Drillfield Series: Top of the Mountain at Mountain Lake](#)
- June 15: Deadline to submit scholarship recipient information and scholarship fund deposits to our office
- June 16: [Hokie Classic Golf Tournament](#)
- June 28: [Beer Festival at Virginia Tech](#)
- July 10-11: [A Day in the Life of College Admissions](#)
- August 8-9: [Drillfield Series: Happy and Healthy Pet Weekend](#)
- August 28-30: Chapter Officers Forum



**Show your Hokie pride
with the new Virginia Tech
Discover card!**

The only credit card that allows you to show your support for Virginia Tech with each use.

Visit discover.com/VT today.

We encourage chapters to share information on this opportunity at your upcoming events.

Contact [Ginny Ritenour](#) for details.