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Inspiring success

Cover photo: Zachary Gajewski and Avanthi Jayaweera received Senora Pritchard Memorial Scholarships. Read more about them and their scholarship’s creator, Linda Pritchard Patterson, starting on page 28.

This photo: Architecture and philosophy double major Matthew Ridgeway was transformed by his experience at Virginia Tech’s main facility in Europe, which is being renovated with help from donors. Learn more on page 10.

Online: Visit www.givingto.vt.edu for additional stories about the impact of philanthropy on Virginia Tech.
During the production of this issue of Impact, Charles W. Steger, Virginia Tech’s 15th president, announced his plans to step down. Since 2000, our president’s visionary leadership and commitment to excellence have advanced Virginia Tech among the nation’s premier research institutions. His efforts simultaneously encouraged the growth of active-learning experiences to prepare students to excel in a changing world.

This period of transition in leadership is an appropriate time to reflect on the accomplishments that not only set our university apart, but will continue to shape its future.

In this issue, you will learn more about the Center for the Arts, which will open in the fall; the Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science, which supports cutting-edge research; and improvements to the Center for European Studies and Architecture, which demonstrate the globalization of our educational offerings.

Our successes in these areas are directly attributable to the generosity of donors. The stories within these pages highlight the many ways in which philanthropy fuels progress. Donor support funds special projects, assists with building improvements, and even lays a foundation for the future through endowments.

An invaluable resource, endowments create a legacy of opportunity by establishing a perpetual stream of financial support for a program, scholarship, or professorship. As you read, you will meet dynamic faculty members and inspirational students who have benefitted from endowed gifts.

Our university endowment, held and managed by the Virginia Tech Foundation, had a market value of more than $651 million as of March 31, 2013, the latest figure available when this issue went to press, the highest value on record.

Although we are proud of the growth in this area, many other universities similar to us in size and scope note endowment values between $3 billion and $5 billion. Bringing our endowment more in line with those at such institutions is critical to ensuring that we remain competitive and continue to attract students, faculty, and researchers of the highest caliber.

Although there is leadership change on the horizon, our emphasis on providing private support to the university remains the same. I am happy to announce that the university received $90 million in private gift income in fiscal year 2012-2013.

As we celebrate the accomplishments achieved during President Steger’s tenure and anticipate new directions for the future, we would like to take a moment to thank all of you who have supported our efforts.

Your contributions to Virginia Tech make a profound difference for our current students and for future generations.

Elizabeth A. “Betsy” Flanagan, Vice President for Development and University Relations
The College of Science Integrated Science Curriculum prepares students to apply their knowledge and skills to important issues. Private giving has helped the program in several ways. The Brown Foundation of Houston has helped postdoctoral Fellows associated with the program to attend teaching workshops. Also, students in the program may apply for the Davy-Faraday Scholarship. Visit [http://bit.ly/108GDre](http://bit.ly/108GDre) for the related Virginia Tech Spotlight on Innovation: An interdisciplinary approach.
A worthy recipient of Virginia Tech’s highest honor

by ALBERT RABOTEAU

Michele “Shelley” Duke’s long relationship with Virginia Tech started the day the avid horsewoman walked into the university’s Equine Medical Center in Leesburg, Va., and asked why it was hard to get an appointment. When she was told that doctors were out in stalls taking shifts waiting for foals to be born, she had an idea.

Duke suggested that volunteers wait with the mares and notify the doctors when they were needed, so that the doctors could treat more horses in the meantime. Medical center administrators welcomed the idea, and welcomed a woman whose volunteer leadership and philanthropy would make a tremendous impact not only on their facility, but on Virginia Tech as a whole.
In recognition of her 25 years of service to the university in numerous capacities, Duke, who owns and operates Rallywood Farm in her adopted hometown of Middleburg, Va., was named the 2013 recipient of Virginia Tech’s highest honor, the William H. Ruffner Medal.

Duke was the first female vice rector on the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors, and is the second woman to win the medal, which was established in 1976 and is presented at University Commencement each spring.

“It was so easy to get involved with Virginia Tech because the university is so open-minded and willing to share its assets with Virginians,” said Duke, whose history of service to the university includes working on many other volunteer boards, committees, or councils, including the National Campaign Steering Committee for the university’s past fundraising campaign, the Women in Leadership and Philanthropy Council, the Virginia Tech Foundation Board of Directors, the Middleburg Agricultural Research Extension Center Board, the Equine Medical Center Board, the Olivio Ferrari Foundation Board of Directors, and the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine’s Dean’s Advisory Council.

Duke is a native Californian whose career history includes serving as principal of J.A. Sanford and Company, in San Francisco, and Shearson Hayden Stone Inc. (now part of Morgan Stanley), in Southfield, Mich.

Early on as a volunteer leader at the Equine Medical Center, Duke helped a young woman who had suffered a traumatic brain injury after falling from a horse but returned to riding for therapeutic purposes, hoping to enter the Paralympic Games in dressage. Decades later, Duke, who once competed internationally in equestrian events, now rides horses as physical therapy for herself after having suffered a stroke.

“It was so easy to get involved with Virginia Tech because the university is so open-minded and willing to share its assets with Virginians.”

Michele “Shelley” Duke

While her goal is to return to competition, Duke said she “has been slowly but surely passing some of my horses down to the Virginia Tech equestrian team, hoping they may help them in competition.”

It’s a comforting way to stay involved in the sport she loves, Duke said. It’s also completely in character for someone who has been such an extraordinary friend of the university that in 2005 she was named an honorary alumna—a distinction fewer than 15 people have received.

Michele “Shelley” Duke and her husband Phil are members of the Ut Prosim Society, a select group of the university’s most generous supporters. At the society’s annual gathering, held April 19-20, 112 new members were welcomed and 66 members were recognized for advancing within the society. The Dukes also belong to the Legacy Society for those who make planned gifts to Virginia Tech.

The university has named the performance hall within its Center for the Arts in honor of two Virginia couples—Nicholas and Fay Street of Bristol and William C. “Jack” and Sandra Davis of Blacksburg—in recognition of their philanthropic support of the center’s construction.

The Street and Davis Performance Hall’s approximately 84,000 square feet contain much of the newly constructed portion of the Center for the Arts at Virginia Tech, a roughly $100 million project at the northeastern edge of campus. The 150,000-square-foot center also includes the former Shultz Hall, which has been extensively renovated.

“The Center for the Arts is a transformative project for our university and brings a tremendous new asset to this region of Virginia,” Vice President for Development and University Relations Elizabeth “Betsy” Flanagan said. “We are extremely grateful to the Street and Davis families for their generous participation in this substantial investment in the arts, which is helping make us an even more comprehensive institution.”

“This entire project is really a collaborative effort,” added Ruth Waalkes, the university’s associate provost for the arts and the center’s executive director. “There is funding from the university and funding from the state, but the private funding that is going into this building is significant, and these gifts from the Streets and Davises have been particularly meaningful for us.”

Both of the couples for whom the performance hall has been named had extensive histories of supporting Virginia Tech as donors and volunteers even before the gifts that prompted the naming. The Streets and Davises are members of the President’s Circle within the Ut Prosim Society, a select group of the university’s most generous donors.

The Davises served on the National Campaign Steering Committee for the university’s past fundraising campaign. Sandra Davis has also served on the Virginia Tech Athletic Fund Executive Committee, Virginia Tech Foundation Board of Directors, Virginia Tech Foundation Development Committee, and the W.E. Skelton 4-H Educational Conference Center at Smith Mountain Lake Board of Directors.

“Watching the performance hall going up these past three years has been wonderful, and we’re thrilled to see it approaching the realization of the dreams of all of us who have been associated with it,” said Jack Davis, former executive director of the university’s Virginia Center for Civil War Studies. “This center is going to bring incalculable benefits to the university and
to Blacksburg, and it’s going to be a cultural and economic dynamo for the town and the region. Having attended performances in halls all across the country and abroad, I can say beyond question that this is a world-class facility in every way—design, construction, and most of all attention to the audience experience. Performers are going to love coming to this hall, and we’re going to love what they do here.”

The Streets also served on the National Campaign Steering Committee, and have served on many other boards or committees, including the Class of 1953 Reunion Committee, the Virginia Tech Foundation Board of Directors, and the Virginia Tech Athletic Fund Board of Directors.

“We believe this center will contribute a great deal to the university experience for all students by adding a world-class arts component to the mix,” said Fay Street, an attorney who earned her bachelor’s of finance in 1977 from what is now Virginia Tech’s Pamplin College of Business. “It also adds to the appeal of living or working in Southwest Virginia, which helps the entire region.”

Along with the center’s main theater, the performance hall contains extensive support space and the facility’s main lobby areas. All of those areas will open this fall. Center administrators are scheduling a week of opening activities for late October.

Virginia Tech News also ran this story online.  

HDR photo composition showing the grand staircase in the Street and Davis Performance Hall.
The Center for European Studies and Architecture opened in 1994 and has been the home away from home for numerous students from a variety of Virginia Tech’s colleges as they have been exposed to the many cultures, economic systems, and nationalities of Europe.

The center, commonly called CESA, is located in Riva San Vitale, a municipality within Ticino, the Italian-speaking canton of Switzerland. The center’s building, Villa Maderni, dates from the mid-1700s. It’s undergoing renovations and an expansion that will help what is Virginia Tech’s primary European facility to provide students and faculty with the best possible education-abroad experiences.

Matthew Ridgeway of Dayton, Va., an architecture and philosophy double major now in the final year of his five-year program of study, said his experience at CESA in fall 2012 helped him “develop a more internal understanding of architecture.”

CESA headquarters is in Riva San Vitale, Switzerland. The center’s building dates from the mid-1700s.
“I garnered a different understanding of what ‘place’ is and what makes a ‘place.’”
Matthew Ridgeway

The renovation-and-expansion project began in September 2012 and is expected to be completed in spring 2014. Private giving plays a major role in financing the project, and fundraising is ongoing.

One donor who has already given generously is Gordon “Sonny” Bowman II, who said he was inspired by the potential for personal growth for students who participate in international education programs.

“I think it’s smart that Virginia Tech has this facility,” added Bowman, who earned his bachelor’s of horticulture from Virginia Tech in 1956, lives in Mount Jackson, Va., and has a family business that is a major player in the apple-growing, -processing, and -packing industry. “Because we have a global market, we have to be able to offer education on a global scale. It broadens the kids that go over there, no question in my mind.”

Architectural rendition of an expanded and renovated facility.

CESA project details
- Spring 2014 completion
- 6,200 square feet of new construction
- $6.5 million budget
- Nearly $2 million donated to date
- $3 million of additional support sought
Giving back behind the scenes

The Virginia community of Rural Retreat, New York City, the NFL, and elephants would seem to have nothing in common, but they all come up in conversation with generous alumnus Blaise Box.

Box (theatre arts ’79) relocated to Rural Retreat with his family the summer before his sophomore year in high school. At the time, Rural Retreat was primarily an agricultural community. Although many of his classmates worked on family farms or joined local businesses following high school, Box chose to enroll at Virginia Tech.

During Box’s first year at the university, his father suffered a heart attack that left him unable to work for an extended period of time. Community generosity to his family during this time made a profound impression on Box and is one reason he makes giving back a priority. The example set by his parents provided another.

“There were five kids plus my mom and dad in our immediate family, and we didn’t have much,” Box said. “But somehow we had always had enough to share.”

During the spring semester of his sophomore year at Virginia Tech, Box enrolled in a theatre arts class that helped set the stage for his future career.

“I had always loved theater,” he said. “My mother read us Shakespeare and encouraged us to be involved in school performances. Acting wasn’t my thing, but I loved building sets and watching all of the pieces come together. When I took the class at Tech, I felt at home. I knew that this was the field for me—even if my parents were a little worried that I might never be able to make a living at it.”

But make a living he has, and more. Box attended graduate school at Penn State, where he earned a master’s of theatre lighting and design. Later, he worked in theatrical set design and lighting and production management in New York City and on tours across the nation. It was while touring that he met his wife Arlene. The couple’s son Michael is a student at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Today, Box focuses on the corporate stage, managing the set design, lighting and audio for events ranging from new product announcements to stockholders’ meetings, professional conferences, and even the NFL Rookie Symposium. He operates his company, Staging and Design Inc., out of his home in Lawrenceville, Ga.

“In the beginning I was on the road about 200 days a year,” he said. “Not as often now, but often enough to keep it interesting. I recruit a staff tailored to each project. Sometimes there are three of us, and other times 103. I plan and execute all of the technical aspects of the event.

“My team works around-the-clock. Opening night is opening night; it doesn’t change because there is a glitch in the audio system or an issue with the

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“I had always loved theater. ... Acting wasn’t my thing, but I loved building sets and watching all of the pieces come together. When I took the [stage management] class at Tech, I felt at home.”

Blaise Box
venue. Honestly, it’s a lot like eating an elephant. You just have to manage it one bite at a time.”

Together with former Virginia Tech classmate Bill Buxton, Box provided production and design support for Virginia Tech campaign events in 1995, 2007, and 2011. He donated his fees back to the university to establish first a scholarship and later an endowment to support theatre arts.

The Buxton-Box Scholarship benefits theatre arts students in a non-performance major.

Dylan Amick received the scholarship in 2011 and graduated a year later. “The scholarship helped cover my school expenses so that I could focus on my studies,” Amick said by phone from New York City, where he was working Off-Broadway as a freelance electrician. “Now that I am working in New York, I really understand the value of the Hokie community. It connects people no matter where you are, and that makes all the difference.”

Box said he endowed a fund to help the theatre arts department because he is “who I am today because of the foundation that my college experiences provided. It is a privilege to be able to give back to Virginia Tech.”

Box credits Virginia Tech Professor Randy Ward and former Professor Don Drapeau with shaping his education and career, and says his professional success is rooted in his “experiences at Virginia Tech and the relationships I built.”

“Blaise has a clear passion for the business and the complex workings of stage technology so it was only natural to expect the best from him always,” Ward said of his former student. “I believe he was a natural leader and so he accepted every challenge and thrived leading other undergraduates. He never turned down a challenge.”

An endowed fund that Blaise Box established supports initiatives that will enhance opportunities for faculty and students in the Department of Theatre and Cinema.

To date, The Blaise Box Theatre Arts Excellence Fund has assisted with the purchase of hardware and software for graduate projects, covered faculty travel expenses for conferences and events, and reduced travel costs for students participating in the department’s production of “Persephone” at the Brooklyn Academy of Music’s Next Wave Festival.

“When graduates of our program give scholarship, program support, or unrestricted endowment funds, it brings current students a sense of greater connection to the world and to the past and future of Virginia Tech, said Department Head and Professor Patty Raun. “Blaise’s expression of gratitude to his former teachers with the Blaise R. Box Theatre Arts Excellence Fund [also] energizes our faculty. Gifts like this remind us that the positive connections we make with our students can change their lives and ours.”
According to a 2012 report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 3 million high school students and 600,000 middle school students smoke cigarettes each year. Nearly 25 percent of full-time college students ages 18-22 were smokers as of 2010.

Virginia Tech’s Health Education and Awareness Team, known as HEAT, is working hard to bring those numbers down. Each semester, HEAT’s peer educators offer workshops to publicize the dangers of smoking, along with many other public-health outreach efforts that benefit both the campus community and surrounding localities.

The outreach about the dangers of tobacco has been funded by Pfizer Inc. Meanwhile, an extraordinary commitment of future support for Virginia Tech health education programs has been made by the university’s former student health director, Dr. Charles W. Schiffert, in honor of his late wife, Dolores.

Pamplin College of Business creating

**Richard E. Sorensen Dean’s Chair Endowment**

by GARY COPE ’97

The endowment will provide discretionary funds to support the dean of the business college.


Richard Sorensen (center, wearing maroon tie) met with students and faculty at a Business Information Technology Senior Showcase.
Meet the new dean

Q: What about Virginia Tech made you want to come back and serve as dean of the Pamplin College of Business?

A: I think Virginia Tech is one of the best universities in the country, and I saw that up close and personal during my 20 years here. I kept up with the university and have watched Pamplin as it continued to progress. I feel like my background is a good complement to where the university and Pamplin are going. It’s very much a homecoming for me. Being able to come back and reunite with a lot of the friends and colleagues I had in the past is really exciting.

Q: What did Dean Richard Sorensen and his tenure mean for Pamplin?

A: Dean Sorensen has been a very strong leader. He’s given the Pamplin College of Business a real international presence. He’s been very successful at connecting with alumni of the college, both on a personal level and through organizations. That focus on connecting with alumni has helped him be successful in fundraising, which has been extremely important for the college. He

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James Hatch (management ’69, M.S. accounting ’72), James Pearman Jr. (accounting ’70), and Mike Clarke (finance ’83) are among dozens of supporters of the college who have banded together to raise money toward endowing the Pamplin dean’s position in Richard E. Sorensen’s name. At right, they discuss both the new dean and the former one.

James Hatch on Sumichrast

“I am very encouraged that, in hiring Dean Sumichrast, Virginia Tech demonstrated a firm future of commitment to the Pamplin College of Business. It is truly exciting to contemplate the bright future for the college that Virginia Tech has signaled by developing a new long-range plan that recognizes the importance of a quality business education at Virginia Tech, and by the hiring of someone of the caliber of Dean Sumichrast.”

James Hatch on Sorensen

“To place Dean Sorensen’s tenure at Pamplin in perspective, it is unheard of that one person would serve as a dean of any college at any university for such a lengthy period of time. This extended term of service has provided Pamplin with many years of stability and a steady course upon which the university administration and faculty have been able to plan, coordinate, and achieve many objectives, which have been articulated in a consistent manner.”

Continued on next page
also ensured that Pamplin had a strategic plan [that was] consistent with the university’s ideas, but also recognized the role of the business school. For me, personally, he was really a mentor. I learned a lot about college administration and higher education from him while I was at Virginia Tech. And he continued to be a mentor even after I left.

Q: You have a reputation as a fundraiser. How important will that be in your new role at Virginia Tech?

A: I started fundraising back when I was at Virginia Tech in my role as associate dean. Dean Sorensen gave me a charge to create an endowment to fund the M.B.A. program. I was able to do more fundraising at LSU, and most recently, at the University of Georgia, I helped launch the largest campaign in the history of the Terry College of Business.

Private support is vital to our success. As state support declines and demands of students increase, we need to be competitive with other top-ranked business schools. I don’t think you can have a top-rated business school without strong private support from the community and businesses.

“I think Virginia Tech is one of the best universities in the country and I saw that up close and personal during my 20 years here. ... It’s very much a homecoming for me.”

James Pearman Jr. on Sumichrast

“Dean Sumichrast has a love for Virginia Tech and has a familiarity with Pamplin that will allow him to minimize the amount of time to get up to full speed. Rich Sorensen has provided a solid foundation that Dean Sumichrast can build upon. He has obtained diverse experience in his leadership roles at LSU and Georgia. He will bring a fresh perspective. As a member of the alumni panel that interviewed the candidates, [I thought] Dean Sumichrast was very impressive, and there was evidence of broad support for him based on his previous interactions with many of the faculty and staff with whom he will work.”

James Pearman Jr. on Sorensen

“Dean Sorensen deserves the gratitude of all Pamplin alumni for making it one of the leading business schools in the country. He has always focused on the importance of obtaining jobs for the graduating students while taking a leadership role in raising the quality of all business education through his involvement with the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. Donating in support of the Richard E. Sorensen Endowed Dean’s Chair is an ideal way to make a lasting tribute to the positive impact the dean has had on Pamplin College of Business. It also provides a powerful resource to ensure continued excellence within the college.”
“Private support is vital to our success. ... I don't think you can have a top-rated business school without strong private support from the community and businesses.”

**Q:** What have you learned from serving at other institutions and how will that knowledge assist you at Virginia Tech?

**A:** I’ve seen ways that other business schools around the world have been successful, and I’m bringing those ideas back to Virginia Tech. Some of it is organizational structure, and some of it is which degree programs are becoming increasingly relevant and why. I believe my range of experiences and network of professional ties will be good assets for the Pamplin College of Business.

**Q:** What are your plans for the Pamplin College of Business?

**A:** I certainly have a lot of ideas, but I think it’s important to spend time listening to the students, faculty, and staff within Pamplin, as well as our alumni in the business community. We need to understand what Pamplin’s strong points are and what we can enhance. Before anything is finalized, it’s important to talk with people and observe what’s working and what isn’t, and to build on our strengths.

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**Mike Clarke on Sumichrast**

“Dean Sumichrast knows his way around, having previously served on our faculty. I understand the alumni and administrative officials at the University of Georgia are pretty unhappy that we took their dean. I think we lost to U.Ga. the last time we met on the football field, but we sure got one over on the Bulldogs this time!”

**Mike Clarke on Sorensen**

“Rich Sorensen is a very important guy because he signed my diploma, along with thousands of others, and has worked tirelessly to increase its value. He has been a careful steward of the Pamplin College of Business during an era of tremendous growth. While doing so, he has continually raised the bar for our faculty and students. He’s an amazingly talented administrator as he has done all of this during a time when his budget resources have been constantly tightened. Most importantly, he does a mean Hokie Pokie!”

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Building a modern library

How do you bring an institution built around the legacy of Gutenberg’s printing press into the digital age? One way is to reinvent the physical space to reflect the way people use information in a new millennium.

Walk into Virginia Tech’s Carol M. Newman Library and you will find just such a transformation underway. Bulky wooden tables and chairs and isolated study carrels are being replaced by sleek, modern groupings of furniture that combine comfort with high-tech features.

“The way students work today, they show up with laptops, they get their information online, and a lot of their classroom activities are more group-oriented than ever before,” Dean of University Libraries Tyler Walters explained. “So, they need flexible furnishings they can move around, decent lighting, technology they can plug into—and it all needs to be aesthetically warm and pleasing.”

Support by donors such as Lury Goodall Jr. (accounting ’72) and his wife Barbara helps make it possible to update and improve the library relied on by so many of Virginia Tech’s students and faculty.

Goodall, a retired entrepreneur from Salem, Va., said he and his wife were looking for new ways to contribute to Virginia Tech when they had a chance to tour Newman Library with Walters.

“It became apparent that much needed to be updated,” Goodall said, later adding that, “We are fortunate to be in a position that we can provide some financial assistance, and we decided to fund that need with the hope that further improvements can be made.”

The library’s transformation process has involved administrators and staff studying every aspect of what happens in the building, observing students, and talking to them about what they wanted from the facility, according to the dean.

“In the past, the library would just help you get the books and journal articles you needed for a project,” Walters said. “Today, it’s really about producing knowledge and creating knowledge in tangible forms, and providing the help students need in order to do that.”

Despite online resources that allow students to work nearly anywhere, Walters noted that the library’s gate count has increased significantly. When staff realized that they often had to kick out some 200 students at closing time, they arranged to offer 24-hour access most days of the week.

The library’s popularity and centrality to the student experience was one reason Goodall cited to explain his support, but he also pointed out two others.

“My mother was a high school librarian and instilled in me an appreciation for the value of a library,” said Goodall, whose father was also an alumnus. “When I was at Tech, I found it a great spot to find a peaceful, quiet place where I could study or just relax between classes.”

Goodall said he and his wife believe strongly that higher education is a great way for young people to improve their chances for success in life, so they have donated to other programs at the university along with the library, including the Pamplin College of Business and the Athletic Fund. In recognition of their generosity, the Goodalls were inducted into the Ut Prosim Society in 2013.

Although a library’s core mission of collecting, preserving, and sharing information remains the same as before the digital revolution, Walters stressed that support from donors such as the Goodalls is critical for libraries to achieve that mission in the 21st century.

“The Goodalls have been great,” Walters said. “I think they are very interested in helping as many students as possible across the university, and helping the libraries is a great way to do that.”
“In the past, the library would just help you get the books and journal articles you needed for a project. Today, it’s really about producing knowledge and creating knowledge in tangible forms, and providing the help students need in order to do that.”

Dean of University Libraries Tyler Walters
Making the best even better
by LORI GREINER

Jack Tyree will tell you that helping young people take on 4-H projects and seeing them grow and learn have had a big impact on his life.

From his early beginnings as an 8-year-old 4-H member in Cabell County, W.Va., through his career as a 4-H agent in West Virginia and Virginia and as the Virginia 4-H program leader, 4-H has helped shape Tyree into who he is today.

“My experience in the 4-H program provided me a foundation for my life,” said Tyree. “I wanted to use the inspiration and guidelines I learned in 4-H to live according to the four-fold concept of head, heart, hands, and health and pass it along to others, which is what I have tried to do.”

And to ensure that others will have similar opportunities in 4-H, Tyree and his wife have established two endowments—the Jack and Helen Tyree 4-H Teen Financial Education Endowment and the Jack and Helen Tyree 4-H Teen Leadership Endowment—that will help support financial education and leadership development programs in Virginia 4-H.

Tyree believes that helping 4-H members gain an appreciation for personal finance is important. He wants them to understand the value of money and how it can help them achieve their goals, but also to know that wealth comes in various forms.

The endowment will be used to provide teen members with critical knowledge and skills in personal finance, such as investing, budgeting, and credit card management.

“It is important that 4-Hers gain a greater appreciation for how finances can personally help us improve our lives and how we can invest that wealth to help others,” said Tyree.

The Teen Leadership Endowment will enable Virginia 4-H to expand its leadership development opportunities for teens to learn about the leadership qualities and competencies that will help prepare them for the future.

“Jack continues to give back in ways that are not easily put in dollar terms,” said Cathy Sutphin, associate director for 4-H youth development programs. “He continues to make a significant contribution to the wellness of the organization through his mentorship of faculty and sharing his wealth of knowledge and experience.”

The Tyrees always loved the people and experiences they shared through their 4-H days. In addition to serving as an agent and state program leader, Tyree was instrumental in organizing the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents and served on the first NAE4-HA board and as the public relations chair for the executive committee. Helen served as a 4-H club leader for many years.

“I believe that adults who have had experiences through 4-H like I have would also be blessed by finding ways to assist in providing 4-H programs so that the programs will even be stronger today,” said Tyree. “And I’m thankful for those that had the vision and determination to create the 4-H program.”

This story also appeared in Innovations, a newsletter of the Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.
“My experience in the 4-H program provided me a foundation for my life. I wanted to use the inspiration and guidelines I learned in 4-H to live according to the four-fold concept of head, heart, hands, and health and pass it along to others ...” Jack Tyree
Conservation pioneer supports his alma mater

“I think the most important thing I’ve done, certainly, would be helping the students that I’ve had and who have gone on to do great things.”

Mitchell Byrd

The many pleasant hours he spent toting binoculars around Chincoteague National Wildlife Reserve as a teenager inspired Mitchell Byrd to study in Virginia Tech’s College of Natural Resources and Environment, but it was the far less bucolic experience of working for a major paper mill during his summers home that convinced him of what he wanted to do with his career.

“I could see the aggressive clear cutting of the Dismal Swamp that was going on and other things that I considered to be very poor management of our natural resources,” said Byrd, the Chancellor Professor of Biology Emeritus at the College of William and Mary, who founded that college’s Center for Conservation Biology.

Byrd earned his Virginia Tech bachelor’s of forestry and wildlife in 1949 and his Ph.D. in fisheries and wildlife from the university in 1954. A resident of
Williamsburg, Va., he is recognized as a pioneer in wildlife conservation in Virginia. While Byrd is particularly renowned for his work with bald eagles and on the successful reintroduction of peregrine falcons into the state, he lists helping to prepare students to work in the field of conservation as one of his proudest accomplishments.

“I think the most important thing I’ve done, certainly, would be helping the students that I’ve had and who have gone on to do great things,” said Byrd, whose former students include the director and assistant director of the U.S. National Parks Service and a former acting chief of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Though he is now an emeritus professor, Byrd has continued to promote conservation while staying involved in the center he founded. In addition, he is making an impact in the field he loves through his generous philanthropic support of his alma mater, including a recent, six-figure commitment to Virginia Tech’s College of Natural Resources and Environment.

“I think the college really gave me an excellent start and an excellent background, and I really like the work they’re doing there in the school,” Byrd said, adding that he hoped his generosity will support further interest in the field of conservation biology.”

Inspiring others to value the environment the way he does has been a focus of Byrd’s work for decades, and he’s been a particularly effective advocate, said Bryan Watts, who co-founded William and Mary’s Center for Conservation Biology with Byrd.

“He’s more than your normal professor in that he has spent a huge amount of his time outside the university promoting conservation across the state,” said Watts, who earned his bachelor’s of biological sciences from Virginia Tech, studied under Byrd for his master’s degree, and returned to William and Mary after earning a Ph.D. from the University of Georgia. “For decades, anybody who would request a talk from him, he would come. He would promote environmentalism and species protection. There was a time when he was one of the main forces in the state for the development of a conservation movement.”

Given the impact of his research, his advocacy, his teaching, and his philanthropy, Byrd has established an impressive legacy of helping to preserve beautiful environments both within the commonwealth and beyond.
Leadership institute helps fill conservation void

Nearly 50 percent of employees at conservation organizations are expected to retire during the next 10 years, according to Steve McMullin, associate professor of fish and wildlife conservation in Virginia Tech’s College of Natural Resources and Environment.

To help fill the void with well-educated and knowledgeable professionals, the college established a leadership institute, which McMullin co-directs. The institute’s mission is to prepare students to solve critical problems facing society in the management of natural resources and stewardship of the environment.

Entirely funded by donors, the institute had welcomed three cohorts of students into the program as of the spring 2013 term. Each group of students was mentored throughout an academic year, studied leadership styles, and assessed each other’s personality types.

Students also traveled to the Virginia municipalities of Charlottesville and Richmond to meet with officials from state government, state agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and elected members of the Virginia delegation. The experiences students gained from the institute are expected to prepare them to make an immediate impact in their chosen fields and eventually assume leadership roles.

"Building one's leadership abilities should be a lifelong process, and the leadership institute program affords students a unique way to engage in that building process," said Brent Keefer (forestry and wildlife '87, M.S. forestry '88), one of several generous donors to the program. “Students will derive many benefits from the program, but I hope that they come away with a casting of their own vision and a growing passion for how they can lead and influence in whatever position they find themselves."
Say hello to the future

After benefitting from Virginia Tech’s Presidential Scholarship Initiative, Reco Charity recently became first in his family to earn a college degree—an experience he describes as "life-changing." As he enters law school this fall with a strong academic foundation and an eye on the future, Reco will be on track toward realizing his ambition of becoming a judge.

Many students, like Reco, have been able to chart a course for a successful career with help from scholarships. To learn more about the positive impact of philanthropy at Virginia Tech, or to make a gift, visit www.givingto.vt.edu.

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Virginia Tech
Invent the Future®
Linda Pritchard Patterson, pictured in the front row of NASA’s Mission Control Center in the late 1980s as she prepared to take over the space shuttle guidance, navigation, and control systems console monitoring from the ascent team.
**Shooting for the stars:**

Alumna’s career, gifts inspire student success

by CHRISTINA KOOMEN

When the space shuttle Atlantis lifted off from Florida’s Kennedy Space Center for its next-to-last voyage in May 2010, Linda Pritchard Patterson (mathematics ’76) finally had a chance to witness firsthand one of the fruits of her career.

Throughout her 34 years with NASA, she had always been involved in supporting the Mission Control Center flight operations at the Johnson Space Center in Houston during shuttle missions.

While many youngsters growing up during the early years of space exploration were captivated by astronauts, Patterson said she was drawn to the intense support effort from the people behind the scenes. She knew that she wanted to be part of this exciting, valuable field that would benefit humankind and further scientific discovery.

Patterson sought out summer jobs and made class selections to help her reach her ultimate goal. Even family vacations were geared to helping her fulfill her NASA dream.

When selecting a college, Patterson recognized Virginia Tech as the place that could help her best realize her ambitious aspirations.

“The depth of classes available and the vast number of areas of expertise were so varied, I knew that Tech had to be my best chance for a successful future,” she recalled.

Although her parents were somewhat skeptical about their daughter’s career plans, Patterson said they were “intense about the value of education,” so she recently established two scholarships in their honor: the Calvin Manly Pritchard Jr. Memorial Scholarship in the College of Engineering and the Senora Pritchard Memorial Scholarship in the College of Science. Her father was an alumnus (industrial engineering ’35) and supported the university’s values, Patterson said.

“Not all students hungry for knowledge have the financial means to follow their dreams,” said Patterson, whose husband Wesley earned his bachelor’s of architecture from Virginia Tech in 1977. “The technical, social, financial, and even spiritual benefits Wesley and I acquired as a result of graduating from Virginia Tech now allow our family to provide scholarship opportunities for those whose thirst for knowledge should not be hindered.

“Both of my parents felt strongly about self-reliance, taking responsibility, and giving back,” Patterson said. “For them, the goal was to leave the world a better place for your having been here, and to strive to have a positive effect on the lives of others.”

Continued on next page

Linda and Wesley Patterson married after he completed his fifth year in the architecture program. During his three-decade career in Houston, Wesley Patterson worked for several architecture firms specializing in commercial, industrial, and municipal projects.

“The strong reputation of the Virginia Tech School of Architecture was always an asset in opening doors,” he said.
Continued from previous page

When Patterson set off for college, she considered following in her father’s footsteps by studying engineering. However, there were still only a handful of women in that college, and mathematics seemed a more natural fit. Over time she added psychology as her dual major, enjoying its relationship to knowledge transfer and the man-machine interface design becoming more important to industry.

Not long after arriving in Blacksburg, she discovered that Wesley Patterson, the boy who had taken her to the senior prom back home in Newport News, Va., was also on campus. The couple dated all four years they were enrolled together.

Soon after graduation, Linda Patterson was offered and accepted her dream job at the Johnson Space Center, where she served as a Mission Control Center flight controller, one of the first females certified as a systems expert in mission operations. Her career spanned supporting the Space Transportation System (space shuttle program) for 14 years and later supporting the design and construction of the International Space Station.

Patterson noted that she was always striving to expand her expertise and marketability, so she attended night school, earning an M.B.A from the University of Houston—Clear Lake in 1985, which enabled her to be selected as one of her workplace’s first female managers, specifically as a section manager of 34 flight controllers.

Like many retirees, the Pattersons now have the flexibility to enjoy a variety of activities.

“What you have after retirement, if you plan for it right, is the opportunity to experience life, not just pass through it, meaning time for volunteering, travel, exploring new hobbies, taking up causes, and generally giving back to the planet, the community, and yourself,” Linda said. “We have always thought of the world and its need for education and enlightenment as where we need to give back.”

Two students studying biology in the College of Science were recent recipients of the Senora Pritchard Memorial Scholarship

Avanthi Jayaweera, a May 2013 graduate from Reston, Va., plans to attend medical school to prepare for a career in family medicine. “My parents are paying for my education, and I have a brother who is also graduating from college this year,” she said during the spring 2013 term. “You have no idea how much the scholarship helped. I was able to focus on school rather than finding a job. It helped me make the most of my college experience.”

Zachary Gajewski, a rising junior from Danville, N.H., assisted Lisa Belden, associate professor of biological sciences, with undergraduate research related to the chytrid fungus. Chytridiomycosis, a rapidly spreading fungal disease, adversely affects amphibians, particularly frogs. For Gajewski, who hopes to pursue a career in animal behavior, the opportunity was a first step toward future goals. “With the scholarship, I didn’t have to worry as much about how to pay for school,” he said. “I could keep my mind on my classes and participate in the research project without distractions,” he said.

In memory of a man who lived Ut Prosim

Along with the College of Science scholarship endowed in memory of her mother, Linda Pritchard Patterson endowed a College of Engineering one in memory of
her father, Calvin Manly Pritchard Jr. (industrial engineering ’35). She said her father took to heart the university’s motto—Ut Prosim (That I May Serve)—and enlisted in World War II at age 30, though he could have remained home due to his employment.
Geneva Yadav was just 12 when she made up her mind that she would attend Virginia Tech.

At a time when there were only a handful of women at the university, the teen was inspired by an aunt who had attended it.

Growing up in the small town of Woodlawn, Va., Yadav’s daily life was filled with domestic chores, ranging from canning vegetables to raising livestock and chickens. Her father worked in a textile plant, but her mother was a teacher and thus a role model for women working outside the home.

“Then, when I got to high school, I enrolled in home economics classes, and that sealed my fate,” Yadav (clothing, textiles, and related art '65, M.S. '66) recalled of the field that became the focus of her own teaching career.

In Blacksburg, Yadav pursued her interests in fashion and sewing as a student in the Department of Clothing, Textiles, and Related Art. Among her professors was Oris Glisson, who began teaching in the apparel program in 1948 and in 1960 became head of the department.

“She was an inspiration and mentor, but could instill fear in all of us when we didn’t meet her expectations,” Yadav recalled. “I almost laugh today when I think of our hand-tailoring classes, where we spent hours shaping a coat collar.”

Over the more than three decades that Yadav has donated to Virginia Tech, some of her gifts have been designated for the Oris Glisson Endowed Scholarship. Yadav has also supported the clothing and textiles program and the Laura Jane Harper Scholarship, which honors the founding dean of Virginia Tech’s former School of Home Economics.

Yadav said she took pride in recent renown for the university’s apparel program, which in 2012 was ranked 15th in the world by Fashion-Schools.org. “Of course, I would want to continue to support such a good program,” she said.

After completing her master’s degree, Yadav took a teaching position at East Carolina University, which she considered “a perfect fit for the daughter of a teacher.”

She later earned her Ph.D. from Penn State. After Yadav had taught for about 13 years and earned tenure, her husband’s career led the couple to relocate several times, during which period Yadav worked in a testing laboratory for DuPont, then managed quality control in an apparel distribution facility for Sears. She retired in 2000.

In the way that life has of coming full circle, one of Yadav’s former students at East Carolina is now a professor at Yadav’s alma mater.
“Of my three careers, I enjoyed my work in higher education the most, and I hope I can continue to help in my chosen field. And so I contribute to Virginia Tech each year.”

Geneva Yadav

“I remember that we all wanted to be like her,” Doris H. Kincade, a professor in the Department of Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management, recalled of Yadav. “She was enthusiastic, smart, had a great job and was married. In those days, for women, that was a very big deal. She really inspired me to continue with my schooling for higher degrees and helped me realize I could combine my love of clothing with more education and teaching and research.”

Yadav said she’s proud that Kincade is on the faculty at Virginia Tech. She credits the university with helping her develop her own sense of independence, as well as preparing her for a fulfilling career.

“Of my three careers, I enjoyed my work in higher education the most, and I hope I can continue to help in my chosen field,” Yadav said. “And so I contribute to Virginia Tech each year. It holds my heart.”
Bolstering the Corps of Cadets

Aubrey Watts Jr. (business administration ’63) jokes that it’s hard to be a Hokie in Hooville. But despite serving for 14 years as chief financial officer and chief operating officer of the city of Charlottesville, Va., his lifelong love for Virginia Tech remains undimmed by the local culture surrounding arch-rival University of Virginia and its “Wahoo” fans.

Born and raised in Virginia Beach, Va., Watts recalled that there was almost no escaping the lure of the commonwealth’s flagship land-grant university. His father, Aubrey Vernon Watts Sr. (agriculture and applied economics ’36), saw to that.

“When I was growing up, it seemed like every time I wanted to go somewhere, whether it was summer camp or visiting family, I always ended up at Virginia Tech,” Watts said. “I didn’t get a chance to go to many other places. I think when I got ready to decide to go to college, the only campus I’d been on a lot was Virginia Tech. Any place else was strictly by accident.”

While studying in what is now the Pamplin College of Business, Watts was also a four-year member of the Corps of Cadets. So when it came to giving back to his alma mater, he was drawn to its Emerging Leader Scholarship program.

“The Corps of Cadets had a profound impact on me,” Watts said. “Growing up in that company corps environment was unique, and I think it really enabled all of us to develop a lot of leadership skills; learning to work with people; learning how to deal with challenges and overcome them.”

After graduation, Watts returned to Virginia Beach, where he spent 28 years with the municipal government, rising through several departments to eventually become city manager. He spent eight years as city manager in Greenville, S.C., before landing in Charlottesville. Along the way, he and his wife Emily, an alumna of Radford University, had two children, both of whom are Hokies. Though not an alumnus of the corps himself, Watts’ son, A. Vernon Watts III (management ’89), retired from the Army Reserve as a major and now works for the National Ground Intelligence Center.

Watts’ daughter Barbara Watts Donelson (geography ’91, M.A. education ’94) was named an honorary cadet as an undergradate and is now vice president of Home Energy Medics, a company that conducts energy audits of buildings for property owners. With any luck, Watts’ grandson will keep the family’s Hokie streak going when the time comes.

For Watts, the greatest reward for supporting the corps has been the opportunity to meet in person the cadets who benefit from his scholarship support. “They’re really incredible young people,” he said. “I like talking with them because they’re bright, they’re driven, and they’re trying to really accomplish a lot.”

For their part, the cadets all want to ask about what the corps was like in his day, Watts said. While both generations have experienced coming of age in a time of war, young men in the 1960s understood that they could be drafted and sent to Vietnam, which Watts noted gave the motto Ut Prosim (That I May Serve) poignant meaning. However, in some ways, he said, today’s corps is better.

“I really believe that the students who are in the corps now are so well-rounded and really
“I really believe that the students who are in the corps now are so well-rounded and really have a good handle on life. They’re all becoming leaders. They’re leaders in their own right at the university, and when they go out and get into real jobs it’s going to be pretty incredible what they’re able to do. I feel real good about that.”

Beyond the Emerging Leader Scholarship, Watts and his family have all contributed to Virginia Tech in a variety of ways, including donating to the Pamplin College of Business and the Virginia Tech Athletic Fund. In 2012, Watts was inducted into the Ut Prosim Society, a select group of the university’s most generous supporters. Watts said he viewed that as not just an honor, but a reminder that his university’s motto truly can be a way of life.

“There are, fortunately, a lot of people who really do want to serve, whether in their profession, or their country, or their communities,” Watts said, adding, “I’m really glad that I’ve been able to give at the level I have. I wish it were a lot more.”

Aubrey Watts Jr.
ICTAS headquarters building named for Hugh and Ethel Kelly

by ALBERT RABOTEAU

Virginia Tech has renamed the headquarters building of its Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science in honor of Hugh and Ethel Kelly in recognition of his pioneering work in telecommunications and her extraordinary philanthropic support.

“Hugh Kelly was a great alumnus. How nice it is to have this building as a legacy. The building is going to be around for a very long time and fantastic work is going to be done in there.”

College of Engineering Dean Richard Benson
Hugh Kelly, who died in 1989, earned his bachelor’s of electrical engineering in 1937 and a master’s degree in that subject a year later, worked at AT&T’s Bell Laboratories, and played important roles in groundbreaking projects, including the 1962 launch of the Telstar communications satellite, the first private venture in space.

Ethel Kelly, who died in 2012, generously supported Virginia Tech’s College of Engineering as a way of honoring her husband’s legacy.

“She was devoted to him, and he was devoted to Virginia Tech,” said Dennis Belcher, a friend of Ethel Kelly who served as her attorney and is a partner with the McGuireWoods firm.

Ethel Kelly’s estate provided $5 million to help cover the cost of the most recent of three buildings built for the institute. That building opened in 2011 and is on Washington Street. What is now Kelly Hall opened in 2009 and is on Stanger Street.

The institute, which is known by the initials ICTAS, supports and promotes cutting-edge research at the intersection of engineering, the sciences (physical, life, and social), and the humanities.

“We believe creativity blooms at the boundaries between disciplines,” said ICTAS Director Roop Mahajan, who also holds the Lewis A. Hester Chair in Engineering. “These buildings promote a culture of collaboration where engineers and scientists and humanists come together to move beyond the predictable and incremental advances in current technologies to the transformative science and technology of the future.”

College of Engineering Dean Richard Benson, who also holds the Paul and Dorothea Torgersen Chair of Engineering, said the growth of ICTAS is a major factor in the nearly threefold increase in research spending by his college since 2004. Donor support for capital projects such as the ICTAS building is tremendously important, he said, because “otherwise I have to move money into construction—money that could be used for other scholarly activities in the college—so this gift really helps us a lot.”

Benson added that, “Hugh Kelly was a great alumnus. How nice it is to have this building as a legacy. The building is going to be around for a very long time and fantastic work is going to be done in there so, time and again, the Kelly name is going to be mentioned.”

Ethel Kelly’s estate provided more than $6 million in all. Some of the funds will support the new Hugh and Ethel Kelly Lecture Series to be held at ICTAS. The Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering also has a professorship named for Hugh Kelly, which Ethel Kelly endowed during her lifetime.

Virginia Tech News also ran a version of this story online.
Imagine standing in an infinite forest full of trees that are evenly spaced and both infinitely thin and infinitely tall. You chop down a tree in the middle of the forest and then stand in the spot it had occupied. Is there any direction you can look to see out of the forest?

Wrestling with that calculus question while sitting in library of Northern Virginia Community College was a transformative moment for Joey Chahine, who later transferred to Virginia Tech and recently earned his bachelor’s of mathematics.

“It was this fun and weird puzzle with irrational and rational numbers, but I was struck by how unintuitive, unexpected, and elegantly it worked,” said Chahine, who cited his experience figuring out that the answer to that problem was “yes” as being the moment he knew he wanted to work in a field related to math.

With hard work and help from scholarships, he has been able to realize his ambition. Even before graduating, the Herndon, Va., native had lined up a software engineering job with ViaSat, a satellite communications firm in Germantown, Md.

“They say I’ll get a lot of good problems to solve,” said Chahine, who had to fund much of his own education, but received financial aid that included the math department’s T.W. Hatcher Mathematical Scholarship, which made the situation more feasible.

“Basically, scholarships made the difference in my making it through college without having to worry constantly how I could keep my rent and tuition paid,” Chahine said.

About 30 Hatcher scholarships are given out each year, according to the math department. The fund that supports them was endowed in memory of Thomas Watkins Hatcher, who graduated from Virginia Tech in 1922 and taught math at his alma mater for decades. Hatcher headed the math department from 1941 to 1966, and while he passed away in 1978, his legacy of dedication to his subject, and his school, is still helping students like Chahine today.
Endowed gifts put their donors’ generosity to work, year after year. So your gift keeps on giving, and the name you choose for your endowment continues in perpetuity.

While named scholarships, fellowships, and professorships are among the most familiar endowed gifts, donors can also endow support for areas, such as research, programs, and facilities. Or, you can create an unrestricted endowment that gives the university the agility to take advantage of new opportunities and the flexibility to address unmet needs.

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When considering an endowment gift, think about how you would like your gift used—not only this year, but 100 years from now. A development officer for the area you plan to support will help you create a fund agreement that can continue to direct your gift according to your wishes far into the future.

Having an agreement in place to speak for you is particularly important if you are creating an endowed gift that will be funded in the future by a will bequest, retirement account designation, charitable trust, or other gift that will come to the university after your lifetime.

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If you wish to create a gift with infinite impact, consider creating an endowed gift. It will continue to change lives generation after generation. And its name will become part of Virginia Tech forever.

To learn about outright or deferred gift options that may maximize the difference you can make to Virginia Tech, visit www.givingto.vt.edu and click on the “how to give” link, or contact the Office of Gift Planning at 800-533-1144, 540-231-2801, or giving@vt.edu.
The W.E. Skelton 4-H Conference Center at Smith Mountain Lake opened the Patsy T. (P.T.) Smith Memorial Golf Training Complex in June. The complex includes two 80-foot driving tee areas, three chipping and putting greens, and a patio. Designed by First Tee of Roanoke, the complex was made possible by a gift from Garnett Smith and Wendy Boone-Smith, Patsy Smith’s husband and daughter. Smith’s friends have established an endowment to maintain the complex.

Founded through a generous donation of land from American Electric Power almost 50 years ago, the Skelton 4-H Center has a strong tradition of philanthropic support. Over the past 10 years, more than $12 million has been donated to the center. These funds have helped establish new program areas, improve campus facilities, and endow scholarships to allow area youth to attend camp. The Skelton 4-H center has served more than 400,000 youths and adults since opening in 1966.