Virginia Tech *for life*™
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

May 2015

Chapter Team

[Debbie Day](#)
[Greg Fansler](#)
[Gwen Harrington](#)
[Jack Hutcheson](#)
[Katie Marquis](#)
[Kelly Griffin McCann](#)
[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,

As the Virginia Tech campus transitions to the slower pace of the summer months, our staff and chapter volunteers are busy planning summer picnics and student send-offs, finishing end-of-the-year reports, and developing programs for the new fiscal year beginning July 1.

As a reminder, it is important that you complete all of your year-end reports and activities by July 1 to ensure consideration for the Outstanding Chapter Award. Please check in with your chapter liaison if you need assistance in completing your reports. All requirements and forms may be found online in the chapter database. Visit the [Chapter Resources page](#) for more details and review the information on page 6 of this newsletter.

As this programming year ends, be sure to review your [Chapter Awards Requirements Checklist](#). This simple, one page document should be your guide for submitting reports and planning throughout the year and will help you determine your current status as an Outstanding Chapter.

As we look ahead to yet another busy fall, please let us know how we can assist in planning your events for the upcoming year. We look forward to seeing you back on campus this fall for Chapter Officers Forum, our class reunions, college homecomings, or Homecoming Weekend. More information on all these events can be found on [our website](#).

Enjoy your summer!

Debbie

Chapter Event Highlight: Jim Wightman Gives his 100th Alumni Association Lecture

Alumni Distinguished Professor of Chemistry Emeritus, Jim Wightman, has been entertaining and educating our alumni for many years through local chapter speaker events.

A popular professor at Virginia Tech for more than 30 years, Dr. Wightman quickly earned a reputation among our alumni chapters as one of the most personable and entertaining speakers for chapter events. Providing a fresh perspective on chemistry through his "Chemistry of Beer" talks, his affinity for the university and his love for learning helped him connect with alumni across the nation.

On Thursday, May 7, Dr. Wightman gave his 100th alumni chapter lecture at the NC Triad Chapter's annual speaker event and dinner, entertaining local alumni with his knowledge of Virginia Tech history and a look at the science of making beer, marking his 100th chapter event.

Debbie Day, Associate Vice President for Alumni Relations, and Katie Marquis, Assistant Director of Alumni Relations, were on hand to celebrate with Dr. Wightman on behalf of the Virginia Tech Alumni Association.

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Wightman in this tremendous achievement! He will be joining us at the Chapter Officers Forum awards banquet this fall and we look forward to celebrating with him.

NC Triad chapter officers join Katie Marquis and Debbie Day in celebrating Dr. Wightman's achievement

Dr. Wightman entertains San Diego alumni with an experiment at their "Beer Appreciation" event in 2013

Dr. Wightman takes time to visit with alumni during a brewery tour hosted by the New River Valley Chapter

A popular professor with an infectious love of learning, Dr. Wightman continues to be a sought-after speaker

Community Service Highlight: April 16 Remembrance Events

In support of the April 16 Day of Remembrance events held on the Virginia Tech campus each year, many of our chapters participate in community service projects throughout the month of April to show support for those affected by the 2007 tragedy and to exemplify *Ut Prosim*, That I May Serve, our university motto.

From VirginiaTech*forLife* blood drives and Habitat for Humanity builds, to food pantry and Adopt-a-Highway cleanup projects, our alumni are engaged in helping to meet the needs of their local communities, carrying on our Virginia Tech tradition of service.

Many chapters host 3.2 for 32 Walk/Run events in conjunction with the race on campus, but others choose unique events that are meaningful to their local community. The New Jersey Chapter participated in a local Habitat for Humanity build, the Triangle Chapter helped fill 12,000 bags of rice for a local food pantry, the Shenandoah Chapter hosted their annual memorial blood drive (exceeding their goal collecting 110 units of blood), the Kentuckiana Chapter helped with a spring cleaning project at a local charity, and the Fredericksburg Chapter helped with meal preparation at a local homeless shelter.

If your chapter would like to begin planning a remembrance event for 2016, please contact your chapter liaison for more information.

Central Florida Hokies gather in Orlando for their 3.2 for 32 Run in Remembrance

The Middle Tennessee Chapter hosted a "VT Walk to Remember 32" in Nashville

The Denver Chapter had more than 90 Hokies and friends join in for their annual 3.2 for 32 event

New Jersey alumni put on their hard hats and got to work at a local Habitat for Humanity build

The Philadelphia Chapter hosted a 3.2 for 32 Walk in Remembrance in a local park

The Triangle Chapter bagged 12,000 pounds of rice at their memorial food bank volunteer event

The Palmetto Chapter volunteered at local Flour Field concession stand to support their scholarship fund

Utah Chapter volunteers also participated in a food bank service event on April 16

San Francisco area alumni turned out for a run/walk downtown to remember the 32 Hokies lost

The Seattle Chapter hosted a 3.2 for 32 Walk/Run Remembrance Event

Communications Corner: May 2015

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

Student Picnics

If you are planning to advertise your student picnic through the Alumni Association and want to invite students, please let [Ginny Ritenour](#) know by June 12, 2015. We don't need any additional details at this point; just a notification of your intent to invite students to an event this summer. The Alumni Association has to request student information from the Registrar's Office, and it can take up to two weeks to receive. By compiling a list and making the request early, this will help avoid delays in the process. Please note that an email request that includes student invitations may take up to 10 business days, instead of the usual 5 business day turnaround. Notifying us ahead of time gives us an opportunity to reduce turnaround time as much as possible.

Annual Password Changes

PID passwords are required to be updated on an annual basis. Although you should receive an email reminder from Virginia Tech, June and July are the most common "update required" months and we encourage you to change your password at your earliest convenience. To find more information on these requirements and instructions for changing your password, please visit the Security Awareness at Virginia Tech site [(http://www.awareness.security.vt.edu/passwords/index.html)](http://www.awareness.security.vt.edu/passwords/index.html). **If your password expires, you will not be able to log-in to the Chapter Database** for email/mailer requests, chapter reports, and other forms. Once expired, you will be required to phone Virginia Tech's 4-Help hotline to have your password reset.

Staff Highlight: Laura Wedin '84, Alumni Student Programs Director

Laura Wedin earned her Master of Fine Arts degree (Theatre Arts) from Virginia Tech in 1984 and joined the Alumni staff in 1994.

As Student Programs Director, she advises Class Programs, which include leadership teams and committees for each class and class ring-related events. Laura also advises the Student Alumni Associates (SAA), a student group that supports Alumni Association and university events; serves on the Campus Programming, Parent Roundtable, and Commencement committees; and enjoys the rich history of Virginia Tech, especially the class ring tradition.

In her 21 years with Alumni Relations, Laura has worked on or been a part of just about every kind of program the Alumni Association has hosted. She is a long-time volunteer for Historic Smithfield, enjoys archaeology, and hiking and backpacking the trails of southwest Virginia. She is a member of the Southwest Virginia Mountain Rescue Group (SWVaMRG), an affiliated search and rescue group with the Blacksburg Rescue Squad, and is currently working on her C-CERT certification with Virginia Tech. A Native Texan, she has resided in Blacksburg since 1982 and has two sons - the oldest is an '08 Hokie/'15 Buckeye and the youngest son chefs for Virginia Tech's number one-rated dining services.

Year-End Reminders for Chapter Officers

As the fiscal year comes to an end, we want to be sure you're aware of all the upcoming year-end deadlines. *In order to qualify for an Outstanding Chapter Award, all of the required items must be submitted by no later than July 1, 2015.*

CHAPTER OFFICERS FORUM

The 2015 Chapter Officers Forum will be held at the Holtzman Alumni Center, Skelton Conference Center, and Inn at Virginia Tech on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, September 5-7. [Register here](#)!

SCHOLARSHIPS

The names of scholarship recipients and funds to cover the amount of your 2015-16 awards are due to the Alumni Association by June 15. Information should be forwarded to [Ginny Ritenour](#) by that deadline.

YEAR-END REPORTING

Your chapter liaison will complete a checklist for your chapter. The [Awards Requirements Checklist is available online](#) as a PDF and as an Excel spreadsheet. If you wish, you may use the spreadsheet to clarify information for your liaison.

The following *five* items must be submitted by July 1 to qualify for Outstanding Chapter Awards. Forms can be found online in the [Chapter Database](#) under "Chapter Forms".

- Year-End Annual Report (2014-15) – These are just the number of volunteers & events held, required by our national board
- Chapter Annual Plan for the upcoming year (2015-16)
- Chapter Contacts: Chapter Officers, Board of Directors, Committee Chairs (2015-16)— Please submit, *even if the officers will not*

change, and remember to change the term to 2015-16.
- End of Year Financial Report (2014-15). A template is now available online or you can submit your own format electronically to your liaison and copy ginnyrit@vt.edu
- Signed Articles of Association (which can be found with the annual reports) – *required of new presidents only*

All event reports, meeting minutes, and monthly financial reports should have already been submitted to Blacksburg throughout the year.

AWARD NOMINATIONS

Chapters are encouraged to nominate a chapter member for Outstanding Volunteer of the Year (limit one per chapter) and themselves for Superlative Awards which will be presented during Chapter Officers Forum. The awards are listed below, and nomination forms can be found online in the [Chapter Database](#) under "Chapter Forms".

Please submit nominations by July 1.

Superlative Awards include the following for the 2014-15 academic year:
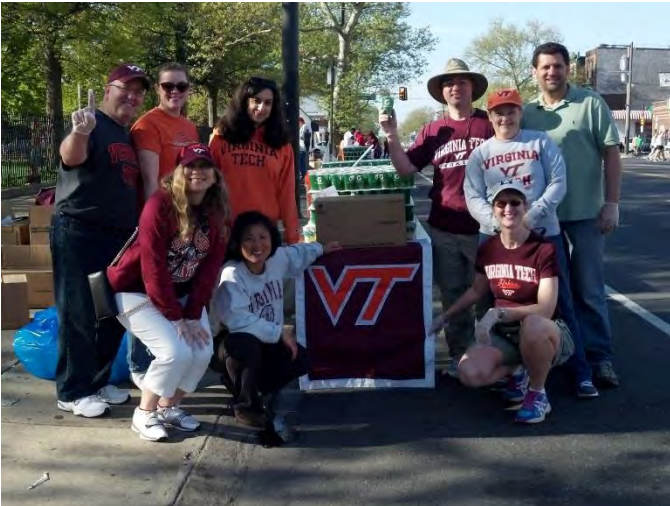
- Outstanding Community Service Project Award
- Outstanding Event/Activity Award
- Outstanding Networking Event
- Outstanding Fundraising Event/Activity Award
- Outstanding Golf Tournament Award
- Outstanding Chapter Marketing Award
- Outstanding Volunteer of the Year
- Outstanding Alumni Engagement Event (Broadening Audiences)
- Innovation Award (New and Innovative Programs)

If you have questions, please contact [Ginny Ritenour](#) or your chapter liaison.

HOKIES on FACEBOOK

Central Florida Chapter alumni line-up to tee-off for their annual Hokie Golf Outing

Philadelphia alumni volunteered at the Philadelphia Broad Street Run by hosting a water/Gatorade table

Alumni Distinguished Professor of Sociology Bill Snizek (back, second from right) visited the Jacksonville Chapter

Prince William Chapter Golf Tournament Chair Ryan Ardigo presents the chapter's 2015 scholarship to a local student

Dates to Remember:

- June 5-6: Drillfield Series: The Rich Heritage of Southwest Virginia

- June 15: Deadline to submit scholarship recipient information and scholarship fund deposits to our office

- June 15: Third Annual Hokie Classic Golf Tournament at the Pete Dye River Course

- June 27: Second Annual Summer Beer Festival at Virginia Tech

- June 30: Deadline to submit all chapter annual reports and award nominations (contact your liaison for more information)

- July 10-11: Alumni and Legacy Weekend: A Day in the Life of College Admissions

- July 17-19: Drillfield Series: Women's Weekend at Virginia Tech

- September 5-7: 2015 Chapter Officers Forum