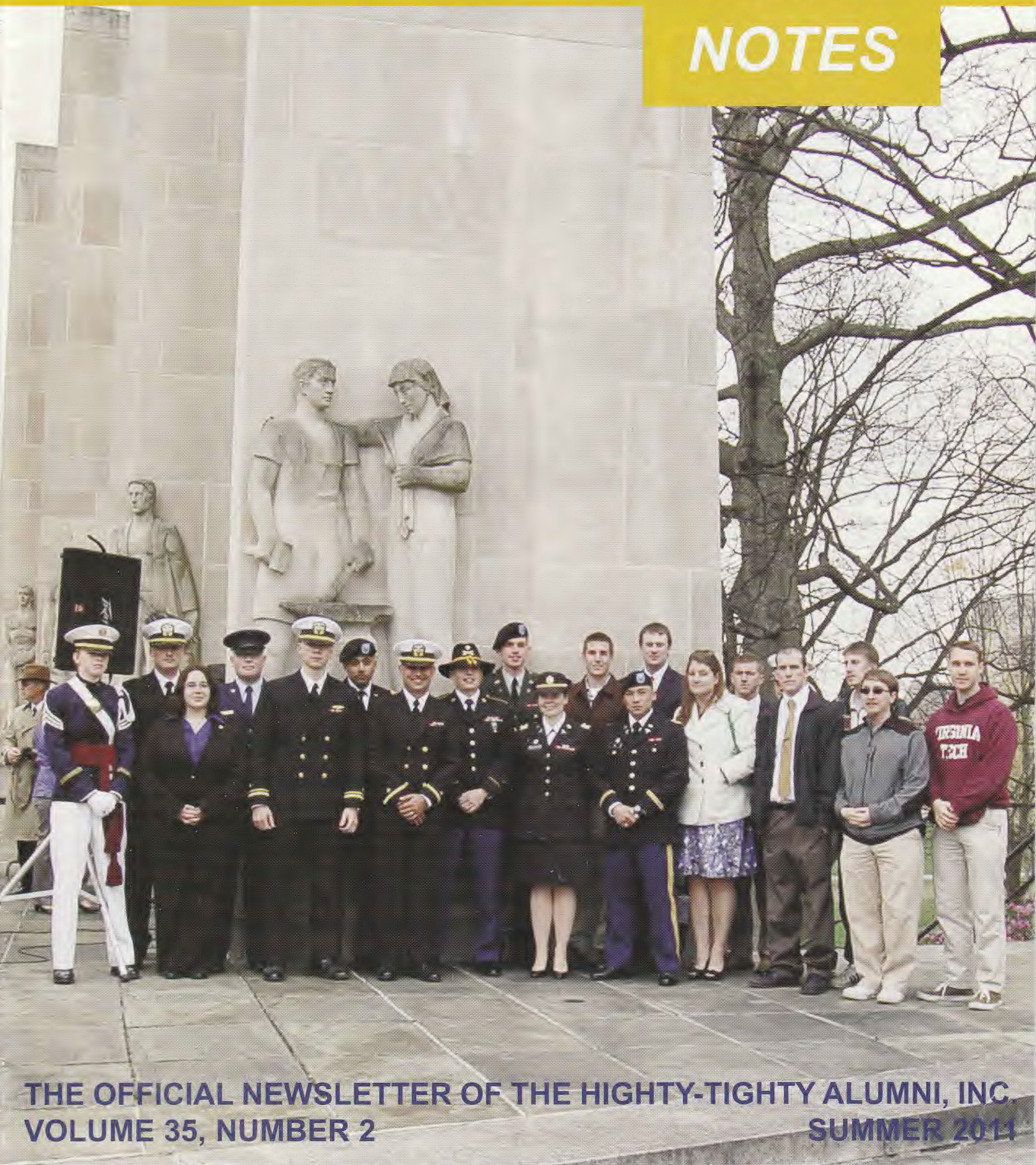


HIGHTY-TIGHTY

NOTES



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE HIGHTY-TIGHTY ALUMNI, INC.
VOLUME 35, NUMBER 2

SUMMER 2011

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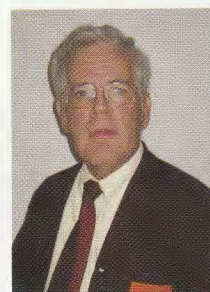
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Front Cover Photo: Highly-Tighty alumni who were in the Regimental Band with Zach Eckhart returned to the campus this semester for the Pylon Ceremony that added his name to the long list of Virginia Tech alumni who have given their lives in the military service of our nation. Ensign Zach Eckhart, a Highly-Tighty of the Class of 2007, lost his life in a training accident on April 12, 2010, when the T-39 aircraft, in which he was flying as a student crewman, crashed in northern Georgia. The returning Highly-Tighty alumni represented all branches of the armed forces as well as the civilian community. (Photo by Bert Kinzey)

The editor thanks Rock Roszak, George McNeill, Gene Harrison, HT '68, Cadet Major Jacob Mathews, HT '11, Cadet Major John Witte, HT '12, Chris Bise, HT '72, Charles Cornelson, HT '67, Anthony LaVopa, HT '08, and Cadet Kasey Beernick, HT '11, for their contributions to this edition of the "Highly-Tighty Notes."

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Bert Kinzey, HT '68



IN PRAISE OF TODAY'S HIGHTY-TIGHTY CADETS

Years ago, the commandant of cadets charged the Highty-Tighty Alumni, Inc. with designating the official traditions of the Virginia Tech Regimental Band. He realized that the traditions of excellence, which had resulted in producing a history of outstanding accomplishments unequalled by any other college band, were worth establishing officially so that they would forever remain the foundation of the Highty-Tighties. Our alumni organization designated those traditions, and they are reviewed and acted upon as necessary by the HTA to this day.

We alumni are rightfully proud of the history of the Highty-Tighties and the truly amazing accomplishments that date back well over a century. We're also proud of what we accomplished in the few years our respective classes wore the cadet uniform and added to that history. I hear about that pride as I talk to our alumni from each decade dating back to the 1940s. Each era was different from the others in many ways, but the eternal pursuit of excellence and the life-long bonds of friendship formed with classmates remain the constants of what the Highty-Tighties are all about. Our Old Guard alumni often say that the Highty-Tighties still remain the most influential organization to which they have ever belonged, and our youngest alumni understand this as well.

Along with being proud of the Band's history and what it means to us, we also look to see just how the present cadets are carrying on in our footsteps. Living in Blacksburg, I get to see the Band on a regular basis, and I am fortunate enough to get to know some of the cadets. As president of the alumni organization, I am privileged to meet and know each Band Company CO, and all of them I have known over the last four years are truly remarkable individuals. This contact with the Band as a unit and the individual cadets affords me an up-close and personal opportunity to see just how the Highty-Tighties are doing. Let me assure you that we all can be very proud of the present members of the Band. I wish each of you could see it as often and as continuously as I do. There are so many examples that illustrate just how well the present cadets are doing as they add their own pages to the history of the Highty-Tighties.

Take for example the Squad Tactical Challenge that took place during spring semester. There were a total of sixty-five squads participating in this competition within the Corps. One of Band Company's squads placed first and another placed second out of the sixty-five. That is a pretty good showing to say the least!

Another example is that the Highty-Tighties won the

Jaffe Eager Squad competition again this year. In the last ten years, they have won this important competition eight times. More often than not for the past several years, Highty-Tighty cadets have been selected as the outstanding freshmen and sophomores in the Corps.

Take a look at the article on page 7 and see the number of scholarships and awards Highty-Tighty cadets received at this year's Corps Awards Ceremony. I never miss that event, and I take photos of the Band cadets as they receive their awards. I am always very impressed at how well they do.

We can see how well the Highty-Tighties do whenever they perform, whether it is on the football field or in a parade. But what is less visible is the hard work these fine young people do on a day-to-day basis here on campus as they continue to be leaders within the Corps of Cadets. They continue to develop the best leaders, and as LTC Chuck Payne said at homecoming, "The Highty-Tighties export leadership to the rest of the Corps the way Ireland exports priests to the rest of the world."

It is important to understand that the Highty-Tighties do all of this with far less time to meet their challenges than most of us had. In my day, we practiced two to three hours every day to get ready for a show. Today's cadets have far less time to practice, and they usually don't get to practice at all on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Longer class hours, that run much later than most of us knew, make it difficult for some bandsmen to attend the practices they do have. I am constantly amazed at how great the Band looks considering how little practice time they have. This speaks highly of their dedication and the leadership of the upper classes, and it makes their accomplishments all that more remarkable.

The bottom line is that we alumni can be and should be very proud of what the present cadets are doing as they add to the history of the Highty-Tighties. They deserve our support in every way possible. With the quality cadets we have, and with a growing Band, we are looking at a new era which promises to be one of the very best in Highty-Tighty history, and that's saying quite a lot. We alumni must step forward and help make this happen by offering our time and financial support to these outstanding bandsmen. If you possibly can, be a recruiter, be a mentor, and donate to the accounts listed on page 13 to support these deserving young people.

The next time you are on campus, I encourage each of you to make a very special effort to tell as many of the cadets as you can what a good job they are doing and praise them for the success they have achieved.



DIRECTOR'S DOWNBEAT

Major George McNeill, Virginia Militia

The school year 2010-2011 was very busy with a number of exciting events throughout the two semesters. The Band Company chain of command exhibited outstanding leadership in

training and preparing the Band musically for their extremely busy schedule. The big event in the spring semester was the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Savannah, Georgia. This southern city is known for hosting the second largest St. Patrick's Day Parade in the world. Traveling to Savannah with eighty-seven members, the Highly-Tighties received a great deal of television coverage from TV stations both in Savannah and locally in Virginia. Staying at the Landmark Inn on Hunter Army Air Base, the Band arrived at 0200 hours on March 17. Six hours later, the band was boarding the buses for downtown Savannah to face an enthusiastic crowd of over 500,000 spectators. The Band participated in the opening ceremony by playing the National Anthem. I consider this quite an honor, knowing there were active duty bands participating in the parade as well. The Highly-Tighties played strong from beginning to end. The Band's music lineup was *Joyce's 71st Regimental March*, *Stars and Stripes*, *Hands Across the Sea*, and *Tech Triumph*.

Recruiting and retention continue to be hot topics for the Band and HT Alumni. Last year we recruited 52 freshmen and today we have 46 still participating in the Band. We expect 375 or more new cadets to join the Corps in the fall, and with these numbers we should recruit about 55 to 60 new Band cadets, bringing the total to about 120 for the 2011-2012 academic year. To enhance our recruiting efforts, a new recruiting CD will be completed by July. Only ten minutes in length, it will contain exciting information and great graphics. Also, the Band has created a Highly-Tighty Band

Channel on youtube.

On the Band Channel, prospective Highly-Tighties can view pictures and video footage of the Band's performances, interact with Band members, and subscribe and post comments and ask questions.

Just recently, Bert Kinzey had the opportunity to speak individually with four Band prospects. These high school seniors and juniors expressed no interest in joining the Band. After Bert talked with them, they became very enthusiastic about becoming a member, and all now plan to be in the Highly-Tighties.

Additionally, I had the pleasure of speaking with Mike Miginnis, former Highly-Tighty from the Class of 1961. In our conversation he spoke with great emotion about how his experiences as a Band cadet affected his life after the Corps. Because of Bert's success and after talking with Mike Miginnis, I came up with the idea of having our alumni talk about their experiences while a cadet and what the Highly-Tighties have meant to them in their lives on our Band Channel. I will call it "Alumni Testimonials". Video and audio clips can be sent to our webmaster for uploading. The Band Channel was created on April 11 with more than 2,000 views so far. Those interested in viewing the new Band Channel should visit: <http://www.youtube.com/user/highlytighties>

In conclusion, I want to congratulate the senior class for their outstanding leadership and thank them for making 2010-2011 a very memorable and successful year. I wish them the very best in all they do as they enter a new chapter in their lives.

The Highly-Tighties performed at the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Savannah, Georgia. This is the second largest St. Patrick's Day parade anywhere, and it was seen by a half-million people including quite a few alumni. (Photo courtesy of the Highly-Tighties)



FROM THE COMMANDER

Cadet Major Jacob Mathews, HT '11

MAINTAINING HIGH STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE WHILE PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE



With the close of the spring semester, I am very proud of the Highty-Tighties. Our performance and commitment to excellence has led to tremendous success. We undertook challenges of a wide variety and succeeded impressively in all of them.

The highlight of the semester was the Band's performance in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Savannah, Georgia. The Band put in countless hours of hard work beforehand, and it paid off during the performance. We exemplified the qualities expected of all bandmen and truly epitomized our motto, "Deeds, Not Words." The crowds loved our performance, and the trip provided wonderful memories for all participants.

In addition to St. Patrick's Day, the Highty-Tighty Pep Band continued its tradition of excellent service to the women's basketball team. Its enthusiasm and high musical quality greatly enhanced the atmosphere and experience of the games, and were much enjoyed by the fans.

This semester we put a large emphasis on the academic and administrative sides of the Band. Football season presents a large challenge to academic success, so making improvements this semester was critical. The academics staff did a great job, and the Band's grades reflected this hard work and improvement. Due to their diligent efforts, the Band will have an excellent retention rate and continue to grow beyond the 100 cadet mark achieved this year.

We have greatly improved our supply operations this semester. We completed a full inventory of equipment, with

every instrument's status and necessary repairs outlined. Heading into next semester, this will give us a plan of what is required to ensure that all bandmen are in possession of the best possible instrument.

The Band demonstrated its tradition of excellence in the Corps as well. During the Annual Squad Tactical Challenge, Band squads came in first and second out of sixty-five squads, a truly impressive feat. Additionally, the Band Eager Squad won the Jaffe Eager Squad trophy for the eighth time in ten years. The Freshman and Sophomore Eager Individuals were both Bandmen as well.

As the semester drew to a close, the emphasis shifted to continuity and progression for next year. The new drum major, Cadet Aaron Bonovitch, has selected a staff and is already outlining plans to take the Band to new heights next year.

Serving as commander has been a great honor this semester, and the effort and dedication of every bandman has filled me with pride for the organization. The Band exemplifies the meaning of Ut Prosim, and working with these cadets has been a true privilege for me. I have great faith in the incoming commander, Cadet John Witte, and I know that the Band will continue to progress and grow next year under his leadership.

Thank you to all alumni and supporters. The support and tradition of excellence you provide for the Band to follow allows us to be the unit we are today. Then, Now, and Forevermore, Highty-Tighty!

The Highty-Tighty Pep Band plays during the Tech-UVA women's basketball game. For many years, the Highty-Tighty Pep Band has supported Tech's women's basketball team, and this year, at the request of the team, they moved down right next to the court rather than playing from the higher bandstand area. A special platform had to be built for the drummer. Cadets from all classes are represented in the Pep Band. Cadet Major Jacob Mathews, the CO, is playing the drums, and Director George McNeill often handles the guitar, as seen in this picture. (Photo by Bert Kinzey)



A LOOK AHEAD

Cadet Major John Witte, HT '12 Incoming Commander

As summer approached, the Band wrapped up a year that has been marked by growth, musical development, and superior performance. However, even as bandsmen began to go home for break, the ground work was already being set for yet another exciting year. Like always, the Highly-Tighties will have their work cut out for them during football season, and in addition have the challenge of training at least another fifty to sixty freshmen cadets.

The drum major, Aaron Bonovitch, already has his staff working on the shows for next year and is looking at incorporating several new pieces into the Band's repertoire. He is looking into bringing in guest instructors to help develop both the drum line and the horn line, and he has already set up plans to ensure that his staff will be ready to instruct a Regimental Band that might be as many as one hundred and thirty strong.

In order to support this large growth, the supply officer, Jimmy Callen, has already begun the repair and acquisition process to ensure that the Highly-Tighties will be able to field as many cadets as predicted. There is some work to be done in this area, and it will require significant attention if the Band is to march one hundred-forty or more cadets in the near future.

In order to ensure that the number of bandsmen continues to grow, recruiting efforts are going to be made to appeal to the high-school band communities in the fall during marching band season. A recruiting staff, led by Elaine Altman, will be traveling to these competitions to promote the Highly-Tighties and encourage prospective bandsmen to take part in the "Spend the Night" program. This will help spread the Highly-Tighty's name and produce interest within high-school bands across the state.

I am very excited about all of the opportunities next semester and for the chance to lead this outstanding group of cadets. They constantly surprise and impress me with their performance and their service. Our motto, "Deeds not Words," has not been forgotten and is something that my peers and I are very proud to declare.

I would like to thank all of the alumni in advance for your support and commitment to the Band. Without you we would not be the Regimental Band we are today. I look forward to working with all of you, and to commanding the greatest Band in all the land. HIGHLY-TIGHTY!!



KASEY BEERNICK CHOSEN AS VIRGINIA TECH'S FIRST FEMALE SUBMARINE OFFICER



Kasey Beernick, HT '11, recently received the honor of being named the first female submarine officer from Virginia Tech. This is a real honor for Kasey, and it is another example of how Highly-Tighty cadets continue to excel and lead the way within the VTCC. Congratulations to Kasey on receiving this honor. (Photo by Bert Kinzey)

I grew up in a Navy family. My father spent eight years working for Naval Reactors, and my mother spent twenty years as a Naval Officer. Neither of my parents pressured my sister or me to join the Navy, but both of us decided to do so. My sister, Krista, was also a Highly-Tighty and graduated from Virginia Tech in 2008. She was commissioned as a Naval Flight Officer. On May 13, 2011, I became the first female submarine officer from Virginia Tech.

My parents raised my sister and me to be strong women. I spent thirteen years as an active member of the Girl Scouts and am proud to be a lifetime member. I want to be a Girl Scout leader one day, so I can help young girls and women realize their full potential. I love music and can play both the flute and the French horn. I played soccer from third

grade through high school, but now I am a distance runner. I ran the Marine Corps Marathon on October 31, 2010, and the Roanoke Marathon on April 16, 2011. I hope to run in at least ten marathons in my lifetime.

When I was seven years old, my family went on a tour of a submarine while we lived in Naples, Italy, and that day I decided I wanted to join the Navy. By the end of my freshman year, I had decided to be a Surface Warfare Officer, because submarines were not open to women at that time. But by spring of my junior year, women were allowed to be members of the crews aboard submarines. During the summer between my junior and senior years, I spent a week aboard the USS ALASKA as part of the integration of women on submarines on the east coast. After eight days on a submarine, I was more than certain that I wanted to drive submarines for the rest of my life. I plan on making a career out of the Navy and hope to be one of the first female commanders of a submarine.

Before leaving for summer break between my junior and senior years, I submitted my Service Assignment package listing submarines as my first choice. When I returned from summer break, I submitted a packet to Naval Reactors in order to be selected for an interview. When all the graduating seniors were given their service assignment results, I was one step closer to becoming a submariner, and a few weeks later I was selected for an interview with Naval Reactors. On January 21, 2010, I completed my interview with Naval Reactors and became the first female from Virginia Tech ever to be selected as a submarine officer.

HIGHTY-TIGHTY CADETS RECEIVE AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS AT THIS YEAR'S CORPS AWARDS CEREMONY

by Bert Kinzey



Kyle Treubert receives the John E. Hill Memorial Sophomore Proficiency Award as the outstanding sophomore in the Corps. (Photo by Bert Kinzey)

As always seems to be the case, the Highty-Tighties received more than their share of awards and scholarships at this year's Corps Awards Ceremony. The Regimental Band also won the Jaffe Eager Squad competition for the eighth time in the past ten years. That is a truly amazing accomplishment. It has become more unusual for the Band not to win that coveted award than it is for them to receive it. Congratulations to all of the Highty-Tighty cadets who worked hard to win the Eager Squad competition this year.

Two cadets tied for the Lieutenant Edward Raney Freshman Proficiency Award, and one of these was Highty-Tighty freshman Richard McGreggor. Highty-Tighty freshmen have consistently won this award over the last few years. The John E. Hill Memorial Sophomore Proficiency Award was won by Highty-Tighty sophomore, Kyle Treubert. Congratulations to both of these fine young cadets for their outstanding work.

Scholarships are very important to today's cadets, and Highty-Tighties received quite a few. All three recipients of the David P. Barnett Scholarship were Highty-Tighties. They were Kyle Gentile, Michelle Shirk, and Alexander Zuchowicz. Jonathan Corns received one of the Major John Beard Byers Scholarships, while the Heidi Charles Book Stipend went to Lauren Adolph. One of two William T. Compton Scholarships went to Richard Drabek, while both of the Henry J. Dekker Scholarships went to Highty-Tighties. They were Scinjit Gadamsetty and Adrien Wilkins. William Woltman was awarded one of the G. Scott Francis Scholarships. James Callen received one of two Lieutenant James Walmsey Scholarships.

In addition to the scholarships, numerous awards were

received by Highty-Tighty cadets for a wide variety of achievements during the past school year. The U. S. Army awarded Jonathan Corns an Army ROTC Leadership Excellence Award. Amanda Shultz received an AFROTC Detachment 875 Warrior Spirit Award from the U. S. Air Force.

Joshua Meeder received one of the National Defense Industrial Association Awards, while the American Legion presented one of its Military Excellence Awards to Jonathan Corns. Among the cadets receiving one of the Daughters of Founders and Patriots Awards was Highty-Tighty Lauren Adolph. Alexander Gutzler received one of the Military Order of the World War Awards as did Nikko Tanap. Incoming Highty-Tighty commander, John Witte, was the recipient of a Reserve Officers Association Award, as was Tawny Pelletier. Matthew Buffington, who commanded the Highty-Tighties last fall, was presented with one of the American Veterans of World War II Awards, along with Christopher Scott. David Moore received one of the awards presented by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The Highty-Tighties were also well represented among the recipients of the awards presented by the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. Matthew Buffington, Mark Horst, and Jacob Mathews all received Commandant's Awards. Colin Chew was one of two cadets to be named a Top Regimental Recruiter and received a VTCC Recruiting Award.

Congratulations go to all Highty-Tighty cadets who received scholarships and awards this year and to the Band in general for their outstanding accomplishments. They have a right to be proud of their achievements, and the Highty-Tighty alumni can be very proud of how they carry on the traditions of excellence set for many decades before them.



Highty-Tighty freshman, Kyle Gentile, receives one of the three David P. Barnett Scholarships. The other two went to Highty-Tighty freshmen Michelle Shirk and Alexander Zuchowicz. (Photo by Bert Kinzey)



ALUMNI NOTES

THE HIGHTY-TIGHTY FAMILY MOURNS THE PASSING OF THREE ALUMNI

Robert "Bob" Grubb

Bob Grubb passed away on October 10, 2010, at age 85. He lived at Grubstake Farm near Hillsboro, Virginia, where he was born on April 23, 1925. Although Bob was a student at Virginia Tech for only a few months during World War II and was a member of the Highty-Tighties during that time, he was made an honorary member of the Highty-Tighty Alumni Band and participated faithfully at many Highty-Tighty homecomings, marching in the parades and pre-game shows playing his trombone. Because of Bob's love of music, at various times during his life he also belonged to the Apple Land Band in Charles Town, West Virginia, and the Rohrsersville Band of Rohrsersville, Maryland. During his life, he served as a Special Deputy Sheriff, worked at Loudoun National Bank, and served as a substitute mail carrier. But he spent most of his life as a farmer, retiring after forty-two years.



Raymond Reed, Highty-Tighty Class of 1957 Distinguished Highty-Tighty Alumnus

At homecoming 2009, Ray Reed became one of the first two living Highty-Tighty alumni to be given the title of "Distinguished Highty-Tighty Alumnus." This high honor recognized Ray's service and devotion to the Highty-Tighties that lasted his entire adult life. Ray served for many years on the board of directors of the Highty-Tighty Alumni, Inc., and he was always active in participating at homecoming and other Highty-Tighty activities. He was also well known for his generous financial support which included a million dollar donation toward the renovation of Lane Hall and the Ray and Peggy Reed Award in the form of \$1,000 to each member of the Highty-Tighty freshman class who entered Tech in the fall of 2009. Ray always epitomized what being a Highty-Tighty was all about, and he inspired all who knew him with his courageous fight against cancer. He finally lost his battle with that disease in March of this year. He is survived by his wife, Peggy, who has always joined Ray in his support and love for the Highty-Tighties. The photo at left shows Ray accepting his certificate declaring him a member of the "Distinguished Highty-Tighty Alumni."

Rob "Gunny" Fouts, Highty-Tighty Class of 1989

Rob Fouts, better known as "Gunny" to the Highty-Tighty family, passed away on March 4, 2011, after a valiant struggle against ALS, also known as Lou Gherig's Disease. Upon learning of his diagnosis with this terminal disease, Rob returned one last time to Highty-Tighty Homecoming in 2008 where he and his two children, Jacob and Savannah, carried the banner in front of the Highty-Tighty Alumni Band during the parade. The photo at right shows Rob preparing to carry the banner just before the parade began. His alumni friends paid tribute to him during the homecoming banquet and joined in creating a fund to help defray expenses associated with the disease. As his condition worsened, they went to his home in teams to help take care of the things Rob could no longer do, providing strength and support to Rob and his wife, Laurie. In doing so, they represented the very best of what the comraderie between members of the Highty-Tighty family is all about. The alumni party at Highty-Tighty Homecoming was named "Gunny Fest" in tribute to Rob and as an expression of the love so many had for him.



CHRIS BISE, HT '72, RECEIVES MINERAL INDUSTRY EDUCATION AWARD

Editor's note: Chris Bise, known to the Highty-Tighty family for his service as the drum major of the Highty-Tighty Alumni Band from 1976 until 2009, has also had a distinguished career in his chosen field of mining engineering. Chris recently received another significant honor for his work and contributions.

President of The American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineers (AIME), DeAnn Craig, presented this outstanding honor to Dr. Christopher J. Bise at the 2011 Society of Mining Engineers (SME) Annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony in Denver.

Dr. Bise was selected by the AIME Mineral Industry Education Award Committee as their 2011 recipient of the Mineral Industry Education Award. This award was established in 1950 and is given for distinguished contributions to the advancement of mineral industry education.

The citation on the award reads: "Dr. Bise's career epitomizes that of an academic leader by combining practical mining experience with dedication to excellence in teaching, research, and service."

Dr. Bise is the Charles T. Holland Distinguished Professor of Mining Engineering and Chair of the Department of Mining Engineering at West Virginia University. His career spans more than 35 years of teaching, research and service to the mining engineering profession.

Dr. Bise is a Distinguished Member of SME and the SME Pittsburgh Section, former chair of the Coal & Energy Division and received SME's Ivan B. Rahn Education Award in 2003. Currently, he serves as the editor-in-chief of the peer



review editorial board for the review of papers for technical papers published in Mining Engineering and the SME Transactions.

Dr. Bise has also received the Old Timers' Award for Excellence in Mining Engineering Education, the PCMEA's Stephen McCann Award for Educational Excellence, ISMSP's Al Geiser Safety Award and Virginia Tech's Distinguished Alumnus Award in Mining and Minerals Engineering. He has received many teaching, advising and service awards at Penn State and West Virginia University.

ANTHONY LAVOPA, HT '08 WEDS ELENA SIEPLE



On March 26, then Ensign Anthony LaVopa, former commander of the Highty-Tighties, married Elena Seiple in Phillipsburg, NJ. Attending the ceremony were several of Anthony's Highty-Tighty classmates and other alumni from when he was in the Band. From left to right are Travis Taggart, 2LT, U.S. Army, Ryan Easton, LT(jg), U. S. Navy, Bert Kinzey, President of the HTA, Mark Amos, 1LT, USAF, Elena Seiple LaVopa, Joshua Bladen, ENS, U. S. Navy, Anthony Lavopa, Dustin Siddle, 1LT, U. S. Army, Brian Alberts, 1LT, U. S. Army, and Joseph Dressel, SPC, U. S. Army. Following the wedding the couple honeymooned in Sicily, Anthony's ancestral home. Anthony has since been promoted to LT(jg) in the Navy and continues to serve aboard the guided missile destroyer, USS PORTER. (Photo courtesy of Anthony LaVopa)

THE HIGHTY-TIGHTY ALUMNI ORGANIZATION WELCOMES THE HIGHTY-TIGHTY CLASS OF 2011 AS OUR NEWEST ALUMNI



The Highty-Tighty Class of 2011 poses together in front of Lane Hall following the Change of Command Parade on April 30. (Photo by Bert Kinzey)

The Highty-Tighty Class of 2011 officially joined the Highty-Tighty Alumni Organization at the annual Highty-Tighty Banquet on Wednesday, May 4, when they were presented their alumni pins by HTA President, Bert Kinzey, and President Emeritus, Charles Cornelison. They were congratulated for the outstanding leadership they gave the Band this past school year. We look forward to having them participate with us at homecoming and in supporting the Band in the years to come.



Charles Cornelison, HT '67, congratulates Matthew Buffington who was chosen by the junior class to receive the Charles O. Cornelison Senior Service Award at this year's Highty-Tighty Banquet. (Photo courtesy of Charles Cornelison)

Also at the banquet, Matthew Buffington received the Charles O. Cornelison Senior Service Award for his outstanding service to the Regimental Band during his senior year. This is the highest award given to one of its members by the Band, and the recipient is chosen by the junior class. Cadet Buffington served as commander during the busy fall semester, then he served as supply officer during spring semester. Congratulations to Cadet Buffington on being selected for this award.

HIGHTY-TIGHTY '68 ROAD TRIP CHALLENGE



In April, three members of the Highty-Tighty Class of 1968, (left to right) Bert Kinzey, Threet Gill, and Gene Harrison, traveled together to Anniston, Alabama, to visit the Civilian Marksmanship Program's southern headquarters. There they purchased former U. S. military M1 Garand rifles like the ones used by the Corps during their freshman, sophomore, and junior years. While there, photos were taken of them in their Highty-Tighty sweaters and HTAB caps. This started a HT '68 class challenge. The idea is to see who can travel the most miles from the point of origin to a destination and be photographed in their Highty-Tighty sweater. The number of miles is multiplied by the number of classmates in the photo to get the total score. The trip to Anniston was thoroughly enjoyed by all three classmates, and they look forward to making another trip together soon. (Photo courtesy of Gene Harrison)

FAREWELL TO GENERAL ALLEN

At the Highty-Tighty Banquet, the Highty-Tighty Alumni organization was joined by the Band in presenting a gift to General Allen as he retired as the longest-serving commandant in Corps history. The gift was a token of appreciation for General Allen's service from the combined Highty-Tighty family. Participating in the presentation were Bert Kinzey, President of the Highty-Tighty Alumni, Inc., General Allen, Jacob Mathews, outgoing Band Company CO, John Witte, incoming Band Company CO, George McNeill, Band Director, and Charles Cornelison, President Emeritus of the Highty-Tighty Alumni, Inc. The gift was also displayed at General Allen's retirement dinner. (Photo by Rock Roszak)



At the conclusion of the school year, General Jerrold P. Allen retired as the longest-serving commandant in the history of the Corps of Cadets. In appreciation for his twelve years of service, the Highty-Tighty Alumni, Inc. prepared a gift to present to General Allen as he departed. The leadership of the Highty-Tighties requested to join the alumni organization in this presentation, so the gift was given on behalf of the entire Highty-Tighty family.

The gift was a beautifully framed photograph of the Highty-Tighties and the Highty-Tighty Alumni Band marching together on the field in Lane Stadium. The photo shows the Highty-Tighty Alumni Band behind the Highty-Tighties, being symbolic of the alumni being behind the Band in our support. There is a Highty-Tighty challenge coin above the photo, and the Highty-Tighty crest and the Highty-Tighty Alumni logo are beneath the photo along with a brass plaque engraved with words of appreciation for his long service to the Corps.



The Southern Colonels played for those attending General Allen's retirement dinner during the social hour that preceded the meal. (Photo by Bert Kinzey)

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR ALL HIGHTY-TIGHTY ALUMNI!!!

While this request is always made on the last page of the newsletter, we are making a special note of it here, and we ask for your support.

Please go to www.hightytightyalumni.org and check your information in the database for your class year. If any of it is out of date, please leave the correct information for our webmaster, George McMichael, where it says, "Add Your Info To Database," so he can update your data. This is important. Right now at least half of the information is out of date.

PLEASE TAKE TIME TO DO THIS NOW!!

JOIN US FOR HIGHTY-TIGHTY HOMECOMING 2011!



This year, Homecoming is October 21 and 22. The game is an ACC match-up between our Hokies and Boston College.

The registration site is now open at:

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

You must register at this site to take part in our homecoming events.

To participate in the parade and the pregame show, you must be in the proper Highty-Tighty Alumni Band uniform.

The schedule and other details will be posted on the HTA Website at:

www.hightytightyalumni.org

as soon as they are known. Kickoff time will not be announced until approximately two weeks before the game, so be flexible.

Information about the alumni party, HTAB uniform requirements, and other details will be posted on our website, so as we get closer to homecoming, check there for answers to any questions you have.

Tickets are sure to go fast for this game, so register early and plan to join us for all of the events at another great Highty-Tighty Homecoming!

INVEST IN THE FUTURE OF THE HIGHTY-TIGHTIES!

Highly-Tighty Development = helping the Highly-Tighties grow to become a larger Band. We had 54 new freshmen enter the Band this past fall. Now we need to repeat that for the next three years. It takes your financial support to do this.

WHO?? - You are one of approximately 1,500 alumni of the Highly-Tighties. We are asking that you share the vision of helping the Band continue to grow.

WHAT?? - Develop additional E.L.S. (Emerging Leader Scholarships) and grow the Schaeffer Memorial Endowment that funds the Highly-Tighty Stipend.

HOW?? - Help us by encouraging your Highly-Tighty Class to begin the process of adopting and funding a Class Endowment (an E.L.S.). To date, only two classes have accomplished this. It would be nice to add some others. Encourage your classmates to get in touch and stay in touch. Have a class event or get-together to improve your connection between classmates.

WHY?? - In the fall of 2009 we had 32 new freshmen enter the Band, and in the fall of 2010 we had 54 new freshmen join the Band. We need to continue to bring in 50+ freshmen into the Highly-Tighties each year, and one of the best ways to impact this is through attracting the young men and women with financial support from Emerging Leader Scholarships and the Jim Schaeffer Endowment's \$1,000 Freshman Stipend.

WHY ELSE?? - Highly-Tighty retention is also closely connected to financial support. One of the ways to improve the number of returning members of the current Band is to improve our financial support for those members needing assistance. As a Highly-Tighty alumnus, one part of your legacy to the Band can be your ongoing financial support. There are several ways to do this.

WHEN?? - In 2011, we are asking each of you to make a pledge to give financial support to help grow and improve the Band.

For additional information, please be sure to call the Virginia Tech University Development office at 540-231-2806 or 800-533-1144 and ask for Dave Spracher or Sarah Woods. You are also welcome to call me at 412-980-9830, and I will be happy to discuss ideas with you or members of your Highly-Tighty Class.

Checks should be mailed to: Virginia Tech University Development (0336), 902 Prices Fork Road, Blacksburg, Virginia 24061, ATTN: Corps of Cadets. Please be sure to indicate which account you want your contribution to go to.

Accounts are: Jim Schaeffer Memorial Scholarship (Highly-Tighty Freshman Stipend)
Tom Dobyns Memorial Scholarship Fund (Emerging Leader Scholarships)
Charles O. Cornelison Scholarship (Emerging Leader Scholarship)
Wallace Easter Scholarship (Emerging Leader Scholarship)
Matthew J. La Porte Memorial Scholarship (Emerging Leader Scholarships)
Zachary Eckhart Memorial Scholarship (Emerging Leader Scholarship)
Corps of Cadets Immediate Needs Fund

Thank you for your support!

Chuck Rowell, HT '71, Vice President for Development, Highly-Tighty Alumni, Inc.



HISTORY NOTES

THE FIRST CHANGE IN DIRECTORS AFFECTS THE HISTORY OF THE REGIMENTAL BAND



The Cadet Band for the 1905-1906 school year was the first not to be under the dynamic leadership of James Patton Harvey as its director. Harvey had been named director of the Band just a few months after it was formed in 1893. (Virginia Tech Special Collections)

*Editor's Note: This is the eleventh in a continuing series of articles about the history of the Virginia Tech Regimental Band, the Highly-Tighties. The purpose of this series is to provide an accurate record of the Band's proud and amazing history that spans well over a century. 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.*

The first twelve years of the Cadet Band's existence had been both dramatic and memorable. Since its formation as a separate unit within the Corps of Cadets in 1893, the Band had traveled far and wide and had participated in a number of high-profile events. These included the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, New York, in 1901, where they met John Philip Sousa for the first time and where he dedicated a performance of his march, "Hands Across the Sea" to them. The following year they traveled to Charleston, South Carolina, for the South Carolina Interstate and West Indian Exposition where they were reviewed by President Theodore Roosevelt who called them "The Nation's Strength" and had his photograph taken with them to be used in an official White House poster. In 1904, they traveled to the World's

Fair in St. Louis, Missouri, where they again met John Philip Sousa. The March King invited the Cadet Band to a concert by his band and took the time to meet each member personally afterwards.

But undoubtedly the most unusual event that took place in the first decade of the Cadet Band's existence was when they resigned from the college and became the Regimental Band of the 2nd Virginia Volunteer Regiment during the Spanish American War. For this event, they were joined by several of the Band's alumni, marking the first time cadets and alumni ever participated together. In 1904, the Cadet Band again joined the Virginia Volunteers to participate in the huge military maneuvers that summer.

The most influential factor in the Band's participation in these high-profile events was James Patton Harvey, who had been the Band's director since its formation in 1893. It was he who had also resigned his position at V.P.I. to go with the cadets and alumni to join the 2nd Virginia Regiment as its band during the Spanish American War, and he had helped insure that the Band appeared and performed well at the many events, both large and small, as well as performing all of their duties with the Corps of Cadets and the college. His dynamic leadership had started the Cadet Band off on the right foot and had established an outstanding reputation for the Band, not only in Virginia but throughout the eastern half of the nation as well.

At the beginning of the 1905-1906 school year, J. P. Harvey resigned as Music Director and was replaced by Hugh Douglas McTier. That year the Cadet Band remained very busy playing at Corps reviews, football games and other athletic events, and marching in parades across the Old

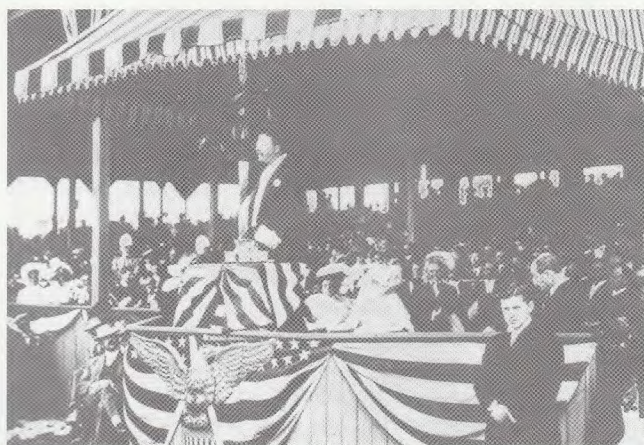
Dominion. This continued well into the following school year and included an extended concert tour by the Band in April.

Later that month, on April 26, V.P.I.'s President McBryde received an invitation to the Jamestown Exposition for the summer of that year. Although the exposition was to be held in Norfolk, its purpose was to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the establishment of the first permanent English settlement in America. Military schools from up and down the eastern states were invited, and President Theodore Roosevelt was scheduled to attend.

On June 3, following exams, the Band led the Corps to the Huckleberry Depot in Blacksburg where they boarded a train for Norfolk. With the permission of the commandant, Band alumnus L. W. Oakes donned his old uniform and joined the Band to make the trip just as he had done as a cadet to the World's Fair in St. Louis. The train arrived in Norfolk at 4:30 that afternoon, and the cadets were met and welcomed by a number of proud and excited alumni. Led by the Band, the Battalion marched to their camp inside the grounds of the Exposition. It was a weary group of cadets who heard Taps at 11:00 p.m.

The following day, the Band led the Corps in a drill routine followed by a dress parade that was attended by a large crowd. Later that evening, the Cadet Band provided music for a dance in Norfolk attended by many of the cadets. Another drill ceremony and dress parade followed the next day, after which the Band was invited to be the guests of Pinney's United States Band at a concert.

On June 10, President Theodore Roosevelt arrived and took part in the ceremonies. That day he reviewed a military parade that marked the second time during his presidency that the Cadet Band led the Corps for President Roosevelt.



President Theodore Roosevelt is seen here in the Presidential Box at the Jamestown Exposition in 1907 where he reviewed the VPI Cadet Band for the second time during his presidency. (Photo from the collection of Harry Temple)

During 1908, Director Hugh Douglas McTier hired five professional musicians to perform with the Band and serve as music instructors. These were also college employees, and their compensation for playing with the Band and serving as instructors was a set of three cadet uniforms.

One of the instructors was Thomas Schaeffer who had been the director of the Glade Cornet Band which had served the Corps for eleven years prior to the formation of the Cadet Band. Schaeffer was also employed by the college as the janitor of the library. Another was Schaeffer's son, James Solomon Schaeffer, a 20-year old janitor for the administration building and an excellent musician who could play almost any band instrument. This was the first time that the young Schaeffer would be connected with the Cadet Band, and he would become the most influential person in its history for decades to come.

Jim Schaeffer teamed with Iva Ashworth and wrote a march they called "Friendship March." But this quickly became known as "Play Ball" and was adopted as the fight song of V.P.I. until it was replaced by "Tech Triumph" in 1919.

In 1909, Director McTier took a short leave of absence and was replaced by assistant bandmaster, H. H. Hill as director.

In early November 1910, Virginia's Governor William Hodges Mann ordered the V.P.I. Cadet Battalion to be in Richmond on November 23 to serve as the official military escort to President William Howard Taft. Rather than simply march in review for the President as they had done twice for President Roosevelt, this marked the first time the Corps was tasked to be the official military escort for the President. The honor of serving as an official escort for the President of the United States would not happen again until 1934, when the Cadet Band was tasked to provide an escort for President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

From 1908 until 1912, James Solomon Schaeffer continued to play with the Cadet Band and serve as an instructor. In 1912, he left Blacksburg to serve in the Army as a member of the 4th Coastal Artillery Band. But he would return in 1916 to become the Band's director. That story, and his life-long involvement with the Regimental Band, will be the subject of the History Sections in newsletters to come.

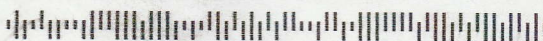


This photograph shows the Cadet Band in 1912. Jim Schaeffer was an instructor and musician in the Band from 1908 until 1912. He is shown in the front row just to the right of center, and is indicated by an X on his chest. He would leave the Band later that year to serve in the 4th Coastal Artillery Band for four years. When he returned to V.P.I. in 1916, he became the director of the Cadet Band and would have a profound impact on its excellence and its history for many years until his death in 1951. (Photo from the collection of Harry Temple)

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REQUESTS TO ALUMNI

VERY IMPORTANT!

There are three things all Highly-Tighty alumni need to do to help insure you get the newsletter and stay connected with Virginia Tech and the Highly-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. 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 Highly-Tighty Alumni website and check their contact information in the database. Go to www.highlytightyalumni.org and click on the Database. The site provides a way for you to enter and request an update of your address, phone number, and e-mail address.

3. If you know of any Highly-Tighty alumni who are not receiving the *Highly-Tighty Notes* newsletter or the *Highly-Tighty Half-Notes* e-mail updates, please pass this information on to them.

HIGHTY-TIGHTY HALF-NOTES

SUBSCRIBE TODAY

The *Highly-Tighty Half-Notes* are periodic e-mails sent to Highly-Tighty alumni and friends of the Regimental Band. They are intended to supplement the news included in the *Highly-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

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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For more information on the Highly-Tighty Alumni, Inc.
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www.highlytightyalumni.org

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