

THE MARCHING VIRGINIANS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

January 2002

FROM THE PRESIDENT

It was great seeing many of you at Homecoming and in Jacksonville. After the Gator Bowl, several dedicated MV alums got stuck in the Atlanta airport for hours before deciding to rent a car and drive home through the snow. Among the brave were Mara Kohls Barker ('91, Piccolo), who is Assistant Director for Alumni Relations in the College of Arts and Sciences, and Dr. Tony Distler (still the Voice of the Marching Virginians!).

As we say goodbye to 2001 and lost friends in the Sept 11 tragedy, I would like to mention just one more thing...check out the very inspiring article that appeared in the *Roanoke Times* on January 2 entitled "Virginia Tech band director Dave McKee was a link - Trade Center survivor thankful for Tech connection" (<http://www.roanoke.com/roatimes/news/story123735.html>). It describes Jimmy Loudon's ('86, Tuba) miraculous escape from the Towers and demonstrates how tight-knit our MV alumni group is.

It's also a testimony of how wonderful Dave McKee is. But I won't embarrass him here – the article speaks for itself. As all teachers, Dave loves to see his past students, so make sure you stop by and visit him at the games. Who knows, you may even run into your old band buddies.

Now if you're on the MVAA email list you've already seen this article. If you aren't, sign up for the email list NOW at www.spiritoftech.com! We promise you won't get any "spam" – only updates on Homecoming, MVAA activities, and other pertinent information. Also at this site, you'll find a brand new message board where you can share tales with your fellow MV alums.

We love to hear from all of you. Send us your news and updates for our next issue. We'd like to do another column on "Where are They Now?"

Happy New Year!
Betsy Rose
'90 piccolo

VISIT THE WEBSITE

www.spiritoftech.com

Our Technology Officer, Jim Davis, continues his tireless efforts to support a great current web site for the MVAA. Visit it often to get the latest news from Blacksburg, planned events, board updates, pictures and alumni mailing lists. If you need to update your personal information with the organization, you can do so at the web site.

Greetings from Blacksburg

This morning the sky was a fabulous blend of magenta, crimson, and every shade of red and blue in between. The traffic in town was negligible. The office is quiet, the practice rooms are empty, and the halls smell of fresh wax. Ah, winter break at Virginia Tech!

The season is over, and second semester begins in less than a week. The break gives us time to reflect on the events of the fall and anticipate the revitalization that occurs every spring on this campus. This is a great place !

It was a terrific fall for the MVs. After putting two "one-week wonders" on the field initially, things slowed down a bit. We actually had two full weeks to learn the other shows, and the kids responded well. The new seats in Lane Stadium were fine and we are very happy with the way the band sounds in the stands. New uniforms, new trombone slide covers, and new tunes - it was a good season. We enjoyed trips to Pittsburgh and Charlottesville (well, as much as anyone can enjoy a trip to the Grounds).

Our fourth trip to Jacksonville was enjoyable, productive and positive. Other than the weather on our return trip, we enjoyed an array of performances in Orlando and Jacksonville that were packed with Hokies.

2002 will bring new challenges to us. We have a rebuilding process ahead of us, as we said goodbye to both of our outstanding drum majors following the Gator Bowl! The good news (as usual) is the wealth of interest and enthusiasm that remains. Travel plans are still up in the air, as are dates for Homecoming and Band Parents Day

During the season, we enjoyed greeting alumni in Pittsburgh, Charlottesville, and Jacksonville. It was fun to see friends, families, and faces from the past. The events of September 11 changed all of us, as we lost one MV Alum (Rick Blood, Percussion, mid-80s), but were able to celebrate the safety of many other alumni as well as family members and friends of both current and former MVs. Thanks to each of you who communicated with me during these trying times.

Your board will be meeting in March to make decisions about the future direction of this organization, and I encourage you to contact a board member to discuss your ideas with them. At our meeting last March, there was a lot of discussion about our direction - whether we support endowments, scholarships, outreach (sending the MVs out on the road more frequently within the Commonwealth), or other ways the MVAA can support the band. You were very successful in several new initiatives this year. The potential is truly unlimited.

Have a great winter, and I'll see you this fall with *The Spirit of Tech!*

Where do we stand on pledges???

In 1999 we purchased our sousaphones with the help of a loan of \$26,321 from the Virginia Tech Foundation.

Over the past three years, you have faithfully helped us to reduce the balance. At present, our balance is \$7910, with a payoff deadline of May 2003.

Please take steps to fulfill your commitment.
THANKS!

Treasurer's Report

2000-2001

Ann Marie Gillikin, Treasurer

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Beginning Balance (10/2000) | \$5,184.75 |
| Income | \$10,612.40 |
| Expenses | |
| Va Tech Athletics | \$8,400.00 |
| Custom Catering | \$1,268.00 |
| Abbott Bus Lines | \$ 450.00 |
| Refunds | \$ 598.50 |
| MV Band Camp Ice Cream | \$101.88 |
| MV Pitt Towels | \$756.00 |
| MVAA P. O. Box | \$55.00 |
| MV Pitt trip | \$438.00 |
| Total Expenses | \$12,067.38 |
| Ending Balance (10/2001) | \$3,729.77 |

MVAA Activities

Following a hot Saturday afternoon rehearsal during Band Camp, a group of MVAA members served over 25 gallons of ice cream, chocolate syrup, and toppings to an appreciative group of MVs. The current band members met and exchanged greetings with alumni like Paul Willard, Bob and Bonnie, Vic and Wendy Stewart, Mara Barker, Emily Poti, and others. A great tradition has begun!

Upon arrival at our hotel in Pittsburgh, band members found goodie bags in their rooms, filled with edibles, Hokie paraphernalia, and their own "Panther Wipe" to wave at the game. Even the disappointing loss to Pitt couldn't diminish the appreciation of the band members!

Throughout the year, we remain honored to have the services of Jenn Blank, Lisa Van Dyke, and Kristine Stankoski (on sabbatical) with our flag corps, as well as the continued support of Bob White and his camera and Bonnie Maccubbin with her "what can I do to HELP!?"

The MVs and the MVAA were represented at the National Championship game by Brian Nozny, a 2000 VT graduate who serves as percussion instructor for the University of Miami marching band!

Your board members! Countless hours of dedicated service, lots of advice and counsel, plenty of smiles and encouragement! Board members will be in Blacksburg in late March - let them know what you think!

The Marching Virginians

Alumni Association

Mission Statement

- To foster a spirit of interest and cooperation among band alumni toward the University.
- To support The Marching Virginians and its director.
- To encourage acquaintance and fellowship between alumni and current band members
- To strive for greater recognition of The Marching Virginians.
- To be constantly alert for, and to stimulate the discovery of, potential talent in high school band members for The Marching Virginians.
- To create good will for The Marching Virginians.
- To encourage respect for the high standards that The Marching Virginians strive to uphold.

Catching up with Bob White

(Executive Officer, 1980-81)

I enjoy keeping tabs on you folks. Here's a slightly different edition of "Whatever Happened to. . ." DM.

It's been 20 years now since I left Virginia Tech as a student – but I've stuck around Blacksburg, discovering the "fountain of youth!" After I left Tech, I was employed at Industrial Drives in Radford, VA and have survived 20 years of acquisitions, downsizing, right sizing, and management shuffles. I currently run the Technical Services team for our Customer Support organization covering the vast array of products built by Kollmorgen (we are now part of the Danaher Corporation). Just as a side note – Kollmorgen products are present in quite a few areas you may be familiar with – submersible motors on the Jason Jr. vehicle which explored the Titanic, frameless motors in the implantable heart pump, motors on mail sorting machines around the world and most of the smart munitions used in the Gulf and current war on terrorism use our motor technology!

I married Bonnie Maccubbin in 1982 and have enjoyed traveling down the road of life together. We have two great kids – Taylor, now a freshman trombonist in high school (the first MV kid in the Blacksburg High School Marching Band) and Mac, who is now in middle school. Bonnie spent years working in various capacities at Va. Tech and most recently joined me at Kollmorgen as Marketing Communications Manager. As of this writing, we have just moved into a new home in Blacksburg – our dream home! After 17 years in one place, moving was complete hell...but we made it, although we're feeling a bit "boxed" in!

I've continued photographing the band – taking somewhere between 1200 to 1500 slides each year. I enjoy keeping the slide show tradition at the Bandquet alive each year. It was the 1980-81 season where we first held the Bandquet off campus – I wanted to have some live entertainment that year, but the student leadership felt the initial cost would be prohibitive – so I threw together a slide show from a collection of slides taken by numerous people and the tradition began...

Both Bonnie and I received Masters this year through the University of Phoenix Distant Education program and we are gearing up to enjoy our new home and forget about school for a while!

Giving to The Marching Virginians

Financial support from alumni and friends of Virginia Tech is essential to maintaining the quality of a Virginia Tech education. The Office of University Development is the fundraising arm of Virginia Tech.

Over the past few years, The Marching Virginians have enjoyed rapidly increasing support from alumni, family, and friends. In the Year 2000, the band received over \$16,000 in support from alumni, in the form of one-time gifts, pledge payments and matching gifts.

This support is critical to the growth and educational development of the band, particularly in supporting equipment purchases and extended travel opportunities for the MV's. The formalization of the Marching Virginians Alumni Association (MVAA) several years ago was a direct result of interest expressed by band alumni to support the organization.

The best way to contribute to the band is an outright gift to the Virginia Tech Foundation. You should send a note with your check or make a notation directly on the check that you want your gift designated to **The Marching Virginians**. If you respond to a direct mailing or phone solicitation, a percentage of your gift reimburses the Office of University Development for expenses incurred in the solicitation.

For further information, please contact:

David McKee, Director of the Marching Virginians, 540-231-5704

or

Daniel Parker, Assistant Director of Development, College of Arts and Sciences, 540-231-8739

Come visit Dave!

Drop by and say *HI* when I'm in your area! It's always fun to see you people!!

February 1 & 2 - District Band, Gloucester High School
February 8-9 - Virginia Intercollegiate Band, University of Richmond
February 15-17 - University of South Carolina Honors Band, Columbia
March 8 & 9 - Judging, J.E.B. Stuart High School, Fairfax
March 15 & 16 - Judging, Charlottesville High School
March 23 - MVAA Board meeting, Blacksburg
April 19 & 20 - Judging, Gatlinburg, TN
April 25-27 - Music Major Alumni weekend, Blacksburg
University Symphony Band Concerts
April 10 @ Virginia Tech
April 24 @ Radford University

2000-2002 MVAA BOARD

Betsy Rose, President
David Sielaty, President-Elect
Cindy Stephenson Bowman, Secretary
Ann Marie Gillikin, Treasurer
Jim Davis, Technology Officer
Clay Davis, Member-at-Large (74-79)
Ed Gillikin, Member-at-Large (80-84)
Chris Bovee Wilson, Member-at-Large (85-89)
John Paganelli, Member-at-Large (90-94)
Emily Poti, Member-at-Large (95-99)
Mike Day, Member-at-Large (2000-)

Vic Stewart, Ex-Officio (Past President)
David McKee, MV Band Director