

# HIGHTY-TIGHTY

## NOTES



*The official newsletter of the Highty-Tighty Alumni, Inc.*

*Volume 36 Number 2*

*Spring 2012*



# HIGHTY-TIGHTY ALUMNI, INC.

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**Front Cover: The Highty-Tighties wowed audiences at the St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York City, where the Band won first prize in their division. (Photo by Mike Diersing)**

**---The editor wishes to thank Bert Kinzey and Rock Roszak for all of their assistance and support, and Mike Diersing for his photographic documentation of the Highty-Tighties.**



# PRESIDENT'S PAGE

## Bert Kinzey, HT '68



### There Is Good News And There is Bad News

When it comes to the Highty-Tighties, there is good news and there is bad news. First, the good news! The Regimental Band is growing dramatically in size. Over the past two years, the Band has increased in number to where more than 120 cadets were marching on the field and in parades. This number of Highty-Tighties has not been seen since the late 1960s, and it certainly looks and feels great to have a Band that size on the field again. The prospects for the coming year look very good as well. We are expecting approximately sixty freshmen to join the Highty-Tighties in the fall. While we must wait to see exactly how many will be in the Band as the next school year begins, it is quite possible that the number will be 150 or more.

Now, the bad news. The Regimental Band is growing dramatically in size. While the growth of the Highty-Tighties is both encouraging and exciting to see, it brings with it a number of problems, and we must help the commandant and his staff meet and solve them. Let's look at these problems as challenges and meet them with enthusiasm and determination and see that they are solved so the growth in size and the improvement in quality will continue.

First and foremost there is the question of the Highty-Tighty Freshman Stipend. This has proved to be a valuable recruiting tool for the Band for several years now, and the Highty-Tighty

Alumni Board of Directors has unanimously approved a resolution committing to supporting the Stipend in the years to come. With the cost of attending college going up far faster than the general rate of inflation, meeting expenses is becoming a more difficult challenge for parents and students. This has been evident over the past few years, as we have experienced a considerable increase in the number of cadets lost for financial reasons, and that is only going to continue.

It is a top priority of the HTA to increase our giving in support of the Schaeffer Endowment which funds a portion of the Freshman Stipend each year. Over the past several years, the number of entering freshman has almost doubled, so the amount of money required for the Stipend has almost doubled as well. To meet this challenge, we must increase our giving to this vital recruiting tool, so I ask all alumni to make a pledge and support this very worthwhile cause. Please pledge and give what you can, and do it right away. Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will find information about contributing to the Highty-Tighty Freshman Stipend. Please take a look at it and decide which way is best for you. For more information, please contact the VTCC Director of Development, Dave Spracher, at (540) 231-2806 or Charles Cornelison (HT-67) at the Office of Gift Planning, (540) 580-6312.

There are other expenses as well, and we alumni must do our part as well in providing funding for items like the Emerging Leader Scholarship, especially those designated for Highty-Tighties. There are many ways to give. Whether it's simply making a donation or a pledge to making a gift annuity, now is the time to look into the way that is best for you and help out the Highty-Tighties. I ask that you consider the Highty-Tighty Freshman Stipend as a top priority, but please make a donation that you believe is right for you.

We are close to realizing our vision of the Highty-Tighties marching 144 to 150 cadets. Let's help make that happen and then keep the Band at that size for the future. With your help, we can do it.

***The VTCC Class of 2012 render their final salute as part of the VTCC Change of Command in April. (Photo by Mike Diersing.)***







## DIRECTOR'S DOWNBEAT

### Major George McNeill, Virginia Militia

## A review of 2011-2012

2011-2012 was a very busy and extremely eventful year for the Highty-Tighties. From the New Cadet Parade in August to the Change of Command ceremony in April, the Band did nearly fifty performances throughout the year. The highlight of this year, in my opinion and the opinion of the band members, was the St Patrick's Day Parade in New York City. That parade was well received by spectators along the parade route. Their impressive performance gained them an award for outstanding performance and a first place trophy for the best marching band in their division. You can view the parade on the You Tube link below: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ZMDIjaiCNk>.

On the November 9, 2012, the Band will be traveling to Orlando, Florida to participate in the Veterans Day Parade on Saturday, November 10. The Highty-Tighties have been chosen to be the honor band for that event. The Band will be the only musical unit to participate in a short Veterans ceremony before the start of the parade. The parade is scheduled to start at 11:00 and it is a 1.5 mile route. Later that evening, the band members have been invited to dinner with other parade participants at one of the local dinner theaters.

On the recruiting and retention side the band is doing extremely well. We began the year with 136 members and ended the year

with 117. There are 92 returning for the fall semester. The fall enrollment Corps-wide is extremely high and according to Colonel Gary Jackson in the admissions office, the Corps has 1708 applicants, 1103 offers, and 445 already accepted for the fall 2012 term. This is similar to the 1732 applicants, 1015 offers, and 406 already accepted at this date last year. With these numbers we can anticipate roughly the same amount of band prospectives to join as last year (60-69), estimating the Band next year to comprise about 150 or more cadets.

With the large number of cadets joining, Deputy Commandant Colonel Chuck Payne and I discussed restructuring the Band into two sections (sections A and B) mainly for administrative purposes and each having a section Commander, XO, 1st SGT and section leaders. This will, by no means, separate the Band or cause competition between the sections but will create leadership opportunities within the Band and make the Band more manageable. This change was well received by the Commandant, Alumni and bandsmen.

And lastly, I want to thank the leadership- Cadet Major John Witte, Cadet Major Jonathan Corns and Drum Major Cadet Captain Aaron Bonovitch for their outstanding work leading the Band to a very successful and productive year. Congratulations are also in order to an outstanding cadet and talented pianist Kariem Oliphant, Highty-Tighty Class of 2013, for his selection as Regimental Commander.



*The Highty-Tighties performed very well at the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York City, winning first place in their division and keeping the crowd entertained with counter-marches. (Photo by Mike Diersing)*



# FROM THE COMMANDER

## Cadet Major Corey Combs, HT '13

### With a new semester comes new leadership...



and not only new, but more. I am exceedingly excited and honored to be the commander of the Highty-Tighties this semester, as the Band has a new challenge ahead. This year, Band Company has two Sections, something that has never been done before, but is necessary with the potential to have more than 150 cadets! Not only will these sections allow us to have more senior cadets in leadership positions, but also to help us to be more efficient as a unit. C/CPT Tawny Pelletier and C/CPT Derek Stotler were chosen as the commanders of these sections and we will all work closely to ensure the Band performs well in this new system.

As with every fall semester, the schedule is looking to be a busy one. Alongside the six home football games, the Band will be traveling to Orlando, FL for the Veteran's Day Parade as well as the annual Homecoming Parade in Blacksburg. Also in the future is the Presidential Inaugural Parade, and the Band will submit an application to the selection committee after the November elections. Among the countless hours of dedication Bandsmen put forth during the week preparing for performances, they also find time to study academics and be a part of other organizations at Virginia Tech. A large amount of focus will be placed upon the academic success of all Bandsmen by my staff to continue producing not only great cadets, but strong students.

Our new Drum Major, C/CPT Lauren Adolph, along with her staff, will be working constantly on the performance side of the

Band. Many new ideas have been generated, whether they are new music arrangements or areas of technical expertise, and more ideas keep coming. I am very confident in the ability of the Band to make these new ideas work, in large part due to their continued hard work and preparation.

To the alumni, this year we will have a media staff within the Band to continue filming and photographing the performances. Part of their responsibility will be to keep all of you informed and up-to-date with football games, parades and other activities through email, YouTube, Facebook and our webpage. Currently, we are working to develop a system to keep the alumni involved with the Band through instrument lessons, either individually or in a group setting. Thank you for all the support you continue to give year after year.

Another fulfilling semester lies ahead for the Band, with its deep history and profound pride extending far beyond my time and yours. I know that I do not stand alone when I say we are ready to add to our illustrious history and my classmates and I look forward to leading the Band to new levels and spreading our great name. HIGHTY-TIGHTY!



*The Highty-Tighties perform during the 2012 VTCC Change of Command Ceremony on the drillfield. (Photo by Mike Diersing.)*





# Band Company 2011-2012 Events

August 20	Corps of Cadets New Cadet Parade
September 3	Tech vs Appalachian State
September 11	9/11 Ceremony, Virginia Tech
September 17	Tech vs Arkansas State
September 24	Southern Colonels VCOM Gala Events
October 1	Tech vs Clemson
October 8	Tech vs Miami
October 15	Open House Burruss Hall
October 15	Family Day Pass in Review
October 16	Open House Burruss Hall
October 21	Corps of Cadets Retreat Ceremony
October 22	Homecoming Parade
October 22	VT vs Boston College
October 20	VT vs Duke
November 5	Veterans Day Parade Roanoke
November 11	Formal Retreat
November 12	Open House Burruss Hall
November 13	Open House Burruss Hall
November 16	Women's Basketball
November 17	Tech vs North Carolina
November 21	Women's Basketball
December 8	Brass & String Quartet Christmas Caroling
December 11	Women's Basketball
January 15	Women's Basketball
January 19	Women's Basketball
February 3	Women's Basketball
February 11	Southern Colonels Military Ball
February 19	Women's Basketball
February 25	Southern Colonels Richmond War Memorial
February 26	Women's Basketball
February 26	Special Olympics Basketball
March 1	Women's Basketball Tournament
March 14	Corps of Cadets Awards Ceremony
March 17	St Patrick's Day Parade New York
March 21	Corps of Cadets Retreat Ceremony
April 7	NASCAR Event, Martinsville, VA
April 10	String Ensemble Titanic Dinner Shultz Dining Hall
April 12	Corps of Cadets Awards Ceremony
April 14	Hokie Focus Burruss Hall
April 15	Hokie Focus Burruss Hall
April 20	Jazz on the Lawn Southern Colonels
April 28	Change of Command Ceremony
May 3	String Ensemble General's Social Event
May 11	Corps Graduation Burruss Hall

*Do you remember being this busy as a Highly-Tighty? This review of last year's schedule demonstrates how busy the current Band remains, and how hard they are working to maintain the tradition of excellence that was passed on to them. Next year's Band will be working hard to continue this tradition of service, so keep an eye on their schedule and support the Band at their performances!*



# 2012 Awards Ceremony

## Highly-Tighties Receive Awards At the Annual Corps Military Awards Ceremony

Article by Bert Kinzey



The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets held its annual awards ceremony on April 12, 2012, and this year the ceremony was limited only to military awards. All but one of the scholarships normally presented at this ceremony in years past were given to the recipients at another time. But Highly-Tighties were very well represented among the recipients of these awards.

Most important to Band Company as a unit was the fact that the Highly-Tighties once again won the Jaffe Eager Squad competition. Congratulations to the Band for a job well done. Also, the John E. Hill Memorial Sophomore Proficiency Award went to Andrew Rosenberger, a Band Company sophomore.

The one scholarship that was presented was very special to the Highly-Tighties. The very first recipient of the Joshua L. Lilliston Memorial Scholarship was freshman cadet Paulo Sossa Taborga. On hand to participate in making the presentation was Joshua's mother. Joshua Lilliston, a sophomore in the Highly-

*Highly-Tighty cadet, Paulo Sossa Taborga, received the first Joshua L. Lilliston Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship was named for Highly-Tighty sophomore, Joshua Lilliston, who lost in life after a brave battle with cancer last fall. On hand to present the scholarship was Joshua's mother. (Photo by Bert Kinzey)*

Tighties, lost a brave battle with cancer last fall, and this scholarship was begun immediately in his honor.

Next fall's Band Company Commander, Corey Combs, and Cadet Scinjit Gadamsetty both received AFROTC Detachment 875 Warrior Spirit Awards, and the Air Force Association Award went to junior Tawny Pelletier. Cadet Pelletier will command one of the two Band Company sections next fall.

Highly-Tighty senior, Amanda Schultz, received a National Defense Industrial Association Award, while Bongsu Choi was presented with a Military Order of the World Wars Award. Christopher Scott and Peter Address both received National Sojourners Awards.

Commandant's Awards went to John Witte, Scinjit Gadamsetty, Jonathan Corns, and Aaron Bonovitch. Highly-Tighty senior James Callen received a VTCC recruiting award for being the top recruiter in Third Battalion. Cadet Callen was also the recipient of the Ut Prosim Award.

Highly-Tighty junior, Kareim Oliphant, who will be the Regimental Commander next fall, was presented with the Association of Military Colleges Award.

Once again, Highly-Tighty cadets have performed well, and the alumni should be proud and supportive of all of them as they continue to bring positive recognition to themselves and the Highly-Tighties. Congratulations to all Highly-Tighty cadets who received awards and to the Band as a unit for again winning the Jaffe Eager Squad competition.



# 2012 Awards Ceremony



*Top Right Photo: Cadet Corey Combs, who will command Band Company next fall, accepts the Jaffe Eager Squad Trophy. The Highly-Tighties have won this competition all but two years it has been awarded. (Photo by Bert Kinzey)*



*Left Photo: Highly-Tighty sophomore, Andrew Rosenberger, was presented with the John E. Hill Memorial Sophomore Proficiency Award. (Photo by Bert Kinzey)*



*Bottom Right Photo: Highly-Tighty junior Tawny Pelletier received the Air Force Association Award. Tawny will command one of the two Band Company sections next fall. (Photo by Bert Kinzey)*





# 2012 Band Banquet



**Left Photo:** The Regimental Comander for the 2012 Fall Semester, Kareim Oliphant (right), a member of the Highty-Tighty Class of 2013, presents James Callen, HT '12, the Charles O. Cornelison Senior Service Award. Each year, the junior class presents this award to the senior who they select as having provided the most outstanding service to the Regimental Band. (Photo by Bert Kinzey)



**Right Photo:** At the Highty-Tighty Banquet, the graduating seniors presented George with a new baton. On the handle, "HT 2012" was inscribed. James Callen presented the baton to George on behalf of the class. (Photo by Bert Kinzey)



**Bottom Photo:** This picture shows five members of the HT Class of 2015 with their certificates. The certificates are given out to the freshman at the Highty-Tighty Banquet as they complete their freshman year, making them all official Highty-Tighties. (Photo by Bert Kinzey)





# 2012 Band Banquet

## Class of 2012 Transition to Alumni Status!



*Top Photo: The newest members of the Highty-Tighty Alumni. The HT Class of 2012 pose for a quick photo after receiving their alumni pins at the annual Band Banquet. (Photo by Bert Kinzey)*

*Right Photo: Each year at the Highty-Tighty Banquet, Highty-Tighty Alumni President Bert Kinzey presents the graduating seniors their Highty-Tighty Alumni pins and welcomes each member of the class into the alumni organization. Here Bert presents John Witte with his pin. John was the Band Company Commander in the fall, and in the spring semester, he commanded Third Battalion. (Photo by George McNeill)*



### New Cadet Knowledge:

Which United States President commented "there goes the nation's strength" after seeing the Highty-Tighties march?



# Development Update

## INVEST IN THE FUTURE OF THE HIGHTY – TIGHTIES



**Would you be willing to invest in the future of the Highty – Tighties as an *HT Sponsor* if we can show you how?**

### **LEGACY SPONSOR:**

- **ESTABLISHES YOUR LEGACY OF SUPPORTING THE BAND'S FUTURE**
- **EVERY FRESHMAN RECEIVES THE FRESHMAN STIPEND WHICH RESULTED IN 67 FRESHMEN IN AUGUST, 2011; VTCCA PROVIDED THE \$42,000 SHORTFALL**
- **PROVIDES \$1000 PER FRESHMAN**
- **PARTIALLY SUPPORTS ROOM, BOARD AND TUITION**
- **GIFT OR PLEDGE OF A MINIMUM OF \$25,000 (\$5,000 per year) PAYABLE OVER FIVE YEARS ESTABLISHES YOUR LEGACY OF BEING A FRESHMAN SPONSOR**

### **ANNUAL SPONSOR:**

- **ANNUAL FRESHMAN STIPEND PROVIDES THE SAME RECRUITING INCENTIVE OVER FIVE YEARS**
- **PROVIDES \$1000 PER FRESHMAN**
- **PARTIALLY SUPPORTS ROOM, BOARD AND TUITION**
- **GIFT OR PLEDGE OF \$5,000 PAYABLE OVER FIVE YEARS (\$1,000 per year)**
- **ENDOWED AND ANNUAL COMPLETED HT STIPEND GIFTS WILL SPONSOR A FALL AND SPRING CALDWELL MARCH FRESHMAN FOR FIVE OR MORE YEARS**

*Remember those important pylons you had to memorize as a new cadet? The concepts of Brotherhood, Loyalty, Sacrifice, and Service continue to guide our actions as alumni, and both the Highty-Tighty Alumni and the current Band needs our continued commitment. To sign up as an HT Sponsor or inquire about other ways to serve the Band, please contact:*

**CORPS DEVELOPMENT OFFICE: (540) 533-1144**  
**Dave Spracher (540) 231-2806**  
**Sarah Woods (540) 231-2085**  
**Charles Cornelison HT'67 (540) 580-6312**  
**OFFICE OF GIFT PLANNING: (800-533-1144)**





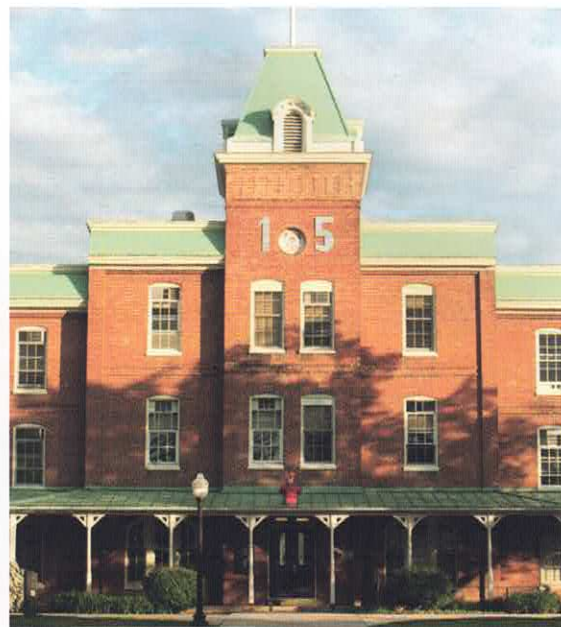
## Alumni Notes

### Newest Member of HT Class of 2034

The newest member of the Highly-Tightly class of 2034 has arrived! Michael M. Huffman, Highly-Tightly Class of '99, and his wife Shannon L. Huffman are proud to report their son Zachary Michael Huffman was born on April 27, 2012. The family currently resides in Phoenixville, Pennsylvania. Congratulations from your extended Highly-Tightly family!

### New Cadet Knowledge Answer:

At the Charleston Exposition in 1902, the Band played for President Theodore Roosevelt. As the Band passed in review, Roosevelt remarked, "There goes the nation's strength." The President was so impressed with the cadets that he had his photograph made with them and posters were circulated across the nation of the President and the cadets under the banner "The Nation's Strength — VPI Cadets on Parade".



*The familiar façade of Lane Hall is shown with some modern-day alterations. Preparing to complete their initial year with the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets, the Class of 2015 displayed their unity and class pride at the end of their freshman year. They are now full members of the VTCC and the Highly-Tighties. (Photo by Mike Diersing)*

### Homecoming 2012

**Duke vs Virginia Tech ~ October 13th**

Register now for all highly-tightly alumni homecoming events and purchase your tickets!!

<http://www.alumni.vt.edu/reunion/highlytightly/index.html>



### Calling all HT Alumni...

...don't wait for Homecoming to catch up with your friends and classmates! Send in your photos, announcements, and class reunion plans to the *Highly-*

*Tightly Notes*. Please refer to the back cover for submission details. All content should be sent to the newsletter editor. To aid in the submission process, please include pertinent dates, places, names, and the HT class for alumni, as well as your updated contact information in the event of editing or other questions.

Ut Prosim :)

### Editor's Correction:

The Winter 2012 issue included an article about the death of Richard P. "Dick" James, Class of 1958. While Dick was a Drum Major of the Highly-Tighties, he was not the Drum Major in the second Eisenhower inaugural parade. Nick Valdrighi was the Drum Major for this parade, the editor apologizes for any confusion.

**Registration now open  
for Homecoming  
2012!**





# History Notes



1916 – 1920

Jim Schaeffer Becomes Director

The Band Marches in its First Presidential Inaugural Parade

World War I Causes Dramatic but Temporary Changes

“Tech Triumph” is Played for the First Time



**With the Capitol in the distant background, the V.P.I. Cadet Band turns off Pennsylvania Avenue as it leads the rest of the Battalion in the second inaugural parade for President Woodrow Wilson. Moments after this photo was taken, Drum Major Harry Preston Humphries lost his baton to a strong gust of wind while saluting President Wilson. He retrieved it in time to complete his salute right in front of the President. (Photo from Virginia Tech Special Collections)**

*By Bert Kinzey, HT '68*

*Author's Note: This is the thirteenth in a continuing series of articles about the history of the Virginia Tech Regimental Band, the High-Tighties. The purpose of this series is to provide an accurate record of the Band's proud and amazing history that dates back to 1893. The photographs and historical information here were taken primarily from the late Harry Temple's outstanding and meticulously researched six-volume history of the Corps of Cadets, entitled **The Bugle's Echo**, which traces the*

*history of the Corps from the first day the college opened its doors through 1934.*

In the fall of 1916, James Solomon Schaeffer returned to Blacksburg after serving four years as a member of the Fourth Coast Artillery Band in the U. S. Army. Prior to that time, from 1908 through 1912, Schaeffer had been a member of the Band as one of five musicians hired to play with the Band and to provide music instruction to the cadets. When he returned following his service with the Army, he was named Director of Music and Bandmaster for the Cadet Band, and this began a service to the organization that would last until his death in November





# History Notes



***Post Band of 1918 is shown wearing regular U. S. Army and Navy uniforms during the SACT military training during the final year of World War I. The Post Band was commanded by 1LT Jim Schaeffer, who was commissioned in the Army and designated commander of the Band during this school year. (Photo from Virginia Tech Special Collections)***

1951. During those years, Jim Schaeffer left an indelible mark on the Regimental Band, and his influence remains to this day.

The fall of 1916 was mostly routine with the Cadet Band supporting the football team, but the winter and spring sessions were punctuated by two important events. On January 19, 1917, the Hamilton Wade Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy held a celebration at the Kohen Building in Christiansburg on the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Robert E. Lee's birth. The honored guests were the members of the James F. Preston Camp of Confederate Veterans. The V.P.I. Band was also invited, and it gave a concert to the delight of all in attendance. This would be the first off-campus and non-college related appearance under the baton of Bandmaster Schaeffer.

On March 5, 1917, Woodrow Wilson was inaugurated for his second term as President, and the entire Corps was invited to

participate in the parade as part of Virginia's representation in the parade. The Corps departed the Huckleberry Station in Blacksburg on March 3, and headed for Washington, D.C.

This would be the first of many future appearances of the Cadet Band in a Presidential Inaugural Parade that would lead to three consecutive first place trophies when the parade was competitive in the 1950s through 1961. But not all went well in this first parade. As the Band passed in front of President Wilson, Drum Major Harry Preston Humphries went to give his salute. A strong gust of wind took the baton from his hand, and it rolled ahead of him on the pavement, coming to a stop right in front of the President and his wife. An embarrassed Humphries quickly picked it up and completed his salute. Several years later, this event involving the drum major losing his baton would become part of a myth about how the Band got its name, Highly-Tighties. But in the myth, the loss of the baton was changed to the 1921 parade for Field Marshall Foch in Richmond. That never happened in the 1921 parade, and in fact, the Band did not even march past Foch in that parade. So the parade for Field Marshall Foch had nothing to do with the name Highly-Tighties as was long held in the Band's folklore.



***The Post Band leads the entire Battalion on an impromptu parade in celebration of the end of World War I on November 11, 1918. (Photo from Virginia Tech Special Collections)***



# History Notes



At this time, World War I was raging in Europe, and it would have a dramatic effect on the V.P.I. campus. By the time the 1918-1919 session began, the Army had converted the military training to what was known as the Students' Army Training Corps (SACT), and a naval unit was also added. Students were hastily trained as enlisted personnel in the Army and Navy. Another dramatic change was the considerable loss of upperclassmen to military units. On campus, the cadet uniforms were abandoned in favor of the standard military dress of the services, and military officers were assigned to command and train the cadet companies.

There was a noticeable effect on the Band as well. Bandsmen were assigned to lettered companies for their military training, and they only served as a band when required. The director, Jim Schaeffer, was given a full 1<sup>st</sup> lieutenant's commission in the Army and was assigned as commander of what became known as the Post Band. The Band consisted of 11 upperclassmen and 19 freshmen.

Fortunately, the war was soon over, with the armistice being signed on November 11, 1918. The Post Band led the battalion on an impromptu celebratory parade through campus, down Main Street to the Huckleberry Station, then back to campus via College Avenue. A formal review was then held by the entire battalion.

By December 21, the military training had returned to pre-war conditions. The military officers left campus, and command of the companies returned to the cadets. As winter quarter began, the Cadet Band's instruments were sent off and restored, and new ones were purchased. With upperclassmen returning from military service, the Band grew in size to thirty-six members, making it one of the largest college bands in the south.

Spring concerts were given in 1919, and on May 6, the Band, Bugle Corps, and the Silent Drill Company, a forerunner to today's Gregory Guard, traveled to Roanoke to participate in a

parade as part of a post-war bond rally. The rally raised \$362,300 dollars in bonds, and this was a considerable amount of money in 1919. Also during the spring, the World War I Monument honoring V.P.I. students killed in action was erected, and it remains on campus to this day with cadets rendering a salute every time they pass it.

During the 1919 – 1920 school year, Jim Schaeffer was decommissioned and returned to his previous rank of major in the Virginia Militia. The Band continued to grow, and it was during this school year that it became known as the Highty-Tighties. While the Band occupied part of Barracks Number 1 (Lane Hall), non-Band cadets also lived there in Division E, which was later known as "Fifth Section" until the last year the Band lived in Lane Hall in the fall of 1966. One of the Division E cadets penned a rather vulgar cheer that proclaimed his unit was not the Band but lived in Division E. In response, Band Company cadets quickly rewrote the cheer, and it remains the Regimental Band's cheer to this day. It goes:

Highty-Tighty! We are Mighty!  
Who the hell are we?  
Bif Bamm, I'll be damned!  
We're the Band, you see!

The Band's frequent and continuing use of this cheer resulted in it being called the Highty-Tighties by both Band and non-band cadets, and the name has stuck ever since.

Also during the 1919 football season, at the V.P.I. vs V.M.I. football game, the Band played a new fight song publicly for the first time. "Tech Triumph," with its Reveille introduction to indicate the military student body, sounded forth as the fight song for the college. Although re-arranged several times, it is still the fight song for Virginia Tech almost a century later. Unfortunately, V.P.I. lost that football game, being shut out by the Keydets 13-0.



*The Cadet Band of the 1919 – 1920 school year is shown here with its director, Jim Schaeffer, seated front row center. Official records show that the Band numbered 36 members at this time, making it one of the largest college bands in the south, however a few cadets were not present when this photo was taken. (Photo from the Virginia Tech Special Collections)*



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## REQUESTS TO ALUMNI

### *Very Important!*

There are three things all Highty-Tighty alumni need to do to help ensure you get the newsletter and stay connected with Virginia Tech and the Highty-Tighty Alumni, Inc.

1. Be sure that your address and other contact information are up to date with Virginia Tech Alumni Relations. The person to contact is Sharon Croy at [scroy@vt.edu](mailto:scroy@vt.edu). Sharon can also be reached at (540) 231-8905. Make sure she has your present address, and if you move Sharon is the one you should notify about your change of address. It is her list that is used to mail out this newsletter. **Please do not provide your contact information or changes of address to the newsletter editor**
2. Everyone needs to go to the Highty-Tighty Alumni website and check their contact information in the database. Go to [www.hightytightyalumni.org](http://www.hightytightyalumni.org) and click on Database. The site provides a way for you to provide and request and update of your address, phone number, and e-mail address.
3. If you know of any Highty-Tighty alumni who are not receiving the *Highty-Tighty Notes* newsletter or the *Highty-Tighty Half-Notes* e-mail updates, please pass this information on to them.

## HIGHTY-TIGHTY HALF-NOTES

### *Subscribe Today*

The *Highty-Tighty Half-Notes* are periodic e-mails sent to Highty-Tighty alumni and friends of the Regimental Band. They are intended to supplement the news included in the *Highty-Tighty Notes* newsletter, which only comes out twice a year. These e-mail updates include both photographs and information about the present Band and alumni. Early information about homecoming and other items of interest to alumni are often subjects of *Half-Notes*. If you would like to receive these occasional e-mails with photographs and updates about the Band's activities, as well as information about alumni, please send your e-mail address and your request to receive the *Half-Notes* to: [bertkinzey@verizon.net](mailto:bertkinzey@verizon.net)

You may have your name removed at any time.

Please forward any alumni notes, articles, or other materials for the *Highty-Tighty Notes* to:



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