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***From the President***

Congratulations to you all! We exceeded our endowment campaign goal by nearly \$64,000 for a grand total of \$313,967. Just under 200 MV alumni, family and friends helped to make this happen, and your names will be part of MV 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary endowment memorial to be permanently engraved onto the wall of the band field tower.



Images for the memorial will be placed on our website ([www.spiritoftech.com](http://www.spiritoftech.com)) as soon as the final design is approved by the university.

At the January "Bandquet", the MVAA awarded the 2004 James R. Sochinski Spirit of Tech Award to current MV and newly elected executive officer, Linda Gross. We salute Linda and all the Spirit of Tech Award candidates for their dedication to the Marching Virginians and all the good that they do in the community. Visit the website to see a picture of Linda and Uncle Jim.

The MVAA board of directors held its annual meeting and retreat on the Tech campus during the first weekend of April. (See photo page 4) Board members brainstormed ways to improve Homecoming weekend like: providing folding chairs at the practice field, early registration and distribution of packets at the hotel on Friday evening prior to game day, and discussion of a possible post-game social in or around Lane Stadium. The board also finalized revisions to the MVAA constitution and by-laws.

A new alumni spirit award was established for outstanding service. The specifics for this award will be announced at the 2005 Homecoming general meeting. Let's welcome new board members Jay Muscatello-MAL 1974-1979, Ben Nelson-MAL 1995-1999, Nate Lambeth-MAL 2005-2009, and Linda Gross-MV Ex.O. Thank you for wanting to serve MV's past and present!

Lastly, it is my privilege to serve this board, the entire MVAA membership, and the many friends I've made over the years through the Marching Virginians organization. Please contact



me ([kedgillikin@comcast.net](mailto:kedgillikin@comcast.net)) or your member-at-large with any thoughts, ideas, a desire to become more active, or just to say hello....and hold the weekend of October 8<sup>th</sup> for Homecoming 2005!

See you there!  
"Chaka" Ed Gillikin  
Percussion '84-'89

***Marching Virginians Alumni Association***

	<b>Officers</b>	<b>Term</b>
President	Ed Gillikin	2004-2006
President-Elect	Clay Davis	2004-2008
Secretary	Cindy Bowman	2001-2005
Treasurer	Ann Marie Gillikin	2001-2005
Information Officer	Jim Davis	2002-2005
Kappa Kappa Psi	Stephen Eldridge	2003-2006
Alumni Representative		
Tau Beta Sigma	Tamsin Watson	2003-2006
Alumni Representative		
Past President	David Sielaty	2004-2006

**Member-at-Large**

1974-1979	Jay Muscatello	2004-2007
1980-1984	Tom Layne	2002-2005
1985-1989	Stephanie Elms	2004-2007
1990-1994	Dave Whiteside	2002-2005
1995-1999	Ben Nelson	2004-2007
2000-2004	Mike Day	2002-2005
2005-2009	Nate Lambeth	2004-2007
Executive Officer, The Marching Virginians	Linda Gross	
Director, The Marching Virginians	David McKee	

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## ***Springtime in Blacksburg***

Spring in Blacksburg means symphony band concerts, rank captain/section leader interviews, flag and drum major auditions, the spring game, and COMMENCEMENT! The 2004 MVs were truly an inspired and inspiring group – what a thrill to accompany them on a sensational season-ending journey to the 2005 Nokia Sugar Bowl! The pictures from the bowl game pretty much tell it all – the great young people who make up the current edition of the MVs are just as extraordinary as you were when you wore the uniform. I hope you enjoy sharing a bit of our experience!!

This newsletter is loaded with exciting details about some of the happenings surrounding the *Spirit of Tech*. Your MVAA board held an inspiring weekend retreat in Blacksburg in early April, and I hope you'll enjoy hearing about upcoming plans they are pursuing. As for the band, LOTS of excitement in the past, present, and future!

The 2004 MVs were THE BUSIEST group I've ever been associated with – 11 football performances, 3 uniform cleanings, shared field performances with many bands, countless alumni and several special guests. Homecoming was simply a thrill beyond words – hundreds of alumni returning to campus, unimaginable weather contrasts, and the celebration of our history and an unbelievably successful Endowment Campaign. Following seven football weekends in a row, band members crammed onto the stage of Burruss Auditorium for a full weekend to record our second CD (was released on April 15).

Two weeks later, we left Blacksburg before dawn for Chapel Hill for what turned out to be an amazing last-second victory for the Hokies. At that point, we started to think "bowl." If the bowl memories that I shared with the students didn't create much of a stir, there was a simple reason – only 25% of the current members had ever BEEN to a bowl (I hear a collective sigh from many of you right now!). Thanks for Jim and Christy Davis and Chuck and Lisa Van Dyke, we returned to the buses to find hundreds of pounds of snacks and lots of WATER. We limped home (yet another bus challenge) fueled by these goodie bags so thoughtfully prepared by MVAA members!

Our annual *Hokies for the Hungry* food drive to benefit the Montgomery County Christmas Store preceded the defeat of Maryland. We left for Thanksgiving and returned to feast upon the Cavaliers in late November. Band members began to listen when I mentioned the words "bowl game."

Charlotte and I were in Houston for Abby's final graduate recital when the Hokies stomped Miami to earn a BCS bowl game. The game barely ended before my phone started to ring – excited MVs celebrating throughout Blacksburg!

The trip to New Orleans was picture perfect - a great flight with 391 of your best friends, enthusiastic rehearsals in the Superdome, and - although we didn't win - the indescribable experience of a game in New Orleans. The buses left the hotel at 8 am and the plane lifted off at 10:30 on the morning after the game. I can't begin to tell you how proud was of this group! But (you know me), let me try!

Only 25% of the current members had ever BEEN to a bowl game. (rubbing it in). Their performances, their effort, their enthusiasm, their musicianship, their work ethic was amazing, especially considering so few knew what to expect. This group was truly relentless. The season was a thrill.

The leadership of the 2004 MVs was simply awesome. Executive Officer Nate Lambeth selected a group of "can do" leaders who never blinked. A pain-free and productive band camp was merely the beginning,. The BCA game at Fed-Ex, travel to Wake Forest and UNC, Homecoming, the recording sessions, the bowl game – this group of young leaders ALWAYS led by example. Drum majors, section leaders, rank captains – exceptional leadership in every regard. I am a lucky person to be surrounded by so many outstanding young people!

Enjoy catching up on the other news from Blacksburg – I hope you are all well!



### **Assistant Director Position Becoming Permanent!**

Many of you were beneficiaries of Dr. Jay Crone's outstanding service to the Marching Virginians from 1994-2003. Dr. Patrick Casey, our newly appointed director of the University Symphonic Wind Ensemble, jumped in and served as assistant director of the MVs during the 2004-05 season. We are indebted to these two gentlemen for their service to the ensemble over the past eleven years.

With the support of the university administration, we are in the process of searching for a full-time assistant director for the MVs, a person whose principal responsibilities will be working with the Marching Virginians and the men's basketball pep band. This person will have creative and administrative responsibilities with the band, as well as serving in other capacities within the Music Department. As this newsletter goes to press, we have over twenty applicants for the position; we hope to complete the search process before the end of the academic year.

Please join me in thanking Jay and Pat for their contributions to the life of the MVs and to our continued development. Both personally and professionally, we are the beneficiaries of their marvelous talents! I continue to be blessed by the support of two marvelous colleagues and friends – I hope you'll take time to say THANKS to both of them!

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### *Why it was great to be a Marching Virginian at the 2005 Nokia Sugar Bowl...*

- ▶ Mother's. Only a few blocks from the hotel, this stronghold of deliciousness offered gumbo, jambalaya, and more types of po' boys than you could shake a stick at. Definitely worth waiting in line for an hour, especially since the bar around the corner had a great price on Mimosas.
- ▶ The hotel elevators. It never failed that the elevators were hopelessly clogged beyond all belief. People gladly congratulated the band, warmly shook our hands, made some much appreciated jokes about Auburn and of course UVA, and proceeded to cut in front of you and fill the elevator as soon as the doors opened. Be warned: taking the stairs to the fortieth floor is not a trivial task.
- ▶ The Louisiana Superdome, and its wonderful announcer. The Superdome was huge. It was loud. It was the biggest venue most of the current MVs have performed in. And the field was covered with these little tiny black chunks of rubber that could be found in all of your shoes, clothes, and hair for the next two weeks. It didn't take long to figure out how to accumulate a handful of these wonderful things and throw them at your rank captain or the person beside you in concert block. The Superdome's announcer? He had this drawl that only someone born and raised in Louisiana could begin to imitate.
- ▶ Bourbon Street. What can I say? Hand Grenades from Tropical Isle, Hurricanes from Pat O'Brien's, and everything in between. Of course no one actually partook of any such activities, as we were all busy dutifully practicing our parts and had a nine o'clock curfew. Or was that the Auburn band? And beads? Well certainly everyone just bought those.
- ▶ Crawfish, or as I refer to them, crawdads. What other bowl trip affords you the opportunity to order an entire bucket full of these succulent little lobster wannabes? Try a fried crawdad po'boy with cole slaw and some hot sauce; you won't regret it.
- ▶ Virginia Tech Hokie Football. What else could I say that hasn't been said? This team that was picked to be (yet another) mediocre ACC football squad fought tooth and nail through the regular season, and then gave Auburn exactly the scare they deserved after all that sis boom bah war eagle talk about a split national championship. A tough loss, but the team proved they can hang with any team in the nation. Who knows? Make an extra catch or two or three, and the Hokies win that game.
- ▶ Virginia Tech Hokie Fans. Once again we showed that VT has one of the best fan bases in the nation. You couldn't go anywhere in New Orleans without seeing smiling people proudly displaying their orange and maroon. We didn't have the cute hundred-year old rah rah cheers the Auburn Kittens had, but when you have "LET'S GO HOKIES," what else do you need?
- ▶ Finally, the Marching Virginians themselves, young and old. The greatest lesson I learned as Executive Officer last season was that the group of people that call themselves MVs, from 1974 to today, is a group with unbounded potential and limitless enthusiasm. Whether it was practicing the halftime show in the Superdome, playing Tech Triumph for the millionth time at the pep rally, or craning their necks to watch that awful video screen to try and follow the football game, the MVs attacked every situation with inspiring, sometimes disturbing, fervor and smiles from ear to ear. I am proud to say this was the true highlight of my trip.

*~ Nate Lambeth*

### *M V A A Annual Meeting*



Seated (l-r) Ed Gillikin, Stephanie Elms, Ann Marie Gillikin, Linda Gross, Dave McKee Back (l-r) Mike Day, Jim Davis, Ben Nelson, Jay Muscatello, David Sielaty, Tom Layne, Clay Davis, Dave Whiteside, Tamsin Watson, Steve Eldridge, Nate Lambeth

### James R. Sochinski Spirit of Tech Award



(Pictured left to right: Bob White (representing the MVAA, Linda Gross, Dr. James Sochinski)

The third annual James R. Sochinski Spirit of Tech award was presented at the 2005 MV Bandquet in January. Presented by the Marching Virginians Alumni Association, this is a financial award given to a band member who exemplifies the true SPIRIT OF TECH by demonstrating outstanding citizenship and dedication during their career as a member of The Marching Virginians.

For the 2004 season, the MVAA is proud to present this award to **Linda Gross**.

Linda is a six-year member of the Marching Virginians. Following four years of undergraduate work in, Linda is currently completing her second year toward a Masters Degree in Biology. She has played in the MVs, Symphony Band, and Pep Band throughout her career. She has served as a rank captain, personnel officer, and unofficial art director for the MVs.

Linda has always been willing to do anything necessary to insure that the MVs present a great performance. Her record of service includes countless examples of putting others first. "I've done my best to make sure things run smoothly and the MVs look their best at all times." she wrote in her application for the award. "If that means hand-washing trombone slidecovers, riding an Abbott bus down a country road to a school with no marching band, or playing a gig at Burruss Auditorium at 8 am for 50 people, so be it."

The MVAA Board thanks all the talented and devoted students who submitted applications for this award.

### Parent Profile

Homecoming 2004 was a special occasion for many alumni but few experienced the halftime show the way **Jay Muscatello** did – marching next to his daughter. Senior Angela Muscatello may have missed the bowl trip due to her participation in a friend's wedding, but the thrill of doing the run-on with dad on the field was a once-in-a-lifetime experience that will be hard to match!

As a new member of the MVAA Board of Directors, Jay represents those amazing folks who created the MVs three decades ago. Having been associated with the band for such a long time, it didn't take Jay long to notice some of the remarkable changes that have occurred with the MVs.

"The most impressive thing to me is to see the stature that the MV's have at Tech now. When I was there it was a great group of folks who had a good time, but we often felt persecuted by those who didn't see a need for a Highty Tightly replacement. And though as a father of 4, the title "Marching Virgin" sounds pretty good to me now, we didn't enjoy the moniker in 1976."

Angela, a senior majoring in Psychology, served as a rank captain in the 'tone section during her senior year. Angela is a pure bred MV. Her mother, Cyndy Beach, and Dad met Cyndy's first night at band camp, back in the dark ages. She can only imagine what those early days in the MVs were like. "I remember asking my parents all sorts of questions about the Marching Virginians, but the way they explained it was quite different from what it is like now," she said about her parent's involvement with the early MV's. "I am proud of my parents for being former MV's!"

Angela was one of FOUR second generation MVs on the field this fall – Fred Gibson (Fred Gibson), Shannon Lyon (Greg and Debbie Wild) Lyons, and Alex Davis (Clay Davis) How times change!



Jay and Angela at dinner following a recent race

#### CHECK THE WEBSITE

Jim Davis has recently revised many sections on the website, including:  
 officer updates      historical photos      MVAA constitution and bylaws  
 Check it out - [www.spiritoftech.com/mvaa](http://www.spiritoftech.com/mvaa)

### ***Award to Acknowledge Alumni Support***

The Marching Virginians Alumni Association is pleased to announce a new award to recognize outstanding service by alumni (non-MVAA officer) in support of the band. This as-yet-unnamed award will acknowledge those individuals who have demonstrated selfless dedication to the band in their years following graduation. At present, there are no specific guidelines or criteria other than service to the band – you can participate in the process by contacting MVAA President Ed Gillikin to nominate any deserving alums for this award!



The MVs presented a memento to Governor Mark Warner following the 2005 Nokia Sugar Bowl. The Governor enjoyed hanging with the MVs during the pep rally in the French Quarter on January 3. The inscription on the collage reads "Governor Mark Warner marches to the beat of a different drummer with the Marching Virginians of Virginia Tech, 2005 Nokia Sugar Bowl".

Presenting the collage to Ellen Qualls, the Governor's Press Secretary, at the governor's office in Richmond are (L-R) Mary Bishop, Brian Wood, Gillian James, Eric MacMartin and Ms. Qualls.

### ***Giving to The Marching Virginians***

Financial support from alumni, parents, and friends of The Marching Virginians is essential to maintaining the quality of the band experience for our student-musicians. Over the past ten years, the MVs have benefited greatly from increased support from our many friends. The recently completed 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Endowment Campaign is an example of how the MVAA and its members are capable of providing for the band.

As much as the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Endowment will provide long-term support for the band, the need to develop an annual plan for supporting the operation of the band is equally challenging. You might be interested to learn the cost for some of the NECESSITIES each year: A typical uniform cleaning, \$2100; A typical pre-game lunch, \$1500; Chairs and tables for Homecoming 2005, \$3000.

Some of the NICETIES currently supported by the MVAA include: The annual *James. R. Sochinski Spirit of Tech* award, \$1000 Annual awards at the Bandquet, \$1400; Goody bags at away games, \$1000; The annual meeting of the MVAA board, \$2500; Tubas – the *20 for the 25<sup>th</sup>* campaign lives on - \$110,000.

Budgets at Virginia Tech – including those provided by Athletics – have remained unchanged since the early 1980s. We rely upon the gracious support of alumni to provide us with the NICETIES our students enjoy and deserve. In the coming months, you will learn about an exciting challenge opportunity that one of our alums has brought to the table. The opportunity to provide our students with NICETIES beyond the NECESSITIES is exciting beyond measure. Stay tuned! If you didn't give to the endowment campaign – boy, do we have an opportunity for you!

For further information, please contact Dave (540-231-8497) or Evan Bohnen, Director of Development for the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, 540-231-8734 or 1-866-261-4443.

### ***The Marching Virginians 2005 Schedule***

August 14-21	Band Camp
August 22 (Mon)	Classes begin
September 4 (Sun)	@ N. C. State (Travel)
September 10 (Sat)	@ Duke (Off)
September 17 (Sat)	OHIO UNIVERSITY <i>Band Parents Day</i>
September 24 (Sat)	GEORGIA TECH
October 1 (Sat)	@ WVU (no)
October 1	<i>Exhibition Tour</i> Charlottesville & Oakton
October 8 (Sat)	MARSHALL <i>Homecoming</i>
October 20 (Thurs)	@ Maryland (Off)
October 27 (Thurs)	BOSTON COLLEGE
November 5 (Sat)	MIAMI <i>Hokies for the Hungry</i>
November 19 (Sat)	@ Virginia (Travel)
November 26 (Sat)	NORTH CAROLINA

*Sugar Bowl 2005*

