Richard Bishop recalls that when he studied building construction at Virginia Tech in the mid 1960s, classes were in Patton Hall because the program’s only faculty member, William Favrao, had an office there.

Times have changed.

Construction is now a much larger program at Virginia Tech, with a full Department of Building Construction and the separate, recently formed Myers-Lawson School of Construction, which offers even more opportunities for students to become leaders in the building industry.

And, thanks to Bishop and many other contributors, the building construction department and Myers-Lawson school now have a home to call their own.

In January, those programs moved into the newly built Bishop-Favrao Hall, a 31,600-square-foot facility adjacent to Cowgill Hall near Prices Fork Road on the northeast end of campus.

The new hall provides needed classrooms, labs, and offices for a building construction program that has seen enrollment double in the past five years. It also sends a message about the importance of construction as a field of study, said Yvan Beliveau, the Georgia Anne Snyder-Falkinham Professor of Building Construction, who recently stepped down as head of the building construction department to direct the Myers-Lawson school.

“Construction as an academic discipline is not always necessarily regarded at the highest level. By having a physical presence [with a building], it shows merit. … I think that the symbolism is fairly strong.”

-- Yvan Beliveau

Richard Bishop
Helps build an exciting future for construction education.

Richard Bishop continues on page 3
The Impact of the Ut Prosim Society

Earlier this spring, we came together to recognize the impact of a very special group of donors: the Ut Prosim Society. The Ut Prosim Society has an unequalled history of philanthropy, kindness, and loyalty, a history that spans more than two decades. And each passing year has played a part in bringing us to this transformative time in our history. Since its inception in July of 1986, more than 1,800 distinguished men and women have been named members of the Ut Prosim Society. They have contributed more than $580 million to this institution, a sum that represents an astonishing 40 percent of total giving to Virginia Tech over the past 22 years. Their generosity is a testament to the power of their vision, commitment, and faith in our future. For that, and for so much more, we are truly grateful.

A little more than four years ago when we launched the quiet phase of The Campaign for Virginia Tech: Invent the Future, 860 households were members of this society. Since that time, we’ve watched the membership steadily grow and today, the number of households belonging to the Ut Prosim Society has reached more than 1,025. The President’s Circle is the highest level in the society and recognizes individuals who have given $1 million or more to Virginia Tech. The circle began in 2002 with 32 households. Today 76 households are a part of that distinguished group. All told, the campaign has received more than $300 million in campaign commitments from members of the President’s Circle.

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Increased annual giving to the university is a sign that our community believes in the leadership of this institution and the possibilities for our future. During this fiscal year, the annual fund raised more than $4 million, a record for annual giving in one year. The average size of a gift to the annual fund has increased by more than a third. More than 56,000 donors have contributed just shy of $19 million to the annual fund since the campaign began.

Our community is also making the university a part of their estate plans, a critical component of securing our future. In the first six months of this fiscal year, we have nearly tripled our previous mid-year total, and exceeded the average annual amount of documented future support booked during any previous year of the campaign.

Virginia Tech’s endowment is growing, too. Donors have made contributions to nearly 800 existing endowments and have created more than 400 new ones, all across the university — in academic program areas, faculty support, graduate and undergraduate research grants and scholarships, the libraries — everything Virginia Tech does has benefited from your generosity.

And, we’re making significant strides toward changing the physical face of Virginia Tech’s campus by fulfilling the promise of our building goals. We’ll soon be breaking ground in Roanoke for Virginia’s newest medical college, a partnership between Virginia Tech and the Carilion Clinic. Innovative new facilities for research and discovery, such as the Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science (ICTAS), are beginning to come on line. ICTAS1, a 100,000-square-foot building, headquarters for ICTAS and home to the School of Biomedical and Environmental Sciences, will open later this year.
Along with the lead gift for Bishop-Favrao Hall, his philanthropy includes funding scholarships and supporting a variety of programs within the College of Architecture and Urban Studies (CAUS), as well as being a Lifetime Golden Hokie for his generosity to university athletics. Bishop and his wife, Kristen, are charter members of the UK Prosim Society’s President’s Circle, the highest distinction for donors to the university.

He also has given generously of his time. Bishop is a committee member for the ongoing Campaign for Virginia Tech: Invest the Future, and serving on the quiet phase Campus Steering Committee. He has served on many of the university’s leadership groups, including the Building Construction Advisory Board, both the board and the development committee of the Virginia Tech Foundation, and the CAUS Advisory Council. During the university’s previous fundraising campaign, Bishop served on the college committee for architecture and urban affairs and the national Campaign Steering Committee. He also chaired the Baltimore Regional Committee for that campaign.

Bishop initially enrolled in Virginia Tech’s architecture program. He changed his focus to construction as a sophomore and said he never regretted it. Favrao prepared his work so well that he was able to accept a position with a large commercial contractor. “So having those open to see for us works nicely,” Bishop said.

“Industry is moving really fast now, and with building information modeling, automatic prototyping, and digital imaging, as well as numerical control machines, construction is not completely life-changing having it, “ she said of that space.

“I really enjoyed being out in the field and seeing things happen rather than just being at the drawing board,” Bishop said. “That was actually the reason I wanted to give back [to Virginia Tech]. I felt that the education really got me where I am in life.”

And, he added, “being a local [from Christiansburg], I’ve always been a Hokie fan.”

Building the Future: How philanthropy is reshaping Virginia Tech’s campus

Bishop-Favrao Hall

When building construction major Sheila Matarazzo wants to see how the complex network of drains, water lines, and electrical wires are organized in a large structure, all she has to do is look up.

Unlike a traditional academic building, Bishop-Favrao Hall, which houses Virginia Tech’s building construction department and Myers-Lawson School of Construction, has no drop ceiling. Exposed pipes, their purposes labeled, also run along many of the hall’s walls. While the interior might look unfinished to an uninformed observer, that is hardly the case.

“As a junior your main building construction class is on systems — electrical, plumbing, HVAC,” explained Matarazzo, a rising senior from Lovettsville, Va., who aspires to manage projects for a large commercial contractor. “So having those open to see for us works directly with what we are learning. We've had multiple assignments that have been [to] look at the first floor, second floor, third floor, and explain what is going on. The building has been a huge teaching device.”

Founded by William Favrao in 1947, the building construction program has operated out of many locations, both on and off campus, throughout its history. One of its former homes is now a tattoo parlor. Last year, the program used space in downtown Blacksburg while some of its professors' offices were in Burruss Hall. But, thanks to the support of donors, construction faculty and students now have a 31,600-square-foot building tailored to their needs.

Richard Bishop (building construction ‘67) gave the lead gift for the hall and asked that the building, which opened in the spring, also be named for Favrao, who died in 1977. Many other donors participated in the project. Private support comprised $5.75 million of the building’s funding package, compared to $3.55 million from the state.

Matarazzo said the new building has already improved the quality of her education by providing a large common area for students to work together day or night.

“Being a BC major means that a majority of your work is group projects, so it’s just completely life-changing having it,” she said of that space.

Matarazzo was one of the hundreds of students, alumni, faculty, and friends of the university who gathered at the building for an opening celebration May 1.

At the event, Yvan Beliveau, who headed the building construction department until he became director of the Myers-Lawson school when it opened less than two years ago, described another of Bishop-Favrao Hall’s highlights — the first-floor lab where students will be able to access cutting-edge equipment.

“Industry is moving really fast now, and with building information modeling, automatic prototyping, and digital imaging, as well as numerical control machines, construction is not going to stay the same,” he said. “And so we’re investing in much of that equipment as well.”

Bishop-Favrao Hall was designed with a 300-student program in mind, but the combined enrollment of the building construction department, the Vecellio Construction Engineering Program, and the Myers-Lawson School is already greater than that, Beliveau said.

“We've had multiple assignments that have been [to] look at the first floor, second floor, third floor, and explain what is going on. The building has been a huge teaching device.” — Sheila Matarazzo

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The President's Campaign Q & A
Charles Steger addresses questions about The Campaign for Virginia Tech: Invent the Future (part 2)

If Virginia Tech is state supported, why does the university need private donations?

We are becoming increasingly state-assisted rather than state-supported. In fact, Virginia Tech receives less than 26 percent of its budget from the state. Total state funding for Virginia Tech is less today than seven years ago, even though enrollment is higher. In fact, our state funding per Virginia student today is $2,000 less than in the year 2000, which is 30 percent less when adjusted for inflation. State support will always be an important component in what we do. But many of our most significant strides forward have been possible because of private support.

Unlike state funding, gift income has risen steadily. Private funding can be used for the enhancements and innovations that are the hallmark of a world-class university, such as professorships, scholarship support, libraries, and capital projects.

Just look at what we’ve accomplished in the last few years because of private philanthropy. We are making our mark in the building construction industry with the new Myers-Lawson School of Construction and have built a new facility to house both the Department of Building Construction and the Myers-Lawson School. We’ve equipped Latham Hall with cutting-edge research equipment for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Can my individual gift really make a difference when the campaign has such a large goal?

All gifts make a difference. While we certainly value those who make leadership gifts to the campaign, we also recognize the vital importance of all gifts—not just because the resources that are brought by annual gifts is significant, but also because greater participation in this campaign shows support for our efforts to strive for excellence at Virginia Tech.

How is The Campaign for Virginia Tech: Invent the Future different from past campaigns?

This campaign comes at a time when private philanthropy is the key component in our drive toward excellence. Today, the university relies on a different funding model—one that depends heavily on private support. Thanks to our donors, we have more programs, more students, and more success stories in research and education than ever before. Private philanthropy gives everyone the opportunity to participate in these successes and to help shape the future of this great university and our society.

How will Virginia Tech be different after this campaign is over?

When this campaign is over, we will be doing cutting-edge research at the intersection of engineering, science, and medicine in the Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science (ICTAS). This fall, the first ICTAS building will be open. In addition, we will soon break ground on the new Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine and Research Institute—a public-private partnership that will have a significant impact on the future of the university.

Because of this campaign, we will build the university’s new Center for the Arts, which affirms Virginia Tech’s commitment to the arts as a key component to the education of the whole person. We also understand that art and culture are crucial to our region’s economic growth and quality of life. A community that invests in the arts is a community whose diverse resources support progress and ensure a rich and secure future.

We can also use private funds for leverage. For example, we are building a major research center in the Ballston area of Arlington, establishing a Virginia Tech presence in close proximity to the National Science Foundation and other funding agencies. The facility will include computational laboratories, offices, and conference space to accommodate executive programs, training programs, and workshops. A number of already established Virginia Tech research centers, located throughout the Northern Virginia area, will move to the facility. Faculty in residence in the National Capital Region will be able to draw on faculty expertise in Blacksburg, strengthening Virginia Tech’s research capabilities even further.

Private funding is also allowing us to expand our health education program, leading to better health and wellness for students at Virginia Tech. And, with the help of our alumni and friends, we’ve increased the value of the endowment, which means we’re able to offer more scholarships to students as well as more faculty support.

We sat down with deans and faculty members from across the university and asked them to imagine ways they could inspire students and impact the quality of their experience at Virginia Tech. We asked them to think about how they could create an unparalleled educational experience for both graduates and undergraduates. We asked them to consider how they could advance our vision of excellence. We asked them to visualize what our students might accomplish and how we could make our students’ dreams possible. We also looked the university’s strengths and what sets us apart from other universities—such as our commitment to service and entrepreneurship.

Through those discussions, it became clear that if we give our students the opportunity to be mentored by top faculty scholars, work in world-class laboratories, use cutting-edge equipment, and experience a variety of interdisciplinary and international opportunities, they will really make a difference in the world.

Academic excellence must be our number one priority. We have to attract the most talented students and propose to attract the top undergraduates regardless of their financial circumstance, we need to offer more scholarships. And of course, top faculty and student talent naturally leads to more impressive research, which has long-term benefit to a large community beyond Blacksburg.
When Appalachian Power offered to donate land for a 4-H center back in the mid-1960s, William E. Skelton could just have expressed his thanks. Instead, he negotiated for a better property. The result: 120 acres with two miles of waterfront along Smith Mountain Lake, Va., where more than 20,000 youth and adults participate in programs each year.

The W.E. Skelton 4-H Educational Conference Center is just one result of Skelton’s ambitious vision and his ability to make projects work. For decades, he has been putting those skills to use for his alma mater, Virginia Tech, first as a faculty member for 39 years, then as a volunteer for 29 years.

In recognition of Skelton’s extraordinary service, the Council of Advancement and Support of Education announced that he will receive its highest honor for alumni volunteers, the Ernest T. Stewart Award. The council, known as CASE, is one of the largest international associations of educational institutions.

Skelton (agricultural engineering ’40) is dean emeritus of the university’s Extension Division. He credits Virginia Tech with enabling him to pursue his interest in volunteer work. “Virginia Tech allowed me the flexibility to serve as a leader with Rotary International while I was working for the university, and I’ve always appreciated that,” Skelton said. “It made me want to do the best job I could on projects for Rotary, for 4-H, and for Virginia Tech.”

By all accounts, his work for those organizations has been phenomenal.

A former president of Rotary International, Skelton has been honored for helping begin that organization’s PolioPlus initiative, which to date has raised nearly $700 million toward ridding the world of that disease.

He has been involved in 4-H nearly all his life: as a child growing up on a farm, as a faculty member overseeing 4-H programs, and as an active volunteer after retiring from Virginia Tech in 1979. In recognition of Skelton’s years of volunteer service to the Smith Mountain Lake 4-H Educational Conference Center, that facility, still located on the land he secured decades ago, was renamed in Skelton’s honor in 2004.

Skelton is a former president of Virginia Tech’s alumni association. He chaired the committee that oversaw planning, design, and fundraising for the Inn at Virginia Tech, Holtzman Alumni Center, and Skelton Conference Center, which was named in honor of him and his wife, Margaret Groseclose Skelton. She is also an emeritus member of the Virginia Tech faculty who has continued to support the university as a volunteer and philanthropist.

University President Charles W. Steger called the Skeltons “the dynamic duo of Virginia Tech” when he announced the name of the conference center.

The Skeltons have created scholarships and serve on the National Campaign Steering Committee of The Campaign for Virginia Tech: Invent the Future. They are charter members of the Ut Prosim Society and its President’s Circle, the university’s highest distinction for donors.

In nominating Skelton for CASE’s Ernest T. Stewart Award, Elizabeth A. Flanagan, vice president for development and university relations, 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.”

Former Virginia Tech President T. Marshall Hahn Jr., who led the university during much of Skelton’s career, said Skelton’s “tireless efforts on behalf of Virginia Tech, the Skelton 4-H Center, Rotary International, and many other organizations have made it possible for generations of Virginians to aspire to greater learning, teaching, and living.”

Skelton received the Virginia Tech Alumni Association’s Alumni Distinguished Service Award in 1983, and was later president of that organization. In 1998, then university President Paul Torgersen presented Skelton with the university’s most prestigious honor, the William H. Ruffner Medal.

“Bill embodies Virginia Tech’s motto of Ut Prosim, having dedicated his life to serving his country, his school, and his community,” Torgersen said at the time. “He cares deeply about the university and has worked diligently towards the fulfillment of its land-grant mission.”

William E. Skelton (agricultural engineering ’40)

**Informations**

When Appalachian Power offered to donate land for a 4-H center back in the mid-1960s, William E. Skelton could just have expressed his thanks. Instead, he negotiated for a better property. The result: 120 acres with two miles of waterfront along Smith Mountain Lake, Va., where more than 20,000 youth and adults participate in programs each year.

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William E. Skelton (agricultural engineering ’40)
In October, Virginia Tech launched the public phase of The Campaign for Virginia Tech: Invent the Future. Since that time, we’ve taken the show on the road and traveled to regions of the country where Hokies are known to gather.

This past spring, we visited the Tampa Bay/Orlando, Fla., area and Charlotte, N.C., to spread the good news of the campaign to our friends in those regions.

The regional events are important to the campaign because they offer many more people the opportunity to get involved and excited about the future we’re inventing. These are the people—Hokies all—who will help Virginia Tech reach not just its fundraising goals, but its goals for the future.

Russ Thomas, the chair of the Tampa Bay/Orlando committee, understands the importance of engaging alumni. At that region’s campaign kickoff, he told the group, “We all sit here as private equity investors and it is up to us to build this university. We need you to be there because it is the right thing to do, because we love Virginia Tech, and because Tech helped shape our futures.”

Campaign Co-Chair Dave Callhoun, who also attended the Tampa Bay/Orlando event, said, “We’re all busy, but a chance to help students and our school is nothing but uplifting and energizing. It’s all about how we ultimately take control of our destiny and follow our dreams.”

The Charlotte region kickoff was no less inspiring. Said Charlotte Regional Co-Chair Jubal Early, “This campaign represents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to enhance the national reputation and stature of our university through endowments and capital improvements never before seen on our campus.” Early also noted that he was motivated to become involved because of the endless possibilities to affect Virginia Tech for generations to come. He said he is “proud to co-chair the Charlotte campaign because our efforts will continue to build upon past successes of Virginia Tech while ensuring that our future is limitless.” Early chairs the Charlotte Regional Committee with George Edmiston, John Fitzhugh, and William Robertson.

Thus far, the regional campaigns have been very successful. In addition to the Tampa Bay/Orlando and Charlotte events, regional campaigns have been held in Roanoke, Atlanta, and Hampton Roads. Together, the regional campaigns have raised in excess of $125 million toward The Campaign for Virginia Tech: Invent the Future.

Regional Campaigns:
Tampa Bay/Orlando and Charlotte

Honorary Charlotte Committee Chair Tom Robertson chats with Major Jerry Allen, commandant of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.

Regional Campaign Steering Committee — Charlotte
Ralph A. Amos II ’81
William E. Berry ’77
Donald T. Beth ’92
Nicholas C. D’Angelo ’80
Colleen M. Day ’87
John Dispenzette
Jubal A. Early ’82, Co-Chair
Thomas J. Eberle Jr. ’89
George H. Edmiston Jr. ’74, Co-Chair
John F. Fitzhugh ’88, Co-Chair
Louis R. Graziani Jr. ’76
Mark T. Hartman ’80
L. Calvin Henderson ’72
Anthony S. Hensley ’92
Edward G. Horskamp III ’86
Karen H. Jones ’84
Stephanie M. Jones ’83
Gary O. Lark ’87
Robert S. Lunsford ’84
Patricia A. Maloomian ’79
Keely S. Monroe
Steven L. Parker ’83
Brandon D. Perry ’91
Miller C. Porterfield Jr. ’60
William T. Robertson Jr. ’52, Honorary Chair
Benjamin J. Ruijans ’95
David K. Wagner ’74
Thomas R. Whitt ’68
Scott W. Williams ’79
R. Kent Wood ’71
Robert W. Worley Jr. ’65
Sarah P. Yarbrough ’02

Regional Campaign Steering Committee — Tampa Bay/Orlando
Kristen S. Bishop
Richard D. Bishop ’67
Karen G. Covenor ’86
Pat Connors
Larry W. Crews
Nancy T. Crews ’75
Richard T. Florell ’71
George C. Hayles ’67
Virginia M. Hayles ’73
Richard C. Hensley ’67
Benjamin J. Rojahn ’95
David K. Wagner ’74
Thomas R. Whitt ’68
Scott W. Williams ’79
R. Kent Wood ’71
Robert W. Worley Jr. ’65
Sarah P. Yarbrough ’02
Stuart J. Mellow ’82
Martin Rodie ’86
Rachel Schmidt
Richard R. Schmidt ’81
Michael W. Schnell ’86
Michael J. Scarrino ’84
Ralph E. Seay Jr. ’66
Russell S. Thomas ’85, Chair
Michael S. Ward ’83
Philip L. Winters ’78

Honorary Members
Betty Helton
Charles A. Helton ’52

Members of the Tampa Bay/Orlando and Charlotte committees are listed below. We are grateful to them, as well as all our generous campaign volunteers.

Our campaign road show resumes this fall when we have scheduled programs in Northern Virginia and the Raleigh/Durham area of North Carolina.
Our current campaign has been very successful. At the time of the public launch of the kickoff on October 20, we had raised $581 million toward our $1 billion campaign goal. As of May 31, 2008, we had raised $663.8 million!

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

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<th>Source</th>
<th>Dollar Goal Achieved</th>
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### Giving Uses

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Twenty-two years ago the university completed its first multimillion dollar fundraising campaign, which brought in $118 million. That same year, officials created the Ut Prosim Society, an organization made up of nearly 130 of Virginia Tech’s most generous households.

Fast forward to the present. Virginia Tech is now looking to raise almost 10 times as much in its $1 billion Campaign for Virginia Tech: Invent the Future. And the Ut Prosim Society, which has grown tenfold, is playing a key role. Combined, members have committed more than $300 million since the campaign’s quiet phase began July 1, 2003. They have also given generously of their time by serving on the national, regional, and program committees that are essential to the campaign’s success.

Hundreds of Ut Prosim members gathered on campus May 2 and 3 for the society’s annual celebration. One-hundred eleven new members were inducted and 68 individuals who advanced to a higher giving level within the society were thanked onstage.

The growth in Ut Prosim Society membership has been remarkable. Even more impressive, however, has been the society’s impact on Virginia Tech. As university President Charles W. Steger pointed out during the weekend’s Making a Difference Luncheon, society members have contributed to more than 800 existing endowments and have created more than 400 new ones.

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And, as university Vice President for Development and University Relations Elizabeth A. Flanagan pointed out during the weekend’s induction and advancement dinner, the society has contributed more than $500 million to this institution. That represents 40 percent of total giving to Virginia Tech since 1986—an amazing accomplishment by an extraordinary group.
**The Ut Prosim Society has four recognition levels:**

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<tr>
<th>Benefactor:</th>
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<tr>
<td>President’s Circle:</td>
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</tbody>
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### Advancing to President’s Circle
- David and Barbara Calhoun
  Christiansburg, VA
- E. Ralph English Jr. and Rita T. English
  Blacksburg, VA
- William C. and Rennie M. McAllister
  Christiansburg, VA
- James M. and Eleonore E. Stevens
  Blacksburg, VA
- Sue Ellen Butler Rocovich
  Christiansburg, VA
- Jack and Marilyn Carroll
  Blacksburg, VA
- Leon and Beverly Harris
  Christiansburg, VA
- John G. Rice, Jr. and Sue Ellen Better Rice
  Christiansburg, VA
- John and Angela Emery
  Christiansburg, VA
- Dr. Wayne and Dr. Claire Horton
  Christiansburg, VA
- Mr. and Mrs. Donald J. Balzer Jr.
  Christiansburg, VA
- Mr. and Mrs. George W. Logan
  Christiansburg, VA

### Advancing to Senior Benefactor
- Charles E. Ayers Jr. and Sarah M. Ayers
  Blacksburg, VA
- E. Ritchie and Ernestine L. Fishburne
  Blacksburg, VA
- The Ut Prosim Society has four recognition levels:

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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Advancing to Distinguished Benefactor
- E. Ralph English Jr. and Rita T. English
  Christiansburg, VA
- William C. and Rennie M. McAllister
  Christiansburg, VA
- James M. and Eleonore E. Stevens
  Christiansburg, VA
- Sue Ellen Butler Rocovich
  Christiansburg, VA
- Jack and Marilyn Carroll
  Blacksburg, VA
- Leon and Beverly Harris
  Christiansburg, VA
- John G. Rice, Jr. and Sue Ellen Better Rice
  Christiansburg, VA
- John and Angela Emery
  Christiansburg, VA
- Dr. Wayne and Dr. Claire Horton
  Christiansburg, VA
- Mr. and Mrs. Donald J. Balzer Jr.
  Christiansburg, VA
- Mr. and Mrs. George W. Logan
  Christiansburg, VA

### New Benefactors
- Wayne T. Douglass
  Christiansburg, VA
- H. Matthew Price
  Christiansburg, VA

**For further information on the Ut Prosim Society, please visit our website at www.campaign.vt.edu and click on “Donor Recognition.”**
Ut Prosim Society Weekend
Highlights society’s tremendous impact

A Chance to Look Back, and Ahead
Since its inception, the Ut Prosim Society has gathered each year to induct new members and celebrate the many accomplishments that members’ support made possible. But the Ut Prosim Society weekend is also a time to look forward toward what else can be done to improve the university.

The society’s recent gathering was its first since the public phase of The Campaign for Virginia Tech: Invent the Future was launched in October 2007. Vice President for Development and University Relations Elizabeth A. Flanagan highlighted the forward-looking nature of the occasion.

“You have already made it possible for students and faculty to continue to excel,” she said. “You have already made it possible for researchers to dig deeper and discover more about challenges the world faces. And you have already helped spread knowledge, and influence, around the region, the nation, and the world. But there is so much more we can do.”
June Shott: Big impact comes in small packages

You might not expect the wife of a West Virginia Mountaineer and citizen of Bluefield, W.Va., to be a dedicated Hokie follower. But Virginia Tech sports teams are known across the nation for their fans. And those fans come in all shapes and sizes—and with all kinds of divided loyalties. Indeed, the late June Shott was one of the Virginia Tech football’s most fanatical followers. When she was asked about traveling to Virginia Tech for every home game, she responded, “I can’t wait for football season. They treat me like a queen.”

Her husband, Ned Shott, an alumnus and fan of West Virginia University football, didn’t share her love of Hokie football but admired her passion. He once said to her, “June, you would sit out to see a football game if the snow was up to your knees!”

Shott was a dedicated friend of the university, perhaps in part because her brother, John Oblinger (’50 business administration), graduated from Virginia Tech. And her devotion to Tech made quite an impact on campus. She supported the construction of the Merrymen Center and her pledge of $750,000 helped propel the south end zone expansion of Lane Stadium in its early stages. Shott directed much of her support toward the stadium’s new media center; no surprise since she was no stranger to the media, having owned, with her late husband, the Bluefield newspaper for 40 years. They also owned the Bluefield television station.

A state-of-the-art facility, the media center offers print and electronic reporters the best accommodations, including a game-day area for interviews, a work room equipped with computer terminals, a dark room, and individual radio rooms for post-game shows. Since the center’s dedication in 2002, media from all over the country have gathered in the media center that bears Shott’s name to spread the news of the latest Hokie football game. The dedication of the facility was a memorable event for June. Said Shott about the event, “I was so happy at the dedication.” Known for being a generous financial supporter of causes that were important to her, she was inducted into the Ut Prosim Society’s President’s Circle in 2006.

Shott was also a tireless volunteer and her civic activities did not go unnoticed by those in the communities she served. In 2005, she received the Hamilton Award from the Greater Bluefield Chamber of Commerce. That same year, she also was recognized with the Distinguished Citizen of the Year Award by the Bluefield American Legion. In 2007, the Boy Scouts of America recognized her with their Distinguished Citizen Award. She was also a generous supporter of West Virginia University, Bluefield State College, Bluefield College, Concord University, and Mitchell Stadium in Bluefield.

Shott’s death in April has left a void in the Virginia Tech family. Said a member of her own family, “June was certainly one of a kind. She loved life and people and they loved her back. She lived her life with youthful enthusiasm and energy that amazed her family and friends. She always loved to get dressed up for the local social engagements or even just lunch. She loved animals, especially her beloved dogs that certainly loved the high life.”

Terry Bolt, director of development for special gifts and the Athletic Annual Fund, said, “June was such a wonderful, warm, and caring person. She loved people and she absolutely loved making a difference. Her philanthropy made such a difference to so many universities and organizations and touched and improved the lives of so many. When visiting her in Bluefield, everyone spoke to her wherever we went. That is a true testament to how she lived and how she was loved and respected by all who knew her. My life, and I’m sure many others’, is better for having known her.”

The Hokie Nation will no doubt miss June Shott, but her legacy will surely live on.

You Can Support Virginia Tech with a Gift that Pays You Back

Life income gifts can provide tax-wise support for Virginia Tech and generate income for you.

How does a life income gift work?

A life income gift is created when you irrevocably transfer cash, securities, real estate or another asset to the university in exchange for an income—usually for life—paid to you and/or to someone you designate, perhaps your spouse. When the plan ends, the gift remainder is used to support the university as you have specified.

Life income gift plans include the charitable remainder unitrust, charitable remainder annuity trust, charitable gift annuity, and pooled income fund.

Along with an income stream, professional management of donated assets, significant tax benefits, and the satisfaction of supporting Virginia Tech, life income gifts offer a variety of strategies to address individual circumstances and personal goals.

How would you like your payments?

You may elect to receive payments of either a fixed dollar amount or a variable dollar amount. Fixed payments provide certainty of income by paying you a dollar amount that remains the same throughout the lifetime of the gift. Variable payments, which can serve as a hedge against inflation, are a stated percentage of the gift’s annual value or the income (interest, dividends, and rent) earned by the gift.

You may also choose to receive payments immediately or defer them, receiving minimal or no payments until a specified future date, such as a retirement date.

What about the tax advantages?

While prospective tax benefits vary with your choice of plan and individual circumstances, all life income gift plans hold the potential for significant tax savings.

Tax advantages include an immediate income tax deduction, avoidance of capital gains taxes otherwise due upon the sale of a donated appreciated asset, and estate tax savings. Payments and tax savings may even fund wealth-replacement insurance, allowing you to remember both heirs and Virginia Tech with a single gift plan.

What about fund management?

Charitable trusts and annuities are administered by the Virginia Tech Foundation, Inc. in partnership with Kaspick and Company, one of the nation’s leading administrators of charitable trusts, servicing institutions such as Johns Hopkins University, Dartmouth College, UCLA, and the Mayo Clinic.

Where do I sign up?

To learn more about how a life income gift can help you meet your own financial goals while making a gift that will make a real difference to Virginia Tech, contact the Office of University Development at 800/513-1144.