Jack and Sandra Davis
Putting their passion for the arts to work for Virginia Tech

When choosing to support a cause, Sandra and Jack Davis believe it is important to dedicate time and attention, not just money. And when it comes to supporting Virginia Tech, the Davises make a difference, not just as major philanthropists, but as volunteers.

Through their work on committees for The Campaign for Virginia Tech: Invent the Future, they devote time to publicizing the important role private giving plays in a university's ability to serve its students and benefit the surrounding community.

For Mr. Davis—who owns BCR Real Estate, a Blacksburg company with nearly 500 rental units—involvement in the campaign is one of many volunteer efforts on the university's behalf. His impressive record of service also includes membership on the boards and executive committees of the Virginia Tech Foundation and the Virginia Tech Athletic Fund. She helped develop plans for the Circle of Excellence, a conference that is part of the university's Women and Leadership in Philanthropy program. In recognition of her efforts on behalf of the university, she has been made an honorary member of the Virginia Tech Alumni Association.

After a distinguished career as an author and independent researcher, Mr. Davis joined Virginia Tech's faculty in 2000 and is now director of programs for the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies.

Both Davises are passionate about the arts and are enthusiastic advocates for the Arts Initiative. Their passion for the arts is given voice as both are members of the National Campaign Steering Committee and the program committee for the university's Arts Initiative.

With the majority of the private funds raised going toward the Center for the Arts, a complex of buildings adjacent to and including Shultz Hall that is expected to open in 2012, the center will include a visual arts gallery and a performance hall that can seat 1,300, as well as a teaching laboratory that will benefit students from both the university and surrounding communities.

One goal of the initiative is to make the university a force in the arts, but the project will bring many additional benefits.

"We want this...for the children...who would not have an opportunity to see the ballet or any of the other wonderful things that the arts bring." - Sandra Davis

Mr. Davis agreed.

"(Virginia) Tech is the dynamo that drives Blacksburg economically," he said. "I think the Center (for the Arts) is an engine that could take us down a road not yet traveled, not just for Blacksburg, but for the region."

Together, the Davises have committed more than $2 million to the university and are members of the President's Circle of the Ut Prosim Society, in recognition of their exemplary level of philanthropic leadership. But Mrs. Davis says she feels a responsibility to give of her time as well.

"I think just writing a check is wonderful, but also you need to know where that money is going, what the needs are, so that you can share that need with other people who are (also) interested in donating," she explained.
Making Progress Toward Our Future

Virginia Tech is a university that has pledged itself to invent the future, a future defined by the university’s strategic plan.

As we look toward that future, we recognize the importance of access to the best and brightest minds, both in our faculty and in our student body. We remain dedicated to the education of the whole student, an education that enriches mind, spirit, and body. We understand the need to build an even greater capacity for innovative and bold research that aggressively tackles some of our nation’s and the world’s most pressing problems. And we will continue our commitment to the outreach mission of the land-grant university as a means of sharing our strengths and knowledge with the constituencies that stand to gain the most from us, no matter where those constituencies may be.

All of these ends are captured in our strategic plan, and The Campaign for Virginia Tech: Invent the Future, driven by the loyalty and passion of our alumni, friends, and supporters, is the means by which we will achieve these ends.

As we near the close of the first year of the public phase of the campaign, it is a good time to review our progress toward our future.

We’ve raised about 69 percent of our $1 billion goal—a testament to the loyalty of our supporters around the world. This is a remarkable achievement, particularly in light of the challenges we’ve faced, both here at Virginia Tech and nationally, in the face of a weakening economy, but we must measure our success not simply by how much we have been able to raise, but by what we have been able to achieve.

This issue of Impact addresses some of the key components of the future we must focus on in the remaining years of the campaign if we are to achieve not just fundraising success, but success for Virginia Tech.

Campaign co-chairs John Lawson and Dave Calhoun will tell you about the importance of cutting-edge research facilities both to our own success and to the economic growth of the region. You’ll also learn more about the Translational Medicine Complex being built by the College of Veterinary Medicine. These facilities, and others, must be built if we are to achieve our vision of the future as outlined in the strategic plan, and we must increase both awareness and levels of support for those and other critical projects if the campaign is to be successful.

Further, like Jack and Sandra Davis, we recognize how critical it is to rally support for our proposed Center for the Arts. The center is a facility that will strengthen our ability to better provide a complete education for our students and will have a profound impact on our community and the region.

Given our progress—progress made through perhaps some of the most difficult times this university has ever known—it’s only natural that we should feel confident of our eventual success. But we’ve reached a critical point in that progress, a point that demands a close look at what we must do to be truly successful, not just now, but in the future.

John R. Lawson (geophysics ’75), CEO and President of the W.M. Jordan Company
David L. Calhoun (business ’79), CEO of the Nielsen Company
National Campaign Steering Committee Co-Chairs

Tech’s New Research Facilities Vital to Economic Growth

As important as our roles as co-chairs of The Campaign for Virginia Tech: Invent the Future are, we are also leaders of successful, competitive businesses, and from that vantage point, we can see how the world is changing every day. Great leaps in scientific understanding and technological capability have profound effects on the landscape of research and development. Ideas and innovation have become capital, creating a new economy. This knowledge economy is growing, and the majority of the growth comes from the development of new technologies. We recognize that as a research university, Virginia Tech has a critical role to play in that economy.

Meeting the challenges of that role will require a commitment to investing in scientific and technological discovery. Our campaign’s focus on new research facilities shows that Virginia Tech is prepared to face these challenges and make the necessary investments.

The new facilities across campus not only reflect the role the university plays in the economy, but also support the increasingly interdisciplinary nature of the discovery process.

Because of generous private giving to this campaign, a number of these new interdisciplinary research facilities are taking shape across campus. For example, faculty in Latham Hall, completed in 2006, are already improving human health and nutrition, finding new ways to sustain agriculture and improve our environment, reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, and developing cures for devastating and debilitating diseases.

Across from McBryde Hall, a new building for the Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science (ICTAS) will be opening this fall. Virginia Tech students and researchers will use this innovative space to study everything from nanotechnology to human behavior, cellular biology to smart vehicles, and sustainable energy to issues of homeland security.

Across from the Hahn Horticulture Gardens, a new life sciences building is almost complete. Researchers there will study cells and microbiology. The building also has a state-of-the-art small animal vivarium and a biological safety level 3 lab in which agents categorized by the Centers for Disease Control as highly infectious can be studied.

Our campaign’s focus on new research facilities shows that Virginia Tech is prepared to face these challenges and make the necessary investments.

Within a few years and with your help, the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine will build a translational medicine facility, allowing them to take an interdisciplinary approach to biomedical research that will ultimately lead to innovative clinical solutions for health issues affecting both animals and people. The new facility will include an expansion of the teaching hospital, more instructional space, and additional research space, including an infectious disease research facility.

It is because of your continued support that these facilities are possible. And it is because of your support that Virginia Tech is an economic engine—for the regional economy and for the global one.
Robert and Janice Wells: A gift of time, money, and effort

When Robert and Janice Wells heard that some Virginia Tech students and professors wanted to install much-needed water and sanitation systems at a school in Belize, they decided not only to sponsor the effort, but to join in.

The Wellses traveled to Central America along with 18 students and several faculty members and played important roles in the work at a school in Bella Vista, a small village in the Stann Creek District of southern Belize.

"The trip was such a wonderful way to help the students, to help teachers set an example, and to maybe get others interested in doing [volunteer work] like this," said Janice Wells.

Robert Wells (second from right) at work in Belize

"To work with the students was rewarding for Janice and me both," said Mr. Wells (building construction ’73), whose day job is running a construction firm that employs 235 people and does about $100 million in business annually.

The Wellses both grew up near Hampton Roads, live in Virginia Beach, and have a long history of supporting programs at Virginia Tech, particularly in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies (CAUS), of which the building construction program is a part.

"That was the first time I was ever given a real leadership role outside of the classroom," Coyne said. "I think it had and will continue to have an impact on me later in life. I think I'll be more ready to take on other leadership roles in the future."

Robert Wells (foreground) helped fund a service-learning project and joined in the work as well.

They have also made significant gifts to Virginia Tech athletics and are members of the President’s Circle of the Ut Prosim Society, a select group of the university’s most generous donors. Mr. Wells serves on the campaign committee for CAUS and the Hampton Roads regional campaign committee for the $1 billion Campaign for Virginia Tech: Invent the Future.

Like many alumni from Virginia Tech’s building construction program of his era, Mr. Wells said the program’s founder and longtime head, William Favrao, was an influential figure in his life.

"I think the sole reason I was able to graduate from Virginia Tech was his faith in me, and I’ve tried to emulate his beliefs in other people and use his methods of mentorship," Mr. Wells said.

Supporting Virginia Tech is one way to give others an opportunity like the one he took advantage of as a student, said Mr. Wells, who also employs several Hokies at VIRTEXCO, the company he founded with two partners in 1976, where he remains CEO.

Mr. Wells got involved in the Belize project through his role as chair of the university’s Myers-Lawson School of Construction Industry Board. The trip was jointly organized by the school of construction and Peacework, an organization that promotes international voluntourism.

"I think the ability for our students to do service-learning as part of their education is huge," Mr. Wells said. "We do not live in this world alone, and it is a terribly shrinking planet. These young people have to experience places out of the U.S. in order for them to fully understand what we have going on here. They have to put back into the world. And they have to act as ambassadors, in a good way, to our neighbors."

Mrs. Wells also said international experiences are important for today’s students.

"I look around me worldwide and there are so many things we all need to help with and be aware of," she said.

While the trip is likely to have broadened the horizons of many of the students who participated, it also gave them valuable experience in all phases of a construction project, from planning through completion.

Jeff Coyne, a Herndon, Va., native who is in his second year of the College of Engineering’s program in civil and environmental engineering, oversaw the portion of the project in which a new line was run from a water tower to the school. His team also built four water storage tanks and enclosed them in cinderblock structures for protection.

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Robert and Janice Wells

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Janice Wells said that, for her, the trip was "such a wonderful way to help the students, to help teachers set an example, and to maybe get others interested in doing [volunteer work] like this." Her husband agreed. "We definitely got out of it more than we put into it," he said.
In 1988, Mr. White was living in Columbus, Ohio, and serving as rector of the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors. Adele McComas, an Ohio native, had just moved to Blacksburg with her husband, Jim McComas, after he left the University of Toledo to become Virginia Tech’s 13th president.

Adele McComas White recalled meeting both Mr. White and his wife at the time, LaVerne, not long afterward. “I had a chance to get to know LaVerne and always appreciated her support,” Mrs. White said. “Then it just happened, Jim became ill, we moved back to Ohio. Laverne died shortly after Jim did, and Pete called me one evening two years after that and asked me to go to dinner. We just kept going. It was a nice connection.”

They married in 2000. Though the Whites live in the Midwest, they remain active in the Virginia Tech community. Mrs. White says she enjoys staying involved through the William Preston Society, a group made up of former members of the board of visitors and current and past presidents of the university.

This year, as in years past, the Whites were at the annual Ut Prosim Society gathering of the university’s most generous donors. In October, they attended the launch of the $1 billion Campaign for Virginia Tech: Invent the Future—an initiative Mr. White helped make possible by serving on the quiet phase Campaign Steering Committee.

A retired chairman of American Electric Power (AEP), Mr. White grew up in eastern Virginia, enrolled in the university’s College of Engineering in 1943, and graduated in 1948 with a bachelor’s in electrical engineering. His studies were interrupted by more than a year of military service.

In 1961 Mr. White was living in New York City working for AEP, when he learned that its analog computer, known as an AC Network Analyzer, was being replaced with digital computers and would no longer be needed by the company. His thoughts turned to a Virginia Tech professor of electrical engineering, George Barnes, with whom Mr. White had kept in touch. “I called him and he was very anxious to get it,” Mr. White remembered. “George was a very enthusiastic fellow, and he was able to use things like that to the best advantage of students. He was interested in his students and their careers. He was a good teacher.”

Around that time, Mr. White’s job brought him back to Virginia and he became more active as an alumnus. Since then, along with supporting the university financially, he has given generously of his time through such organizations as the board of visitors, the board of the Virginia Tech Foundation, and the Academy of Engineering Excellence, on which he was a founding member. Together, the Whites have given more than $1.5 million to the university, earning them a place as members of the Ut Prosim Society. Separately, AEP created a chaired professorship in engineering in Mr. White’s name.

“Virginia Tech, or VPI as it was then known, made it possible for me to get a college education, and it’s meant a great deal to me over the years,” said Mr. White, who earned his master’s in industrial management as a Sloan Fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1958.

His wife agrees. When a scholarship was endowed in President McComas’ name in 1994, the year he died, she decided it should help students in the field of education. “His career focused on his belief in the value of education,” Mrs. White said of her late husband. “He felt that information and knowledge were as good as the educational process and the ability of people to share it.”

Mrs. White said that when she visits Blacksburg now it is exciting to see newer buildings that were “just dreams” when she was living in the president’s residence. But the people she met are what she remembers most from her time here, and getting to see some of them again is always a highlight of her trips, Mrs. White said.

“Land-grant universities have very special people, very sound values, people that have committed to working with their colleagues and their students,” she said. “It’s a very positive environment.”

Clearly, as the Whites’ story indicates, it’s also an environment that creates lifelong loyalties and support.
A laboratory researcher’s breakthrough could improve treatments for animals and people suffering from a fatal disease. She presents her discovery to colleagues. Afterward, one of them mentions that he just treated a horse suffering from the same disease. The researcher and clinician discuss how to arrange an experimental treatment.

Creating a facility where such encounters are more likely to happen is a major goal for the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine (VMRCVM), which is looking to raise $35 million in private funds for a three-phase expansion.

A major component of that project is the college’s planned translational medicine building, which will provide significantly more research space at VMRCVM’s main facility in Blacksburg, adjacent to the college’s fully functional animal hospital.

Once researchers from across the campus are able to move to a facility closer to the hospital, animals will be more likely to benefit from their discoveries. These researchers often work in other locations now due to space constraints.

The translational medicine facility is expected to be about 90,000 square feet, approximately a third of which would be used to expand the hospital.

The college’s expansion project also includes a facility for research into infectious diseases, and an instructional facility. By adding more instructional space, the college will be able to train more veterinarians and help address a projected shortage of up to 15,000 veterinarians by 2025.

Meanwhile, improving the college’s research facilities will enhance the ability of its talented researchers to create much-needed new treatments for diseases that affect livestock, pets, and people.

“What we have, because of our veterinary college, is the ability to do with [larger] animals what other places can’t do,” said Roger Avery, the college’s associate dean for research and graduate studies.

VMRCVM faculty members are already doing important research with implications for both human and animal health. X.J. Meng has been awarded nearly $3 million by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to work toward a vaccine to protect both animals and humans from hepatitis E, a significant public health problem in the developing world.

Elankumaran Subbiah and Siba Samal aim to genetically alter the Newcastle disease virus, which is common in birds, to create a new treatment for prostate cancer. The NIH recently announced $430,000 in additional funding to support this promising work.

Strengthening the link between researchers and clinicians is in keeping with a recent push by the NIH, a major funder of medical research, to speed up the process by which experimental treatments, typically done in mice, reach the stage of clinical trials.

By promoting this idea, known as translational medicine, health officials are looking to address a longstanding problem in medical research. Traditionally, so-called basic researchers have worked in labs with little if any interaction from doctors who actually treat patients.

With the translational medicine building, “The idea is to take them and put them in situations where they are likely to interact,” Avery said, referring to his college’s clinicians and laboratory researchers.
One Smart Way to Give: *Real Estate*

**Donor Challenges**

“I’d like to make a significant gift—one that will make a real difference at Virginia Tech—but right now...

- ...my assets are tied up in property.”
- ...I need more income for myself.”
- ...I spend too much time and money managing real estate.”
- ...I’m looking for a way my wife and I can stay in our family home.”
- ...we want to simplify our lives and enjoy better cash-flow. I guess we want it all.”

**Giving Solution: A Gift of Real Estate**

When you donate appreciated property, you will

- Avoid capital gains tax liability
- Receive an immediate charitable deduction
- End property management responsibilities and expenses in most cases
- Free yourself or your heirs from the task of selling the property
- Enjoy the personal satisfaction of making a significant gift to the university

You may also be able to

- Generate additional income for yourself and someone you name
- Remain in your donated home throughout your lifetime

**How it Works**

Appreciated assets, such as your home, farm, summer cottage, commercial property, or vacant land, are subject to capital gains taxes when you sell them. And property you continue to own involves ongoing management responsibilities and recurring expenses, such as property taxes, insurance, and maintenance.

When you donate appreciated property to the Virginia Tech Foundation Inc., you avoid capital gains taxes that would otherwise be due upon sale of the property. And you receive a tax deduction for your charitable gift—usually for its full market value.

If yours is an outright gift, you can bid farewell to managing, or paying someone else to manage, the expenses and responsibilities of ownership.

Donating property reduces your taxable estate as well, which may provide tax savings for your heirs, and it relieves them of the burden of disposing of the property.

You can even use your gift of real estate to fund a life income gift that will generate additional income for you.

If you wish to donate your primary residence and continue to live there, a retained life estate arrangement will enable you to do so. You will also enjoy an immediate tax deduction for your gift.

**Contact Us Early**

If you are considering a gift of real estate, call us early in order to maximize your tax savings and other benefits. In most instances, the real estate must be transferred directly to the Virginia Tech Foundation so that you can fully realize its tax advantages and bypass capital gains taxes. Typically, you should avoid selling the property yourself.

The Office of Gift Planning will guide you through the steps of making a gift of real estate, which include obtaining an appraisal, environmental review, and deed.

Every gift of real estate is unique. It can take 30 days or more to determine whether a particular gift can be accepted, and some transfers take longer than others to complete. Typically, a real estate gift is considered complete on the date the signed deed is delivered to Virginia Tech. If you wish to complete a gift of real estate during the 2008 tax year, it’s best to begin the process as early as possible.

To learn more, or to explore gift options that meet your goals, telephone the Office of Gift Planning at 800/533-1744 or 540/231-2813, or e-mail giftplanning@vt.edu.

**Planning Tip for 2008**

Gifts of appreciated real estate and securities such as stocks, bonds, and mutual funds continue to offer significant advantages for donors who wish to make a 2008 gift to Virginia Tech. Donors who wish to diversify assets, to fund a gift that returns lifetime income, or to qualify for a 2008 charitable tax deduction may find a gift of real estate or securities an ideal way to accomplish their personal and charitable goals.

To maximize your tax benefits, securities and real estate should, in most cases, be transferred directly to the Virginia Tech Foundation. Such transfers can encounter delays, especially at year-end. So, contact the Office of Gift Planning soon if you wish your real estate or securities gift to count for the 2008 tax year.
The public phase of The Campaign for Virginia Tech: Invent the Future is almost a year old and has seen much success. As of July 31, 2008, we had raised $690.1 million — just over 69 percent of our goal. With your help, we’ll reach our $1 billion goal.

Everyone at Virginia Tech benefits from the support of our alumni and friends. Private giving plays an enormous role in providing the resources the university needs to continue its quest to deliver an exceptional education to its students and to conduct groundbreaking research that may change the world.

### Giving Sources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
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### Giving Uses

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</table>

### Campaign Progress through July 31, 2008: $690.1 Million

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Regional Dollar Goal</th>
<th>% of Goal Achieved</th>
<th>Raised as of July 2008</th>
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<tr>
<td>Roanoke Valley</td>
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<td>Hampton Roads</td>
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<td>Charlotte</td>
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<td>10.0%</td>
<td>$6,325,301</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Honorary Campaign Committee

- Eugene V. Fife ’62, co-chair, quiet phase CSC
- Cifton C. Garvin Jr. ’43
- Claude S. Hornsby III ’78
- Floyd W. Merryman Jr. ’46
- Robert B. Pumpell Jr. ’54
- W. Thomas Robertson Jr. ’52

### Regional Campaign Figures

- John T. Debell ’68
- Shelley L. Duke
- Jabel A. Early ’82
- George H. Edmiston Jr. ’74
- John F. Failes ’67
- John F. Fitzhugh ’88
- Robert L. Freeman Jr. ’75
- Beverly Harris
- Leon P. Harris ’64
- James H. Hatch ’72
- William B. Holtzman ’59, vice-chair, quiet phase CSC
- Jerry L. Hulick ’73
- Mitchell A. Katz ’84
- William C. Latham ’55
- Elizabeth H. Latham
- John R. Lawson II ’75, co-chair
- C. Bruce McGahey ‘77
- Floyd W. Merryman III ’81
- Charles W. Pryor Jr. ’66
- F. Richard Quible ‘53
- Jean R. Quible
- G. Robert Quisenberry ’62
- John G. Rocovich Jr. ’66
- Marvin H. Schuelke Jr. ’69
- Margaret G. Skelton
- William E. Skelton ’40
- Garnett E. Smith
- Sidney C. Smith Jr. ’63
- John A. Stegeman ’84
- Fay H. Street ’77
- Russell S. Thomas ’85
- Preston M. White Jr. ’62
- Ronald L. Willard
- John G. Rocovich Jr. ’66
- Marvin H. Schuelke Jr. ’69
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- John A. Stegeman ’84
- Fay H. Street ’77
- Russell S. Thomas ’85
- Preston M. White Jr. ’62
- Ronald L. Willard

### Giving Priorities

- Academic Excellence
- Undergraduate Experience
- Research Facilities
- VT & the Community
- Pres. Discovery Fund
- Other

### Campaign Regional % of Goal Raised as of July 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Dollar Goal</th>
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<td>Charlotte</td>
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In Memoriam: William E. Skelton, former dean and loyal university friend

The Hokie Nation is in mourning. One of the university’s most loyal supporters, former dean William E. Skelton, has succumbed to cancer. Skelton, who was 89 years old, died on August 30, 2008.

Throughout his seventy year affiliation with Virginia Tech, Bill Skelton personified the motto of the university: Ut Prosim (That I May Serve). A former dean of the Extension division at Virginia Tech who began his career at the university as director of 4-H programs and Virginia Cooperative Extension, Skelton’s love and loyalty for Virginia Tech found expression in his roles as volunteer fundraiser, reunion organizer, leadership board member, and campaign chair.

Skelton was equally selfless in his devotion to causes throughout the commonwealth and the world, most notably with 4-H and Rotary International, an organization that he served as club president, district governor, and president.

President Charles W. Steger, a close friend of Skelton’s for many years, praised him for his commitment to the university and the surrounding community. “He really was a selfless volunteer. And he combined that dedication and enthusiasm with considerable skill.”

Tom Tillar, vice president for alumni relations, lauded Skelton’s contributions to the university’s alumni association. “Bill Skelton led and chaired the single most important initiative in the association’s 130-year history — that of building the first alumni center.” Under Skelton’s guidance, that project eventually grew to include a new hotel, conference center and alumni center complex that was completed in 2005.

Just this summer, Skelton was honored by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education with the Ernest T. Stewart Award for Alumni Volunteer Involvement, the highest honor the organization gives to an alumni volunteer. In nominating Skelton for the award, Elizabeth Flanagan, vice president for development and university relations at Virginia Tech, said, “No other person affiliated with the university has touched the lives of more alumni and friends of Virginia Tech than Dr. William E. Skelton.”