



Midwinters 2001: An Evening at the Carnival

By Rodney Fultz '01 and Will Mayo '02

THE FIRST WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY ANNUALLY BRINGS a time of great fellowship for the German Club. This year was no exception with the 109th rendition of the Midwinters Dance. The theme for this year's dance, titled "An Evening at the Carnival," set the stage for a fun-filled weekend.



The entertainment for the weekend was second to none. GT Swing from Roanoke provided Friday night's music. GT Swing brought an upbeat mix of Big Band, jazz, and swing standards, playing from 8:30 to midnight. The life of the party for Saturday was the Midnight Movers. The Midnight Mover's playlist consisted of a blend of Motown, disco, funk, soul, and hip-hop from 9:00 until 12:30.

Decorations brought the theme to life in Squires

Commonwealth Ballroom. A blend of carnival, midway, and fair scenes adorned the walls. The GC Express, a massive roller coaster, rounded the walls on steep hills and sharp turns. Carnival games also lined the walls, where attendees approached the three dimensional structures to take pictures and observe in detail the hard work that members put into each structure. The centerpiece, an impressive 25-by-40-square-foot circus tent with an animal cage in

the center, was the focal point of activity.

This year's Midwinters Dance was an overwhelming success. The two night cumulative attendance, estimated at 1,000 people, was a 20 percent increase from last year. This growth is attributed to the effective marketing schemes put into place over the past few years, and to the many repeat attendees who had been very impressed with past dances.

The hard work and dedication once again paid off, as excited faces were seen throughout the crowd on both nights of the dance. The devotion of time and energy from all of the members to the week of decorating was rewarded with a successful dance. All three elements of the club's motto: "Leadership for Service through Fellowship," were on display to the university throughout the week and weekend.

leadership
service
fellowship

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If you have an inspiring story, comments, or concerns for your Forum, please notify Robbie Roberts at 711 Southgate Drive Blacksburg, VA 24060, 800-422-3874, roberts@vt.edu with as much detail as you can give.

The Annual Fund 2000 Campaign was a great success as we once again exceeded our fundraising goal for the year. The campaign brought in a record \$159,730, which was 109 percent of the actual goal of \$146,000 and 101 percent of our “stretch” goal. The stretch goal was established by combining each of the individual class goals set by the captains for the classes starting with 1940 and ending with the class of 2000.

A summary of results by class including participation is as follows:

20s, 30s, Friends10 members, widows, friends	\$ 1,850
1940s69 members out of 15844%	43,880
1950s84 members out of 23037%	29,870
1960s77 members out of 30226%	20,285
1970s51 members out of 30017%	14,085
1980s65 members out of 27124%	33,885
1990s88 members out of 22140%	15,380
20006 members out of 2030%	495

Although we achieved our goal, we had only 450 contributors out of approximately 1,500 alumni for which we have up-to-date contact information. However, this figure is up from previous campaigns, as we had a significant number of first-time contributors. Some of the more impressive classes were 1941 with 11 donors out of a potential 16, or 69 percent. As for total number of donors, 1983 led the way with 17. 1956 came in second with 15 and four classes ('44, '59, '94, and '95) came in third

ANNUAL FUND 2000 CAMPAIGN A SUCCESS

with 13 donors each. The classes of 1962, 1964, and 1970 had 12 donors each.

The success of the campaign can be largely attributed to the hard work of the decade chairmen and class captains who wrote letters, called, and e-mailed their classmates with the message of the need of supporting the German Club. The

phone calls proved to be especially rewarding, as it was tremendous fun in catching up with old classmates. We will continue to reconnect with old friends when the next campaign begins in early fall. There is significant room for improvement in the current level of

participation. We will also look for ways to make it easier for alumni to participate, such as making credit card contributions via the new web site currently under construction.

A big thank you goes out to everyone who worked on the campaign, and more importantly, to those who contributed. Your participation is a true testament of your love for the German Club experience and commitment to helping today's generation. A listing of participants in the 2000 Campaign is included.

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JAMIE DUNN
B.S. Business
(Accounting)
*accepted position with
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*pursuing a position in account-
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**MAY &
DECEMBER
2001
GRADUATES**



Don Huffman Truly Exemplifies Club's Ritual

hometown of Lexington, Virginia. While operating the clothing store, he went part-time to law school at Washington & Lee University. While there, he was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa and the Order of the Coif and graduated magna cum laude. After graduation from law school, Don served as United States magistrate and as assistant U.S. attorney before going into private law practice. He still actively practices law with Huffman & Nixon, P.C. in Roanoke, Virginia.

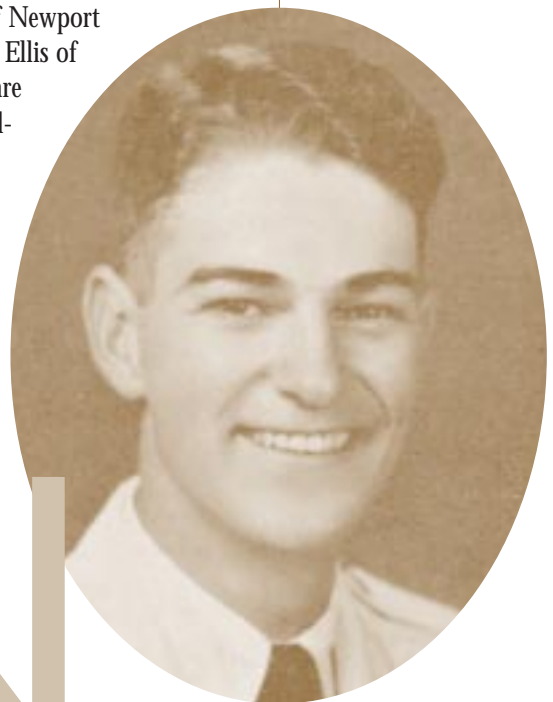
Don entered VPI in the fall of 1945, but his career was interrupted after his freshman year when he received a call from Uncle Sam to serve in the U.S. Army. He returned a year later and graduated in 1950 with a B.S. in industrial engineering. He later received a commission in the U.S. Corps of Engineers and served in the reserves for 10 years.

As a student, Don was a member of Omicron Delta Kappa, Alpha Pi Mu, and Scabbard and Blade. He was a battalion commander in the cadet corps and prosecuting attorney for the Honor Court. He became a member of the German Club during his sophomore year, and many of his fellow German Club members are still his close friends today. As a German Club alumnus, Don attends regional GCAF events and is an 1892 Donor. He is an avid Hokie, and regularly attends home football and basketball games (season ticket holder since Cassell Coliseum and Lane Stadium each opened), and has only missed two bowl games.

After graduating from Virginia Tech, Don started work as an engineer for Buckeye Cotton Oil Co., and later worked for the U.S. Ordinance Department. After this, he made a major move in his life by leaving the engineering field and purchasing a men's clothing store in his

Don has served in a number of public service positions. Governor John Dalton appointed him to serve on the Virginia Board of Corrections. Governor George Allen appointed Don to serve on the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors and Governor James Gilmore reappointed him to a second term, which he is currently serving. In 1983, Don was elected by the Republican Party of Virginia to fill an unexpired term as its state chairman. Subsequently, he was reelected to two more full-term years, both unopposed. During this time, he also was a member of the Republican National Committee.

Don married Colleen James of Christiansburg shortly after graduation. They have two daughters, Terry Allaun of Newport News, Virginia, and Kelly Ellis of Roanoke, Virginia. They are blessed with five grandchildren, one of whom, Will Allaun, is currently a freshman at Virginia Tech. Don is very active in Shenandoah Baptist Church. He truly exemplifies the attributes of a German Club man as described in our ritual.



Huffman DON

German Club Wins Anchor Splash

By Michael Stephens '01

The German Club once again continued its winning tradition by taking first place in Delta Gamma's annual spring philanthropy event. Anchor Splash consists of a week of events and fundraising to benefit Service for Sight, a charity aimed at researching and finding a cure for blindness. More than 40 organizations compete for the title of Mr. and Ms. Anchor Splash.

The club was eager for a win after finishing second last year and came out fired up for the week's first events. Members worked hard and won the Dreamy Eyes contest and finished second collecting greeting cards from Delta Gamma sisters. And after a soup dinner at the Manor, the club took first place in

the Campbell's Soup label competition. But, most importantly, was the first place in the fundraising competition. Several members worked hard all week collecting donations from local

Leadership *for* Service *through* Fellowship

The Club of Today in Action



businesses and many members offered their own services for a charity auction at the Manor. The Thursday night auction attracted a crowd and after the bidding closed the German Club had

raised nearly \$2,000 for Service for Sight.

The Friday night talent show brought out the best Virginia Tech student organizations had to offer. The audience of 500 was treated to a show of everything from bands to bagpipes. But the German Club stole the show with a song and dance routine and won the top honors. Going into Saturday's swimming competition, victory was in sight and a strong showing would secure a win. Members battled hard in the pool and after the waves had subsided the German Club had secured the title of Mr. Anchor Splash. For the week, the club finished first in five of the seven events and raised one-third of the money collected for Service for Sight.



CLUB HOSTS LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

By Seth Mitchell '01

The German Club hosted its Second Annual Student Organization Leadership Conference (SOLC) on Saturday February 17. The conference was a great success again this year with over 80 current and potential student leaders from a variety of student organizations in attendance.

The conference was designed to provide leadership advice for students actively leading and pursuing leadership roles within student organizations. The mission of SOLC 2001 was to encourage and provide student leaders with some of the tools and competencies that are the hallmark of a proactive leader and a successful student organization, whether academic, professional, religious, fraternal, service, or cultural.

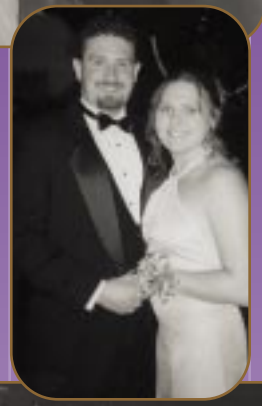
The conference, which was held in Pamplin Hall, consisted of three workshops and a keynote address. Brad Geiger from the Pamplin College of Business spoke on ethical leadership, Richard Harshberger from University Leadership Development led a workshop on self-leadership, and Steve Schreiner from the Residential Leadership Community and Eric Pappas from the College of Engineering spoke on diversity issues in leadership. The conference concluded with a keynote address from Christopher Neck and a reception in the Pamplin atrium.

The conference was co-sponsored by the Rotaract Club. Rotaract is a worldwide organization of young men and women ages 18 to 30 who believe they can make a difference. Through community and international service projects, Rotaractors help improve the lives of the people around them. In so doing they develop leadership skills and professional skills and establish a network of friends. The Rotaract Club of Virginia Tech is relatively young, but, in its short tenure has established itself as a growing club dedicated to service to the university and the greater community. The Rotary Club of Blacksburg sponsors this chapter of the Rotaract Club.

The club would like to thank the German Club Alumni Foundation for its generous support; the conference would not have been possible without it. We look forward to next year's conference and continued involvement with other student organizations at Virginia Tech.

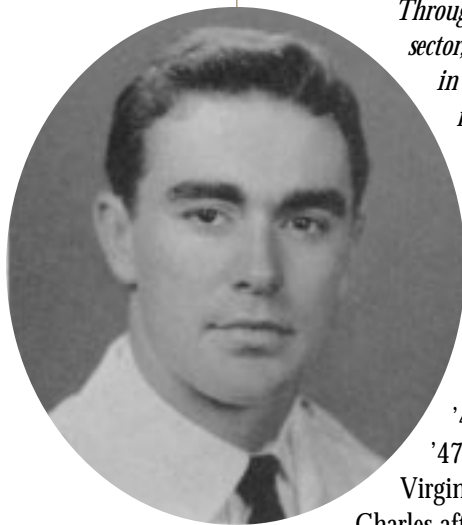
an evening at the

CARNIVAL



Students, German Club members, alumni, and friends enjoy a night of dancing at this year's Midwinters Dance.

Charles
Mugler
Forbes '49
Receives the
University's
Distinguished
Achievement
Award



The Virginia Tech Board of Visitors awarded the Distinguished Achievement Award to Charles Forbes at its March 5, 2001, meeting at the Virginia Tech Northern Center in Fairfax. It will be presented during Commencement exercises on May 12, 2001. The award recognizes outstanding service to the university and a high degree of excellence in a given profession or endeavor.

In the case of Charles Forbes that service is best demonstrated by two previous statements about Charles's career and his accomplishments. The first is excerpted from an article that appeared in the 1986 issue of the *Forum*. It was written by William T. Walker Jr., associate vice president of university relations and a colleague of Forbes'. It captures Charles' zeal for service.

"Even as a student, leadership seemed a natural role for Charlie. Forbes was a running back on the Hokie football squad, and he served on the battalion staff in the corps of cadets. He was president of his class, and a four-year member of the German Club, with service on the executive committee.

After a hitch in the Air Force, Charlie joined duPont as an engineer and a recruiter; he later joined Olin Mathieson, where he became an officer in the Olin Mathieson Charitable Trust.

In 1965, Charlie accepted the position of the vice president for development and public affairs of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City, where he built the center's development program. During his tenure, some \$300 million in private support was raised.

Throughout his years in the private sector, Charlie served his alma mater in numerous alumni leadership roles. When Tech President Bill Lavery decided to bolster the University's development and public relations program in 1979, Charlie was the first man he called."

Consider the letter in which Clifford (Cliff) Cutchins III '44 and Willis (Pete) S. White Jr. '47, president and chairman of the Virginia Tech Foundation, wrote to Charles after his departure to serve in a similar position at the University of Delaware:



"Dear Charlie,

The purpose of this letter is to convey the foundation board's deepest appreciation for your committed and devoted service during the past 13 years.

When you came to Virginia Tech in November of 1979, the Virginia Tech Foundation's assets were approximately \$20 million. You leave a foundation with more than \$200 million in assets and a university that now exceeds \$25 million per year in private support.

Your first major effort was the raising of the funds for the first phase of the new Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, to match the state's appropriation. Your leadership was a key in providing outstanding veterinary medical facilities both in Blacksburg and in Leesburg.

Under your direction and guidance, the Campaign for Excellence was a monumental success, raising our confidence level and our private support to new heights. Your confidence and support of campaign leadership were instrumental factors in attaining a level of \$118 million, more than double our original goal.

Many in the region and in the commonwealth may take for granted the public radio station, WVTF, but all of us remember your strong advocacy for purchasing the station in 1981.

We recall your early support for the creation of the Corporate Research Center. Now, as we drive through the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center with its 120 acres, facilities, and many employees, we are pleased for the foresight and vision of you and others in encouraging the board to move ahead.

Your plan to consolidate athletic fundraising into the mainstream of university fundraising, along with establishing separate collegiate fundraising efforts, has created a model, which other universities seek to emulate.

You, Charlie, were instrumental in the creation of the Ut Prosim Society, which recognizes the university's most generous donors, as well as the William Preston Society recognizing individuals for their prior service on the board of visitors.

On behalf of the board of directors of the Virginia Tech Foundation, we send our very deepest appreciation and heartfelt gratitude for all that you have done for your alma mater."

Charles served as a member of the German Club Alumni Foundation from 1979 to 1992.

Charles was inducted into the German Club's Jeffrey Society along with John Scott '48 in October 1993 for their unique and conspicuous service to the club, the foundation, and the university. Charles practices the ritual faithfully – he believes firmly on its principles. He personifies the expression “the only way to have a friend is to be one.” His friends are legion, in and outside of the club, the university, and the nation. An active partner in all of Charlie's endeavors is his wife, the former Patricia Murphy of Rehobeth Beach, Delaware. We salute, once again, Charles Mugler Forbes for his immense contributions to the club, the university, and to society in general. We congratulate him on this well deserved recognition of his contribution to the continued growth and progress of Virginia Tech!

Mark Your Calendar!

The 110th German Club Reunion is coming soon.

In the spring of 2002, we will once more come together to celebrate the anniversary of your German Club. Plan to come back next spring and renew friendships and make new ones – with the best men in the world!

Details will be forthcoming, but you can pencil in the weekend of April 13, 2002, to renew and refresh your German Club bonds.

GET READY FOR WWW.GCAF.NET

Yes, our web site is nearing completion. Even as you read this, members of the GCAF board are testing the site for bugs, for content, and for general ease of use.

Complete details of how to access the site will be given in the August 1, 2001, *Forum*.

Results of Reader Survey

A “Reader Response” card was provided in the November 2000 *Forum*. Eighty-eight alumni, from a mailing of 1,650+ newsletters, provided feedback that can be used to improve your *Forum*.

In summary, these 88 respondees rated the *Forum* as follows (on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest):

- Content 4.25
- Appearance 4.53
- Readability 4.42

Readers were also asked to rank the types of articles that should be included, with these results:

1. Alumni Notes
2. Club News
3. Alumni Biographies
4. Calendar of Events
5. Service Events
6. Club Socials

These data indicate that we should emphasize the above six areas of interest, and that we should work to improve the content of the individual articles.

One additional change was indicated by the survey — we will begin to publish three issues during the academic year instead of two. Beginning with the 2001-2002 school year, the *Forum* will be published for distribution on August 1, December 1, and April 1.

Thanks to each of you who responded. Your input is critical to our success.

GERMAN CLUB ALUMNI FOUNDATION CENTENNIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES

Winners of our 2000 Centennial Fund Scholarships were recognized and given special plaques at the GC Manor at the October 6, 2000, Homecoming weekend banquet. Special selection committees organized by the Virginia Tech Honors Department chose the winners in a campuswide competition.

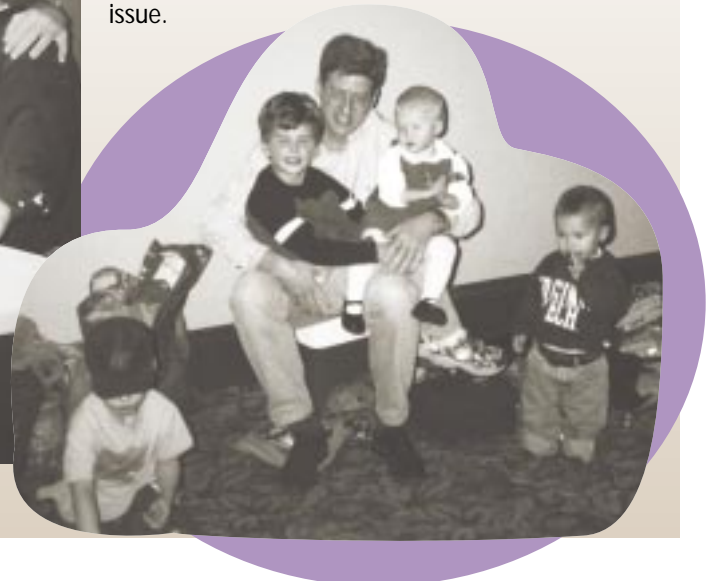
The Rising Senior Leadership Award (\$2,500) went to **Melissa Looney**, a biology student from Grundy, Virginia, with a 3.93 GPA. Her goal is a medical career. She is corresponding secretary of Golden Key National Honor Society, a student teaching assistant in the Residential Leadership Community (RLC), works with Virginia Tech Upward Bound, and is the founder of a new program called the Residential Leadership Community Partners. The RLC Partners program is a mentoring program for second-year VT students and local high school students. It also sponsors activities to help build community between various VT organizations, including international students. She has won numerous honors and awards, and volunteered many hours to various local non-profit organizations.

The Rising Junior Service Award (\$1,750) went to **Rebecca Weber**, a biology major from Richmond, Virginia, with a 3.83 GPA. She too plans a medical career. She is a student teaching assistant in the Residential Leadership Program and has been the leader in organizing the new Biological and Life Sciences Learning Community Program that began last fall to help students adjust to college life. In addition, she was instrumental in designing a class for pre-medical students interested in further exploring a career in medicine, and is a teaching assistant in that class. Rebecca is the treasurer of the Class of 2002 and is involved in many campus leadership activities, including ODK, Phi Kappa Phi, and Golden Key. She also is the winner of many honors and scholarships, and has volunteered many hours to non-profit organizations.

The Rising Freshman Award (\$1,000) went to **Karen Berger**, an aerospace engineering major from Durham, North Carolina, with a GPA of 3.8. While in North Carolina she devoted 1,000 hours to volunteering at the North Carolina Museum of Life and Science. She was Youth Volunteer of the Year for greater Durham and received the Governor's Award for Volunteering in 1997. She was a patrol leader in the Girl Scouts and earned the Girl Scout Gold Award. She lettered all four years in swimming and was the captain her senior year. She also played field hockey all four years and lettered as a junior and senior.



H O K I E F U N The Manor football tailgate parties have become quite popular with alumni, family, and friends. Details on 2001 events will be included in the August issue.



70s MAJ. GEN. DAN DICK '70 relinquished command of the 13th Air Force in Guam and is now the director of Strategy, Requirements, and Integration for the U.S. Joint Forces Command located in Norfolk. New home address is 1525 Dillingham Blvd., Norfolk, Virginia, 23511.

80s TIMOTHY L. MANTZ '86 and his wife Dee announce the birth of their

son, Phillip Lawson, on June 10, 2000. He weighed in at 6 pounds, 14 ounces, and was 18 inches in length.

GEOFF DOWNER '83 and his wife Beth announce the birth of their daughter, Hailey Elizabeth. She was born on April 2, 2001. She was 21" long and weighed 7 pounds, 6 ounces.

G C A L U M N I
N O T E S

I N M E M O R I A M

OSKAR S. GULBRANDSEN '40 passed away on September 21, 2000.

GLENN W. WEBB '41 died on October 15, 2000.

CHARLES E. HUNTER JR. '45 died on February 7, 2001.

CAROL PETTY, wife of Douglas Petty Jr. '52, passed away in January, 2001. Memorials can be sent to the German Club Alumni Foundation. Please designate for the Carol Petty Memorial Fund.

— *continued from page 12*

Corvin is a native of Wytheville, Virginia. He received his B.S. in 1975 and his M.S. in 1980, both from Virginia Tech.

Corvin first joined Virginia Tech in 1980 as assistant director of financial aid and later worked for the Virginia Tech Alumni Association. He left Virginia Tech in 1985 to become a managing partner with Young-Preston Associates, a consulting firm that works with non-profit organizations nationwide. In 1990, he was recruited by Hollins College to head its planned giving program, and in 1993 was named its executive director of development to manage the college's highly successful \$48-million campaign. Corvin returned to Virginia Tech in 1996 as director of development of the Smith Mountain Lake 4-H Educational Conference Center and orchestrated its \$6 million campaign for capital improvements.

Corvin was appointed as senior director of capital support

at Virginia Tech in January 1999 and accepted the position of interim associate vice president for development in May 2000, which has now become his permanent position. In this role, he provides the day-to-day leadership for fund-raising activities for all college-based and athletic programs.

T.O. Williams, a member of the class of 1959, spent most of his student life involved with the Highty-Tighties as drum major, and as leader of the Southern Colonels jazz band. He began his professional career as a pilot in the U.S. Air Force the day after he graduated in 1959. He retired as a colonel in 1986. Williams' assignments included Japan, Europe, Africa, the Middle East, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and two tours in Vietnam. He served on the faculty of The Citadel, the Air War College, and the Air Command and Staff College.

Williams returned to Blacksburg in 1986 and served the university as associate

director of the alumni association. In 1995 he moved to development as director of development for university programs, which oversaw fundraising for the corps of cadets, University Libraries, and special projects. T.O. now directs the campaign to raise capital for our Alumni and Conference Center.

Aaron McClung is a 2000 graduate of Virginia Tech with a degree in political science. While at Tech he learned quite a bit about philanthropy and the many great Hokies who have given back to their alma mater. Aaron joined the development staff in August 2000 and has enjoyed meeting alumni and friends of the university. As a student, his time was devoted mainly to the Student Government Association, the Highty-Tighties, and to the German Club.

If you would like to learn more about philanthropy at Virginia Tech, call 1-800-533-1144 or visit our web site at www.unirel.vt.edu/alumnicerter/.

U p c o m i n g

C a l e n d a r o f E v e n t s

COMMENCEMENTMAY 12 (VT)

SUMMER PICNIC
(TENTATIVE DATE) JULY 14 (GC)

FALL CLASSES BEGINAUGUST 27 (VT)

UNIVERSITY DEVELOPMENT ENSURING THE FUTURE OF VIRGINIA TECH

by Aaron McClung '00

Not long ago, Virginia Tech was a relatively unknown state university made up of a corps of cadets and a small group of students known as "civilians." Since the 1960s, the university

has made dramatic advances in higher education and is now ranked 28th in the nation for public institutions in *U.S. News & World Report 2000*.

How does a school become ranked? Quality of education is one of the top quantifiers. Of course, the support of alumni, corporations, and foundations greatly affect program quality and the direction of a university. There are three German Club alumni working in University Development who are leading this effort at Virginia Tech. Thim Corvin '75, associate vice president for development; Col. T.O. Williams '59 (USAF, Ret.), director of the Alumni and Conference Center Campaign; and Aaron McClung '00, assistant director for the campaign, are all German Club alumni who made helping their alma mater a career decision.

"What does it take to work in fundraising?" I asked Corvin when I began in August. "A love for your cause, personal motivation, and sociability," he said. Quite true! Corvin has a wealth of experience and expertise, which serves the university well in its fundraising.

— continued on page 11

Left to right: Aaron McClung, Thim Corvin, and T.O. Williams.

