

# HIGHTY-TIGHTY

## NOTES



*The official newsletter of the Highty-Tighty Alumni, Inc.*  
Volume 40 Number 2  
Summer 2016



# HIGHTY-TIGHTY ALUMNI, INC.

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Half-Notes Editor  
Historian



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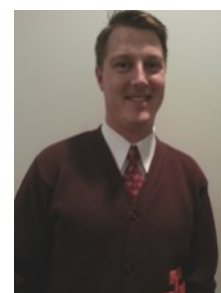
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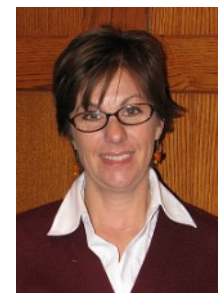
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Director  
**William L (Larry) Root**  
HT '72  
Director

# Homecoming 2016



Time to Register for this year's Festivities  
Virginia Tech vs. East Carolina  
September 23 and 24



*Above: Combined bands during the pre-game performance. A fifteen by fifteen block of Highly-Tighties! Photo from Band Staff*



*Right: Lori Keck-Beach, HT '92, leads the HTAB in the 2015 Homecoming parade. Photo by Lynn Ott*

## Highly-Tighty Homecoming 2016 Registration Details

The pictures above show the two main highlights of last year's homecoming festivities, the pregame show with the combined bands showing our pride on the field at Lane Stadium, and the homecoming parade, where we once again marched through downtown Blacksburg and up the Alumni Mall to the WWII memorial. Don't miss it this year! We have a (relatively) **new director**, Senior Chief Jim Bean, who is working hard to take the band to new heights in excellence. We have a **new football coach**, Justin Fuente, who is working hard to dazzle us with his new and improved football team. We will be installing our **new president**, Chuck Rowell, HT '71, and saying thanks to our hard working and ready-for-a-break, current president, Bert Kinzey, HT '68. We will have a **new venue** for our luncheon and meeting which promises to be better food for less money with fewer distractions than previous years. You can register right now! Do it! Go to [www.highlytightyalumni.org](http://www.highlytightyalumni.org) where you will see links to the registration page or just go directly to the registration page at <http://www.alumni.vt.edu/reunion/highlytighty/>. Let me know if you have problems or questions — George McMichael [gmname@aol.com](mailto:gmname@aol.com). Hope to see you there!





# PRESIDENT'S PAGE

## Thank You For the Honor And Privilege

**O**n September 24, at Highty-Tighty Homecoming, I'll be passing the HTA Guidon to Chuck Rowell as I step down after serving nine years as HTA president. In this, my last President's Page in the "Highty-Tighty Notes," I offer my sincere thanks to all Highty-Tighty alumni for giving me the honor and privilege to serve as your president. It has meant more than you can know to be able to give back in this way to the organization that has had the greatest impact on my life since the day I graduated.

It was in the fall of 1950 that I first marched with the Highty-Tighties. As a small boy just short of my fifth birthday, I ran out onto the Drillfield and marched alongside the Band, just behind Jim Schaeffer, as they led the Corps of Cadets past the reviewing stand to end a review. I met Jim Schaeffer that day, and I got to know him over the following year until his passing in November 1951. Later I was given his trumpet, and I played it from fourth grade through high school. From that day I ran out onto the Drillfield and marched alongside the Band, it was always my dream to become a member of the Highty-Tighties. That dream came true when I returned with Jim Schaeffer's trumpet as a member of the Highty-Tighty Class of 1968. A year after graduation, I presented the trumpet to the Band for display in the Cadet Museum. When we creat-

ed the Highty-Tighty Alumni Band, I returned to play it at homecoming each year to keep Major Jim's spirit alive with us.

So my connection to the Highty-Tighties goes all the way back to when I was only four years old. It will continue as long as I live, and to be honored to serve as president of the HTA and help support the Regimental Band has been the best part of the story.

We have worked together over the last nine years to accomplish a lot of good things. When I became president, I told Charlie Cornelison that I would do everything possible to realize the vision he had put forth as president in the early 1980s—to return the Band to the size it was in the 1950s and early 1960s, marching a 144-man block. At homecoming 2008, my first as president, the Highty-Tighties marched approximately 85 cadets at pregame. It took until year before last for the Band to reach the size Charlie had envisioned more than thirty-five years ago, but the vision was realized when the Highty-Tighties marched into Lane Stadium in a 12 by 12 block in 2014. This success was due to the efforts of many people, and while we alumni cannot take full credit for making it happen, it would certainly not have happened without our efforts. We can be very proud of the part we have played in restoring the Highty-Tighties to the size they are today.

There have been other ways in which the alumni have contributed to the success of the Regimental Band and our own organization. For example, I think the creation of the Highty-Tighty Alumni Pin was important. It allows us all to continue to wear the white cord in a literal sense, and it also is given to each graduating senior to welcome them into the ranks of the alumni. This helps them feel that they are part of the alumni from the day they graduate. We created the award of Distinguished Highty-Tighty Alumni, to recognize those alumni who have made exceptional and dedicated life-long contributions to the alumni organization and to the Band. We started a mentor program in which alumni mentor Highty-Tighty freshmen and help them meet the challenges of their freshman year. This program has been as beneficial and rewarding to the alumni as it has been to the cadets. It is such a privilege and a pleasure to get to know these young cadets and help them as they join the Highty-Tighty family. This is but one way we have also formed a closer bond to all of the cadets. We now work much more closely with them than ever before. They now better understand what the alumni do, and we have a much more effective relationship that is beneficial in providing them with the support they deserve and need.

As I step down as president, we are also beginning a



**Bert Kinzey as a Highty-Tighty Freshman with Schaeffer's Trumpet in 1964.**  
**Photo by Harry Johnson, HT '68**

# Bert Kinzey, HT '68



new initiative that is so important to the Highty-Tighties. This support is in the form of providing new and quality used instruments to the Band. Information is provided elsewhere in this newsletter that explains how you can help in this important initiative. Please participate in this program if you possibly can.

There are so many wonderful people with whom I have worked over the past nine years as president who I want to thank. Grateful appreciation goes to General Randal Fullhart, Colonel Patience Larkin and her administrative assistants, Colonel Rock Roszak, Colonel David Spracher, LTC Chuck Payne, MUSC Jim Bean, LTC George McNeill, LTC Gary Jackson, LTC Rewa Mariger, and Leketa Miller have all been great to work with. I also thank all of the alumni, and especially those who have served on the HTA board of directors during my time as president. It has been a privilege to work with all of you. One of the best benefits of being president has been the opportunity to meet so many alumni from classes dating back to the 1940s. It has been an amazing experience to get to know so many of you and hear your stories of what it was like to be in the Band during the different eras. There are many differences, but the core of what being a Highty-Tighty was and is all about remains the same throughout.

I must also thank my wife, Lynda, whom I first met just as my freshman year in the Highty-Tighties was coming to an end. Lynda knows how much the Highty-Tighties mean to me, and she has supported me throughout my nine years as president, although I know at times she wished I was spending more time with her than taking care of my duties and obligations as president. I could not have done the job without her loving support and understanding.

Finally, and at the top of my list of people to thank, I thank Charlie Cornelison. For eight years he was always there for input and advice. His support was always positive and amazing. He was both a cheerleader and a mentor. He was as fine a president emeritus as he was our president for twenty-seven years. It is tragic that we lost him a year ago. He was the living icon that represented what we were all about. He remains an inspiration even though he is no longer with us.

Although I will be stepping down as president, I will remain as active as I can within the HTA organization and on campus. I plan to keep in touch with the cadet leadership, and I want to keep researching and reporting on the true history of the Regimental Band. I will continue to do the "Half-Notes," so you will still be hearing from me.

Please give Chuck Rowell your strongest support as our new president. I wish Chuck the very best, and I will try to assist him as Charlie did for me. Please remember that we all wear the white cord. We are all Highty-Tighties. I ask all alumni to do everything you can to support this incredible organization and see that it is available for new classes of cadets for many generations to come.

Ut Prosim,

Bert Kinzey, HT '68  
President, HTA, 2007 -2016



**Bert Kinzey, President HTA, addresses the 2016 HT Banquet**  
Photo by Lynda Kinzey





## FROM THE COMMANDER

### The Highly-Tighties did not take a break during the Spring 2016 Semester...

It is often thought that the spring semester is the Band's time to slow down, relax, and let things

slide; the football season is over after all, and that is what the Band lives for. Well I am proud to say the Highly-Tighties did not take a break during the Spring 2016 Semester. With 132 cadets in Band Company, we were a bit smaller than when we ended the fall, but for all the right reasons. My outstanding predecessor, Cadet Colonel Anthony Carella, served as the Regimental Commander, with the aid of HT Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Sherry Kim as the Regimental Executive Officer and three other HTs serving on Regimental Staff. I am extremely proud of my peers in the senior class and all of their accomplishments and leadership, both in and out of the Company.

As the semester began, Senior Chief Bean had the large undertaking of preparing the band for the Spring Concert and the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Sa-

vanah, GA. Drum Major, Cadet Captain William "Dixon" Johnson, led the band in practices that juggled concert pieces, marching practice, and parade marches. Simultaneously, junior HT Cadet Sergeant First Class Alexander Rastovac, led rifle drill practice for those participating in the Eager Squad Competition. Once St. Patrick's Day arrived, the band packed up and shipped down to Georgia; I'm sure each of you remember the feeling, but it never gets old to be marching down the center of the street with the crowd ecstatic for one simple reason: we're the Highly-Tighties. Talking to people after the parade was a humbling experience; hearing stories of how they remember the Highly-Tighties performing there some 15-plus years ago. It is quite an honor to live in the wake of excellence established by each of you and it is a privilege to maintain that standard for the generations to come.

The St. Patrick's Day Parade marked just a bit past the half-way point of the semester, and the remainder of the practices were spent preparing for the concert and, when the weather allowed, the Change of Command Pass-in-Review. That would seem like a lot of time to prepare, but the time quickly ran out and when



**Highly-Tighty Seniors in Savannah**



# Cadet Major Bryan C. Engelmann , HT '16



## Deeds Not Words



***Band Practice for Savannah St. Patrick's Day Parade***

Award, and the Recruitment Award. Special recognition should also go to Cadet Corporal Bartlett who won the Eager Individual as a part of the Eager Squad Competition. It is also worth noting the band came in a close second place for Gold Cord; however, second place has never seemed to satisfy me so we'll look to next year's leadership for that victory.

Overall, it has been an excellent semester to close out an excellent year. Serving as the commander has been extremely rewarding and an experience I will certainly value for the remainder of my life. I am excited to leave the band in the capable hand of my successor, Cadet Major Nathaniel Oslund. Being a member of the Highty-Tighties has defined my cadet career, and I am proud to be a part of this unit and to partake in the history which it carries.

Bryan C. Engelmann, HT '16

it came to crunch time, the band hunkered down and pushed through; producing a quality Change of Command performance and an excellent appearance at the Spring Concert.

As I'm sure many of you already know, the Highty-Tighties received numerous awards at the end-of-the year Military Awards Ceremony to include: the Kohler Cup top marching unit award, the Eager Squad



***Band Company Participates in Eager Squad Competition      Photos by Band Staff***

# DIRECTOR'S DOWNBEAT

## Senior Chief James Bean

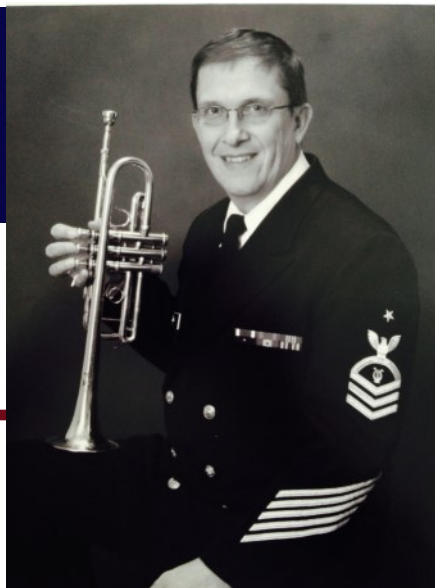
**It is time to reflect on my first year as the Highty-Tighty director**

As the school year has come to a close, it is time to reflect on my first year as the Highty-Tighty director. What a whirlwind adventure it has been! I am very thankful that my inaugural year had such strong cadet leadership at the helm. The band COs, Carella and Engelmann, consistently demonstrated a high level of commitment and excellence, always willing to answer any question I had with patience and forthright honesty. My first drum major, Dixon Johnson, proved to be an outstanding leader and has set the bar, in my eyes, for what a DM should be. The entire senior HT class will always be remembered as a fantastic group of men and women who welcomed me, this outsider, and made me feel at home.

While participating in the Caldwell March this spring, I overheard an upperclassman ask various freshmen what their highlight was during their first year. The overwhelming response was the friendships they forged within the band and the camaraderie they shared with fellow HTs. This will be what I emphasize when recruiting new bandsmen this summer during orientation in July. I believe young men and women first entering college are looking for a place to belong, and incoming freshmen with musical experience need to know the Highty-Tighties offer that and so much more. Currently, we have over 100 returning upperclassmen and 30-plus incoming freshmen already signed up for band. My goal is to employ 60 new arrivals with an interest in making music by the end of orientation.

So what do I have planned for the coming year? Currently, I am working on the application process for the 2017 Cherry Blossom Festival with the hopes to combine that with a clinic or performance with one of the elite service bands in Washington, DC. Additionally, with a presidential election in January, there is always the possibility of an Inaugural Parade invitation. After a successful May concert, I am optimistic in taking our recording and creating CDs for purchase. These sales, combined with the new instrument initiative (see details on opposite page), will help to replace some of our more "tired" instruments. To date, I am excited to report that we have had several new instruments donated to us: two trombones, a clarinet, and two saxophones.

I am extremely excited to begin a second year without the angst of the unknown at every turn! Though the fall schedule should prove challenging with four football games in September, I have every confidence in the new band leadership chosen for next year. Musically speaking, the elected performance staff is first-rate and our new DM, Kavi Muraleetharan, is an exceptional musician. Our administrative staff, with Band CO Nate Oslund in charge, exhibits the strength of character and dedication required of this deed-based organization. I look forward to the new year and can't wait to see what these talented, future leaders can accomplish!





# HIGHTY-TIGHTY INSTRUMENT INITIATIVE

Outfitting a 150-plus musical organization with instruments is both costly and continuous. As instruments get tired and old, replacement becomes necessary. Due to age and years of outdoor performances, as well as an influx in performers, the band is in need of many new instruments. In order to alleviate some of the cost, the *HT Instrument Initiative* is being introduced to help supplement our supply. Alumni interested in helping can participate in two ways.

**First**, one can purchase a new instrument from our needs list, which is continually being updated as donations are received. These include piccolos, saxophones, trumpets, marching baritones, and sousaphones. It is important to note that only instruments from the list may be sponsored. If you choose to purchase an instrument from our list, your name will be engraved on that instrument as a testament to your donation.

**Secondly**, if you own a musical instrument that is collecting dust, you can donate a gently used band instrument. In order to be cost effective, only instruments in good repair can be accepted. For example, brass instruments should be free of noticeable dents, and woodwind instruments should have workable pads. Additionally, trumpets and trombones must be silver-plated. Your contribution of an instrument can be claimed as a tax deduction. If you have any questions or are interested in participating in the HT Instrument Initiative, please contact Senior Chief James Bean at [jbean88@vt.edu](mailto:jbean88@vt.edu) or 540-231-3296. Your support is greatly appreciated.

## HIGHTY-TIGHTY NEW INSTRUMENT SPONSORSHIPS

Instrument Needs  
Listed by Priority  
Prices as of Apr 2016

Instrument	COST
Sousaphone	\$ 7,600.00
Sousaphone	\$ 7,600.00
Sousaphone	\$ 7,600.00
Marching Baritone	\$ 2,700.00
Marching Baritone	\$ 2,700.00
Marching Baritone	\$ 2,700.00
Piccolo	\$ 750.00
Piccolo	\$ 750.00

Instrument	COST
Piccolo	\$ 750.00
Alto Sax	\$ 2,100.00
Tenor Sax	\$ 3,000.00
Tenor Sax	\$ 3,000.00
Clarinet	\$ 500.00
Trombone	\$ 1,600.00
Trumpet	\$ 2,800.00



# Development Update



This is my first contribution to the Highty-Tighty Notes, and I would first like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Bert Kinzey, HT '68, for his outstanding leadership over this past nine years as the HTA President. I also want to congratulate Mr. Chuck Rowell, HT '71, on his promotion to HTA President Elect and thank him for his guidance and leadership that he has provided to me in this new role as the VP for Development for the HTA.

Another academic year for the Highty-Tighties has concluded, and they are improving everywhere, in the classroom, on the football field, and the parade routes up and down the east coast. The 2015-16 year saw the band grow again with another large freshman class, and 28 seniors who have just graduated from the Corps. The average GPA has continued to improve across the board, and this is significantly helping with our retention of band cadets. At the present time, Senior Chief Jim Bean is expecting another strong incoming class for the 2016-17 year of over 50 band cadets. With that said, the Schaeffer Endowment Fund needs more donations in order to maintain the \$1,000 freshmen stipend that each incoming band freshmen receives. The band is continuing to grow, and we are seeing numbers in the block that haven't been seen in over 40 years.

There are 16 Emerging Leader Scholarships (ELS) available to which you may contribute should you choose to do so. Please contact Mr. Scott Lyman at [rlyman@vt.edu](mailto:rlyman@vt.edu) or (540) 231-2085 if you are interested in contributing or pledging a commitment to any of our available scholarships.

The Highty-Tighty Homecoming is scheduled for the weekend of September 24, 2016. This is also university homecoming for the football game versus the East Carolina University Pirates. The pre-game show rehearsal will take place as usual the evening before (time and location is TBD). Then, on the day of the game, we will have the parade and march the pre-game show with the current band. Please plan to join us, so we can show outstanding support for the band for which we all have such fond memories. There will be a luncheon at Dietrick Dining Hall for \$15 per person that Col. Patience Larkin was so great in coordinating for us, and which enabled us to keep our costs down as well as find a location where we did not have to be drowned out by loud speakers across the street. We look forward to seeing each and every one of you in September as we continue to provide support for the Highty-Tighties. To register for Highty-Tighty Homecoming, go to the registration page at <http://www.alumni.vt.edu/reunion/hightytighty/>.

Deeds Not Words  
Scott D. Beman, HT '01  
Vice President for Development



# Spring Band Events



## Spring Concert



**Above and Right:** MUCS Jim Bean did a brilliant job conducting the HT Concert Band

**Left:** Drum Major Dixon Johnson also conducted the HT Concert Band during the performance

**Below:** Southern Colonels kicked off the Festival of Bands Concert

**Photos by MG Fullhart**



## Band Banquet



Bert Kinzey and Chuck Rowell welcome HT '16 to the alumni as they receive their HT Alumni Pins.

**Photo by Linda Kinzey**



Kyle Goggins (right) - Charles O Cornelison Senior Service Award Recipient Presented by Kavi Muraleetharan

**Photo by Bert Kinzey, HT '68**



# Change of Command 2016

April 30, 2016



## Cover Photo Collage

**Top:** Drum Major, Cadet Captain William Dixon Johnson, along with Band Commander, Cadet Major Bryan Engelmann, and Executive Officer, Cadet Captain Keegan Brian, lead the band for the last time during Change of Command ceremonies.

**Middle:** Band Director, Senior Chief Jim Bean, assists with the transfer of command from Spring 2016 Drum Major, Cadet Captain William Dixon Johnson to Fall 2016 Drum Major, Cadet Captain Kavi Muraleetharan.

**Bottom:** The new “Top Three” right after Change of Command ceremonies. From left; Band Executive Officer, Cadet Captain David Robison, Band Commander, Cadet Major Nathaniel Oslund, and Drum Major, Cadet Captain Kavi Muraleetharan

**Below: The Highly-Tighties before and after transfer of command — Since 1893 — The trademark: EXCELLENCE!**



**Photos by Mike Diersing**





# Change of Command 2016



## Matthew La Porte Tribute



*Band Commander, XO, and Drum Major pay tribute to the memory of Matthew La Porte, HT '09, who was one of the 32 victims in the tragic events of April 2007. A set of tenor mallets (Matthew's instrument) and a white citation cord are laid at the memorial in front of Burruss Hall.*

*Photos by Mike Diersing*

HT

*An impressive line of graduating seniors illustrates just how strong the Corps is in 2016  
Photo by Bert Kinzey, HT '68*







# St. Patrick's Day Parade



*The spring trip brought the Highly-Tighties once again to a band favorite, the Savannah, GA, St. Patrick's Day Parade. The Highly-Tighties were the featured band, and as such, led the parade as well as beginning the festivities with the playing of the National Anthem. Amidst many kisses and beads from the crowd, the band thrilled the audience with counter marches and mini-concerts of pep tunes. Since the parade fell on a Thursday, the band members were given an additional day of rest for sight-seeing, relaxation, and a well-deserved reprieve from work!*





# Savannah, Ga



*Thanks to MG Fullhart for the shot at left from his Facebook page.*



HT

*Thanks to Senior Chief Jim Bean for the photos and description of the event.*



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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 emails 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 email 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 emails with photographs and updates about the Band's activities, as well as information about alumni, please send your email 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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2333 Idavere Rd. SW  
Roanoke, Va. 24015  
[gmmname@aol.com](mailto:gmmname@aol.com)



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For more information on the Highty-Tighty Alumni, Inc  
visit our website at  
[www.hightytightyalumni.org](http://www.hightytightyalumni.org)

For more information on the present Highty-Tighties  
visit their website  
<http://www.band.vtcc.vt.edu>