



March 2016

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.

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.

Many of you were able to join us live for last month's virtual speaker event with Jason Soileau, University Architect and Assistant Vice President of the Office of University Planning. Jason shared the Campus Master Plan with our alumni online and in person at the new Human Agricultural Biosciences Building 1; if you weren't able to attend, you can find the recorded event on our [Chapter Resources website](#).

Our Chapter Database was recently moved over to a new server and we have experienced several growing pains as a result. The email and mailer request templates are back up and running, as well as the event and meeting report forms. We are still working on updates to the chapter contacts listing and map and will get those back online as soon as possible. We appreciate your patience and feedback during this transition.

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. Many chapters will host April 16 Remembrance activities across the nation, including 3.2 for 32 walks/runs, remembrance gatherings, and service projects. For a full listing of activities, visit the 2016 [We Remember website](#).

As we prepare to enter the final quarter of the 2015-16 fiscal year, make sure you have checked in with your chapter liaison to ensure that your chapter is on track for meeting this year's requirements for the Outstanding Chapter Award. You can find the 2015-16 Chapter Awards Requirements Checklist on the [Chapter Resources website](#).

Enjoy your spring and we looking forward to seeing all your Big Event and April 16 Remembrance activities in our [Chapter Officers Facebook group](#)!

Associate Vice President for Alumni Relations

Chapter Event Highlight: Hokie Day 2016 Kicks Off with Richmond Chapter Reception

by Amy Kochert, Virginia Tech Legislative Intern

On February 3rd and 4th Virginia Tech students, alumni, and administration came together in Richmond for the 18th Annual Hokie Day. A crowd of nearly 180 participants joined forces and filled the halls of the General Assembly building with maroon and orange pride.

Hokie Day is an important tradition in which students, staff, and alumni gather together in Richmond to advocate for Virginia Tech in the General Assembly. In preparation for the event, students are familiarized with policy and budget issues that are important to Virginia Tech and discussed in the General Assembly. Students and alumni team up, and meetings are scheduled to discuss higher education issues with legislators and staffers. This year higher education affordability was just one topic on the agenda. The perspective of the student is a powerful voice to be heard, but is often left out of the legislative process.

Our events commenced on February 3rd with a reception hosted by the Richmond Chapter of the Alumni Association. The reception welcomed the traveling students, alumni, and administration and provided an opportunity for students to network. Following the reception, the students rested up for the big day ahead. We kicked off Hokie Day with a breakfast prepping the participants and briefing the attendees on the current issues on the floor.

Participants were welcomed by Matt Winston, Senior Associate Vice President for Alumni Relations; President Sands gave a welcoming and encouraging speech, which was followed by a budget outline provided by Chief Financial Officer, Dwight Shelton. Elizabeth Hooper, the



Coach Frank Beamer is presented with a Commendation Proclamation by Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe

Director of State Relations, concluded the program reminding the students of the lasting impact their personal stories can have with the legislators. The students and alumni were released to their meetings for the morning.

Following the morning meetings with congressional legislators and staffers, the Hokies assembled for a picture outside the Capitol with the company of Governor McAuliffe and surprise guests Coach Frank Beamer and his wife, Cheryl. Governor McAuliffe read a Proclamation commending Frank Beamer to a crowd of cheering Hokies, declaring Feb 4th "Frank Beamer Day" in the Commonwealth. Frank Beamer retired at the close of the 2015 season after 29 years of coaching. He led the Hokies to 23 consecutive bowl games. Coach Beamer retired with a record of 238-121-2 which made him the Football Bowl Subdivisions' winningest active coach when he retired. Students, friends, and family of Coach Beamer headed to the galleries of the House and Senate to watch him be recognized for his success and leadership of the Virginia Tech football team. "Enter Sandman" played on the floor as Frank Beamer was commended for his service to Virginia Tech.



Hokie Day 2016 Kicks Off with Richmond Chapter Reception (continued)

The students reconvened for a lunch and reflected on their morning meetings. While Frank Beamer was a highlight of everyone's day, the students were impressed by the open and caring attitude of the legislators. One student noted, "My representative and I had a very candid conversation about the actual state of our school, how we plan to use the money, and how we, as students, are a really great investment." Another student claimed, "They were all happy we were there."

The 18th annual Hokie Day was a tremendous success and would not have been possible without the efforts of the Alumni Association, the Student Government Association, and the Office of Government Relations. A special thank you is due to all of the Hokies who represented Virginia Tech in Richmond with pride and respect.



Matt Winston Jr., Senior Associate Vice President for Alumni Relations, addresses students and alumni at the Richmond Chapter's pre-Hokie Day reception



Virginia Tech President Timothy Sands visit with students and alumni at the Richmond Chapter reception

All-Call for Your Favorite Hokie Photos!

We are looking for high resolution photos of Hokies doing what they do best: having fun! Please submit any photos you have of alumni in their orange and maroon best. Whether it's a networking event, happy hour, game watching party, or any other type of event, please send with description to [Katie Marquis](#). Go Hokies!

Chapter Volunteer Highlight: Charlie Wood '70, Richmond Chapter

Richmond Chapter president Charlie Wood has been a trailblazer for professional networking since 2002, when he founded the Career Prospectors organization, whose mission is to help professionals looking for new jobs or careers and those who find themselves caught in untimely layoffs.

For his efforts, Charlie was recently named the 2016 Henrico Community Leader of the Year by the Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce's Henrico Business Council. The award honors an unsung Henrico County hero who has made a positive difference in the community and who demonstrates unwavering support, dedication and enthusiasm for the betterment and growth of Henrico County.

As a chapter volunteer and officer, Charlie saw an opportunity to bring together two of his passions: Virginia Tech and professional networking. He has created the Richmond Chapter's successful "Hokies Helping Hokies" monthly business networking program and was instrumental in bringing the Career Prospectors organization together with the chapter to host the bi-annual RVA Career Expo.

The RVA Career Expo attracts more than 100 employers and over 1,000 job seekers, resulting in a wonderfully successful fundraising event for the chapter.

Charlie has been an active volunteer with the Richmond Chapter for many years, taking over leadership in 2014, and is a valued supporter of alumni chapter programs.

Please join us in congratulating Charlie on this prestigious award!



Charlie Wood '70 poses with new Virginia Tech football coach Justin Fuente



A recent meeting of the Richmond Chapter's "Hokies Helping Hokies" Business Networking Group



Charlie Wood '70 (right) represents Virginia Tech at the inauguration for University of Richmond's new president Ronald Crutcher.

Staff Highlight: Tracy Vosburgh, Senior Associate Vice President for University Relations



Tracy Vosburgh was named senior associate vice president for university relations in August 2015 and began her new position in September. Previously serving as the associate vice president of university communications at

Cornell University, Tracy succeeded Larry Hincker, associate vice president for university relations, who announced his retirement earlier in 2015 after 27 years at Virginia Tech.

A member of the Cornell community since 2006, Tracy served as senior director, assistant vice president, and associate vice president of university communications during her nine years in Ithaca, New York. She also served as interim vice president for university communications from 2013 to 2014.

At Cornell, Tracy provided communications leadership for strategic university initiatives and served as publisher of *Ezra*, Cornell's quarterly alumni magazine. Her contributions also included launching of the university's new website and leadership on several cross-campus projects.

Before her time at Cornell, Vosburgh worked for Penn State Public Broadcasting and held several broadcast management positions based in Washington, D.C. She received her bachelor's degree from Meredith College in Raleigh, N.C.

Community Service Highlight: 2016 Polar Bear Plunge with the First State Chapter

The First State Chapter participates in several events throughout the year to support the Delaware Special Olympics. On Sunday, February 7, the First State Hokies donned their warmest swimming gear and took part in the Polar Bear Plunge! This annual event provides a bulk of the funding for the Delaware Special Olympics.

The chapter had a great group of polar bears this year, including a few new ones. Overall, it was a record year for the Delaware Special Olympics plunge: 3,501 polar bears raised \$820,000 for the organization.

The First State Chapter also takes part in the Delaware Special Olympics Summer Games competition in June, when the volunteers organize the track and field events.



Event Ideas: Hops and Vines!

Brewery tours and wine tastings are always popular social events and alumni enjoy getting together to learn more with speaker events and behind-the-scenes access to local favorites.



Los Angeles Hokies hosted a spring alumni event at Malibu Wines



The Baltimore Chapter hosted their first mead tasting at a local brewery called Charm City Meadworks



The Charleston Chapter hosted popular speaker John Boyer with an awesome turnout at Palmetto Brewery

The Career Outfitters Program

Virginia Tech Career Services began a program three years ago called "Career Outfitters," collecting gently used men's and women's career clothing for new graduates preparing for interviews and entering the workforce.

At Chapter Officers Forum last fall, we asked participants to bring clothing with them to donate as a group to the organization. And boy, did we deliver! Many carts and boxes full of donations from our alumni volunteers helped this spring's graduates "shop for success" last month.

Chapters may continue to collect clothing to contribute to this important program; donations may be sent to the Holtzman Alumni Center.

More information about Career Outfitters can be found on their [Facebook page](#) and a full flyer is attached to this newsletter for you to download.

Dates to Remember:

- April 9 - [The Big Event 2016](#)
- April 16 - [2016 Day of Remembrance](#)
- April 22 - Virginia Tech [Relay for Life](#)
- April 23 - Spring Game
- May 10 at noon (EDT) - Chapter Chat: Student Send-Off Events with Kelly McCann
- May 13 - [Spring Commencement](#)
- June 10 at noon (EDT) Chapter Chat: End of Year Reporting with Ginny Ritenour and Debbie Day
- June 10-12 - Drillfield Series: [Human and Animal Health: We're All in This Together!](#)
- June 13: [4th Annual Hokie Classic Golf Tournament](#)
- June 25 - [3rd Annual Summer Beer Festival at Virginia Tech](#)
- September 1-3 - Chapter Officers Forum

HOKIES on FACEBOOK



Charlotte Hokies are sporting their colors and ready to walk in the annual Charlotte St. Patrick's Day Parade



Atlanta Hokies gathered to sort and pack food at the Atlanta Community Food Bank in February



The Denver Chapter volunteered at the Food Bank of the Rockies for their March service event



Classic City Hokies in Athens, GA gathered for a Happy Hour social in February



The Williamsburg Chapter hosted their annual speaker event with Lois Badey (center), Senior Director of Development for the Moss Center for the Arts



Bill Roth, former "Voice of the Hokies" (second to right) visited with Orange County Hokies at a game watching party

Suits & Accessories

for all students at Virginia Tech

Career Outfitters



A service program providing new and/or gently used business attire for Virginia Tech students such that no student would be excluded from career-related events (interviews, career fairs, networking events, etc.), due to a lack of appropriate attire.



Donations may include:

- Suits for men and women
- Ties, belts, and shoes
- Blazers, dress pants, dress shirts
- Blouses and skirts



www.facebook.com/VTCareerOutfitters

For more information call 540-231-6241

Drop-off:

Smith Career Center
corner of Washington Street
and West Campus Drive
Monday - Friday
8 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Ship to:

Virginia Tech Career Services
Smith Career Center (0128)
870 Washington Street, SW
Blacksburg, VA 24061