



February 2013

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## Chapter Team

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[Debbie Day](#)

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## Don't Forget

You are REQUIRED to have a Virginia Tech PID (vt.edu email address) to access the Chapter Forms database.

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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,

February has been a busy month for our chapters and chapter liaisons, with many speaker events, Hokie Happy Hours, and basketball watching parties. If you are still planning your spring chapter event or beginning to make plans for summer picnics, be sure to contact your chapter liaison for help with speakers or other resources. With the busy season approaching, we ask that you pay very close attention to publication deadlines (see the important reminder on page 6).

As I mentioned in the January newsletter, we will continue our Hokie Nation Serves initiative this April. We encourage all chapters to participate in community service projects in their local area, and to consider joining up with the on-campus "Big Event" held on Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. You can read about the student-run initiative on the "Big Event" website and you'll find more information for chapters on page 4 of this newsletter.

We will be hosting several training opportunities this spring exclusively for chapter officers. Please review the list of sessions on page 5 and plan to attend at least one topic of interest to your chapter; this is a great opportunity to network with other chapter volunteers and bring back new ideas to your own chapter. We also appreciate the expertise of experienced chapter officers who attend these events to share ideas and helpful advice. If you're interested in learning more now, we have materials from previous officer training events available on our website under "Presentations" on the [Chapter Resources page](#).

Check out the offerings in our [2013 Drillfield Series](#) to be held in Blacksburg, as well as the many exciting [alumni travel tours](#) for the upcoming year.

*Debbie*





## Alumni and Students Lobby in Richmond for Hokie Day 2013

On January 31, as part of the annual Hokie Day in Richmond, over 100 Virginia Tech students and dozens of alumni visited the State Capitol to call on their state legislators and discuss issues that are important to Virginia Tech's future. The students represented every college at the university and alumni traveled from all over the state to attend.

The 15-year-old Hokie Day has traditionally been set aside for alumni to talk to members of the General Assembly primarily on funding issues, but increasing numbers of students have joined the event in the past several years. In support of their efforts, the Richmond Chapter hosted a reception for students and administrators on Wednesday evening.

Breakfast was served at the Richmond SunTrust Building, where students and alumni received talking points from university administrators President Charles Steger, Vice President for

Alumni Relations Tom Tillar, and Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer Dwight Shelton.

Participants were encouraged to tell stories about their experiences and what they individually felt was important in higher education. Administrators stressed their appreciation of the additional General Fund support proposed in the Executive Budget, and also expressed the desire for further funding of STEM programs and health sciences research, among other initiatives.

The Hokie Day goal is for every Delegate and Senator to receive a personal visit from a Virginia Tech alumnus or student. Legislators tend to react more favorably to initiatives when they know that people in their home districts also support them. This is a terrific experience for alumni, students, and administrators and we are so pleased with this year's record number who took part in the opportunity to advocate for Virginia Tech.

# Chapter Event Highlight: Denver Chapter Inaugural Hokies Ski Day

From Debbie Flippo, [Denver Chapter](#) President

On January 26th, approximately eighty Denver Hokies met up at the Arapahoe Basin (A-Basin) Ski Resort in Keystone, Colorado for our Inaugural Hokies Ski Day.

The chapter picked the A-Basin resort because they are known for having "beach front property" - meaning you can ski down and head right over to the parking lot and picnic tables. Parking space was secured back in October and the event was promoted during most of our football watching parties this past fall.

We brought up the mobile grill (thanks to Ernie Flippo!) and the chapter provided water, hot chocolate and warm meals. We had burritos for breakfast and pulled pork, hotdogs and mac-n-cheese for lunch.

Many Hokies brought family members, dogs, and traditional tailgating gear: Hokies corn hole, ladder toss games, chairs, and tents. Everyone was responsible for their own ski gear, lift ticket purchase, and ride. We had our own group area featured prominently at the base of the mountain. Hokies proudly displayed their Virginia Tech cold weather gear (coats, hats, scarves, etc.) so they could be seen all over the mountain. The event lasted all day, from 9am to 4pm.

This family-friendly event was successful in many ways. Not only did we draw a large group of participants, we were also able to reach many new Hokies from the surrounding communities of Aspen, Steamboat and Colorado Springs.

This event was created and promoted on our [Facebook site](#) and, because this was a new event and reached a slightly younger audience, we increased our Facebook group by 35 people.

Everyone had such a great time that this will become an annual family event which we believe will only grow in size!



*Denver Hokies at the Inaugural Hokies Ski Day*



*Ernie Flippo, Denver Chapter Events Chair*



*Slope-Side Hokie Tailgate Area at A-Basin Resort*



*The littlest Hokie snow bunny!*

## Community Service Highlight: The Big Event - Virginia Tech



The Big Event is one of Virginia Tech's largest community service events and this year all alumni chapters are invited to participate!

On Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, over 7,000 students, alumni, and volunteers will complete nearly 1,000 projects across the New River Valley. Last year, for the first time ever, the Charlotte Chapter participated in the Big Event – Charlotte with terrific success. Following their example, this year we are encouraging all alumni chapters to participate in an “extended campus” version of the Big Event. All chapters that participate will receive official Big Event t-shirts!

There are 3 steps to making this happen in your area:

1. Identify a service project in your community for your chapter to participate in on April 6<sup>th</sup>;
2. Publicize the event to your chapter alumni;
3. Contact Jamie Lien, Assistant Director of The Big Event at [jamie491@vt.edu](mailto:jamie491@vt.edu) by **March 15<sup>th</sup>** to request your t-shirts.

That's it! Once your project is registered with Jamie, your chapter will be sent t-shirts to wear on April 6<sup>th</sup>!

We look forward to making the Hokie Nation stronger than ever by coming together in one great day of service. For more information, please contact Nathan Lavinka at [nathanlavinka@gmail.com](mailto:nathanlavinka@gmail.com) or by phone at (704) 579-1117 (cell).

## Hokie Nation Serves T-shirts Are Still Available!

As mentioned in previous newsletters and email notices, we have Hokie Nation Serves t-shirts available with our exclusive HNS logo! Hokie Nation Serves is the Virginia Tech Alumni Association's service program, encouraging all chapters to host service projects with an extra emphasis in the month of April.

These shirts are intended for chapters who plan on hosting a service event in the near future. The shirts are in limited and short supply, so to receive shirts for your event, please contact Ginny Ritenour at [ginnyrit@vt.edu](mailto:ginnyrit@vt.edu) as soon as possible for an application form.

Additionally, we ask for a picture of the group wearing the shirts **in action** at your community service event, as well as the submission of an event report through our chapter database in order to be considered for future items for Hokie Nation Serves.

This is a great way to show our Hokie pride while continuing the Virginia Tech *Ut Prosim* tradition.



## Staff Highlight: John Vile, Technical Services Manager

John Vile joined the Virginia Tech Alumni Association in October of 2012. He provides direction and guidance for all Information Technology needs, ranging from desktop support to dynamic web programming. He also maintains the Online Alumni Directory.

John moved to Blacksburg in March of 2000 and he has joyfully called it home ever since. A proud father of two and an even prouder grandfather of one, John spends his free time listening to music, playing guitar, reading, and spending lazy days with his wife and their two dogs and cat.



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## 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.

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.

More details can be found on the [Alumni Association website](#).

- 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.

## Upcoming Chapter Officer Training Opportunities

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

March 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM (Eastern)

Small Chapter Success! Best Practices Specifically Targeted for Your Chapter Demographic  
Hosted by Josh Burnheimer and Greg Fansler

April 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM (Eastern)

Chapter Leadership Succession Planning  
Hosted by Debbie Day

April 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM (Eastern)

Broadening Audiences for Chapter Programs  
Hosted by Debbie Day

June 5<sup>th</sup> OR June 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM (Eastern)

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

## Communications Corner: Important Reminder!

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

We are gearing up to reach our busiest time of the spring semester and will be reaching our workload capacity.

To ensure your print request is accepted, please make sure and allow **six weeks** prior to your RSVP or event date (if no RSVP date is needed).

We will be unable to process print request submissions that do not fall within the six week policy. Please plan accordingly. If you have any questions, contact your chapter liaison.

To submit your email or print request, log-in to the [Chapter Database](#) and download the email template or complete the mailer request form.

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## Dates to Remember:

- March 27: Chapter Officer Training: Small Chapter Success! Best Practices Specifically Targeted for Your Chapter Demographic
- April 9: Chapter Officer Training: Chapter Leadership Succession Planning
- April 20: Virginia Tech Spring Game
- April 27: Chapter Officer Training: Broadening Audiences for Chapter Programs
- 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](#)

## Hokies on Facebook!



*[Tidewater Chapter](#) February Hokie Happy Hour*



*In a joint effort spearheaded by Chris Bryan of the [San Antonio Chapter](#), the Texas chapters introduce their brand new Virginia Tech Texas license plates!*



*[Richmond Chapter](#) alumni volunteer at a local food bank during their annual Hokies vs. 'Hoos Food Fight (Hokies beat the 'Hoos 37,127 to 33,548!)*



# 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](http://www.alumni.vt.edu).

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