

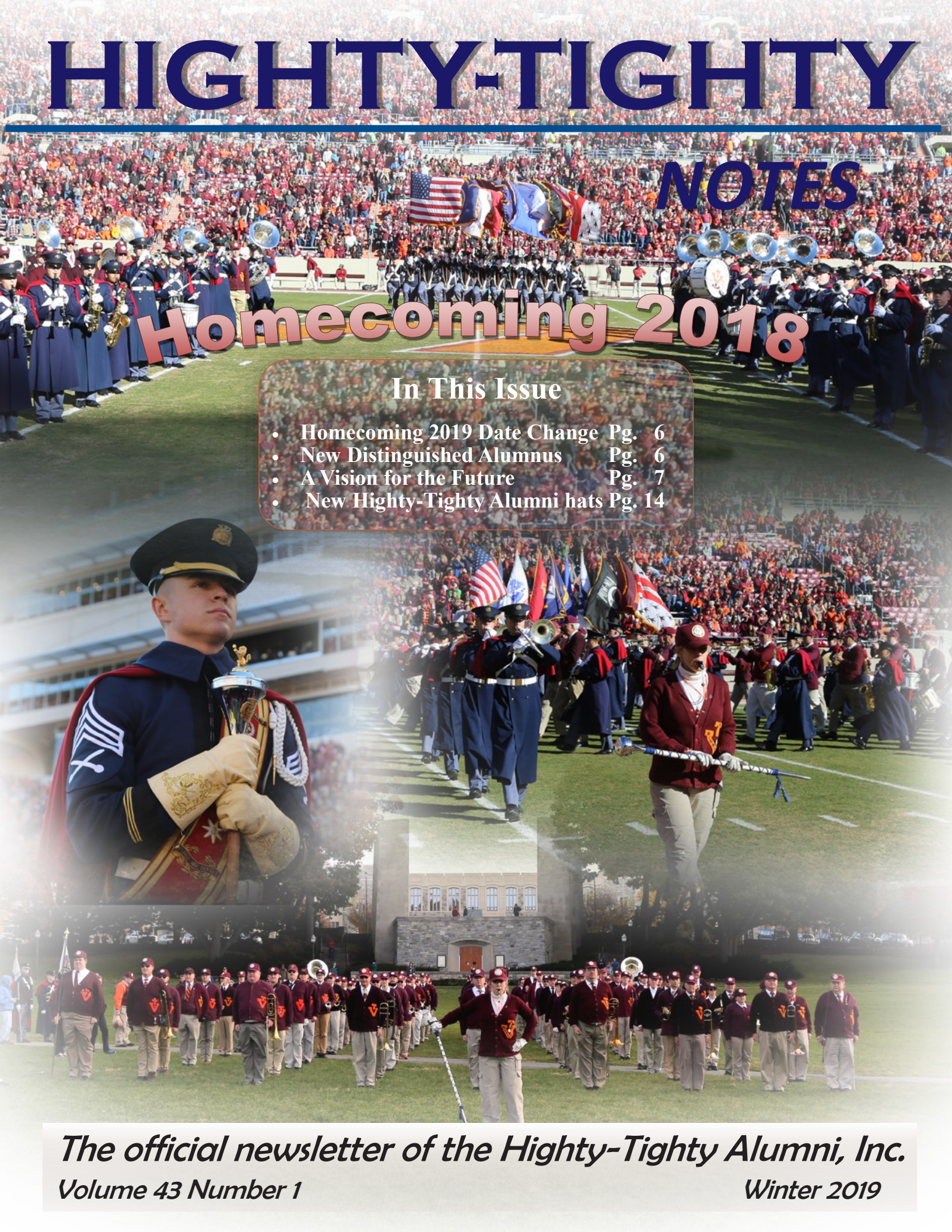
HIGHTY-TIGHTY

NOTES

Homecoming 2018

In This Issue

- Homecoming 2019 Date Change Pg. 6
- New Distinguished Alumnus Pg. 6
- A Vision for the Future Pg. 7
- New Highty-Tighty Alumni hats Pg. 14



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

Volume 43 Number 1

Winter 2019

HIGHTY-TIGHTY ALUMNI, INC.

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President



Bertram Y. Kinzey III
HT '68
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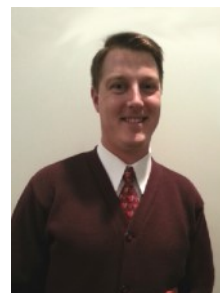
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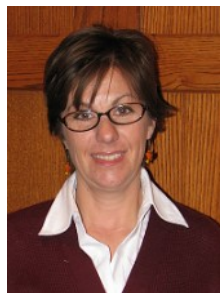
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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Introducing the New Highty-Tighty Alumni Band Hats

Dear Highty-Tighty Alumni and friends,

We hope you and your family had a blessed 2018 holiday season. A new year is upon us and we are making plans for another excellent year for activities.

There are some very good pictures of the Highty-Tighty Homecoming and Reunion this past November in this issue. We hope you enjoy them and thank all of our photographers for their contribution of time and pictures.

Our Director, Sr. Chief Jim Bean is again reminding us that the Band could use "gently used" instruments to help each Highty-Tighty to have an instrument to play when needed. Please contact Sr. Chief Bean at jbean88@vt.edu to let him know what kind of instrument you might be able to donate. You do get an appropriate tax deductible donation amount for any quality gifts.

For over 30 years now, we have had the same Highty-Tighty Alumni Band hats to wear on Homecoming weekend. The supply of those is exhausted, and they are a little dated looking. For months, we have looked at various hat brands as well as many hat design variations. After many options, we have decided on the new design and hope you will like it.

I want to especially thank VP of Development Scott Beman for many hours of work on vetting hats and designs. We will be ordering a large supply to be ready to change over to the new hats at this year's Highty-Tighty Reunion. You will be able to order a new hat during the registration process for our weekend this Fall. We hope that you will like the better quality hat and new design.

In closing, as I scan through a draft of this newsletter, I see a couple of items I'd like to highlight. First, Highty-Tighty Reunion has been set for October 18-19. You will see that mentioned several times, so be sure to mark your calendars. Also, please be sure to read the article by Dave Williams on page 6 about our recruiting and retention efforts. I like his thoughts on "our glorious past" and

what we need to do to "march confidently into the future."

Thank you for all that you do to help the Band thrive and keep the Tradition alive.

Best wishes,



Chuck Rowell HT '71
President, HTA



Here is a peek at the new hat. More information and details on page 14.





DIRECTOR'S DOWNBEAT

Senior Chief James Bean

My approach to music and education as HT band director is not just musical, but consists of monitoring cadets' progress as

developing leaders and successful university students. As a "boot" chief going through the Navy's initiation program in the summer of 1997, the number one lesson learned was to "take care of your people." Since their obligations in today's Corps are mammoth, I sometimes must sacrifice rehearsal time and even performances to see that their many obligations and needs are met. I realize that students come to the Corps of Cadets for a variety of reasons such as leadership training, a commission in the armed forces, and developing a lifelong level of discipline not found in the average undergraduate. Hopefully, through the process, my HT members will also learn an appreciation and love of music to last a lifetime. While a member of the HTs is constantly required to give more, it does not come without its rewards. The fact is, involvement in the Highty-Tighties creates exceptional cadets.

For the fourth spring in a row, a Highty-Tighty has been chosen as Regimental Commander. Colleen Pramenko, an Air Force ROTC member, is a wonderful musician and an exceptional example of the Corps' values. Since freshman year, she has not only been a standout trumpeter in all of our groups but has exemplified the leadership approach of "excellence without arrogance." Jacob Davis, a member of the Navy ROTC, excelled last semester as the Third Battalion CO and returns this semester as the Band Company CO. His can-do spirit and desire to create a unified, disciplined team will yield outstanding results. Another standout HT is senior Patrick Leary. Recently awarded the American Scholarship of Naval Engineers, Patrick is a frequent tenor soloist in our jazz band and has been selected as the Navy ROTC's CO this semester because of his exemplary devotion to duty and strength of leadership.

This past fall yielded another satisfying football

season with our drum major, Patrick Treubert, at the helm. Patrick has been an outstanding leader, instilling confidence throughout the entire band. I know that if I ask or want something done, it will get done. His upbeat and confident approach has been a joy to work with, and to see him grow from the quiet freshman to the assertive and cool leader has been inspiring.

While football season is always expected to be busy, this spring will prove to be just as chaotic. Our first ever drum clinic for local high school percussionists is being sponsored by C/ Michael Tingler beginning on March 1. The clinic will feature a weekend of instruction on drumming, learning about the Corps, and of course, Highty-Tighty membership. Thirty cadets and I will be traveling to Greensboro on March 6 to cheer on the women's basketball team as it competes in the annual ACC Tournament. On March 15 the band will travel to Savannah, Georgia, once again for its St. Patrick's Day festival. The Jaffe Eager Squad Competition in April is a band "all hands" event, as the HTs strive to hold onto their first place finish from last year. Please mark your calendar for our annual concert on May 5 at 1:00 p.m. in the Moss Arts Center. May 8 will be *Jazz on the Lawn* featuring the Southern Colonels, in front of Lane Hall at 6:30 p.m. Thank you for the wonderful opportunity you have given me in this fantastic organization, and I hope to see you at one of our upcoming events.

James M Bean, Senior Chief, USN (ret.)



Highty-Tighties participate in a Military Appreciation Ceremony at a men's basketball game

FROM THE COMMANDER

Cadet Major Jacob C. Davis

In many ways, this has not been a normal year for the Highty-Tighties. While our football schedule at first seemed intense, it was quickly altered by the myriad of weather events that Blacksburg experienced. Because of this, we had the opportunity to spend more time working on drills and perfecting our shows. Cadet Huemme, with Cadet Truebert, led the band to success at all performances. Some of the highlights from the semester included the annual Roanoke Veteran's Day Parade, women's basketball pep gigs, and playing with the HT Alumni Band during Homecoming weekend. It is always a privilege to swap stories with Alumni and hear some great tales from years ago.

In the Fall semester, the Band earned a 3.08 grade point average cumulatively. While a little lower than previous semesters, it is still higher than the Band traditionally performs. Given our busy schedule in the Fall semester, it is a major challenge to get a GPA above a 3.0. That, paired with the teamwork shown throughout the tough marching season, makes me very proud to have taken over as the Band Commander.

I have spent the last two semesters working on Third Battalion Staff as the Sergeant Major and the Battalion Commander. While those positions granted me an incredible experience, a lot of which I am eager to bring back to the Band, coming home has never been sweeter. I am very thankful to be back with the HTs, where I belong. Looking forward, the Band will be taking one of its favorite trips this semester. The Highty-Tighties will be returning to Savannah, Georgia, for its annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. This massive parade is a favorite of Band members, current and past. Senior Chief Bean will also be leading a contingent of the Band to Greensboro, North Carolina, to play for and cheer on the Virginia Tech women's basketball team in the ACC Tournament.

As the Band moves forward, I have two primary goals for this organization. The first is to improve the Band's overall GPA through a variety of

methods, to compete with line companies. My second goal is to increase discipline and performance standards for the Highty-Tighties. We, as a band, are losing some of the precision and discipline that helps carry our proud name across the country. My staff and I intend to stop that and bring the Band to its full glory and beyond. Some of you might be concerned that I did not list music in my top two priorities – do not fear. I am confident that mastering our grades and our composure will lead directly to better musicians and in turn, a more perfect Band. Cadet Treubert and Senior Chief Bean work diligently at training us to march precisely and play beautiful. I am providing the backbone for this.

Thank you all for your continued support and your faithful allegiance to this wonderful organization. The Highty-Tighties produce the most competent and prepared military officers and civilian leaders. You are the proudest and most dedicated of the Corps Alumni, and I look forward to soon joining your ranks.

Jacob C. Davis HT '19



Highty-Tighty drummers perform at the President's State of the University Speech



Alumni News

Our Newest Distinguished Highty-Tighty Alumnus, Bert Kinzey HT '68

It was entirely appropriate that one of the major agenda items for the annual meeting of the Highty-Tighty Alumni, was to honor our President Emeritus, Bert Kinzey, with the presentation of the Distinguished Highty-Tighty Alumni Award. We detailed much of Bert's distinguished service to the band last year as we described the passing of the presidential "Guidon" to Chuck Rowell after nine years of service as president of our organization. From his early years as a child in Blacksburg watching the band march with Jim Schaeffer at the helm to his later years as a bandsman and then sponsoring an annual award of a scholarship honoring that same Jim Schaeffer that he so admired as a kid, Bert has always had a special place in his heart for the Highty-Tighties. Not to be redundant, but it could not be more appropriate that Bertram Y. Kinzey III HT '68 is our newest Distinguished Highty-Tighty Alumnus.



Above left and center: Bert enjoys riding in the Homecoming parade for a change.

Above right: Chuck Rowell presents the Distinguished Highty-Tighty Alumni Award to Bert at the annual meeting.

Right: Bert makes his annual Jim Schaeffer Memorial Scholarship presentation to outstanding sophomore, Cadet SSGT Brendan Guthrie

Photos by Gene Harrison

*****FLASH*** Homecoming 2019 Date Change ***FLASH*****
Highty-Tighty Reunion 2019 is NOW Scheduled for October 18-19, 2019

Originally, Highty-Tighty Reunion and Virginia Tech's Homecoming had been scheduled for the Wake Forest game, November 9, 2019. We got word on February 18 of the change in schedule. Just wanted to make sure everyone scratches that November date.

Recruiting Retention & Marketing



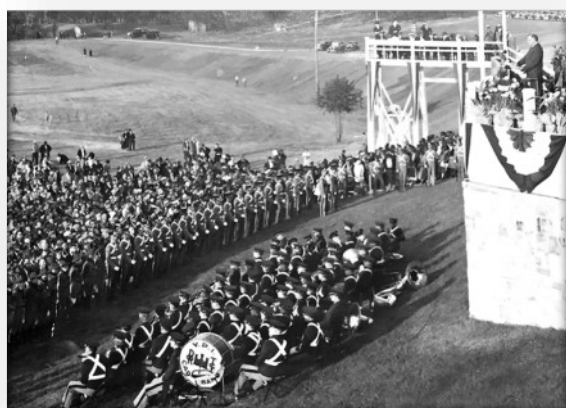
Marching Confidently Into the Future

If you are or ever were a Highty-Tighty, then it's a good bet that you are, at some level, a history buff. We're known for our history, we revel in it, and sometimes we tend to live in it. Our comrades in Lexington recently completed a campaign whose tag line was "a glorious past, a brilliant future." We Highty-Tighties have a glorious past. Tracing our lineage in the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets all the way back to 1893, we're the oldest continuously existing collegiate band in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Our cadet predecessors resigned from Virginia Tech in mass to enlist as the regimental band of the 2nd Regiment of Virginia Volunteer Infantry during the Spanish American War. We brag about having President Theodore Roosevelt call us "the nation's strength" when the Band passed in review for him in Charleston, and later played for his cousin President Franklin D. Roosevelt when the Salem Veterans Hospital was dedicated in 1934. In more recent years, we look back on the achievements of our living alumni – three consecutive Presidential Inaugural Parade first place finishes, so many that the competitive portion of the parade was retired. Through the mid-1960's the Highty-Tighties were not just known across the region – they/we were renowned. As a cadet in the late 1970s, I marveled at the photographs and films of the Highty-Tighties marching a powerful block band of 144 cadet-musicians, and dreamed of what it would be like to be at more than twice the strength we were during that era.

It is great to have that "glorious" past, but today we should be concerned about building, some would say rebuilding, a brilliant future. The Corps has turned a corner, recruiting and retention efforts have been successful for well over a decade, and the Corps this year, at 1,127 cadets, is the largest that the University has seen since 1966. The Band has benefitted from a rebuilt and robust Corps of Cadets, but I believe we are riding on the Corps' coattails instead of executing our traditional role of being the company that leads the Corps. The Band recruits heavily from the incoming

cadet class each year, and fortunately the assigned strength has consistently been well above 100 cadets. The good news portion of this article is we have done well; however, we could do better.

So what does better look like? Better looks like recruiting cadet-musicians every year from a pool of thousands of outstanding high school musicians. Better looks like a Highty-Tighty recruiting poster in virtually every band room across Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina, and New Jersey – Tech's biggest recruiting markets. Better looks like Virginia's high school band directors being friends on a first name basis with Senior Chief Bean. Better looks like crowds turning out to see the Highty-Tighties on parade in Washington, D.C., Richmond, Norfolk, Virginia Beach, and Roanoke. Better looks like high school seniors actually seeking out Senior Chief and Corps recruiters each fall about Emerging Leader Scholarships and Highty-Tighty Scholarships before they apply to and are accepted at Virginia Tech. Better looks like high school musicians coming up to Highty-Tighties at the end of a parade route and asking about how to become one. Better looks like 175 cadet-musicians assigned to Band Company so



Dedication of Salem VA Hospital, Oct. 19, 1934

that we field every football game performance or parade with at least 144 cadet-musicians. Better looks like the Highty-Tighties being more than just another Virginia Tech band. Better – no, success – looks like a resurgent and renowned Virginia Tech Regimental Band, the Highty-Tighties that are leading the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets and the wider University into the future.

Ut Prosim

David Williams HT '79



Development Update



Support The Highty-Tighties

The 2019 spring academic semester for the Highty-Tighties is kicking off, and the Band is prepping for another busy few months. The average GPA for the Band remains above 3.0, and that has proven to be a great recruiting and retention tool. The Schaeffer Endowment Fund is continuously in need of additional funds in order to maintain the \$1,000 stipend that each incoming band freshman receives, especially as the Band grows in numbers that we have not seen in a very long time.

The Highty-Tighty Annual Giving Fund (Fund # 877055) continues to grow, and it also is in need of continuous funding sources in order for the fund to properly support the efforts of the Band, as it was designed to do. If you would like to donate online, the URL is <https://givingto.vt.edu>, then select “Annual Giving,” then click on “Give Now,” then under “Select an area” choose “Corps of Cadets.” Another dropdown line will appear, and that is where you select “Highty-Tighties Annual Giving Fund”. There is an option now where you can have an amount of your choosing debited from your credit card on a monthly basis. If you would like to choose this option, or would like to donate to any of the other endowments or scholarships for the Highty-Tighties please contact Mr. Scott Lyman at rlyman@vt.edu or (540) 231-2085.

The Highty-Tighty Reunion has been scheduled for 2019. October 18-19 is the big weekend for our organization. Registration is not live yet, but we anticipate that will be up in May. Gunnyfest was once again held at the Hilton Garden Inn this past fall, and it was a great success with young alumni, as well as young at heart alumni in attendance. We are anticipating the event will be held there again the Friday of Homecoming weekend after band practice has concluded (9pm-midnight).

We are still working to update our Highty-Tighty Alumni contact list and the class leader list. It would be greatly appreciated if you could take a moment to send your updated contact information via e-mail (i.e. contact phone number, home address, e-mail address) to me, so we can provide better communication across the HT Alumni community. If you are a class leader, or would like to be your class’s leader or alternate leader, please indicate that. My e-mail address is vpihokie2001@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing the band demonstrate the precision and excellence that we all know as key attributes of the Highty-Tighties this spring, and for many years to come. Thank you all for your generosity and support of this great organization.

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

Be A Mentor!



A Message from our VP of Alumni Operations Dirk McComsey HT '92

For the 2018-2019 school year, the Highty-Tighty Alumni Mentor Program had its best mentor-to-freshman ratio since the program began. We had 36 mentors last year! However, a lot of the same alumni participate in the mentor program year after year. While these alumni are doing what they can to help the Band, it can become burdensome to those who have mentees who actively communicate and keep in touch throughout the years. Some of them need a break!

We need younger mentors to participate in the program. It's a great way to give back to the organization that means so much to all of us. Mentors can tell tales of "the good old days," while providing support and encouragement to the younger generation when they need a little bit of guidance from someone who has been through it all.

To participate in the Mentor Program, you just have to meet two requirements:

- Have graduated at least five years ago (for this upcoming year, that means the class of 2014 may now participate)
- Be able to meet with your assigned freshman(men) at least once per semester. This can be on campus or off. There have been several instances where mentors have met with their mentees over a break. Also, the HT Reunion counts as the first semester meeting.

Attempts are made to pair alumni with freshmen in the following categories in the order listed, unless requested otherwise:

- Gender
- Current hometown (this makes off-campus meetings easier for some)
- Instrument played
- Branch of service (or cadet only/VPI Battalion)
- Major

If helping the band is of interest to you and you can dedicate the small amount of time and effort required to be a mentor, please contact Dirk McComsey HT 92 (dirk@mccomsey.com) with your email address, the information listed above, and any other information you may think relevant.



It's Really All About People

This is the class of 2018 at the Highty-Tighty Banquet last May. You have already missed a mentor relationship with them, but there are new people coming next year who could enrich your life and provide you with an opportunity to be an important part of their Highty-Tighty experience.

Photo by Bert Kinzey



Homecoming 2018

Homecoming Provides Opportunities For Us
To Do What We Love To Do — Be Highly-Tighties Again



That hill on Main Street just keeps getting steeper!

Alumni and Future Alumni join forces on the field in Lane Stadium for the pregame show.



Fall colors provide a beautiful setting for Homecoming festivities.

HT



Brand New Alumni—Class of 2018 falls in with HTAB for the first time.



Photos by Mike Diersing



Reunion Meeting 2018

ANNUAL MEETING



*Jim Campbell HT '71 and Carter Gill HT '68
retire from the Board*



*Distinguished Highty-Tighty Alumnus the late T. O. Williams was
honored with a proclamation from the Virginia General Assembly. The
presentation was made to his son Tommy and his family*



*The Old Guard Highty-Tighty Class of 1968 was recognized. Left to right: John
Helmick, Arnold Baer, Ben Ferguson, Reggie Lemon, Mal Emerson, Carter Gill,
Larry Hollada, Bruce Hively, Bert Kinzey, and Gene Harrison.*

Photos by Gene Harrison



History Notes

Cover of Nelson Harris Book Features Early HTs

Nelson Harris is a Baptist minister and former mayor of Roanoke, Virginia. He has published a number of books about the Roanoke Valley including such titles as *Downtown Roanoke*, *Roanoke in Vintage Postcards*, *Norfolk and Western Railway Stations and Depots*, and then there is the title that Chuck Rowell brought to my attention as we were discussing what to feature here in History Notes, *Virginia Tech*. The cover of that book is shown at right. All of these books feature many vintage photographs that are really interesting to view if you are familiar with the subject of the book. Because a picture of an early “V.P.I. Cadet Band” appears on the cover of this book, we thought you would enjoy a sampling of the photos Rev. Harris has shared. Note that just a few of shots from the 119 page book are featured here but you are encouraged to pick up a copy — ISBN 0-7385-1651-1 — you will not have a problem finding it on the web. Another note: I have the hard copy of the book AND the Kindle digital version, which costs substantially less. I can tell you that viewing these pictures on a computer screen is far better than doing it the old fashioned way in print. I have placed these shots on highlytightlyalumni.org under the newsletter link so you can compare for yourself. The captions from the book are included here along with a few editorial comments. Enjoy!

George McMichael HT ‘70



Above: Cadets mingle in the quadrangle in front of Barracks Number One, at left, in this photograph dated 1907. (DLA/University Libraries, VPI&SU.)



Above: This is a view of the college's campus in 1894. This photograph shows Academic Buildings Numbers One and Two, in the background, and Barracks Numbers One and Two. (DLA/University Libraries, VPI&SU.)



Left: If students think dorm rooms are tight today, here are cadets stacked in their bunk beds, c. 1890. (DLA/University Libraries, VPI&SU.)

History Notes



Above: The cadet band eventually came to be known as the “Highty Tights.” Here the band is on the Tech Drillfield in 1958. (DLA/University Libraries, VPI&SU.)

Cover Shot Opposite Page: As the drum canvas denotes, this is the VPI Cadet Band from 1901. (DLA/ University Libraries, VPI&SU.)



The Tech cadet band had the honor of marching in the inauguration parade for President John F. Kennedy in 1961. (DLA/University Libraries, VPI&SU.)

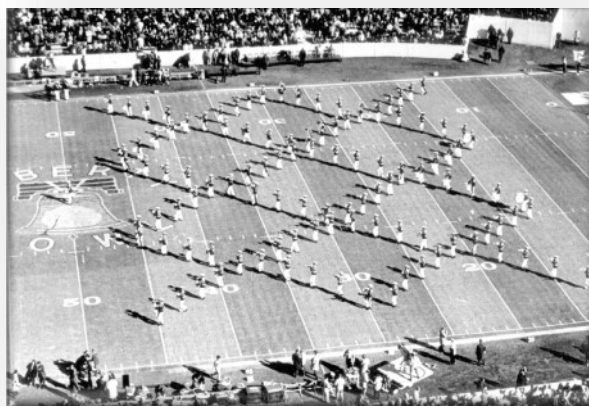


The cadet band marches in from the main walk near Barracks Number One, c. 1890. (DLA/ University Libraries, VPI&SU.)

Editors note: I think the band here is marching up the center walk toward Lane Hall so we are looking down on what is now the mall with the town of Blacksburg in the background.



Burruss Hall is certainly one of the most recognizable structures on the Tech campus. It originally went by the nickname “T and A Building,” in reference to it being the Teaching and Administration Building. Opened in June 1936, its name was changed to Burruss Hall in 1944 in honor of Pres. Julian A. Burruss, who served from 1930 until 1945. Dr. Burruss had served Tech in a number of capacities in addition to being president. In January 1945, Dr. Burruss was in an automobile accident while returning from Roanoke, Virginia. The accident hampered his public appearances and college activities. One of the most visionary presidents to serve Tech, Dr. Burruss died on January 4, 1947. The above photograph was taken in 1939. (DLA/University Libraries, VPI&SU.)



The cadet band marches at the 1969 Liberty Bowl. Unfortunately, VPI lost to Mississippi, 34-17. (DLA/ University Libraries, VPI&SU.)



Details on the New HTA Hat



These pictures are from art provided by the manufacturer of the new hat. The higher resolution graphics of the Alumni pin and the Band crest are shown so you can better appreciate how these hats will look.



Homecoming 2019

Highty-Tighty Reunion Date Announced

Homecoming (Reunion) 2019

Highty-Tighty Reunion 2019 Has Been Scheduled for October 18-19, 2019

So far, we only have confirmation of the dates for our Homecoming festivities for 2019. We will be playing—destroying— pulverizing the University of North Carolina on that beautiful sunny Saturday in October (my momma taught me to think positive!). We anticipate that the schedule will be much the same as recent Homecoming weekends with practice Friday at 7:30, parade Saturday at 9:00 am and lunch, annual meeting and pulverizing — err — game at times depending on when ESPN thinks they can sell the most Ford F150s whenever there is a time out on the field. So mark your calendars for October 18-19. Also note that registration is not live yet, but it should be up soon - probably May. We'll let you know when that's ready to go along with the other details as they become available.

Another item we are looking forward to at this year's Homecoming is wearing our brand new Highty-Tighty Alumni Band hats. An ample supply is being ordered soon so they will be ready in plenty of time for the October weekend. There will be more information about obtaining these hats when the registration webpage is up. We will post some photos of the actual hat at hightytightyalumni.org just as soon as we get our hands on some actual production samples.

Speaking of Homecoming

Our cover collage for this issue was produced from Homecoming 2018 photos by Mike Diersing downloaded from his Highty-Tighty Flickr page at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/42316262@N08/albums/with/72157651836707139>. That site is worth a visit with over 126,000 photos all organized into albums.

Photos in the cover collage include:

- **Top:** The Band frames the color guard entrance as pregame festivities kick into high gear.
- **Middle left:** Cadet Captain Parker Treubert stands ready to direct another rousing "Tech Triumph" to welcome the team into Lane Stadium.
- **Middle right:** Lori Keck-Beach HT '92 leads the band to the sidelines in the pregame show.
- **Bottom:** Highty-Tighty Alumni Band forms up on the Drillfield for the annual Homecoming group shot after the parade Saturday morning.



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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. You can update your information by sending an email to alumnidata@vt.edu. Use this address if you have a change to your email or mailing address. **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 provides a way for you to provide and request and update of your address, phone number, and email 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* email 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 the reunion 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@gmail.com

You may have your name removed at any time.

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

George McMichael, Editor

2333 Idavere Rd. SW

Roanoke, VA. 24015

gmmname@aol.com



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>