

HIGHTY-TIGHTY

NOTES



The official newsletter of the Highty-Tighty Alumni, Inc.
Volume 38 Number 1 *Winter 2014*

HIGHTY-TIGHTY ALUMNI, INC.

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Front Cover: The Highly-Tighty Notes would like to dedicate this issue to Robert "Happy-Jack" Stephenson, HT '43, who passed away in August of 2013. This photo was taken on one of the many Homecoming weekends that Happy Jack participated in, during his 36-year run of Homecoming participation. (Photo by Bert Kinzey).

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Bert Kinzey, HT '68



A THANK YOU FROM THE CADETS

The primary mission of the Highty-Tighty Alumni, Inc. is to provide support to the Regimental Band, and no way of doing that is more important than the financial support made through our donations. The Schaeffer Account provides funding for the Highty-Tighty Freshman Stipend, and the Dobyns Account generates money to fund Emerging Leader Scholarships (ELS) for Band Company cadets. While some ELS scholarships are named and funded by individuals or specific accounts set up for those named scholarships, several Highty-Tighties receive Emerging Leader Scholarships that are funded by our general contributions to the Dobyns Account.

Each year, the cadets who receive the scholarships funded by the Dobyns Account write letters of appreciation for the financial aid they are receiving from us. These letters are addressed to me as president of the HTA, but they are really for all Highty-Tighty alumni who contribute to this account. There are two things that are truly noteworthy about their letters. First, the cadets are genuinely appreciative for the help they are getting, particularly with the high costs of attendance at Virginia Tech. Second, it is very apparent that these are among the finest young people in their generation, and the future of our nation rests with their success in both the military and civilian communities. We all can be assured that our contributions to the scholarships that help these Highty-Tighty cadets obtain their degrees is money well invested, not only in their futures but in the future of our nation as well.

I want to share with you some information about the Highty-Tighty ELS cadets who wrote to us as last semester came to a close.

Jason Conder is a senior majoring in mechanical engineering and will commission in the Army. He was the Regimental Executive Officer during fall semester, and he will Command the Highty-Tighties during spring semester, beginning with the Virginia Governor's Inaugural Parade in Richmond. Jason is from Basking Ridge, New Jersey, and he states that the ELS was very helpful for his family who is paying out-of-state tuition for him to be at Virginia Tech.

William Johnson is a sophomore from Shelby, Ohio, who is majoring in mechanical engineering. He is also the mellophone section leader and a fire team leader in the Highty-Tighties. His busy schedule also includes being on the Chapel Liaison Staff and the Historian Staff as well as being a squad leader in Delta Company in Navy ROTC. He hopes to commission in the Navy and become a pilot.

Joseph Callen is a senior Air Force cadet who is majoring in computer engineering. He also has two minors, one in leadership and the other in cyber security. He hopes to become an Air Force pilot or a cyber operator working on the network attack, network defense, and network exploitation side of cyber warfare. Joseph is a platoon leader in Band Section B. He says he also looks forward to marching with the Highty-Tighty Alumni Band for years to come.

Megan Lindsey

is also an Air Force cadet.

She is a sophomore who hails from Wilson, North Carolina. She hopes to

be an Air Force pilot or weather officer, and she is majoring in meteorology with a minor in leadership. She is also considering adding geoscience as a second minor. In spite of her busy schedule, she volunteers some of her time to work at the local animal shelters in Blacksburg and in Wilson. She credits her ELS for allowing her to continue her studies at Virginia Tech, because it lessens the financial burden of out-of-state tuition on her family.

Jonathan Wong is a Highty-Tighty senior from St. Petersburg, Florida. During fall semester, he served on Regimental Special Staff. Jonathan is in the Citizen-Leader Track who is majoring in sociology with a concentration in crime and deviance. He also is pursuing a minor in leadership. He looks forward to a future in law enforcement. Jonathan is a member of the Sash and Sabre Honor Society of VPI Battalion cadets.

I wish each Highty-Tighty alumnus could come and observe the cadets here in Blacksburg for several days. You would be impressed with these fine young people. They are worthy of our support. So many of them are examples we can all be proud of. They are following in our footsteps as members of the Regimental Band, and they do it while handling a difficult academic load, taking on the responsibilities of various leadership positions, and volunteering their time in worthwhile causes that are important to them.

Each time I hear of a cadet who is not returning to the Highty-Tighties for the next semester, I always ask the reason they are not coming back. For the past several years, more often than not the answer has been for financial reasons. In this economy the high cost of attendance is often more than a family can meet financially, particularly if there is more than one child in college. I know of a number of excellent and promising cadets who have had to drop out because of financial reasons, some as late as their senior year. By increasing our giving to the Schaeffer and Dobyns accounts, we can help more of these cadets remain at Tech as Highty-Tighties and receive their degrees. As each of you considers where to make financial contributions, I ask that you remember these fine young people and the organization to which they belong. They are part of our Highty-Tighty family.

To make a donation to the Schaeffer (Stipend), Dobyns (ELS), or any of the other accounts that go to Highty-Tighty accounts, go online at www.vtcc.vt.edu and clicking "giving." You will be able to designate which account your donation goes to. You can also send a check payable to the Virginia Tech Foundation to:

Virginia Tech
University Development 0336



DIRECTOR'S DOWNBEAT

Major George McNeill, Virginia Militia

Highly-Tighty Recruiting Update

The Highly-Tighties have been growing extremely well for last five years. The trend began to increase significantly in 2010 when we recruited over 60 freshmen. In 2013 we had 81 Freshmen sign up during the orientation period which runs during the month of July. But that number decreased to 69 at the start of the academic year. Presently, there are 141 cadets participating in the band company. The orientation period gives us the opportunity to meet and talk to new cadets and their parents. During this two-day period we conduct what I call musical assessment (not an audition). It gives us a chance to listen to the skill level of each person and offer advice to those that need improvement through private lessons provided by me during the academic year. Four years ago I decided to delegate the music assessment to the cadet leaders and spend more time engaging with new cadets and parents. What I discovered was a large number of new cadets joining the Corps with musical backgrounds but who chose not to participate in band because of time (the main reason), parental influence and other excuses. I discovered a way to get most of those new cadets to commit and it seems to be working extremely well. Every prospect unsure about joining is offered a 2-week trial period whereby the new cadet can join and after two weeks can make the decision to remain in the band or transfer out with no strings attached. In the past years we did not track those in the two-week period so last year, at the band banquet, I had asked those cadets to stand and be recognized and to my amazement most of them still remained. This year, 33 new cadets joined under the 2-week trial period and just five decided to transfer by the end of the fall semester.

Recruiting is paramount and here is an example of what we do during hometown recruiting: All Regimental Band cadets are encouraged to participate in Hometown Recruiting (in fact, Major Mariger comes and gives them a pep talk at the last practice before Thanksgiving Break), but it is mandatory for all freshman and junior cadets. They must go to their high school in an appropriate Corps uniform and give a rising senior or junior a packet of information about the Corps and the Highly-Tighties, and they are awarded one point towards the Gold Cord competition. For additional Gold Cord points, they can set up a table in their lunch room or conduct a guidance counselor sponsored information session. They can also give

presentations to their high school, for example many Band cadets talk with their Band Director to address all of the Band classes, and JROTC cadets will give presentations to all sections of their JROTC Unit. Enterprising cadets have even set up assemblies to present to their entire school, or get together with other cadets to present assemblies to many high schools in their area. This has been an extremely effective way to generate interest in being in the Highly-Tighties (and the Corps, of course)!

Lest you think we let them off too easily, they are required to obtain their guidance counselor/JROTC Instructor/ Band Director's signature on a form confirming they have accomplished their Hometown Recruiting assignment and they must attach their guidance counselor/JROTC Instructor/Band Director's business card. Upon return, Major Mariger collects all forms, doles out Gold Cord points or Regimental Disciplinary System demerits, and then, after scanning in all of the business cards, sends a letter of thank-you with a copy of the *Corps Review* and personal contact information for the Recruiting Office encouraging them to contact her with any referrals or questions they might have.

We have relied on the power of Hometown Recruiting to grow the Highly-Tighties and the Corps for several years, so if you happen upon a Highly-Tighty ask them how it went!

The band's major trips for 2014: Governor's Inaugural Parade in Richmond on January 11, and the St Patrick's Day in Savannah, Georgia on March 17. The Southern Colonels will perform once again in "Jazz on the Lawn" on April 25. Due to construction on the VT, the concert will move to Henderson lawn beginning at 7:30. The concert band will hold its second annual concert in May, so check back for time and location.

Many thanks to company commander Cadet Major Kevin Heald, Executive Officer Cadet Captain Johsua White, Drum Major Vaughn Richardson and others for their outstanding leadership during the 2013 Fall semester—Great Job! And I want to welcome the commander for 2014 Spring semester, Cadet Major Jason Conder.

Please take a moment and check out and enjoy this site of great Highly-Tighty photos (over 3,000 photos and three million views) at: <http://www.flickr.com/search/?q=highly-tighties>



FROM THE COMMANDER

Cadet Major Kevin Heald, HT' 14

A Successful Fall Semester



The fall semester is always busy, and through a lot of hard work the Band has pushed through and left a mix of impressive performances and successful Corps events in its wake. The first big event of the fall semester was Cord night. The company strove to make this event as meaningful to the freshmen as possible and the night was a big success. A new practice put into place this semester was that the freshmen placed a hanger in the company hallways with their nametape above it, and this was where they stored their cord while they were not wearing it. The hanger was used to demonstrate to the freshmen that receiving the cord was not the ultimate goal. Every day they have to keep working to improve themselves and to always strive to look Highty-Tighty both on and off the field.

On September 28th the freshmen completed the first Caldwell march. This is always an eagerly awaited event as it marks the end of red phase. For the freshmen it means no more cadre in the hallways as well as gaining several new privileges. Freshmen also become recognized as cadets and are no longer referred to as "new" cadets, a sign that their basic training is over. For sophomores this means that they will become fireteam leaders which, for most of them, will be their first leadership opportunity.

As the spring semester begins a new chain of command takes control of the band. Cadet Jason Conder will be the new overall commander and he is bringing fresh insight and new ideas for how to continue to improve the Band.



FROM THE PLAIN

The Band successfully completed the Fall marching season, performing spectacularly during the team's home games. The Band faced a lot of challenges this season; new music, more precise shows, less time available to practice, and all while still performing their duties within the Corps and serving as full time students. The Band overcame these obstacles and produced outstanding performances, both during pregame shows, parades, and Pass in Reviews. The Band recently performed very well in the Virginia Governor's Inaugural parade at the state Capitol in Richmond, Virginia. Looking forward, the Band has its sights on the Saint Patrick's Day Parade in Savannah, Georgia and preparations for another successful Spring concert and Change of Command ceremony in April. I as well as the rest of the Band are looking forward to the challenges ahead and we know with some hard work we will take them in stride. I hope to see you come out in support of the Band at our events.

- Cadet Captain Vaughn Richardson, Drum Major, HT '14

Above: Drum Major Vaughn Richardson, HT '14, stands on the Mall the morning of the 2013 Homecoming Parade. (Photo by Mike Diersing)



Homecoming 2013

Friday Night Band Practice At the Rector Field House



Above: Drum Major C/CPT Vaughn Richardson leads the Highly-Tighties through their pregame show while the Highly-Tighty Alumni Band looks on. (Photo by Mike Diersing)



Above: The Band Director and the two alumni Drum Majors in a huddle before practice starts.

Right: The current band and the alumni marching towards each other as part of the pregame show. Lori Keck-Beach, HT' 92 Drum Major, marches alongside the alumni band. (Photos by Mike Diersing)



Above: The moment of truth—both the Highly-Tighties and the Highly-Tighty Alumni Band perform a countermarch and join together while practicing the pregame show. (Photo by Mike Diersing)

Homecoming 2013

Homecoming Parade



Above: The Highty-Tighty Alumni Band steps off at the 2013 Homecoming Parade, led by Drum Major Lori Keck-Beach, HT '92. The seven man front looks fantastic!

Right: The HT Alumni banner is carried down Main Street by a group of future Hokies. (Photos by Mike Diersing)



Left: The Highty-Tighties and The Highty-Tighty Alumni Band line up together on the Drill Field after the Homecoming Parade. The future alumni look pretty sharp!

Above: The Band makes their way to the staging area on the morning of the parade.





Homecoming 2013

Highly-Tighty Picnic



Above: The Commandant of Cadets, Major General Randal Fullhart, addresses the cadets and alumni during the Homecoming Picnic.



Above Right: Band Director Major George McNeill updates the alumni on the Band's recent activities. (Photos by Mike Diersing)

Below Left: The alumni relax under the tents after the Homecoming Parade. (Photo by Gene Harrison, HT '68)

Below Right: HT Alumni President, Bert Kinzey, '68, presents the Jim Shaeffer Memorial Scholarship to the Band's outstanding sophomore, Cadet Corporal Randal Thomas, Class of 2016. (Photo by Mike Diersing)



Homecoming 2013

Homecoming Pregame



Top: The Highty-Tighty Alumni Band lines up in the end zone for the Homecoming pregame show. The Hokies played North Carolina in an ACC matchup, and won the game 27-17.

Right: The front line of the Highty-Tighty Alumni Band helps everyone line up and get ready to step off. (Photos by Mike Diersing)



Top: The Highty-Tighty Alumni stand at attention while the Skipper is fired. (Photo by Mike Diersing)





Development Update

We Need You..!



Above: The High-Tighties pose for a photo the morning of the Homecoming Parade. (Photo by Mike Dlersing)

Happy New Year to all Highly-Tighty alumni all over the world. Yes, we are spread all over the U.S. and many other countries as we begin 2014. From the HT Alumni Board of Directors, we wish you and your family a year of good health and prosperity.

As we think back over the many years since most of us graduated, I hope that one of your fondest memories is that of the years that each of you were a member of the Band. The current Highly-Tighties are strong in 2013-2014 and that is partly in thanks to each of you who have contributed to the various funds that help support our Band.

This year we are asking that you make an extra effort to find a way to make a pledge or send a check to help us increase the amount of support that we are able to give to keep current Band members in school as costs are ever increasing for our students. Many of them struggle to stay in school because of financial reasons. Here is where you can help and **WE NEED YOUR HELP.**

We need to keep pushing the Lilliston scholarship. Everything we have said about contributing to the scholarship for a young sophomore Highly-Tighty who died from a rare eye cancer in 2010 has not helped us see this fund grow to the necessary amount to endow it. Joshua Lilliston was an inspiration to his classmates, particularly his HT buds, and they have contributed proceeds from "Shadow Day" to his scholarship for the last 3 years. Unfortunately, gifts to his scholarship total less than \$20,000 to date. The HT Alumni Board has set a goal of \$100,000 to see it reach the necessary level.

Then we need to keep pushing the Schaeffer scholarship more affectionately known as the "freshman stipend". This endowment is currently only sufficient to support less than half of the freshmen entering the band. So until we can support each freshman with this scholarship, we must ask each of you to consider finding a way to help us grow this account. It is the single most often heard comment from parents of entering freshmen that the stipend for joining the Band was so helpful for each family.

We certainly hope that many of you will contact your classmates and make plans to attend Homecoming this Fall. It is one of the most enjoyable times of the year to visit the campus and relive old times, feel younger again, and see the ever-growing current Highly-Tighties. To make your pledge or send a check, please use the following details:

UNIVERSITY DEVELOPMENT (800) 533-1144

Alumni Notes



Robert "Happy Jack" Stephenson, HT '43

The Highty-Tighty Alumni mourn one of our own as we dedicate this issue of the Highty-Tighty Notes to a truly outstanding alumnus. This photo shows him being presented with the first ever Distinguished Highty-Tighty Alumni award presented to a living alumnus. (Photo by Gene Harrison, HT '68) Robert "Happy Jack" Stephenson was a member of the Highty-Tighty Class of 1943. From our first homecoming held in 1976 until 2011, he never missed participating, for a grand run of 36 consecutive years. We will miss him and his devotion to the Highty-Tighties.



Highty-Tighty Class of '55 Reunion

June 7-8, 2013

Above: (l-r) Jim Edmondson, Bob Jebson, guest speaker VTCC Commandant Major General Randal Fullhart, Mayer Levy (wearing an HTAA sweater with a current HT emblem and a 1955 HT emblem), George Keller, and Bill Craft.

Right: (l-r) Bill Craft, Bob Jebson, guest speaker HT Band Director Major George McNeill, Mayer Levy, George Keller, and Jim Edmondson. (Photos submitted by Mayer Levy)



**Save the date:
Homecoming
2014....!**

September 27th

Western Michigan vs VT



CHECK OUR WEBSITE at hightytightyalumni.org

New Cadet Knowledge:

The Highty-Tighties participate in the Caldwell March every Fall and Spring to commemorate the walk of Virginia Tech's first student, Addison Caldwell, to and from the campus back in 1872. How far is the Caldwell March?



Alumni Notes

HT Decals Available

HT magnetic decals are still available to order. There are a range of sizes and color options, so get more than one! Decals can be requested through Roberto Fonseca, so please email him at rfonseca@vt.edu to place your order. Payment is conducted via PayPal. Please contact Roberto directly to make an order or with any questions you may have.

Show your HT pride..!



DAN CURRY ('96) AND KRISTY BRANSTETTER ('94) WELCOMED THEIR 2ND CHILD ON APRIL 25TH. HANNA VAIL CURRY WEIGHED IN AT A HEALTHY 8 LBS 3 OZ AND 21" LONG. THEIR FIVE-YEAR OLD, MADISON ABIGAIL CURRY, IS VERY PROUD TO "FINALLY" BE A BIG SISTER.

CONGRATS!!



Above: The Highty-Tighties join the rest of the Corps of Cadets on the annual Caldwell March, held on September 28th, 2013. This march commemorates the 1872 trek of Addison Caldwell, the first student at Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College, and marks a significant stage in the training of all Corps freshman. (Photo by Mike Diersing).



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 *Highty-*

Tighty 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 :)

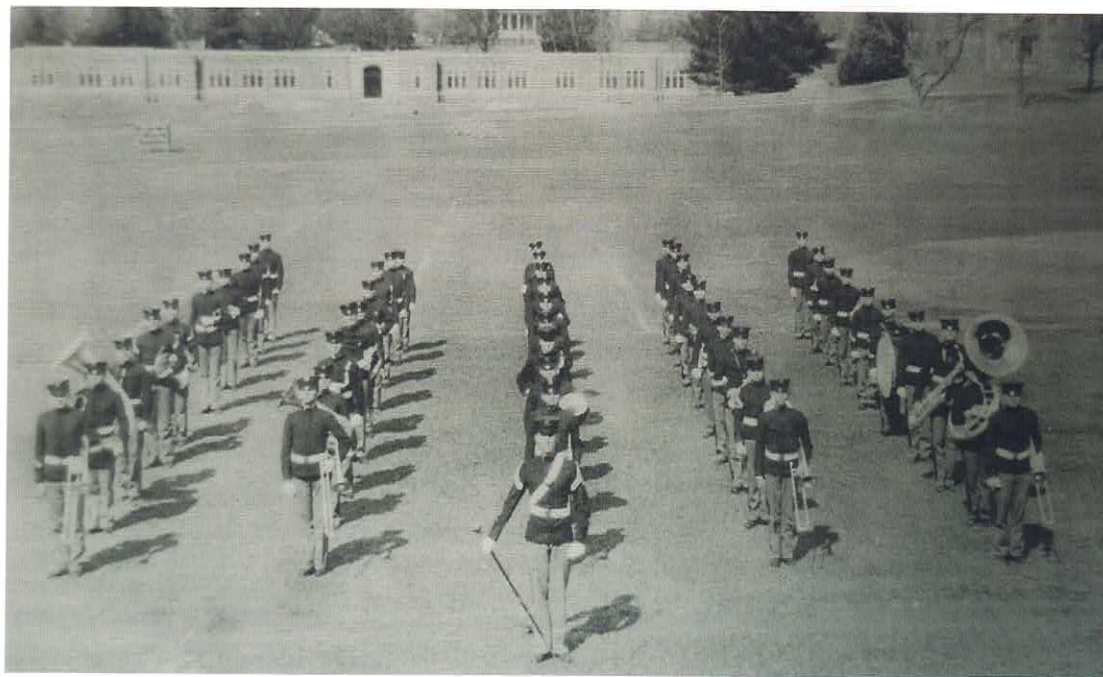
New Cadet Knowledge:

Addison Caldwell lived on the Caldwell homestead in Craig County, Virginia, which is 26 miles from the campus. The freshmen class march 13 miles each semester as part of their VTCC training.

History Notes



In the Late 1920s, the Size and Reputation of the



The Highty-Tighties for the 1926-1927 school year pose on the Drillfield in front of Patton Hall. At that time, Patton Hall had only one story, and the Regimental Band was one of the largest college bands in the nation. (Virginia Tech Special Collections)

By Bert Kinzey, HT '68

*Author's Note: This is the fifteenth in a continuing series of articles about the history of the Virginia Tech Regimental Band, the Highty-Tighties. The purpose of this series is to provide an accurate record of the Band's proud and amazing history that dates back unbroken 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 of Cadets from the first day the college opened its doors through 1934.*

The first big event for the Highty-Tighties of the 1926-1927 school year was a trip by rail to support the football team at a game against the University of Maryland played in Norfolk on October 16. Although two more football trips would follow, this would be the highlight of the season, and it was capped off by a 24-2 win over Maryland by the Gobblers.

After returning home, the Regimental Band participated in the dedication of VPI's two new athletic facilities, the War Memorial Gymnasium and Miles Field. The new basketball facility was dedicated on the morning of October 23, and the dedication of the stadium followed that afternoon. Both of these athletic arenas would serve the college for many years until the 1960s when they were replaced by Cassell Coliseum and Lane Stadium.

The second football trip was to Lynchburg to cheer on the team against Washington and Lee, but in spite of the Band's enthusiastic support, W&L shut out the Gobblers, 13 to 0.

The final trip was to Roanoke for the Military Classic of the South against arch-rival VMI on November 25. After traveling from Blacksburg to Roanoke by train, the entire Corps marched through the Star City of the South with the Highty-Tighties in the lead. Interestingly, VMI did not have a cadet band at that time, and the Second Regimental Band of the Virginia National Guard was attached to the VMI Corps of Cadets to serve as their band. Ironically, this band was the direct descendant of the Second Virginia Volunteer Regimental Band that was originally formed and made up of members of the VPI Cadet Band during the Spanish-American War. After pausing in downtown Roanoke, both corps marched into the stadium full of spirit to cheer on their respective teams in the highly anticipated classic. The final outcome was VPI 14, VMI 7.

The Highty-Tighties began their spring concert tour on April 11, traveling to the cities of Radford, Abingdon, Bristol, Marion and Pulaski. The Band Company cadets enjoyed playing at women's colleges in southwest Virginia, so performances were given at Radford State Teacher's College, Martha Washington College, Stonewall Jackson College, Sullins College, Virginia Intermont, and Marion College.

Upon returning to campus, the series of spring concerts began on May 15 and were conducted every Sunday for the rest of the school year except for June 12. All of these were



History Notes

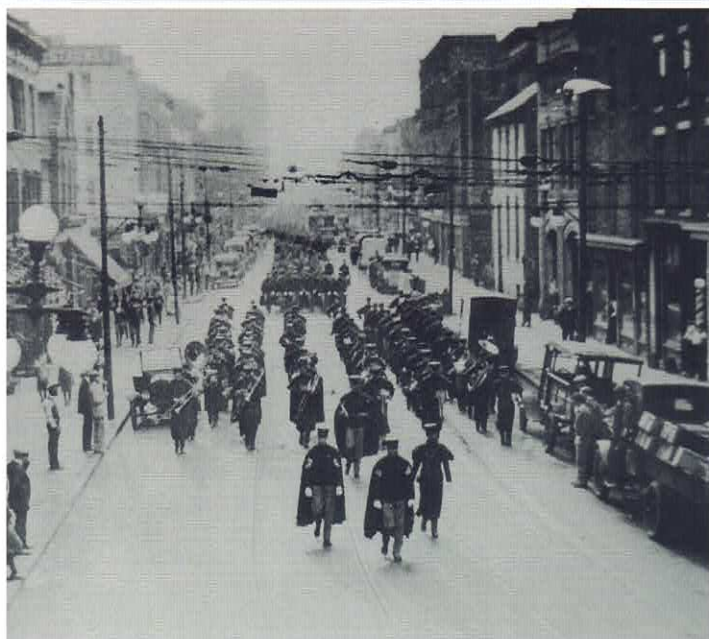
well attended, not only by the citizens of Blacksburg, but others from the surrounding area. For the final concert on June 19, more than 2,000 people were in attendance.

The 1927-1928 school year began much the same way the previous one did with a trip to Norfolk on October 15 to support the team as they played Maryland. Seventy-two cadets were in the Highty-Tighties at that time, making it one of the largest college bands in the nation. Following their performance at the game, the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot called them "one of the greatest college bands in America." Unfortunately, the performance of the football team was not as good, and it fell to Maryland by a score of 13 to 7.

On November 5, the Highty-Tighties were joined by the entire Corps of Cadets for a trip to Richmond where the Gobblers met the University of South Carolina on the gridiron. It would be a glorious win as VPI was victorious 35 to 0. But the traditional Thanksgiving Day game against VMI would not be so happy when VMI prevailed 12 to 9.

Shortly after the VPI - VMI game, William Luther Skaggs resigned as director of the Highty-Tighties on November 30 after seven years in that position. Skaggs was an accomplished composer with more than 1,000 works to his credit. At concerts, one-fourth of the pieces performed by the Highty-Tighties were his works. Among these was the "VPI Cadet March." But the 69-year-old director felt it was time to seek a slower pace. The following day, December 1, Georg Albert Johnson was named the new director of the Regimental Band, and Jim Schaeffer continued as assistant bandmaster and music instructor.

Georg Albert Johnson was well qualified to take over the reigns of director. He had a degree from the Gerolstein Conservatory of Music in Chicago, and he held a certificate of ex-

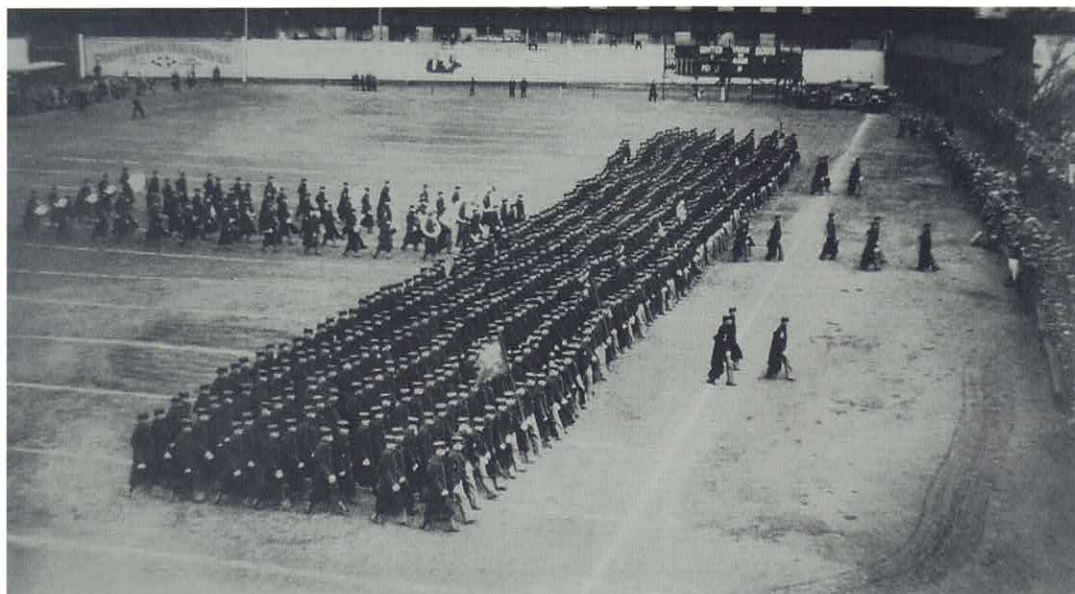


The Highty-Tighties lead the Regiment through Norfolk on October 16, 1926, prior to the football game with Maryland. (Virginia Tech Special Collections)

cellence from the Conn National Band School in field music. He had been a member of the Mexican Symphony, and he had toured in 46 states as a concert violinist.

In the spring, the usual tour of concerts around southwest Virginia and on campus commenced. On May 19, the Highty-Tighties traveled to Wytheville for the meeting and festival of Southwest Virginia, Inc., a group of nineteen counties and four towns involved in the development of the area. They were joined by the VPI baseball team that was scheduled to play an exhibition game against Emory & Henry College. On the way to Wytheville by train, the Techmen stopped to pick up all 400 female students from Radford State Teachers College, who were also participating in the event.

The Highty-Tighties were one of three bands that marched in front of more than 20,000 spectators. The other two were the Marion Band and the Norfolk & Western Band. That evening, the Highty-Tighties gave a concert, and they also played selections between the speeches given by the leadership of the organization.



The Virginia Polytechnic Institute Corps of Cadets marches off the field at the game against the University of South Carolina in Richmond on November 5, 1927. (Virginia Tech Special Collections)

History Notes



Georg Albert Johnson became the director of the Highty-Tighties on December 1, 1927. (Virginia Tech Special Collections)

Unfortunately the scheduled baseball game was rained out. Following their performances, Southwest Virginia, Inc., sent a special letter to Dr. Julian Burruss, President of VPI, praising and commending the Band for its excellent showing.

In addition to the usual football games, the fall quarter of the 1928-1929 school year saw the Highty-Tighties travel to Hillsville for the celebration of the opening of the Daniel Boone Trail. They gave a concert that was attended by more than 12,000 people. Following the concert, girls from Radford State Teachers College put on a pageant that was enjoyed by the cadets. After the pageant, the cadets and the Radford girls had a get-together that was described as being of "party proportions." In reporting on the Band's performance in Hillsville, the Roanoke Times stated that the Highty-

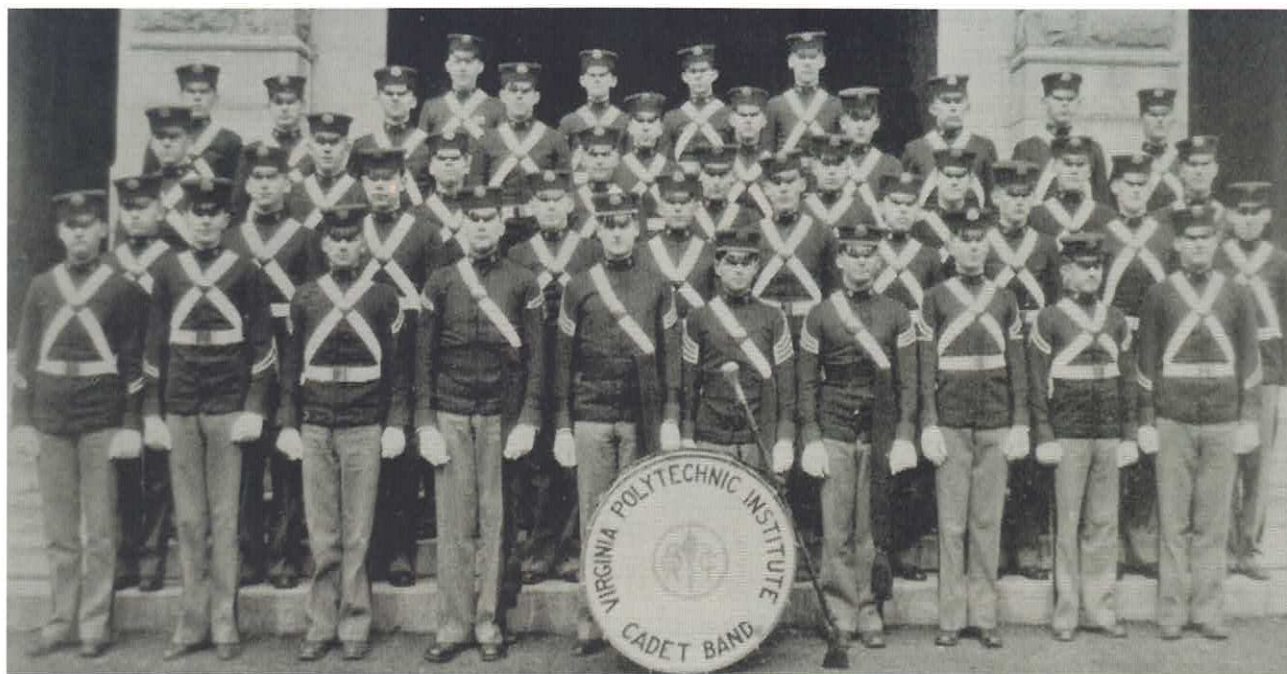
Tighties were "...rather high in the musical world and added a fine touch of color and melody."

The highlight of the football season was another trip to Norfolk to play the University of Maryland. The seventy-two cadets of the Highty-Tighties left on November 2 to travel to Norfolk by train. Once they arrived they marched from the train station to the YMCA, playing along the route to the delight of the spectators. They also performed a concert that evening at the Norva Theater. In reporting on the concert, the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot stated, "This is one of the strongest and best trained bands in college circles."

The next day, the rest of the Corps arrived by train, and the Highty-Tighties led them into the stadium. As the Band marched onto the field, the cheer from the crowd was deafening. The Norfolk Virginian-Pilot reported the event by stating, "The crowd gave a cheer that rocked the high fence about the park and echoed for blocks around." When the final whistle sounded to end the game, VPI was the winner of the hard-fought contest, 9 to 6.

In addition to the spring concerts, the Highty-Tighties performed a radio concert in Roanoke on April 20. The broadcast on WDBJ radio lasted for one hour, and the station received many calls complimenting their performance. Following the radio program, the VPI alumni in Roanoke hosted a party honoring the Band.

The following month, Southwest Virginia, Inc., held its meetings and festival on the VPI campus, and the Highty-Tighties kicked off the event with a concert in Miles Stadium. The usual spring concerts on campus would follow for the next several weeks until the school year ended with commencement exercises.



The Cadet Band during the 1928-1929 session became the first group of Highty-Tighties to perform a concert on a radio broadcast. (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. 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 and click on Database. The site allows you to provide and update your mailing 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

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 Highty-Tighty Alumni, Inc
visit our website at
www.hightytightyalumni.org

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