New Center for the Arts
Alumnus rolls love of arts into donation
Research inspires family’s support
Scholarships fuel success at the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine
Sheer Good Fortune: Celebrating Toni Morrison
Professorship aims to cultivate international programs and global leadership
**Impact**

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**Dramatic details**

**Cover photo:** A detail of the windows under construction at the Center for the Arts at Virginia Tech. The center is due to open in late 2013. Two generous supporters of the project, David and Jennifer Barnes, are profiled on page 6.

**This photo:** Scaffolding inside what will be a 1,260-seat performance hall theatre in the Center for the Arts at Virginia Tech.

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An ever more comprehensive university

The construction cranes around campus tell the story. New facilities being built on multiple sites are physical evidence of a major, but quiet, transition. Virginia Tech is becoming an ever more comprehensive university.

The process began back in the mid-1960s, when T. Marshall Hahn Jr. set Virginia Tech on the path to becoming a nationally ranked and highly respected research university. President Hahn created three new colleges and built more than two dozen major campus buildings to support teaching, research, and the rapidly growing student population.

Today’s growth comes not from a rapid influx of students, but from a consistent increase in the size and scope of our research portfolio, which has doubled over the past 10 years and, if the trend continues, could do so again in the coming years.

Several stories inside this issue illustrate how donations are helping to fuel this process, including ones that highlight how philanthropy is benefitting the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine and the Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute—two entities whose additions have helped round out our research capabilities—as well as a Translational Medicine Building still in planning stages.

Next year’s opening of a spectacular facility for the Center for the Arts at Virginia Tech, one of those new buildings now under construction and surrounded by cranes, also marks a significant transition for a university long known for engineering, science, and technology. In this issue, you will meet some generous supporters of that project and learn about a major event presented by the center with financial support from our Women in Leadership and Philanthropy Endowed Lecture Fund.

Building an arts center represents a major commitment to excellence in all disciplines. It also represents a culmination of the expansion of our university’s scope started more than four decades ago, and fueled by the vision of our current president, Charles W. Steger.

While there is no single definition for the term “comprehensive university,” we at Virginia Tech are very clear what it means to us. Charles Steger said in his inauguration speech in 2000, “As a university, we must always strive to educate the whole person.”

As we take stock of our accomplishments, we can be proud that we are becoming just such a place, and we are grateful for the many supporters of our university. Whether they are supporting projects, professors, programs, or students, all of our donors make Virginia Tech a far greater place than it could possibly be without them.

Elizabeth A. “Betsy” Flanagan
Vice President for Development and University Relations
A signature facility for an extraordinary college

The Signature Engineering Building is due to open in the first quarter of 2014. Many generous supporters of the College of Engineering have contributed toward construction, including alumnus William Scruggs, of Arlington, Va. “A great college like ours not only deserves a showcase facility like this one, but needs it in order to compete with the world’s top engineering programs,” said Scruggs, who earned his bachelor’s of civil engineering in 1961.
David Barnes had worked for two years as a coin roller, filling up cardboard tubes with change, when the president of the bank that employed him walked up and asked what a typical 16-year-old in 1980 wanted for Christmas.

“I looked him right in the eye and told him I’d like to be a bank teller,” recalled Barnes, a native of Burke, Va., who earned his management science degree in 1986 from the Pamplin College of Business. “He chuckled and he walked away, and I got a call a few days later about becoming a teller.”

That chance encounter led to more than just a high school job for Barnes. He would later work his way through college as a bank teller. It took five years, and wasn’t easy to finish, he admits, but the effort made it possible for him to have a fulfilling career.

“Times were tough, but Tech gave me a well-rounded background through my classes and other experiences that I continue to treasure,” said Barnes, who now lives in Wilmington, N.C., and is a sales manager for Wells Fargo Home Mortgage. “I wouldn’t be where I am today if it wasn’t for all those experiences in college and the people that I met.”

Barnes cited his desire to help out the institution that positioned him for success while explaining why he and his wife, Jennifer, made a generous donation to help with construction of the Center for the Arts at Virginia Tech, a spectacular new facility due to open in late 2013 at the northern end of the campus in Blacksburg.

“While I cannot sing or dance and have no art talent, I’ve always enjoyed shows in New York,
and the talent that it takes to perform is amazing to me,” Barnes said. “Jennifer and I thought that this [center] was something that Virginia Tech needed, and when we were asked to help we decided we were going to do it.”

His wife, who did not attend Virginia Tech but has come to share her husband’s affinity for the school after visiting it with him often, said she and he view the Center for the Arts as a major asset that “helps the bigger picture for Tech being able to reach out to even more students and alumni.”

Enhancing the Virginia Tech experience

The investment made in the Center for the Arts by Virginia Tech and its supporters is expected to pay dividends in myriad ways. Increased presence and practice of the arts at the university will enhance students’ creative and critical thinking skills, broaden their cultural perspectives, and directly improve their ability to live and work successfully in a rapidly changing global environment. The center’s presence is also expected to elevate the university’s national stature and result in increased research funding, as well as to help the university continue to recruit outstanding faculty members. For more information on the center, including webcam footage of its construction, visit www.artscenter.vt.edu.
Jim and Ellen Wade said they already had plenty of reasons to support their alma mater, and they had been doing so for years, when they learned Virginia Tech was partnering with Carilion Clinic to open a research institute and school of medicine in Roanoke, Va.

Because they live in that city, they were excited to see a development that was certain to make a positive impact on the region’s economy. But they grew even more enthusiastic when they learned about some of the groundbreaking work in neuroscience being done at the Virginia Tech Carilion (VTC) Research Institute.
The quality of people [VTC Research Institute Executive Director] Michael Friedlander is bringing to Roanoke and the type of research they’re doing here can create tremendous economic development opportunities for this part of the state,” said Jim Wade, a former president and current member of the board of directors for Advance Auto Parts, who earned his accounting degree from Virginia Tech in 1976. “But there is a personal part of it for us. The research [many of the institute’s scientists] are doing is on the brain and how it functions, and part of that is directed to cerebral palsy and its causes and treatments, which hits home for us because of the needs of our daughter.”

To support such research, he and his wife created the Amanda Wade Fund for the Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute, which is named for their youngest daughter, who has that condition.

Amanda Wade earned her bachelor’s in psychology from Virginia Tech in 2007. The Wades’ eldest daughter, Jennifer, is also an alumna, having earned a bachelor’s in accounting and information systems in 2006 and a master’s in that subject in 2007.

“When we found out that Dr. Ramey was doing research on cerebral palsy we just felt like this was a gift from God...” Ellen Wade

The Wades said their decision to endow the research fund was cemented after they met Sharon Ramey, a professor on the faculty of both the research institute and the Department of Psychology in Virginia Tech’s College of Science.

Continued on next page
“We were extremely impressed with Dr. Ramey and how she goes about her research in a personal way,” Jim Wade said. “She spent time with Amanda, and it was obvious that she works really hard to get to know people as part of the research she’s doing and takes more than just a scientific approach.”

Ellen Wade, who earned her bachelor’s in human nutrition and foods in 1976 and a master’s in that subject in 1981, added, “When we found out that Dr. Ramey was doing research on cerebral palsy we just felt like this was a gift from God that we have all these people in Roanoke. Their work may not help Amanda, but I truly believe that at some point it will.”

‘Virginia Tech is really part of our family’

The Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute is one of many programs related to their alma mater that Jim and Ellen Wade have supported. Members of the Ut Prosim Society of extraordinarily generous supporters of Virginia Tech, they have also given generously to the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, the Graduate School, the Pamplin College of Business, and the W.E. Skelton 4-H Educational Conference Center at Smith Mountain Lake. The Wades also established a women’s pole vault scholarship that is named for their daughter, Jennifer, who was on Virginia Tech’s track-and-field team during her time at the university.

“Ellen and I see Virginia Tech as a very special place,” Jim Wade said. “With us both having gotten our degrees from there and both our kids having done so, Virginia Tech is really part of our family. We like that we’re able to give back and help a lot of people in different ways.”


‘I realized I could use my disability as a strength’

Amanda Wade, who has cerebral palsy, earned her bachelor’s of psychology from Virginia Tech, with honors, in 2007, and also has a master’s of counseling from Radford University. She plans to become a certified rehabilitation counselor in order to help people with the emotional challenges faced by those who have disabilities.

“The reason I chose that field is I realized I could use my disability as a strength in helping connect with other people with disabilities, such as war veterans coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan, or other people with CP,” said Wade.
Some people might be surprised to hear that 100 percent of a new medical school’s first class of students passed step one of the United States Medical Licensing Examination, especially when many highly renowned schools did not achieve a perfect pass-rate this year.

When Jim Smith, of Roanoke, Va., heard the good news about students at the Virginia Tech Carilion (VTC) School of Medicine, located in his city, he was pleased, but not shocked.

“If you look at the makeup of people involved in this school and at [medical school] Dean Cynda Johnson and her team, you have probably the most talented group of people that I’ve ever worked with,” said Smith (sociology ’74), a senior-housing developer and operator who heads the medical school’s board of directors, has donated generously in support of the school, and has been involved in it since its inception. “You’re predisposed to think everything is going to work and you will be successful, but I was still very proud and happy.”

Aspiring doctors have to pass the three-step licensing exam, often called the board exam, before they can apply for a medical license.
Step one is a one-day, multiple-choice test of knowledge of basic medical sciences. The test is generally administered after the second year of medical school. Step-two tests are usually taken in the fourth year of medical school, and step-three ones are generally taken during internships.

Not only did all 42 of the school’s students who took the examination this year pass, a vast majority of them scored above the national average.

“It’s a validation of the strength of the school and the curriculum, because it’s our first national benchmark,” said Johnson. “And board

“*It’s pretty impressive for a new program to really hit the ground running and come up to speed so quickly.*” Dan Carusillo
exam scores are the single best factor that ensures medical school students get into top residency programs.”

Johnson said one factor in the school’s excellent testing result was the decision to use scholarships to recruit an extremely high caliber of student for the charter class that arrived in fall 2010.

“As a new school, we’re developing our brand and need to be able to recruit these students,” Johnson explained. “We have a high-end curriculum. We want to develop physician thought leaders, and want to be able to recruit against the Ivy League and other top schools. Those schools get the best students due to their reputations, but also with scholarships.”

Gifts by donors like Dan Carusillo help make it possible for the VTC School of Medicine to use scholarships to recruit. He is an anesthesiologist who earned his medical degree from Georgetown but said “Virginia Tech is really my alma mater in my mind,” due to his unforgettable experiences in Blacksburg while working toward the bachelor’s of biological sciences he earned in 1986.

When Carusillo and his wife, Katina (systems engineering ’87), learned of Virginia Tech’s plans to establish a medical school in partnership with Carilion Clinic, they were inspired to create an endowment to fund scholarships at the school.

“It’s pretty impressive for a new program to really hit the ground running and come up to speed so quickly,” Carusillo, of San Diego, Calif., said in reference to the testing result. “I was impressed and I was proud, but to be honest I was not surprised because I think the world of how that program is set up.”

Priscilla McCall, of Greensboro, N.C., created the McCall VTC School of Medicine Scholarship Endowment along with her husband, Sam, a member of Virginia Tech’s Class of 1958.

“I am so pleased that has happened,” she said of the test results, “but with the caliber of people that they have, I would expect nothing less.”

Carusillo said news of the school’s step-one examination success should come as no surprise to those who have been following its progress, and he hopes it will draw even more attention to the school and result in additional philanthropic support.

“I wish more physicians and scientists in general could really get exposed to what they’re doing out there,” he said of the school. “It’s exciting and motivating, and I truly think people could get caught up in it. I’d like to put out a challenge to any other physicians with a Virginia Tech loyalty to sponsor a scholarship, because all of us in the medical field owe a debt to the field and should pay it forward.”

More online

Scholarships are one way that donors have helped the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine. Program support is another. To learn how Delta Dental of Virginia’s generosity helped the school pilot an oral-health curriculum, visit http://bit.ly/vtc-oral-health.
Visit http://bit.ly/sheer-good-fortune for additional photos as well as links to video from the event.
Toni Morrison, one of the nation’s most acclaimed novelists, spoke at Virginia Tech in October in an event presented by the Center for the Arts and made possible by multiple sponsors, including the Women in Leadership and Philanthropy Endowed Lecture Fund, a resource created by generous supporters of the university.

Sheer Good Fortune: Celebrating Toni Morrison took place in the 3,003-seat Burruss Hall Auditorium and was hosted by the poet Maya Angelou; Joanne Gabbin, a professor of English at James Madison University; and Nikki Giovanni, a University Distinguished Professor of English at Virginia Tech.


The Women in Leadership and Philanthropy Endowed Lecture Fund was created as part of a broader initiative to better recognize female graduates and friends for the positive impact they make on Virginia Tech. Visit wlp.givingto.vt.edu for more information, including details of events sponsored by the lecture fund.
Professorship aims to cultivate

This photo: C. Gordon Thornhill endowed the Thornhill Professor of Agricultural Trade and provided significant startup funding for the VALOR program that develops agriculture industry leaders.

Background: Kentland Farm is used for teaching, research, and Extension programs of the Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.
“This is a global market we are competing in today. It’s no longer just big companies that are trading with Europe, Asia, and Africa,” Thornhill said at an event celebrating the establishment of the professorship. “Every company, from the smallest to the largest, is working around the globe. The hope is that this donation helps to prepare Virginia Tech students for that international market where they can be competitive and successful.”

Alan Grant, the college dean, said that the new professorship will not only benefit the students at Virginia Tech but will also have a wide-reaching influence on government agencies and private businesses involved in international trade through the university’s Extension component.

“As Gov. Bob McDonnell and others have been emphasizing, agricultural trade has an enormous impact on the Virginia economy,” Grant said. “Virginia Tech is committed to growing its presence internationally, and this professorship will help us build relationships around the world that [will] benefit the university, the state, and private businesses. We are extremely grateful to Mr. Thornhill for his generosity and [for] helping his alma mater grow.”

Thornhill, the owner of Culpeper, Va.-based TK Exports, has given generously to Virginia Tech. In addition to his initial gift for the Thornhill professorship, he has supported leadership

Continued on next page

VALOR program prepares its inaugural class for leadership

The agricultural industry in Virginia has a new voice through the Virginia Agriculture Leaders Obtaining Results (VALOR) program, which is preparing its inaugural class of 11 students to become industry leaders.

Launched in 2012, VALOR’s goal is to develop leaders who can effectively engage all segments of the Virginia agricultural community to create collaborative solutions and promote agriculture inside and outside the industry. The program is funded in large part through corporate and individual sponsors who believe in the value of the program and the potential

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initiatives in the college by establishing two undergraduate scholarships and has provided significant startup funding for the Virginia Agriculture Leaders Obtaining Results program, best known by its acronym VALOR.

The holder of the new professorship will have a primary emphasis on teaching and Extension. She or he will work closely with undergraduate and graduate students who have interests in international trade. Extension activities will involve developing and providing research-based programming to support various governmental policymakers and organizations in the areas of trade development, facilitation, and policy.

The professorship is expected to help leverage Virginia Tech’s relationships with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, other government agencies, private businesses, and stakeholders to broaden trade opportunities and increase the value of Virginia and U.S. agricultural products abroad.

Thornhill knows well the value of an education that focuses on international agriculture trade. He quickly went from being the first member of his family to finish college to being the CEO of an international company that exports dairy and beef cattle to more than 45 countries around the world. He said his education at Virginia Tech not only gave him the tools he needed to succeed but also helped him develop relationships that have played a key role in his business over the years. Seven of his associates in the business are Hokies.

Thornhill has received numerous awards for his work over his more than 25 years in business and was named Exporter of the Year by the Virginia Agribusiness Council. He recently started a new division of his company that focuses on production and management training for his customers to give them a better background on managing the higher-producing dairy and beef cattle that he exports.

“Virginia Tech opened the world to me,” Thornhill said. “I wanted to give back to the university.”

A version of this story also appeared in Innovations, a newsletter of the Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.
of its participants to shape the future of the agricultural industry.

In fall 2012, the program named its inaugural class of representatives, comprised of individuals from various professional backgrounds who have a vested interest in the success of Virginia agriculture and leadership for the industry.

“When we selected the inaugural class, we had an inkling that they would work well together based on their diverse backgrounds and experiences,” said Megan Seibel, VALOR director. “After seeing them together for the first time in September, I’m very excited and I believe they have the potential to make a positive impact on the agriculture industry for many, many years.”

Among the first VALOR participants are a professional firefighter and paramedic, a construction manager, a high school teacher, a retired U.S. Army veteran, and a credit analyst. The one thing they all have in common is a strong tie to the agriculture industry, whether they own or operate a farm or work closely with agriculture through their jobs.

“A big part of gaining knowledge and skills in the VALOR program is from the diversity of the participants themselves,” said Andrew Smith, a member of the inaugural class who serves as senior assistant director of governmental relations with the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation and owns a commercial hay operation. “We all have something to offer. We are all unique in our field, and I think that’s how we can contribute to the program as individuals.”

His classmate, Teresa Lindberg, is an agriculture education teacher at Edward W. Wyatt Middle School in Emporia, Va., and former president of the Virginia Association of Agricultural Educators.

“One of the biggest concerns we have is the lack of knowledge and understanding about agriculture and the role it plays in everyday life,” she said. “We’ve gone from where we used to see the food and clothing being produced to where we’re not seeing it any more—we go to the store to pick it up. The VALOR program is going to give us a chance to make sure we’re educating the public so they’re more aware about what’s going on.”

Over the next two years, the program’s first class will take part in 12 seminars spanning approximately 50 days. The seminars will address social, political, and economic issues affecting the agriculture industry and its viability in a variety of settings throughout the commonwealth and beyond, including exploration of global agricultural issues, which will culminate with an international experience abroad.
Ray Curry didn’t plan to go to college. He started working at his father’s construction firm at age 14 and apprenticed as a carpenter from age 16 until he graduated from high school.

But through his apprentice program, which paired him with graduates from university civil engineering programs, Curry grew interested in some of the college-level math the graduates showed him in their old textbooks.

Meanwhile, several World War II veterans who worked for his father kept urging Curry to further his education.

“I really never had an interest,” the Alexandria, Va., resident said. “They told me to go to college and make something of myself.”

One of the engineering graduates Curry worked under had a degree from Virginia Tech. When Curry finally decided to become the first member of his family to pursue higher education, he headed to Blacksburg.

“There are two things that stick out in my mind from Virginia Tech that have helped me more than anything,” said Curry, who earned his bachelor’s of civil engineering in 1954 and served in the Army Corps of Engineers from 1955 to 1957 before returning to work for the family business, MOSES-ECCO. “One is the Corps of Cadets and the discipline and togetherness it created. The other is the education I got in engineering. It allowed me to be on more of a par when I talked with design engineers. When I’d see a set of drawings that were not economical to build, I could sit down with [the engineers] and say, ‘Do this and this and it would be more economical.’”

Curry’s knowledge of engineering principles served him well as he advanced from engineer to superintendent to shareholder in MOSES-ECCO, which specialized in high-rise buildings made of concrete. One of his earlier projects was an extremely complicated design that posed many engineering challenges—the Watergate Complex, by Italian architect Luigi Moretti.

A series of curved concrete buildings built along the Potomac River in Washington, D.C., starting in 1964, the project called for the pouring of 17,500 square feet each day so that a new building floor could be added every four days.

Curry has described it as not just a big project, but a tricky one, because the “constantly changing curves” made it “very difficult putting in post-tension cables.”

In 1970, Curry started his own business, SMC Concrete Construction Inc. Later that decade and into the 1980s, he also worked as a...
consultant for companies that were building with concrete in other countries or looking to sell concrete products in the U.S. In the 1980s, he founded another company, Curry Development Inc. In the 1990s, he became chairman and president of the Bank of Alexandria, which was later sold to F&M Bank.

The 1990s was also when Curry began making regular gifts to the College of Engineering, though he had supported other programs at his alma mater before, including athletics and the Annual Fund.

In 2004, Curry and his wife, Madelyn, endowed the Raymond G. and Madelyn A. Curry Graduate Fellowship for Civil and Environmental Engineering.

Curry’s support of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering goes beyond the fellowship. He serves on the department’s advisory board and helped fund an addition to the Thomas W. Murray Structural Engineering Laboratory, which is used by both undergraduate and graduate students. The Ray and Madelyn Curry Education Wing of the laboratory opened in 2008. In 2007, the department inducted Curry into its Academy of Distinguished Alumni.

“Without their contribution, we wouldn’t have been able to do that project at that time, and maybe not at all,” Professor W. Samuel Easterling, the department head, said.

Curry may have taken some convincing to go to college, but he turned out to be one of his college’s most distinguished, involved, and generous alumni. In recognition, he was inducted into the College of Engineering’s Academy of Engineering Excellence in March 2012.

At the time, only 112 out of more than 58,000 living alumni of the college had been so honored.
When asked why she endowed a scholarship in the Pamplin College of Business, Starlette Johnson cited her gratitude for the “professional foundation” she received at Virginia Tech.

While describing some of her most memorable undergraduate experiences, Johnson mentioned several challenging courses, but also studying in Europe and belonging to the Kappa Delta sorority.

For a young woman from Danville, Va., who enrolled in her father’s alma mater in part because she wanted to stay reasonably close to home, international study was “the sort of thing that really expands your worldview and helps you to look beyond your little community of 50,000 in southern Virginia,” Johnson explained.

And belonging to a sorority “made a large university feel a lot smaller,” she added.

Johnson earned her finance degree in 1985, but her experience was similar to that of many of today’s Virginia Tech students in at least one important respect. She benefitted
from her experiences outside the classroom as well as in it.

By helping students in the Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management to pay for college, Johnson—who has had a distinguished career in the restaurant industry and lives in Dallas—has increased the chances that those students can take advantage of all the opportunities available to them during their time at Virginia Tech.

“So many of our students, to be able to afford to be here, are working two, three, or even four jobs,” explained Professor Rick Perdue, who is head of the department Johnson has helped. “By offering scholarships, we hope we can reduce the need for them to be working so much outside of the university, so that they can spend more time on their academics or their professional development.”

Johnson is a former president and chief operating officer for the national chain restaurant Dave and Buster's. She recently joined the board of a publicly traded Tex-Mex restaurant chain, Chuy's, and also consults for growing companies in the restaurant industry.

“My focus is on the restaurant industry, and I view this as my opportunity to give back to my field,” she said of consulting.

Johnson said her desire to support her field and her college was what led her to target her scholarship support to hospitality and tourism management students even though her own Virginia Tech degree was in finance. In addition to the scholarship, she has created an excellence fund that Perdue, the department head, can use to help his faculty develop new skills and research streams.

“The more I can support the professional development of my faculty, the better that faculty is going to be in the classroom,” Perdue said. “That’s the bottom line and is the reason we invest in research and professional development.”

Hospitality and tourism management students learning from a sous chef.
Student’s goal of helping others facilitated by scholarship

Living the Virginia Tech motto of *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve)

Traveling to the Dominican Republic for a service-learning project over spring break is just one of the many ways sophomore Kieley Sutton has already helped others during her time at Virginia Tech. She also got involved with cleanup efforts in Pulaski County, Va., after tornadoes struck in 2011; joined the HealthyNRV digital storytelling project; and is a member of the university’s SERVE (Students Engaging and Responding through Volunteer Experiences) program.
Like many college students, Kieley Sutton decided to head south to a warmer climate for spring break in 2012. But for her, the trip was not about partying, it was about helping those less fortunate than herself.

“We were down in the Dominican Republic working with a health initiative installing water filters into communities that did not have access to them, and we also cleaned a community garden and helped people to grow food for local families that were dealing with HIV and AIDS [related] issues,” said Sutton, a sophomore double-majoring in biological sciences and Spanish.

The Williamsburg, Va., native traces her interest in community service back to elementary school, when she first learned about issues of inequality and decided that she would like to make a positive impact on the lives of others.

That desire guided Sutton’s choice of majors and has also directed much of her extracurricular activities during college. She plans to study constitutional law after graduating from Virginia Tech, and is interested in entering politics or providing legal assistance to the poor.

“Law schools take quite a lot of science majors, because getting that degree shows you can do research and handle a hard course load,” Sutton explained, adding that her ability to speak Spanish will help her represent a wider range of people.

“I’ve always been passionate about being able to help and serve those who can’t afford it or don’t know what to do, and I want to be able to help those people in a professional capacity.” Kieley Sutton

Sutton is one of four siblings who are likely to be in college at the same time within a few years, and she expects to have to fund law school herself. Nonetheless, she has been able to devote considerable time to service projects during college, as opposed to simply going to class and working a side job, thanks to a Virginia Tech scholarship funded by the Smithfield-Luter Foundation, the philanthropic wing of Smithfield Foods Inc. that funds education and growth opportunities in communities across the United States.

“The scholarship really helps with the financial burden aspect of college,” Sutton said, adding that she was extremely grateful to receive it.
Geo Balderas remembers the major boost in confidence he received just before his junior year in high school, after the braces he had worn on his teeth since seventh grade were removed.

As an aspiring orthodontist, he looks forward to the day when he’ll be able to give young people that same sense of pride in their smiles.

“Before I got braces I wasn’t confident,” said Balderas, a junior from Manassas, Va., who is majoring in human nutrition, foods, and exercise within the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, “but after they came off, I gained confidence. It was one of the highlights of high school for me, and also helped me step up in academics.”

Balderas said he received another confidence boost recently, when he was awarded the Robert L. Leach ’36 and Benton R. Leach ’52 Scholarship. Created in 1997 by alumnus Benton R. Leach (chemistry ’52) the scholarship is earmarked for students from certain areas of the state and gives preference to those who demonstrate financial need, show academic achievement, and perform community service.
Benton R. Leach’s mother died when he was a boy. He was born near Front Royal, Va., but he moved around a lot throughout his childhood as his father changed jobs, and he admits he chose to enroll at what was then called Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1948 because “it was the one place I could afford.”

While studying for his bachelor’s in chemistry, Leach worked in the dining hall for four years; joined the ROTC program, which provided much-needed money for school; and spent his summers in Front Royal working on a farm owned by his uncle, who helped Leach with tuition costs.

“As a result, I was able to graduate in 1952 with no debt,” said Leach, who retired after working 42 years in the chemical business and lives in High Point, N.C.

“Benton Leach

Since the late 1990s, numerous students have been able to complete their Virginia Tech degrees with less debt—or none at all—thanks to Leach’s generosity. In 1997, he established a scholarship named for himself and his uncle, Robert L. Leach, who was a member of the Class of 1936.

“I was interested in helping young Virginians like myself to get a college education,” Leach said. “Young people with ability and ambition, but limited financial wherewithal.”

Leach said he takes comfort in knowing that his support makes a difference in the lives of ambitious young people, and he particularly appreciates receiving letters of thanks from recipients of his scholarship.

“Every story is different,” he said. “Each student tells me a little bit about his or her background, their ambitions, and how helpful it is to have these scholarship dollars to complete their education. It is extremely satisfying to hear from them.”

Helping students graduate with little debt

“Helping students graduate with little debt”

Balderas spent a portion of the past summer shadowing professionals in different specialties within dentistry, including endodontics, orthodontics, and general dentistry. He said the experience helped cement his desire to attend dental school after completing his bachelor’s degree.

“It’s really an art, and that’s part of what attracts me to the career,” he said.

But another attraction, he added, was the potential to help build confidence in patients whose smiles are improved, just as his was several years ago.

While it will be years before he’s qualified to fix anyone’s teeth, Balderas already spends time trying to build confidence in the elementary school student he mentors through Big Brothers Big Sisters.

It’s a welcome opportunity to give back to the community for all the support he’s received himself, Balderas said.
Scholarship means smoother sailing for Corps of Cadets students
As the hair from his head fell to the floor of a barber shop in downtown Blacksburg, Philip Yambrick, a member of the Class of 2016, began his own journey down a path that his parents took more than 25 years ago.

Retired Navy Capt. Thomas M. Yambrick and his wife, retired Navy Cmdr. Laura Garza Yambrick, both members of the Class of 1987, celebrated their 25th reunion the same year that their oldest son, Philip, began his first year at Virginia Tech and in the Corps of Cadets.

“I’ve grown up with both my parents being Virginia Tech alumni,” Philip Yambrick said the day before he officially entered the corps. “Throughout all the places we’ve lived, Virginia Tech has just been the one place I can return to, watch the football games, and it just feels so much like home.”

Philip Yambrick’s love for Virginia Tech undoubtedly stems from his parents, who despite living all over the world during their military careers, have made giving back to the university, the Corps of Cadets, and their communities a priority for the entire family.

Thomas Yambrick (civil engineering ’87) was only able to attend college because of scholarships, including a Reserve Officer Training Scholarship and a Class of 1934 Scholarship from the Corps of Cadets. The generosity of others helped pave the way for his college education and eventually his career in the military.

“Tom wouldn’t have gone to college had it not been for those scholarships and I think he really feels that connection with kids these days who can’t afford it,” Laura Yambrick (political science ’87) said. “He was just so grateful for every bit of scholarship money he got that he wants to make sure that he gives back.”

The Yambricks have lived in California, Virginia, Texas, Japan, Germany, and Bahrain and have traveled to several other countries. Along every step of the way, the spirit of Ut Prosim (That I May Serve) has always remained an integral part of the family’s lifestyle.

“It wasn’t as much about money, it was about volunteerism, and that was something I think the corps also taught,” Laura Yambrick said.

Whether it was a community service project on base, or one of Philip’s Boy Scout service projects, the entire family got involved.

Thomas and Laura returned to Blacksburg for the Sept. 8 football game against Austin Peay as part of their 25th reunion. There, they saw their son in a Corps of Cadets uniform, caught up with old friends, and were reminded just how much Virginia Tech and the Corps of Cadets affected their lives.

“We value Virginia Tech and the Corps of Cadets and we recognize the benefits that the corps offered to our own military service,” Thomas Yambrick said. “We’re giving back to the institution, but we’re also giving back in a way which will benefit future Hokies like our son.”

A version of this story also appeared in Corps Review magazine.
Giving up summer vacation is not something many college students are willing to do. But for Virginia Tech students accepted into the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship program, the decision to trade their summer for invaluable hands-on research opportunities was a no-brainer.
The Fralin Life Science Institute’s SURF program, which receives donor support, takes place during a 10-week session and gives undergraduate students the opportunity to engage in full-time (approximately 40 hours a week) research and related professional development activities similar to graduate training.

Launched in 2008, the SURF program’s goal is to offer students experiences that will help them determine if they want to pursue a career in research while they develop skills for graduate school.

“I love the challenge,” said Jeronimo Silva, a wildlife science major from Sao Paulo, Brazil, and fellowship recipient. “The passion that I have for conservation—I think that’s worth investing my whole summer in and actually seeing what I can learn.”

Prior to the start of the fall 2012 semester, Silva and other fellowship appointees had the opportunity to present their research at the SURF program’s annual symposium.

“This summer I worked with a new rehabilitation technique for kids with cerebral palsy called constraint-induced movement therapy,” said Maggie McDermott, a senior from Chesterfield, Va., majoring in human nutrition, foods, and exercise. “I’m definitely going to expand this research and hopefully develop a paper.”

Students in the SURF program understand that donor support is vital to help ensure that they, and future generations of Hokies, have the tools they need to continue breaking new ground in their chosen fields, as well as to prepare them for successful and meaningful careers.

“Without that support, we wouldn’t be where we are today,” McDermott said. “We’ve got a lot of different ideas and we’re ready to present them, and having that support from donors, having the resources to voice our ideas, is really awesome.”

“The passion that I have for conservation—I think that’s worth investing my whole summer in and actually seeing what I can learn.” Jeronimo Silva

The SURF program had a record 82 fellowship appointees this past summer. Each fellowship includes a substantial stipend for its recipient.

“I would say that researchers, at some time in their lives, will pay out of their own pockets to do their research because they are passionate,” said Silva. “So if I had the opportunity to sit down with donors who allowed us to be here in the SURF program and gave us this opportunity, I would simply say ‘thank you’ and ask them to keep supporting the program.”

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Q: How did you learn about the Hypatia program at Virginia Tech?

A: When I was a senior in high school, I got a flier in the mail that invited me to the Hypatia preview weekend, where high school senior girls can tour campus and stay with one of the Hypatia program participants. While at the preview weekend, I was told by my advisor that I was accepted to Virginia Tech, so I made my decision to come to Blacksburg and take part in the Hypatia program.

Q: What has your experience in the Hypatia program meant to you?

A: Hypatia was a real community for me, which is hard to come by for girls majoring in engineering. Looking around at engineering classes, you don’t see that many girls, so seeing 100 girls on your hall was inspiring. Hypatia has given me a lot of skills that are very useful in my career. I made a portfolio and have used it at every career fair since I was a freshman. And at a professional level, I don’t think I’d be as prepared as I am now had it not been for Hypatia.

Then there are the friendships I’ve developed. The girls I met as a freshman are still some of my best friends.

Q: What do you think makes the Hypatia program a success?

A: A program like this wouldn’t be a success without money from donors. It’s a program that’s really changing lives. Susan Arnold-Christian, the program’s director, regularly meets with the student leadership team to ask how the program can be improved. Many of the ideas we’ve suggested over the last few years, such as a design competition specifically for students in these communities, they’ve already implemented.

The Hypatia Women in Engineering Learning Community, located in Lee Hall, brings together first-year female engineering students in a residential environment to provide encouragement and support in pursuing a career in engineering. Lockheed Martin Corporation made a generous donation in support of the program earlier this year. In excerpts from a conversation below, Lauren Gibboney, a senior majoring in computer engineering, discusses how the program benefitted her.
Touch the future

From one century to the next, still inventing the future.
Horace G. Fralin (1926 -1993)

Forward-thinking 20th century Roanoke, Va., native Horace G. Fralin (electrical engineering '48) planned a legacy that would support excellence at Virginia Tech into the 21st century and beyond.

Endowed with a gift from Fralin's estate, Virginia Tech's Fralin Life Science Institute (shown above) provides resources to Virginia Tech's life sciences community to support innovative research, education, and outreach across multiple disciplines.

Fralin's legacy is inventing the future, year after year. Yours can, too.

Learn more.
Contact the Office of Gift Planning
Phone 800-533-1144 or 540-231-2813
Email giftplanning@vt.edu

Virginia Tech
Invent the Future®
Graduate students follow their dreams
Stamps Foundation support of

Graduate students in the veterinary college who have received funding from the Stamps Family Charitable Foundation had an opportunity to meet with the foundation’s namesake, E. Roe Stamps IV (center), during a visit to the college in September. Roger Avery (left), senior associate dean for research and graduate studies, and Dr. Gerhardt Schurig (right), dean of the college, also took part in the meeting.
A group of high-achieving graduate students in the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine are able to pursue a career path in biomedical research in part because of the Stamps Family Charitable Foundation.

“In addition to tracking infectious disease outbreaks, I hope to teach future professional students when I finish this program, as a chance to give back to the profession that has provided me with so many opportunities,” said Dr. Jeff Alexander, of Mechanicsville, Va., a Ph.D. candidate in the biomedical and veterinary sciences program. “Without the generosity of the Stamps Foundation, this would not be possible.”
Before enrolling in the Ph.D. program, Alexander had a long list of academic accomplishments. He completed a doctor of veterinary medicine (D.V.M.) degree from the veterinary college in 1998 and later earned a master’s of public health. Students who receive support from the Stamps Foundation grant, such as Alexander, must have high test scores and GPAs and demonstrate their active involvement in community service, leadership, and research.

In 2011, the Stamps Foundation committed nearly $500,000 to the veterinary college to support graduate students in biomedical and veterinary sciences. The gift, which was the foundation’s first to a graduate-level program, covers half of the cost for five graduate students over five years, including travel and research funding. The veterinary college matches the other half of the renewable scholarship.

This fall, the college received a second commitment of more than $573,000 to fund an additional cohort of students in the program. This brings the Stamps Foundation’s commitment to more than $1 million.

“We are very excited that the Stamps Foundation continues to invest in our students and our research program,” said Roger Avery, senior associate dean for research and graduate studies at the veterinary college. “We look forward to continuing to explore partnerships with organizations that share our goals.”

The students in the program have a wide range of research interests. Catharine Cowan, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., a second-year graduate student in the combined D.V.M. and Ph.D. program, plans to pursue her interest in veterinary immunology.

“Support from the Stamps Foundation will help me follow my dream of having a career doing translational research, teaching, and practicing veterinary medicine,” said Cowan, who completed a master’s degree in cancer cell molecular signaling before enrolling in the program. “The opportunity to meet individuals in different fields and travel to national meetings is critical for developing a well-rounded academic researcher, and the Stamps scholarship promotion of these opportunities will let me make the most of my graduate studies.”

This story was due to appear in Vital Signs, the electronic newsletter of the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine.

About the Stamps Family Charitable Foundation

Inspired by the impact that their university experiences had on their lives, venture capitalist and philanthropist E. Roe Stamps IV and his wife, Penny, have chosen to support exceptional students in their pursuit of higher education. The Stamps Family Charitable Foundation works with universities to create programs offering enriched educational experiences.
During his senior year studying building design at Virginia Tech, G.T. Ward and classmates cobbled together $1,000 to pay the speaker’s fee it took to get legendary architect Frank Lloyd Wright to come to campus and give a talk.

By charging $2 a ticket, they actually raised enough money not only to pay Wright, but to leave behind about $1,000 for the following year’s students to use to pay a speaker.

Ward, who earned his bachelor’s of building design in 1951 and a master’s of science and architecture the following year, said he believes the Wright speech helped change the university by broadening the horizons of students at what was then a relatively isolated institution.

“I think that event changed the university in a lot of ways,” Ward said in an interview he gave after being selected as his alma mater’s Class of 2010 ring collection namesake. “It opened us up.”

Ward’s effective efforts on Virginia Tech’s behalf in 1951 were just a hint of the major impact he would make on his university in years to come. As an architect, as a volunteer on numerous boards, and as a philanthropist, his dedication to the university has been outstanding.

A member of the President’s Circle within the Ut Prosim Society of extraordinarily generous donors, Ward has a professorship and a scholarship named for him in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies.

Ward explained that he has also given to support international study by architecture students because he believes it’s important for “young people to have every opportunity to explore the world.”

Virginia Tech’s architecture programs are not the only beneficiary of Ward’s generosity and involvement. He has donated to athletics, the Corps of Cadets, and several other programs as well.

Through his architecture firm, Ward/Hall Associates AIA PLC, Ward has also made his mark on campus by designing the Merryman Athletic Center, which sits between Lane Stadium and Cassell Coliseum, and the Virginia Tech Library System and Waste Policy...
Institute buildings, which are in the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center.

Ward, who lives in Marshall, Va., has also helped the university by serving on the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors, the Virginia Tech Foundation Board of Directors, the Virginia Tech Alumni Association Board of Directors, and the College of Architecture and Urban Studies Advisory Council, along with several other university boards. He received the university’s Alumni Distinguished Service Award in 1988 and the William H. Ruffner Medal in 1996.

“G.T. is the quintessential model of an engaged and caring individual committed to excellence, personally, professionally, and philanthropically,” said Jack Davis, dean of the College of Architecture and Urban Studies. “He never forgot his roots, and has continued to support an institution that helped him become the extraordinary individual he is today.”

Prior to Wright’s appearance at Virginia Tech, Ward had tried, without success, to negotiate down the speaker’s fee. In his class ring namesake interview, Ward recalled a conversation he had with Wright shortly after the appearance: “He said, ‘Had I known this was all being organized by the students, I wouldn’t have charged you anything.’ But he never returned the check.”

Ward described Wright as the greatest American architect and his appearance on campus as a highlight of his own education.

But, over the course of his distinguished career, he chose not to follow Wright’s lead in at least one respect. He has freely shared his expertise and resources to help Virginia Tech students time and again.

*A version of this story also appeared in the 2011-12 annual report of the Virginia Tech College of Architecture and Urban Studies.*
Hokie couple views scholarships as an investment in the future

For many students, taking care of an apartment is part of the growing-up process one goes through while enrolled in college. For David Sheffield, it was keeping an eye on nine apartments and a 30-room hotel owned by the family business he was called upon to help run in the wake of tragedy.

“My father passed away at the beginning of my sophomore year and we had a family business in West Virginia, so I spent a lot of time going home on weekends and couldn’t spend much time on campus for the next year or two,” recalled Sheffield, a retired chemical company executive who lives in Allentown, Pa.

Despite considerable responsibilities back home while in college, Sheffield managed to earn his bachelor’s in building construction in 1975 and an M.B.A. a year-and-a-half later, both from Virginia Tech. He credits his degrees, and his experience being president of the university’s German Club, with preparing him to succeed in business, and in gratitude has given back generously to his alma mater.

“Financially, we’ve been very fortunate, and we’ve given to a lot of local charities that help the needy, but we wanted to do something that had an even longer-term impact, particularly in academia, educating people so they can contribute to the next generation,” Sheffield said when asked why he and his wife, Nancy, endowed a scholarship that helps students in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the College of Engineering. “We wanted to help kids who financially are not fortunate but academically are well-formed—basically to invest in the future.”

Nancy Sheffield, who met her husband at Virginia Tech, and their son is also a Hokie. Her brother, niece, and nephew also attended the university, and so did Sheffield’s father and mother. There is even a chance Sheffield’s family ties to the university go back much further. Her mother, Barbara Caldwell Sutton, grew up in Sinking Creek, Va. Addison Caldwell, who in 1872 became the first student to enroll at what is now Virginia Tech, was also from Sinking Creek. “There probably was some family connection,” Sheffield said, “but exactly what it was, I have no idea.”

Family ties to Virginia Tech

Nancy Sheffield met her husband at Virginia Tech, and their son is also a Hokie. Her brother, niece, and nephew also attended the university, and so did Sheffield’s father and mother. There is even a chance Sheffield’s family ties to the university go back much further. Her mother, Barbara Caldwell Sutton, grew up in Sinking Creek, Va. Addison Caldwell, who in 1872 became the first student to enroll at what is now Virginia Tech, was also from Sinking Creek. “There probably was some family connection,” Sheffield said, “but exactly what it was, I have no idea.”

nutrition and foods she earned in 1975, said the couple “didn’t want to just spread our giving across a lot of places. We wanted it to go to one thing that could really make a difference. As we talked about it, we realized that a person who is educated can not only do something for themselves, but for their family and all the people around them.”
Several years ago, when he was asked to chair the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine volunteer committee within the university’s past fundraising campaign, Marvin “Skip” Schuelke expressed some reservations. “I said, ‘Not only don’t I know anything about veterinary medicine, I don’t even have a dog,’” recalled Schuelke, who earned his bachelor’s in marketing management from Virginia Tech in 1969 and lives in Virginia Beach. “But [veterinary college Dean] Gerhardt Schurig explained to me that it was not just about veterinary medicine, but translational medicine and research.”

While he may not have had a dog, Schuelke, who founded and still owns a biomedical company, did have a keen interest in medical breakthroughs.

And as he learned more about the discoveries that could be made possible by partnerships between researchers in the veterinary college and their colleagues across Virginia Tech, Schuelke agreed to invest both time and money in improving the medical research environment in Blacksburg. Schuelke made a major contribution in sup-
port of the Translational Medicine Building. Though it will be located at the veterinary college, this new research facility would also be used by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the College of Science.

Translational medicine refers to an effort—endorsed by medicine’s major funding agency for research, the National Institutes of Health—to translate basic research into clinical treatments in quicker, more effective ways.

As now planned, the three-story building would be 100,000 square feet. Roughly 20,000 square feet of it would be clinical space for the veterinary college’s teaching hospital, with the remainder used by medical researchers. The new building will help expand the university’s efforts in cancer research and regenerative medicine.

“Virginia Tech has shown promise in those areas, and this new facility should help it become even more prominent in them,” said Schuelke. He predicted that regenerative medicine—stimulating the body’s own repair mechanisms or growing replacement organs—will yield tremendous breakthroughs in the years to come.

It’s a prediction that carries weight. Schuelke has demonstrated an ability to spot promising developments in medicine repeatedly throughout his career.

Just a few months after he graduated from Virginia Tech, Schuelke began selling surgical supplies for Kendall Corporation. Three years later, he seized an opportunity to work for a firm called Convertors, which had introduced a product to create an impervious barrier between sterile and non-sterile regions of an operating room.

In 1977, he joined another early-stage company, Kol Biomedical, and sold electrosurgical devices that helped control bleeding during operations. Later, he took on an even bigger challenge by founding Schuelke Biomedical to sell equipment for minimally invasive surgery, including lasers.

“I had to go and buy a million dollars worth of lasers to start the business,” Schuelke said. “That was in 1983, and it was a lot of money back then.”

Schuelke, who helped form the Virginia Biotechnology Association and chaired its board for many years, continues to run his biomedical firm.

Schuelke has demonstrated an ability to spot promising developments in medicine repeatedly throughout his career.

Through his involvement in the biotechnology association, Schuelke learned about groundbreaking medical research being done at his alma mater by people such as former Fralin Biotechnology Center Director Tracy Wilkins. A company Wilkins started up eventually merged with the Scottish firm that produced Dolly the sheep—the first mammal cloned from adult cells. That event, which illustrated the tremendous progress scientists had made in understanding cell processes, was a milestone in regenerative medicine.

Additional examples of the university’s strength in medical research, Schuelke said, include the creation in 2000 of the Virginia Bioinformatics Institute and the opening in 2010 of the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine and Research Institute. As he has stayed involved with his alma mater over the years, Schuelke added, his certainty that Virginia Tech has enormous potential in the life sciences has only grown.

By contributing toward the Translational Medicine Building, and encouraging others to do the same, he has helped the university move closer to fully realizing that potential.
Cookbook offers exquisite food with a dash of Virginia Tech history

A new book published by the Virginia Tech Foundation offers a sampling of recipes from the university’s historic presidential home with proceeds benefitting a scholarship fund for spouses and dependent children of university employees.

“The Grove: Recipes and History of Virginia Tech’s Presidential Residence” features 226 pages of recipes for dozens of dishes prepared at The Grove along with a historical perspective on the campus landmark. Edited and written by Clara Cox, former director of publications for the university, the book features recipes and photos for mouth-watering appetizers, salads, breads, cereals, soups, sauces, entrées, vegetables, fruit dishes, and desserts prepared by Executive Chef Michael Arrington and retired Chef Josef R. Schelch.

“These chefs develop their own recipes, adapt classic favorites, and then ensure that the resulting dishes are not just aesthetically pleasing but also provide epicurean enjoyment to the hundreds of guests we entertain at The Grove each year,” said President Charles W. Steger.

The publication is Steger’s brainchild, a way to raise money for the Employees’ Spouse and Dependent Scholarship. The book is available at the university bookstores in Blacksburg or at http://bit.ly/vt-grove.

Established in 2000, the Virginia Tech Employees’ Spouse and Dependent Scholarship supports first-year or newly arrived transfer students who are dependents of or married to university employees. More than 130 students have benefitted from the scholarship so far. For more information, please visit http://bit.ly/esd-scholarship-fund.
Year-end giving guidelines

To ensure year-end tax credit for your 2012 contribution, please be aware of the following:

• **Credit card payments sent by mail** must be received by the Office of Gift Accounting by 4 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 31, 2012, to ensure that they are processed by the end of the year.


• **Checks delivered by the U.S. Postal Service** must be dated on or before Dec. 31, 2012, and postmarked by Dec. 31, 2012.

• **Checks by other delivery** (hand delivered, FedEx, UPS) must be dated on or before Dec. 31, 2012, and received by Virginia Tech’s Office of University Development by 4 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 31, 2012. *Gift checks not mailed by the U.S. Postal Service are effective as of the date received by Virginia Tech.*

• **Transfer of securities** must be executed by your broker and is complete when received in an account owned by Virginia Tech. Please allow three to five business days for electronic transfers. If you have questions about transferring any gift of securities (stocks, bonds, mutual funds), please call the Office of Investments and Debt Management at 540-231-2325, or email IDM@vt.edu.

• **For more detailed instructions on ways to give in tax year 2012** call the Office of University Development at 800-533-1144 or visit [http://bit.ly/yearendguidelines](http://bit.ly/yearendguidelines). With the exception of Dec. 24-25, 2012, the Office of Gift Accounting will be open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., throughout December.

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**Will there be a 2012 charitable IRA rollover?**

In recent years, this charitable rollover, or qualified charitable distribution, has allowed many Virginia Tech donors age 70 1/2 or older to exclude from taxable income—and count toward their required minimum distribution—qualifying gifts transferred directly from their IRAs to a charity such as Virginia Tech.

Visit [http://bit.ly/irarollover](http://bit.ly/irarollover) to learn about the qualifications previously applied for a charitable IRA rollover, and to check whether Congress has passed legislation to renew this option for 2012.