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Welcome from the 1999 MVAA President

Dear Fellow Alumni:

What a difference a year makes!

It seems like only yesterday that hundreds of us gathered in Blacksburg celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Marching Virginians. During that weekend, many talked about the possibility of starting an official alumni organization. Now, in just a few months, we will once again assemble in "Hokieland" to celebrate another milestone in the history of the Marching Virginians. That's right! The 25th year and Silver Anniversary of *The Spirit of Tech*.

And have things changed!

During the last couple of years, the Tech Campus has experienced significant growth with the addition of new fitness facilities, dormitories, and classrooms. Likewise the Marching Virginians Alumni Association has experienced significant growth and changes. In the summer of 1998 the University recognized the group as an official alumni organization. This recognition proved significant in that

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the University Alumni Association and Development Offices joined us in our initial fund raising campaign "20 for the 25th". The campaign, without question, was successful in every aspect. Together, we raised over \$100,000 for the Marching Virginians and exceeded our goal by over ten percent. In the process, the university administration and alumni foundation were amazed and overwhelmed at the support and "spirit" of the MV alumni.

None of this success would have been achieved without the leadership, guidance and support of numerous individuals who have been involved with the Marching Virginians for many years. People like "Uncle Jim" Sochinski, whose wisdom, guidance and talent have been instrumental in the development of the MV's and the MVAA. Tony Distler, whose unmistakable "voice" has opened many MV shows, and led even more MV's on and off the field. Bonnie MacCubbin, whose perseverance, determination, and "warped" sense of humor over the years has provided the catalyst for a small group of interested alumni to blossom into an "official" university organization. And of course, none of this would be possible without the direction of Dave "Mr. MV" McKee.

All of this recent success has created a renewed sense of purpose and challenges for the membership of the MVAA. The opportunity now exists for our group to increase its presence on campus by supporting the Marching Virginians in other ways. We are currently discussing plans to begin other projects in support of the MV's. Band Camp social mixers, student mentoring and job placement assistance are just a few ideas that

have been mentioned where the MVAA can become involved. Membership involvement and exposure is the key to growing our organization.

We invite you to start your involvement by attending the 25th anniversary Celebration in October. Let us know your personal ideas and direction for the MVAA future. The recent successful fund-raiser has launched us on our way. It is now up to each of us to get involved in building the future of our organization.

Looking forward to seeing you in the fall! GO HOKIES!! |

Sincerely,

Vic Stewart, President
MVAA.

Greetings From Blacksburg

**WHAT AN INCREDIBLE YEAR!
WHAT A TERRIFIC
CELEBRATION WE HAVE TO
LOOK FORWARD TO! WOW!**

When we began the "20 for 25th" campaign last July, I received more than my share of bewildered looks, somewhat similar to those many of you expressed during various stages of your college careers. Now, as we conclude this campaign with overwhelming success, I am in awe of

your enthusiastic response. As gratifying as it has been to see the

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financial success of the Marching Virginians Alumni Association in this endeavor, I must confess that the real measure of success has been communicating with so many of you, catching up on your personal and professional lives. It has been truly amazing and inspiring to see what you've accomplished to date, and I am humbled to learn of so many inspiring lives! Mostly, you each seem to still enjoy life, laughter and your memories of the MV's! For that, I'm truly grateful.

The Fall of 1999 will be here before we know it, and I have but one bit of free advice - PLAN AHEAD - We want you here! For those who may remember the 20th anniversary celebration, it remains the highest highlight of my years at VT! I can only imagine what we're capable of rendering for the 25th! I visualize the Commonwealth of Virginia surrounded by over one thousand alumni, the biggest version of Superman ever played, and Blacksburg's greatest collection of doctors, lawyers, computer programmers, teachers, engineers, band directors, moms, dads, and who knows what else doing what else??? THE HOKIE POKIE!!!

You'll receive a number of mailings over the months ahead, and please, please, please return the information to us in a timely manner. Just as many of you were so helpful in planning other events, we rely heavily on the services of our current students to make this an enjoyable experience for each and every one of you. Please do your part by returning your

paperwork in a timely manner. I

don't want to see any wounded puppies at the end!

Have a marvelous Summer and, once again, thanks for your continued support of The Marching Virginians Alumni Association.

Dave McKee

Director, The Marching Virginians

The MV's Celebrate 25 years at the 1999 Homecoming Game!

Hang onto your hats everybody! The "Big One's" coming! The 1999 football season marks the 25th anniversary of the Marching Virginians. This is truly a celebration of accomplishments and times past. It also appropriately enough falls at a time where a new millennium will bring on new challenges and a new era of growth and excitement. Please make your plans to join the 1999 edition of the Marching Virginians and 25 years of MV Alums on Saturday, October 16th as we show Virginia Tech, The University of Syracuse and the world who truly is *The Spirit of Tech!!* We have already reserved a block of **1000** tickets for this event. Contact everyone you know and let's fill those seats!

"20 for 25th" Campaign a Thrilling Success!!

Many laughed at the idea of internally raising enough money for new performance sousaphones for the Marching Virginian's 1999 football season. "Can it really be done?" Well, the answer is **YES!**

In our Fall 1998 newsletter we announced our intentions to raise \$90,000.00. We are pleased to announce that Marching Virginians of past and present years raised **\$101,600.** This accomplishment goes beyond monumental. It also speaks for the commitment of our students and alumni. To support an organization in such a profoundly unselfish and enthusiastic manner speaks volumes about the character and quality of MV's.

The MVAA would like to thank everyone who helped by providing names, addresses, phone numbers, e-mail information and time to this project. Special thanks is to be extended to Dave for his hard work, and for once again, being the tie that binds the Marching Virginians together. The new sousaphones will be debuted at the Syracuse game on October 16th (Homecoming).

Visit the MVAA Website at

www.music.vt.edu/alumni/mvaa/

| The Marching Virginians Alumni Association |

Meet Your 1999 MVAA Board

(** editor's note: Some bios edited for space and content)

Vic Stewart, President - '84 urban Affairs - Percussion '82-'83; Drum Major '83-'84. married to Wendy Ayes and resides in Botetourt County, VA. Three children - Emily, 6; Katie, 3; Mitchell, 17 months. Vic is employed by Advance Auto parts as Assistant Vice President, Corporate Services.
vstewart@advanceauto.com

Betsy Rose, President-Elect - '90 - Flute, Delta Omicron, band Officer. Betsy is marketing Communications Coordinator for Health management Corporation, a subsidiary of Trigon in Richmond, VA. brose1@erols.com

Dave Sielaty, Treasurer- Quads '86-'89, percussion co-captain '88-'89; mvaa treasurer '96-'99. Happily married and raising a family with wife, Wendy and son Mitchell in Ashburn, VA. currently with Little and Associates Architects as Director of Computer-aided Facility management (CAFM) division in their DC Office.

Cindy Stephenson Bowman,

Secretary - '93 Business.

Alto sax, Cindy is Assistant Vice President for NBC Bank in Roanoke, Virginia a subsidiary of National Commerce Bancorporation in Memphis, TN. Married Andy Bowman in 1993, one daughter, Summer almost 2 years old and another on the way.
CBowmanfox@AOL.com

Jim Davis, Technology —

'88 Mathematics, Percussion. Jim is a Senior Applications Engineer at Volvo IT in Greensboro, NC. He will be maintaining the MVAA web site.
lt11.ut02183@memo.volvo.com

John Paganelli, Member at Large - '91, Engineering Science and mechanics, MV 87-89, trumpet, rank captain '89-'90, Member Kappa Kappa Psi. Employed by Miller Henning Associates - an acoustical and audiovisual system design consulting company in McLean, VA. Married to Meg (Staska, MV Flag '88-'91). Now living in Sterling, VA with daughter Alexandra, 2 and a 3-year-old American Eskimo dog, Bailey.

Ed Gillikin, Member at Large-'89, Architecture, with a minor in urban Affairs and Planning. Marched 5 MV seasons on the percussion line (3 years in the cymbal line and 2 years in the bass drum line). Rank Captain '86. Studied applied percussion under Dr. John Floyd, performed in the University Percussion Ensemble, the Lynchburg Symphony and the New River Valley Symphony, and the Metro Pep Band. Presently a registered architect and a project manager at Dewberry & Davis Architecture and Engineering in Richmond. Happily married to the very lovely and tall (but Syracuse, NY native) Kathy Davis Gillikin. Still plays drums around town, leads the local AIA chapter architect jazz band and subs in various R&B and jazz groups.

Clay Davis, Member at Large- '84 BS in Finance, minor in CS. MV's '80-'84, Rank Captain '81-'83, P.R. Officer '83 - '84, drunk 1980-86....Married Melaney Collins Davis (14 years), have two children Alexandra, 12 and Geoff, 8.

Professionally - done absolutely nothing. Currently working on my 12 year handicap, understanding my 12 year old and trying to persuade the IRS that buying a tuba IS fully deductible and I must not amortize it over 19.5 years.

Chris Bovee Wilson, Member at

Large - '89 Management and Management Science, piccolo. Married Mark Wilson (trumpet, KKY, '89 Aerospace Engineering). Chris is currently the Senior Programmer Analyst for Virginia International Terminals, and living in Chesapeake, VA. Two children, Daniel, 5 1/2 and Benjamin, 3.
wilsonchris@compuserve.com

MVAA Criteria

The President and two members-at-large will serve two-year terms; The President-Elect will serve a four-year term, the last two years as president; The Secretary and Treasurer will serve three-year terms and the remaining two members-at-large will serve one-year terms.

The Marching Virginians in 1999

Band Camp Schedule:

Sunday, August 15 -	Leadership
Monday, August 16 -	Percussion
Tuesday, August 17 -	Returning Flags
Wednesday, August 18 -	New Winds
Thursday, August 19 -	Returning Winds
Monday, Aug. 23	Classes Begin

Tentative Performance Schedule:

Sept. 4 JMU	Halftime
Sept. 11 UAB	Halftime
Sept. 23 Clemson	Pregame
Oct. 2 @UVA	Halftime
Oct. 16 Syracuse	Post Game
Nov. 6 @WVU	Halftime
Nov. 13 Miami	Pregame
Nov. 26 Boston College	Halftime

Alumni Notes

Please send any special announcements or happenings to MVAA Secretary Cindy Bowman at Cbowmanfox@aol.com.

Any new addresses or mailing list updates should be forwarded to Dave at David.Mckee@vt.edu.