



March 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,

Spring is here and the Alumni Association is gearing up for a busy season of community service and speaker events, as well as planning many exciting reunion and homecoming events for this fall. I want to thank all of our chapters for your patience as we continue to transition and reassign your chapters and liaisons.

This April, many chapters will participate with The Big Event in their local communities, in conjunction with students, faculty and staff here in Blacksburg. Chapters have scheduled blood drives, community clean-ups, food drives, and have partnered with other local organizations to continue the Virginia Tech tradition of *Ut Prosim*. This is also a big month for projects promoting our community service initiative of Hokie Nation Serves. If your chapter would like to participate but is unsure how to get started, contact your chapter liaison for more information. Many chapters will host April 16 Remembrance activities across the nation, including 3.2 for 32 walks/runs, remembrance gatherings, and service projects. Please submit your Remembrance event information to [Ginny Ritenour](#) so that we may include it on the 2014 We Remember website.

We hosted several chapter officer training opportunities during the month, including teleconferences on succession planning, jump starting your chapter, new officer training, and a webinar on chapter reporting requirements and data that is available through our office. If you weren't able to attend but are interested in receiving more information on these topics, we have posted the presentations and other notes from these sessions on the [Chapter Resources page](#). Your chapter liaison will also be happy to provide more details.

As you're making travel plans for this summer, I encourage you to check out the offerings in our [2014 Drillfield Series](#) to be held in Blacksburg, as well as the many exciting [alumni travel tours](#) for the upcoming year.

*Debbie*



## Chapter Event Highlight: Young Alumni Events

In an effort to engage young alumni, the Virginia Tech Alumni Association developed a national program entitled Virginia Tech Young Alumni Mixers. These mixers have proven to be an excellent way for young alumni to connect with each other, the local alumni chapter, and representatives from the university, as well as network with sponsors and other guests.

In many instances, this is the first connection made between alumni and the university since they graduated. We have held mixers in many different regions of the Hokie Nation with great success. We choose a casual or fun atmosphere for the venue and offer free appetizers to participants. We encourage alumni to bring their business cards to exchange with each other and for a chance to win Hokie prizes.

The most recent Young Alumni Mixers have been held in Charlotte, New York City, Atlanta, Tidewater, Richmond, and Southern Maryland. These events have the added benefit of bringing in new volunteers for chapters who are looking to make connections with local alumni.



*Tidewater Chapter area young alumni pose for a group shot at their Gordon Biersch Brewery event*



*Richmond Chapter area young alumni gather at Buffalo Wild Wings for networking*



## 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](http://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

## Community Service Highlight: Upcoming April Community Service Initiatives

April is the busiest month of the year for Virginia Tech's alumni, faculty, staff, and students who are involved in their local community service projects. With The Big Event, Relay for Life, and the Day of Remembrance activities taking place on campus during the month, our alumni chapters have followed suit and participate in conjunction with the happenings in Blacksburg.

April 5<sup>th</sup> will mark the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Big Event, Virginia Tech's largest community service project and the second largest of its kind in the nation. The Big Event was started as a way for students to say thank you to the people of Blacksburg, Montgomery County, and the New River Valley, and has now spread nationwide with alumni chapter participation from Seattle to Tampa Bay. Registration for this year's event has closed but contact your liaison for details if you're interested in participating in next year's event.

Many chapters host Day of Remembrance service projects to show their support for the worldwide Virginia Tech community on this day when we remember those lives affected by the April 16, 2007 tragedy. From 3.2 mile walk/runs to tree plantings to candlelight vigils, our alumni are committed to joining together and giving back to their communities as we remember fellow Hokies.

As part of the overall Hokie Nation Serves alumni initiative, many chapters host a wide range of other events throughout April to support the month of service. These events include Virginia Tech for Life blood drives, HokieBird Fights Hunger food drives, Adopt-a-Road cleanups, Relay for Life events, and Habitat for Humanity building projects.

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

We once again 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 submit the application form via the [Chapter Database](#) as soon as possible.

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: Angela Mills, Director of Alumni Relations for the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

Angela Mills is serving the Virginia Tech Alumni Association as the Director of Alumni Relations for the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. In this role she is focused on engaging alumni, faculty, and students of this college. The college is quite diverse in its offerings and has over 55,000 alumni across the world.

From 2007 until September 2013, Angela served the University of Tennessee Alumni Association (UTAA). As the Senior Director of Alumni Chapters and Outreach she oversaw the UTAA chapter and clubs program and worked directly with more than 35 chapters and clubs. From 2003-06 she worked with the UT College of Law as the Assistant Director of Development and Alumni Affairs and as the Assistant Director of Development for the UT College of Education, Health and Human Sciences.

Prior to coming to UT in 2003, Angela worked with The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. focusing on development for individual membership campaigns for the National Symphony Orchestra. She holds a BS (2001) from Mary Washington College of Fredericksburg, Va., in business administration with a concentration in marketing and theatre, and an MPA (2011) from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

In the professional organization, Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), she served as the food and beverage chair for the 2013 District III Conference and she served as co-chair of the Alumni Track for the 2012



conference. In 2014, she will serve as Arrangements Chair. She has presented for CASE District III Conference (2010, 2011, 2013, 2014), District VI (2011) Conference, and CASE Kentucky Conference (2013).

Angela resides in Christiansburg, VA, where she grew up. Her father is a 1974 Virginia Tech graduate and her sister is currently pursuing her master's degree in the School of Education. When Angela is not serving Virginia Tech, she enjoys going to NASCAR races, college football games, and spending time traveling to see friends. She also volunteers as a member of the Junior League of the Roanoke Valley and as a member of the Alumni Board of Directors as VP of Networks for the University of Mary Washington.



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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) today.

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

Contact [Ginny Ritenour](#) for details.

## Alumni Chapters Present Gift to President Charles Steger

At the 2013 Chapter Officers Forum, University President Charles Steger gave his final address to our chapter officers, recognizing their hard work and contributions to Virginia Tech, their local communities, students, and alumni.

In preparation for this event and in an effort to present Dr. Steger with a “thank you” gift upon his retirement, many chapters and individual volunteers donated to the purchase of a gift certificate for the Stegers to enjoy a weekend of relaxation at the [Primland Resort](#) in Meadows of Dan, Virginia.

Primland is one of Dr. Steger’s favorite places where the family can enjoy quiet time together and take advantage of the resorts beautiful amenities, including a spectacular golf course. When presented with the certificate, he expressed his gratitude for such an unexpected tribute and remarked that his family would appreciate the opportunity to enjoy some downtime following his official retirement this summer.



*Tom Tillar, Vice President for Alumni Relations, and Matt Winston, President, National Alumni Board of Directors, present retiring President Charles Steger with gift*

## Important Chapter Updates!

### Call for “Chapter Best Practices”

We’re looking for information that you would like to share with other chapter leaders that would help them establish or run a successful event. We encourage you to submit any programmatic or management best practices that you feel would be helpful to others planning a similar event.

### April 16 Day of Remembrance Events

If your chapter is planning on holding a Remembrance event this year, please send us the details so we can have these posted to the site and available for other Hokies in your area. Details should be submitted to [Ginny Ritenour](#).

### “Welcome New Alumni” Chapter Events

To enhance our efforts to engage Young Alumni and to connect with our most recent graduates, we encourage chapters to host a recent graduate event during the summer. Many of our students do not know where they will be located upon graduation and their information is not uploaded into our database until late summer. Our hope is to share the information, in one message, in a variety of ways with our graduating students. If you would like to participate and have your information shared with all the 2014 spring graduates, please provide the following information [via this survey](#) by Tuesday, April 15.

### Year-End Reporting

In order to be eligible for the Outstanding Chapter Award, remember that all end-of-the-year reports are due by July 1; all event reports and meeting minutes should already be submitted via the Chapter Database throughout the year. We also encourage you to nominate a chapter member for Outstanding Volunteer of the Year and the chapter for various Superlative Awards (see nomination forms in [Chapter Database](#)).

# HOKIES on FACEBOOK



*Richmond Chapter area Hokies won the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Hokies vs. Hoos Food Fight to benefit a local food pantry*



*Central Pennsylvania Hokies boxed over 13,000 pounds of food for the Central PA Area Food Bank*



*The Central Florida Chapter hosted a Virginia Tech vs. Miami Basketball Game Watching Party while being visited by Debbie Day, Associate Vice President for Alumni Relations, and other Alumni Relations staff members*



*The New River Valley Chapter shows off their new logo designed by volunteer David Stanley with delicious cookies made by volunteer Taylor Cupp*



*North Alabama Chapter alumni pose for a group photo during their tour of the Straight to Ale Brewery & Pub in Huntsville, Alabama*