

# THE MARCHING VIRGINIANS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

July 2001

## MEET YOUR NEW PRESIDENT

### Planning for the Future

*Betsy Rose ('90, Piccolo)*

Spring is here – a time for renewal and regrouping. As Michael Vick heads for Atlanta and Beamer regroup his team, the MVAA board is doing its Spring planning to get ready for the coming football season. That's right folks, we're charging up our team to plan for our future! We traveled to Blacksburg for a Board Retreat Weekend in late March to discuss plans for Homecoming 2001 and other exciting adventures. Below are highlights from our discussion:

- “What a volunteer board can accomplish” – Mara Kohls Barker (1991, flute) helped to jumpstart the discussion with the experience she has gleaned from serving as Assistant Director of Alumni Relations for the College of Arts and Sciences. Thanks for the encouragement and getting us started, Mara!
- Homecoming 2001 plans:
  - Friday afternoon MVAA Golf – For our golf lovers, we are tentatively planning a get-together at the Hanging Golf Course near Salem. Come early before Game Day and enjoy catching up with old friends on the links!
  - Alumni Annual Meeting time will take place between lunch and kick-off.
  - This year all Alumni “kids” are welcome to take part in the Hokie Pokie on the field with the Alumni Band! What an experience for our little ones!
- MVAA Trips & Events at Away/Bowl games – Using our web site for promotion, we will plan get-togethers at neighborhood “establishments” before away games. To keep informed, join the MVAA email list!
- MVAA Annual Fund campaign theme – more about this in the Fall!
- MVAA online donations – a great way to support the MVs! Go to the Virginia Tech Foundation page, conveniently make your tax-deductible donation in the “other” category, and designate it for the MVs.

### Inside This Issue:

- Meet your new President
- Greetings from Blacksburg
- Alumni Board Information
- Current schedules and reports
- Whatever happened to?

- MVAA-sponsored Ice Cream at Band Camp – a great welcome for new and returning students while promoting the MVAA!
- MVAA-sponsored mementos for MVs during away games (a “Pitt wipe” is in the works) – another way to show our appreciation for the students’ hard work while promoting the MVAA!
- “Dave In Your Area” – Before he travels to regional band competitions and festivals, Dave will give us a heads-up about his visits. Alumni receptions and dinners are possible.
- “What’s next for the MVAA?” After our astounding *Twenty for the Twenty-Fifth* Campaign, what do we do next???

Read this newsletter carefully as you’ll find some interesting info ....like an update on our ever-increasingly interactive web page (created by Jim Davis), and a feature on our past Drum Majors – *Whatever happened to. . . ?* By the way, I encourage ALL MV Alum to send in their personal updates to include on our website and/or newsletter. What are you up to lately? New job? New baby? We want to hear from you! You can email your submissions AND pictures to our Newsletter Editor Cindy Bowman at [CBowmanfox@aol.com](mailto:CBowmanfox@aol.com).

Thanks to all who marched at Homecoming 2000!! We were **over 100** strong last year! It’s exciting to relive the surge of energy that you get from playing to a roaring crowd of **55,000**, especially as our stadium and fans continue to grow each year. For some, picking up a horn or a bass drum may be harder on your back nowadays, but picking up my piccolo each year seems to still be effortless! Glad I didn’t play the sousaphone!

As I step up to the position as your president, I’d like to say I’m very humbled and excited to have this opportunity to serve the MVAA and I look forward to an exciting two years!

Rock’n’Roll!

Betsy Rose

P.S. A Big Thanks to Cindy Bowman for her efforts in designing this newsletter! And, also, *eternal* THANKS to Dave McKee for keeping our Board motivated!

# Greetings From Blacksburg

David McKee, Director, *The Marching Virginians*

HAPPY SUMMER! We survived our third trip to Jacksonville and finally won the Gator Bowl! Graduation has come and gone, and another group of happy Hokies leaves Blacksburg and enters the real world. Although it's still barely in the 60s, summer is here and we're deep into the planning process. New leadership has been put into place, and there's a lot of excitement as we anticipate an exciting 2001 season. New uniforms, new seats (once again), new corporate affiliations (we're now endorsed by Yamaha, Sabian, and Vic Firth!), a bunch of new instruments, and a trip to a new location - Pittsburgh! All this in addition to a visit to Hoo'ville and six terrific home games. It should be exciting.

As we approach the halfway point of 2001, I want to extend my thanks to each and every one of you! Whether you return to campus each year or haven't been back for a decade, thanks for your smiles, support and friendship. It's always fun to see you renew old friendships and relive your childhood! I enjoy sharing a brief moment in your lives, catching up and hearing about the adventures that now consume your lives. You're an amazing group of people!

As Betsy Rose takes over as president, I join everyone involved with the Marching Virginians Alumni Association in saying "Thanks" to Vic Stewart and the other members of the alumni board. Vic's energy, enthusiasm, and vision have been astounding, and I'm personally indebted to him for his tireless service and support.

Alumni often ask me what current band members are like. This question always results in a laugh and/or suspicious look. After 15 years running the MVs, the kids are exactly like most of you when you were here (except, of course, these kids have gone to LOTS of bowl games!). The students are enthusiastic, energetic, and come from an array of backgrounds. The band is still predominated by engineers, however, graduate students abound. Their creativity is only matched by their compassion. They are involved in every facet of university life and enjoy being part of this entourage. Essentially, they enjoy doing band while they succeed academically. Sounds just like many of you when you were here, doesn't it?

Your board is making 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 in 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. The potential is truly unlimited.

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

# Treasurer's Report

1999-2000

David Sielaty, Treasurer

<b>Beginning Balance</b>		<b>\$5,424.35</b>
<b>Income:</b>		
Football Tickets (299)		\$8,372.00
Tailgate – adult (177)		\$1,770.00
Tailgate – child (7)		\$56.00
Bus (32)		\$ 384.00
Contributions		\$ 60.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$10,642.00</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Va Tech Athletics		\$8,400.00
Custom Catering		\$1,938.60
Abbott Bus Lines		\$ 450.00
Refunds		\$ 93.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$10,881.60</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>		<b>\$5,184.75</b>

## The Marching Virginians

### 2001 schedule

AUGUST	19-26	Band Camp
SEPTEMBER	1	University of Connecticut (Pregame)
	8	Western Michigan University (Halftime)
	29	Central Florida (Halftime)
OCTOBER	13	Boston College (Homecoming)
	27	Syracuse (Halftime)
NOVEMBER	3	@ Pittsburgh
	17	@UVA
DECEMBER	1	Miami (Pregame)

# MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS

## NOW!!!

The MVAA has secured a block of 100 hotel rooms at the Wyndham Hotel in Roanoke for Homecoming Weekend. Homecoming will be Friday, October 12 and Saturday, October 13. For reservations, call the hotel directly at (540) 563-9300 and mention the Marching Virginians block. Cost is \$84 (plus taxes) per night for Friday and Saturday. Space is limited, so make your reservations now! A Friday night reception and Sunday morning brunch are being planned.

### VISIT THE WEBSITE!

[WWW.MUSIC.VT.EDU/ALUMNI/MVAA](http://WWW.MUSIC.VT.EDU/ALUMNI/MVAA)

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.

## New at Homecoming 2001

We honor the classes of  
1981 and 1991!

Your kids can do "The Hokie Pokie"  
at Halftime  
(read the Homecoming info)

## *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.

## *FOUR MV ALUMNI RELEASE* *ROCK CD*

If you're ever in Richmond, Virginia, check out the band *Naughty Little Monkey* and you'll find some familiar MV faces and original songs to download and hear. Mike App (drums), Dave Whiteside (bass), Corey Smith (guitar) and Betsy Rose (flute) with other band members have a CD out called "No Fire!" The music is described as down-to-earth, acoustic guitar-laden, high-energy, frat-rockish, down-right fun, good-old-fashioned party music with a flute to show their sensitive side and patented double-barrelled Sax Attack™ that can knock down walls. More fun than a barrel full of monkeys! *Naughty Little Monkey*, look into it. <http://www.nlmonkey.com>.

## *WHATEVER HAPPENED TO. . .????*

Do you often ponder where your drum major went after they left VT?  
Here's a brief update on your fearless field conductors over the years.

- 1974  
Dennis Furr ??
- 1975, 1976  
Dave Mistretta ??  
Mark Haston Lives in Richmond and works for Dupont, the mechanical engineer is a small plant manager and does special projects consulting. Mark is a Silver Hokie and attends most games.
- 1977  
Vicki Saville Lives in Charlotte and married to Keith Bardsley (another architect!). Vicki is a Registered Architect and Landscape Architect. Her nephew, Zach Bremner, recently graduated from the drum line!
- 1978  
Scott Donaldson Lives in Blacksburg, Scott married Kim Yates in 1982. He works for Aspen Corporation in Radford. He still finds himself hanging out with former MVs Greg and Debbie Lindsay, Eric and Amy Eberly, and Paul Willard.
- 1979, 1980  
Doug Armstrong Lives in Fredericksburg where he is the Band Director at Brooke Pointe High School. A number of his former students are now MVs.
- 1981  
Kathy Walsh ??
- 1982  
Marcus Jenkins ??
- 1983  
Catherine Brinson Cate is a professor of Mechanical Engineering at Northwestern University, and reports that she is living happily with her husband and two sons. (She is quick to point out that they are more important than being a professor). The family has spent the past year in Germany on sabbatical.  
Vic Stewart Lives in Roanoke with wife Wendy and their three children. Back on the job after taking leave for successful hip replacement surgery. Vic is an Assistant Vice President for Advance Auto Sales.
- 1984  
Catherine Brinson (above)  
Brenda LaRue Lives in North Carolina with her husband, Larry Osborne, and three boys.
- 1985  
Kimberly Coleman Lives in Johnson City, TN, and works as a Law Enforcement Officer for the National Forest Service in Cherokee National Forest, TN, since 1991. When she's not out chasing turkey poachers, deer spotlighters and bear poachers, she's dealing with drunks and weed-smokers. She loves the continual mental challenges of the job.  
Donald Donaldson Lives in Canada with wife Ginette and son Calum. Donald owns an engineering consulting company, Tartan Technologies, which specializes in safety and loss control. In 1995, he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal from the Governor-General of Canada.

## 2000-2001 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)  
Steve Peterson, Member-at-Large (95-99)  
Mike Day, Member-at-Large (2000)

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

The MVAA Board is here to serve you, our alumni, and the current members of The Marching Virginians. This year, additional officers have been installed so that all alumni may be better represented. These Members-at-Large have been elected to represent a set of classes with which they marched. Please feel free to contact your Member-at-Large or any officer in the organization regarding questions, concerns or ideas you may have for the organization. Your Board Member's bio and email address is available on the MVAA website. Hope to see you on the sidelines in 2001! GO HOKIES!

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### *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  
Department of Music (0240)  
Blacksburg, VA 24061 (540)231-5704

or

Connie Talbott, Director of Development  
College of Arts and Sciences  
410 Femoyer Hall (0136)  
Blacksburg, VA 24061 (540)231-8734

1986

Kimberly Coleman  
Tom Layne

(above)  
Lives in Newport with his wife Miranda (1992), and works for Litton Polyscientific in Blacksburg. Tom graduated from Virginia Tech in 1997. Their daughter, Sarah, 18, is graduating from Blacksburg High School and will attend Radford University in the fall.

1987

Tom Layne  
Gail Guirrerri

(above)  
Rumor has it that Gail is married and living in Blacksburg

1988, 1989

Tim Silk

Lives in Sterling with wife Chris and three kids (4, 2.5, and 10 months). Working as a systems engineer with Cisco. Staying BUSY with three kids!

Robert Craig

Lives in Centerville and works for the Department of Defense. Last year, Robert ran in the Marine Corps Marathon.

1990

John Farnham

Lives in Richmond with wife Sally and their 1 1/2 year-old son, David. John is Product Development Manager for Carpenter Company's Consumer Products Division. Sally teaches music at Bailey Bridge Middle School.

Lamont Greene

Lives in Dallas and working for AAdvantage Partner Marketing group. Travels around the world! The phone call we had was beyond unbelievable!

1991

Lamont Greene  
Chris McDowell

(above)  
Lives in Raleigh and works in product development for Reichhold. Rumor has it that he's president of the Research Triangle Park Alumni Association.

1992

Amy von Kelsch

Living in San Diego, Amy is currently in law school where she is specializing in Corporate/Business Law. She is interning at the law firm of Bender and Gritz. In addition, she is working part-time for SAIC.

Kristine Mendoza

??

1993

Amy von Kelsch  
Grayson Fore

(above)  
Grayson is the Band Director at South Lakes High School, Reston.

1994

Grayson Fore  
Vince Riccio

(above)  
Living in Chesapeake with his wife, Amy (a Licensed Clinical Social Worker at Children's Hospital of the Kings Daughters). Vince is a Professional Engineer with HDR Engineering in Norfolk. Married in June 1999, they have a golden retriever, Merlin.

1995, 1996

Scott Demharter

Married to Nicole, August 12, 2000. No children (yet), but a dog (Papillon) named Gizmo. We lost him four addresses ago; Scott and Nicole just purchased first home in Williamsburg (so there won't be any more moving every 6 months). Works for the Commonwealth of Virginia at the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (in Richmond) as a legislative analyst and is a part-time Ph.D. student at the College of William and Mary, in the Educational Policy, Planning, and Leadership Program.

Mark Zmuda

Teaching Math and assisting with the band, Lassiter HS, Marietta, GA

1997

Katie Benes

Lives in Richmond and working for E.M. Specialty Foods, Katie is the quality assurance manager for all kinds of meat! Her life is entertaining!

Autumn-Lynn Harrison

Currently in Township, Australia, where she will be completing a postgraduate diploma in tropical marine biology and coral reef ecology at James Cook University (along the Great Barrier Reef), as part of a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship.

1998

Autumn-Lynn Harrison

(above)

Dan Wilner

Finishing his undergraduate degree in Music Education in August 2001. He already has accepted a position as Band Director at Staunton River Middle School, in Bedford County, VA. During the spring of 2001 he served as Assistant Director of the Hokies Hoop Pep Band.

1999

Dan Wilner

(above)

Ben Nelson

Graduating December 2001 in Computer Science.

2000

Ben Nelson

Returning for the fall of 2001!

Eddie Holder

Returning for the fall of 2001!