



February 2015

Chapter Team

[Debbie Day](#)

[Greg Fansler](#)

[Kelly Griffin](#)

[Gwen Harrington](#)

[Jack Hutcheson](#)

[Katie Marquis](#)

[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,

February has been a busy month for our chapters and chapter liaisons, with many speaker events, basketball watching parties, and networking opportunities. 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 4).

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 11th. You can read about the student-run initiative on the ["Big Event" website](#) and you'll find more information for chapters on page 3 of this newsletter.

We are continuing our Chapter Chat series with a session on Broadening Alumni Engagement on March 10th at noon (Eastern). More details are available on page 4; this is a great opportunity to network with other chapter volunteers and bring back new ideas to your own chapter. We 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 [Chapter Resources page](#).

Check out the offerings in our [2015 Drillfield Series](#) to be held in Blacksburg, as well as the many exciting [alumni travel tours](#) for the upcoming year.

Associate Vice President for Alumni Relations



Annual Cadets vs. Civilians Snowball Fight!

Chapter Event Highlight: Middle Tennessee Chapter “Networking in Nashville”

The Middle Tennessee Chapter hosted its first networking mixer in Nashville on January 22nd. The event took place on a Thursday evening at [Arrister](#), a local furniture company, and included live music and appetizers.

The free event was geared toward alumni and other local Nashvillians interested in professional networking. Following some time for mingling, the group tuned into a career management webinar with [Shoya Zichy](#). Shoya introduced a 10 minute self-assessment that provides information on how people’s brain styles affect leadership, workplace dynamics, sales style, career choices, coaching approach, and interaction in a team.

The webinar presented at the event is provided through our [Alumni Career Resources](#) program. This service is available to all alumni and is a free and easy way to provide virtual speakers for your local alumni. The online speaker services provides leading career authors who share tips and best practices for job searches, interviewing, use of social media, networking, and more. There is also a large archive available of past events.

As you know, the Alumni Association recently launched the Hokie Nation Networking initiative to encourage Hokies to professionally network with fellow alums. A new requirement to become an outstanding chapter, this initiative is designed to connect alumni who can help each other in meaningful and positive ways.

General networking events are geared toward all alumni and the goal is to make connections with others who have expertise in a wide range of areas. Some examples are hosting a short panel, speed networking, an after-work cocktail reception or breakfast round tables before work. The Denver Chapter recently held an event where they provided a LinkedIn presentation on how to effectively use this professional tool.

Congratulations to the Middle Tennessee Chapter on a successful inaugural networking event!



Nashville area alumni meet up for the inaugural “Networking in Nashville” event



Alumni and other local Nashvillians network during the event at Arrister, which featured food and live music



Chapter president Katherine Forbes '11 created a promotional video to advertise the event. [Check it out!](#)

Community Service Highlight: That I May Serve

by [Katie Marquis](#)

The Hokie Nation is known for embracing the spirit of *Ut Prosim* in everything that we do. Our chapters demonstrate this throughout the year in a variety of activities. From roadside clean-ups, food drives and Habitat for Humanity events to blood drives and book drives, chapter volunteers proudly represent our commitment to service in a variety of ways.

As we head into spring, we want to provide you with some ideas for community service projects in your area. Please see our recommendations for possible events on our [Chapter Resources page](#). Also, please remember to take pictures of your events and submit the information to [Ginny Ritenour](#) for promotion in this newsletter.

Additionally, The Big Event is taking place on Saturday, April 11th and we encourage you to consider hosting a local "Big Event" in your area. If you are planning to do this, please contact David Bohn, Director of Communications for the Big Event, at alumni@vtbigevent.org by **March 15th** to request Big Event t-shirts for your chapter.

Also, the campus will host the 3.2 for 32 Run in Remembrance on April 18th at 9 AM. For more information and to see a time-lapsed video of runners creating the VT logo, visit the [Run in Remembrance website](#). If your Chapter is planning a remembrance activity, please submit this information to [Ginny Ritenour](#) by March 12 to be included on the [We Remember website](#).

We look forward to seeing all of the amazing service events taking place throughout the Hokie Nation. If you have any questions or would like to further discuss your plans, please contact your chapter liaison.

Register Now for the Big Event

The Big Event is Virginia Tech's largest community service event and all alumni chapters are invited to participate! On Saturday, April 11th over 8,500 students, alumni, and volunteers will complete nearly 1,000 projects across the New River Valley!

Again this year, we are encouraging all alumni chapters to participate in an "extended campus" version of the Big Event on **Saturday, April 11th**. All chapters that participate will receive official Big Event t-shirts!

There are three easy steps to making this happen:

1. Identify a service project in your community for your chapter to participate in on April 11th
2. Publicize the event to your local chapter alumni through web, email, Facebook, etc.
3. Contact David Bohn, Director of Communications for the The Big Event at alumni@vtbigevent.org by **March 15th** to request Big Event t-shirts for your chapter.

That's it! Once your project is registered with David, your chapter will be sent t-shirts to wear during your service project.

Stay up-to-date with The Big Event here:
vtbigevent.org/alumni

For more information, please contact Nathan Lavinka at 704-579-1117 or nathanlavinka@gmail.com



Staff Highlight: Tracee de Hahn, Director of Alumni Relations, College of Architecture & Urban Studies



Tracee de Hahn is the Director of Alumni Relations for the College of Architecture and Urban Studies (CAUS). She joined Virginia Tech in fall 2014 after moving to the region with her husband, Henri, who is the new Director of the School of Architecture + Design.

In her role, Tracee coordinates with college communication and development officers to share news of the college, plan off campus events, and connect alumni with their alma mater.

Trained as an architect, Tracee was executive director of a planning and preservation non-profit prior to moving to the west coast to lead alumni relations for Cal Poly – San Luis Obispo. A Kentucky native, she is delighted to return to the east coast with its many seasons.

Outside of work her interests include painting and writing fiction. She is also the author of several non-fiction books for young adults. She lives in a turn of the century house in Christiansburg with her husband and their Jack Russell terriers.

March Chapter Chat

Join us on Tuesday, March 10th for our monthly Chapter Chat. Latanya Walker, Director of Alumni Relations for Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Engagement will be joining us to talk about "Broadening Audiences for Increased Alumni Engagement." Details coming soon!

Communications Corner: Important Reminder!

From [Dave Hunt](#), [Denise Crawford](#), and [Matt Dowdy](#)

We are approaching our busiest time of the spring semester. Due to the high volume of print jobs we handle this time of the year, we can only accept print requests submitted at least six weeks prior to your RSVP or event date (if no RSVP date is needed). Please plan accordingly. If you have any questions, contact your chapter liaison.

For email requests, please be mindful of our five business day turnaround, and remember email requests should be submitted early enough to allow people time to respond and plan to attend your event.

To submit your email or print request, log-in to the [Chapter Database](#), scroll down to the Email and Print Requests section, and click "Begin your request" button.

Dates to Remember:

- March 7-15: Spring Break
- March 20-21: [What Fuels Our Planet?](#)
- April 11: [The Big Event 2015](#)
- April 16: [2015 Day of Remembrance](#)
- April 18: [3.2 for 32 Run in Remembrance](#)
- May 16: Spring Commencement
- June 5-6: [The Rich Heritage of SW Virginia](#)
- June 15: [3rd Annual Hokie Classic Golf Tournament at the Pete Dye River Course](#)
- June 27: [2nd Annual Summer Beer Festival at Virginia Tech](#)
- July 10-11: [Alumni and Legacy Weekend](#)
- July 17-19: [Women's Weekend](#)

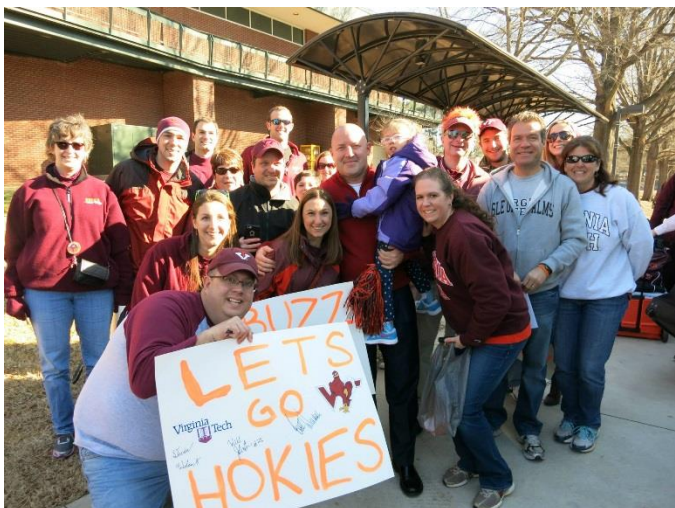
HOKIES on FACEBOOK



National Capital Region alumni gather for their Hokie Business Owners & Entrepreneurs Networking Session



Jacksonville Hokies rooted on the Virginia Tech softball team at a recent tournament in Jacksonville



The Palmetto Chapter welcomed Buzz Williams and the Hokie basketball team upon their arrival in Clemson



The Charlotte Chapter hosted popular Virginia Tech instructor John Boyer at their annual Wine Fest



The Central Florida Chapter gathered together to watch the Virginia Tech vs. Miami basketball game and to welcome visiting Alumni Association staff from Blacksburg