



September 2014

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,

We had an excellent turnout for our Chapter Officers Forum earlier this month, with 78 participants from 27 chapters. The chapter volunteers represented chapters from all over the country; those who traveled the furthest were from San Diego and Seattle! Thanks to all who attended. We were also honored to have several National Alumni Association Board Members with us:

- Kendley Davenport from the Chicago Chapter
- Lisa Carter Ellison from the Chicago Chapter
- Tom Hughes from the NC Triad Chapter
- Mark Lawrence from the Roanoke Valley Chapter
- Jean Montague from the New River Valley & Richmond Chapters
- Carole Pratt from the New River Valley Chapter
- Karen Torgersen from the New River Valley Chapter
- Matt Winston from the Athens, GA Chapter
- Justin Yalung from the New River Valley Chapter

We presented 37 Outstanding Chapter Awards and 12 Superlative Awards to deserving chapters around the country. All of the award winners are listed on page 4.

In one of the highlights of the weekend, more than 50 scholarship students joined us for an *Ut Prosim* community service brunch, where we were treated to a presentation on Leadership Education in the Spirit of *Ut Prosim* with Heather Evans, Director of the Leadership Education Collaborative.

We also secured a commitment from Tom Tillar to hold the 2015 Chapter Officers Forum during the weekend of the OSU game! This game will be held on Monday night, so mark your calendars for Labor Day weekend, September 4-7, 2015.

The holidays are quickly approaching; you should have your holiday party and bowl watching party scheduled and on the print schedule. If you do not, please complete your [mail/email request](#) by October 20.

As always, we appreciate all you do to keep the Hokie Nation connected.

Associate Vice President for Alumni Relations

2014 Chapter Officers Forum Highlights

Our annual fall Chapter Officers Forum took place August 28-30, 2014 at the Holtzman Alumni Center.

Our agenda was centered around our theme of “Chapter Best Practices” and we had many enlightening discussions regarding alumni engagement and chapter programs. We kicked off the weekend on Thursday with a tour of the new Signature Engineering Building and opened Friday with a StrengthsFinder Workshop from Frank Shushok, Senior Associate Vice President for Student Affairs. Larry Hincker, Associate Vice President for University Relations, led a lively discussion on the use of licensing and trademarking for chapters, then Desiree Reed-Francois, Executive Associate Director of Athletics, joined us for lunch in the Alumni Museum. We spent the afternoon sharing ideas for chapter programs and “Telling Our Story,” and received an update on Virginia Tech’s Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology from Director Ben Knapp.

We have posted materials from the Forum on our [Chapter Resources webpage](#) and encourage you to look over them and share with your volunteers. There are also pictures from the weekend posted on our [Flickr site](#). Please contact your chapter liaison or [Ginny Ritenour](#) if you have any questions regarding this information.

The highlight of this event is always our Friday night Chapter Awards Banquet and this year’s was no exception. We began with a “maroon carpet” entrance fit for our alumni superstars, a greeting by new university president Tim Sands, followed by the presentation of awards. We also enjoyed spending time mingling with university administrators and other guests. A complete list of award winners can be found on page 4, as well as on [our website](#).

On Saturday morning, we concluded the weekend with a community service breakfast with chapter scholarship recipients that included a presentation from Heather Evans, Director of the Leadership Education Collaborative, and an SAA spirit rally.



University President Tim Sands (right) mingles with alumni prior to the Friday evening awards program



Matt Winston, President, Virginia Tech Alumni Association Board of Directors, addresses the crowd



Alumni chapter volunteers join together for a roundtable discussion on Saturday morning



Tom Tillar, Vice President for Alumni Relations, welcomes chapter officers and university administration to the 2014 Annual Meeting and Chapter Awards Presentation in Latham Ballroom at the Inn at Virginia Tech



Gold Level Outstanding Chapter Award Winners with Matt Winston, President, Alumni Association National Board of Directors (far left) and Tom Tillar, Vice President for Alumni Relations (far right)



Laura '76 and David Noel, Fredericksburg Chapter, walk the maroon carpet upon arriving at the reception



San Antonio Chapter officers mingle during the reception prior to the awards ceremony



Lisa Parrish '87, Richmond Chapter president, poses with Richmond Chapter scholarship recipients during the Saturday morning Ut Prosim brunch



Tim Fouts '87 Baltimore Chapter president, and Maria Fouts '88, Baltimore Chapter officer, visit with one of their local chapter scholarship recipients

Chapter Awards Announced at Chapter Officers Forum

Outstanding Chapter Awards

BRONZE

Chattanooga	Rockbridge
Columbia	San Diego
Dallas/Fort Worth	Shenandoah
East Tennessee	Tampa Bay
Emporia/Roanoke Rapids	The Villages
Franklin Co/Smith Mtn Lake	Tideneck
Grand Strand/Myrtle Beach	Triangle
Jacksonville	Williamsburg

SILVER

Central Florida
Chicago
Fredericksburg
Kentuckiana
NC Triad
New River Valley
Palmetto

GOLD

Alleghany Highlands
Atlanta
Baltimore
Charlotte
Denver
First State
Houston
Minnesota
National Capital Region
Richmond
Roanoke Valley
San Antonio
Seattle
Tidewater

Chapter Superlative Awards

Outstanding Chapter Event:

Baltimore Chapter, 46th Annual Baltimore Hokies Crabfeast

Outstanding Chapter Community Service Project:

Tidewater Chapter, The Big Event 2014

Outstanding Chapter Golf Tournament:

Charlotte Chapter, 15th Annual Charlotte Virginia Tech Alumni Golf Classic

Outstanding Chapter Fundraising Event:

San Diego Chapter, San Diego Hokies Raffle and Silent Auction

Outstanding Chapter Website:

New River Valley Chapter, www.nrvhokies.com

Innovation Award:

North Alabama Chapter, An Evening with the Commandant

Broadening Alumni Engagement Award:

Baltimore Chapter, Fun Run to Support Change

Most Improved Chapter:

North Alabama Chapter

Outstanding New Chapter:

Greenville, NC Chapter

Outstanding Chapter Volunteer:

Jina Gaines '03, Tidewater Chapter
Yvette Johnson '05, National Capital Region Chapter

Outstanding Chapter Officer:

Debbie Flippo '83, Denver Chapter

Hall of Fame Award:

Richmond Chapter, Central Virginia Wine Festival



Richmond Chapter President Lisa Parrish '87 accepts the Hall of Fame Award for the chapter's Central Virginia Wine Festival. The award is presented by Matt Winston, President, Alumni Association National Board of Directors, and Tom Tillar, Vice President for Alumni Relations

Award Changes for 2014-15

Please note that we have two changes/updates for our awards program in the coming year:

- The Outstanding Chapter Website award will be changed to Outstanding Chapter Marketing Award
- We will add the new Outstanding Chapter Career/Networking Event award

Chapter Event Highlight: Baltimore Chapter, 46th Annual Baltimore Hokies Crabfeast

For the 46th consecutive year, Baltimore area alumni have come together over steaming piles of crabs in the beautiful Patapsco Valley State Park. With more than 125 people in attendance, this annual event not only brings area alumni, friends, and family together, but also raises money for the chapter's scholarship fund. The ticket price includes all the crabs, hot dogs, hamburgers, and corn on the cob you can eat, as well as soft drinks and adult beverages. Attendees are encouraged to bring bats, softballs, horseshoes, and other recreational equipment to challenge their fellow Baltimore Hokies to some friendly games.

The diverse group of alumni who attended this year's event spanned seven decades, from the 1940's to recent graduates. The group sells Baltimore Chapter merchandise and holds a 50/50 raffle to raise additional money for scholarships. The event also serves as the chapter's annual meeting where they hold officer elections and their chapter liaison provides a short update on recent happenings at Virginia Tech. The chapter advertises this event via their website and Facebook pages, as well as a postcard mailer and follow-up email.

John Diering '65 has been the Crabfeast Chairperson for its entire 46 year history. His dedication to this popular event has helped it grow over the years and adapt to the social and fundraising needs of the chapter.

The Alumni Association was proud to present the Baltimore Chapter 46th Annual Crabfeast with this year's Outstanding Chapter Event Award.



Chapter Volunteer Highlight: Outstanding Chapter Officer Debbie Flippo '83, Denver Chapter

For the past ten years, Debbie Barackman Flippo '83, has facilitated the growth of the Denver Chapter to a thriving, diverse group of alumni.

Debbie stepped down at the end of this past chapter year and it was our pleasure to recognize her achievements during her tenure at our 2014 Chapter Officers Forum Awards Banquet.

Fueled by her passion for Virginia Tech, Debbie has led the chapter to consistently receive the Outstanding Chapter Award each year and the

chapter was one of only 8 to receive Gold Level the first year it was offered. The chapter has awarded more than 50 scholarships totaling over \$60,000.

The Denver Chapter's annual Wine Tasting and Silent Auction event was voted Outstanding Fundraising Event for several years before receiving the Hall of Fame Award in 2011. They have won several other superlative awards as well, including Outstanding Community Service Project and Outstanding Chapter event.

Debbie's supportive husband Ernie was also voted Outstanding Volunteer of the Year in 2012.

The Outstanding Chapter Officer is nominated and selected by the chapter liaisons. Please join the Alumni Association in congratulating Debbie!



Debbie Flippo, Denver Chapter President, accepts the Outstanding Chapter Officer Award, presented by Matt Winston, President, Alumni Association National Board of Directors and Tom Tillar, Vice President for Alumni Relations



Debbie and her "Spokie" Ernie were instrumental in developing one of the chapter's most popular events, the Denver Hokie Ski Day at A-Basin, which won Outstanding Chapter Event in 2013

Communications Corner: September 2014

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

Email and Print Requests will have a New Process October 1

Email and print requests will use a new process beginning October 1. Chapters should review and update their contact information on file with the Alumni Association, as this information will be used to auto-populate portions of the new email templates. The new templates feature responsive design that optimizes the email to different screen sizes, and cleaner code that reduces the risk of chapter emails being flagged as spam.

Make Plans Now to Announce Your Holiday Event

Football season has just begun, but it's already time to start thinking about your holiday party. If you plan to send a postcard, **the Alumni Association will need your print request no later than 5 PM, Monday, October 20.** [Email templates](#) will continue to go out within five business days.

Holiday Schedule for Emails

Submissions received after 5 PM, Tuesday, November 18 will not be processed and sent until the week of December 1. In December, submissions received after 5 PM, Tuesday, December 16 will not be processed and sent until the week of January 5.

Communications Deadlines

October 20 – Deadline for Holiday Party printed postcard requests

November 18 (5 PM) – Deadline for email requests for ACC Championship Watching Parties and Events

December 16 (5 PM) – Deadline for email requests for Bowl Watching Parties and Events

Dates to Remember:

- October: Watch for information on scholarship application updates to begin the 2015 process
- October 23-24: Virginia Tech vs. Miami
[Class of 1984 30th Reunion](#)
[Class of 1989 25th Reunion](#)
[College of Science Homecoming](#)
- October 31-November 1: Virginia Tech vs. Boston College
[Class of 1969 45th Reunion](#)
[Pamplin College of Business Homecoming](#)
- November 28-29: Virginia Tech vs. Virginia
[Young Alumni Reunion](#)
[Student Alumni Associates 40th Anniversary](#)
- November 15: Updated scholarship applications and letters due to our office
- November 26 (12 PM)-November 28: All university offices closed
- December 19: [Fall Commencement](#)
- December 24 (12 PM)-January 1: All university offices closed

HOKIES on FACEBOOK



Charlotte Chapter alumni gather at the BlackFinn Uptown in September to watch the VT vs. OSU game



60+ West Coast Hokies gather at Baja Sharkeez for the Orange County Chapter William & Mary watching party



The San Diego Chapter sells San Diego Hokies t-shirts at their football game watching parties



The New York Capital District Chapter hosted their annual Day at the Races in July



The North Alabama Chapter worked with Undergraduate Admissions to participate in a local college fair



The Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter had a record turnout for their William & Mary game watching party