



January 2014

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## Chapter Team

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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,

Welcome to 2014! As we begin a new year, we are looking forward to working with you on your chapter programs and events scheduled for this spring. If you're still looking for a speaker, be sure to contact your chapter liaison for assistance.

We will be hosting several training opportunities this spring exclusively for chapter officers; see page 5 for information on upcoming teleconferences. If you're interested in learning more now, we have materials from previous officer training events available on our website under "Chapter Officer Leadership Training" on the [Chapter Officer Resources page](#).

This April, we will continue our *Hokie Nation Serves* initiative. As we have for the past several years, we encourage all chapters to initiate or participate in community service projects in their local area. As a reminder, you may request your official "Hokie Nation Serves" t-shirts for your event by contacting [Josh Burnheimer](#). The only requirements are that you wear your shirts proudly and submit a photo to our office of your chapter volunteers in action. If you're looking for new ideas for service projects in your area, contact your chapter liaison for assistance.

As you begin to plan your spring and summer travel, be sure to check out the offerings in our [2014 Drillfield Series](#). You're sure to find an exciting and informative program to bring you back to Blacksburg this spring or summer.

We look forward to working with you in the upcoming year!

*Debbie*



## Chapter Event Highlight: "Row'noke Hokies" Compete in Dragon Boat Race

In the Fall of 2013, the Roanoke Hokies participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual [Smith Mountain Lake Dragon Boat Race and Festival](#) to benefit the Presbyterian Community Center.

The "Row'noke Hokies" boat, full of orange and maroon, with 20 paddlers and 1 drummer raced their way to the finish line by the beat of the drum. Cheers for the Hokie team could be heard from the crowd of spectators at the marina!

The team set up their tailgating tent, watched other races, enjoyed the sunshine, and listened to the Virginia Tech vs. East Carolina football game in between their races. The Row'noke Hokies placed in the top finishers and plan to compete again next year! This was great exposure for the [Roanoke Chapter](#) and Virginia Tech.

All proceeds from the Smith Mountain Lake Dragon Boat Race and Festival benefit the mission of the Presbyterian Community Center (PCC) in Roanoke, Virginia. Since 1967, the PCC has worked to prevent hunger and homelessness among low-income residents of the Roanoke Valley. The PCC provides emergency financial aid for necessities such as rent, utility bills, prescription medication and other urgent needs and a food pantry provides groceries to hungry families. Also, an after-school program serves fifty children in grades three through twelve, offering academic and cultural enrichment, life-skills training and physical education, community service opportunities, individual and family counseling, and many other nurturing activities to students and their families.

We encourage other chapters to take advantage of unique events happening in your local area!



*The Roanoke Valley Chapter volunteers are ready to race, with their Hokie drummer at the front of the boat.*



*The "Row'noke Hokies" in action! The team finished 7<sup>th</sup> overall in the A division.*



*Tailgating and catching up on the Virginia Tech vs. East Carolina Game in between races*

# Community Service Highlight: Hokies Perform Service While Visiting El Paso

The Virginia Tech Alumni Association has a tradition of performing community service in the communities that welcome Hokies for our annual bowl games. The 2013 Hyundai Sun Bowl brought the opportunity to join together for a unique project more than 1,700 miles from Blacksburg, VA.

Thanks to local Hokies Patrick '94 and Blythe '95 Hogeboom, who organized the project. Our alumni teamed up with six Virginia Tech Corps of

Cadets Color Guard to refurbish the planting beds at the [Old Fort Bliss Replica](#) on December 30. The replica provides an opportunity for local children to plant and sell their produce at a farmers market from April to September. Wanda Kienzle, education program director of the Old Fort Bliss Replica, said the work is essential to get the beds ready for the spring planting season.

In the spirit of *Ut Prosim*, the group of alumni and cadets got straight to work, building, cleaning, and refurbishing the beds to prepare for planting.

These community service projects across the country are yet another way to carry out our university motto, "That I May Serve."



*Virginia Tech alumni work on sprucing up and refreshing the grounds of the Fort Bliss Replica in El Paso, TX*



*Frank Turner '72, Southside Chapter President, and his wife Ruth participated in the El Paso community service project*



*Members of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets jump right in to take on the heavy-duty work*



*The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets was on hand to help (Patrick Hogeboom '94, center)*

## Communications Corner: January 2014

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

We're excited to see so many chapters gearing up for some great events this spring!

To ensure that each communications request is processed in a timely manner, details on how to submit requests for email templates and print postcards are listed below.

**Email Requests:** Email templates are sent within *five business days*

Submit your email notice with plenty of time before an event so your notice is sent early enough for people to respond and plan to attend. Content must be final! All email request submissions are considered approved by chapter leadership, and additional proofs are not sent.

**Print Requests:** Complete information is needed *six weeks prior to RSVP date*

*Reminder:* Due to our schedule, the printing process, and the post office, we need at least six weeks after receiving your complete and final information to ensure your postcard is received before your RSVP date.

**Want to submit a list of "upcoming events" but not sure how to fill out the print request form?**

Chapters typically request postcards for only one main event (speaker, golf, wine, etc.); therefore, the print request form is designed for one event. If you want to submit a "save-the-date for upcoming events" print request, please enter your events in the "event specifics" section of the form.

Remember, a postcard size is 5.5 x 8.5 so each event should be brief. Please only list the event name, date, location, contact person, a brief sentence or two (max), and where to go for more information.

An example of the First State Chapter's postcard announcing their "upcoming events" can be found [here](#). Their complimentary email can be found [here](#).

# VIRGINIA TECH BLACK ALUMNI

*Heritage. Culture. Legacy.*

## 2014 Black Alumni Reunion

"Sharing Our Story: Past, Present, Future"

March 20-23, 2014

Blacksburg, Virginia

Set your sights on Blacksburg for a special occasion to embrace the past, understand the present, and inspire the future! Join us in March for an exciting reunion weekend full of celebrating, networking with students, faculty, and alumni, and socializing.

Weekend events include an Alumni Awards Brunch, Networking Social, Student and Alumni Networking Reception, Black Alumni Society Updates, and a Spiritual Celebration.

**[Register Today!](#)**



## Staff Highlight:

### Jay Whitlow, Event Coordinator/Building Manager

Jay Whitlow recently joined the staff of the Virginia Tech Alumni Association as the new Event Coordinator/Building Manager. In this role, he



will be responsible for overseeing the planning of various alumni events throughout the year, including the [Drillfield Series](#), and class reunions in the fall.

Jay is a native of Richmond, VA and has lived in Blacksburg since he began attending Virginia Tech in the winter of 1997. While in college, he began working at the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center as a prep cook and eventually became Banquet Chef at The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center when the facility opened in 2005. His friendly personality and passion for assisting hotel guests led him to a promotion as Banquet Manager from 2011-2013 where he oversaw the execution of all banquet events, including many held for alumni groups. He is excited about connecting with Hokie alumni in his new position with the Alumni Association.

A huge sports fan, Jay loves watching football (especially the Hokies!), soccer, baseball, and is an avid fantasy baseball participant. In his spare time, he enjoys cooking, listening to music, and adding new albums to his vinyl collection.

## Dates to Remember:

- Feb. 7-8: [Drillfield Series: Food for Thought](#)
- March 8-16: Spring Break
- 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 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](#)

### *Upcoming Training Opportunities*

Our Chapter Team will be hosting several training opportunities this spring. Please encourage your chapter officers to join in! Registration info will be sent via email.

- Feb. 19: Succession Planning Teleconference
- Feb 25: How to Jump Start Your Chapter
- March 6: Filing & Requesting Reports through the Chapter Database
- March 8: New Officer Training Webinar
- March 19: New Officer Training Webinar



### 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](https://discover.com/VT) for more information.

# HOKIES on FACEBOOK



*Middle Tennessee Hokies enjoy an evening at Arrington Vineyards in Arrington, TN*



*Chicago Chapter alumni volunteer at the Greater Chicago Food Depository*



*Rowland Middle School students thank volunteers from the Central Pennsylvania Chapter for their community service*



*The Hawaii Chapter celebrates at the end of the 2013 Hokie football season*



*Alumni from the Research Triangle Chapter volunteer to sort goods at a local food bank in December*



*The Denver Chapter hosts its second annual Hokies at A-Basin Beach Party*