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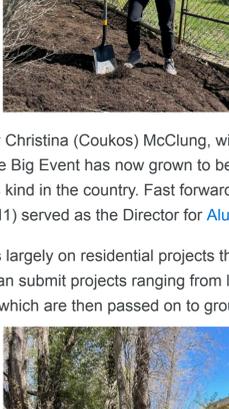
German Club Alumni Foundation Inc.
711 Southgate Drive - Blacksburg, VA 24060-5423 - Phone 540-552-6830

2024 Spring Newsletter

June 14, 2024

The Big Event at Virginia Tech

On April 6, 2024, the German Club again participated in [The Big Event at Virginia Tech](#). This was also the first year that the event was open for Virginia Tech alumni to participate alongside students in this massive outpouring of community service to the New River Valley (NRV).



Started in 2002 by Christina (Coukos) McClung, wife of Aaron McClung ('00), The Big Event has now grown to be the second largest event of its kind in the country. Fast forward 22 years, and Nathan Lavinka ('11) served as the Director for [Alumni Big Event](#).

The event focuses largely on residential projects throughout the NRV where residents can submit projects ranging from landscaping to garage cleanouts which are then passed on to groups of students.



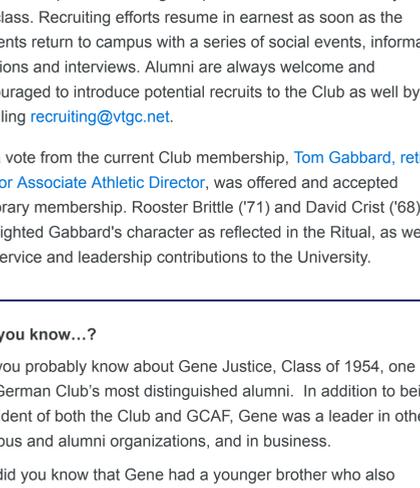
It's Not Too Late to Participate in AF24!

A big thank you to everyone who has participated in this year's Annual Fund! If you haven't yet, you have a few days left to contribute before the June 30th deadline. [Click here to contribute quickly and easily](#).

[Click to Donate](#)

13 New German Club Members

On April 9, 2024, the German Club inducted 13 new members and one honorary member at Candlelight. Nathan Curtis ('95) and Chris Hennesey ('99) both attended to see their sons take the oath of membership and were joined by several alumni from the New River Valley.



The Club has already been recruiting for the Fall semester class, with six Prospectives having completed their interviews and joined the class. Recruiting efforts resume in earnest as soon as the students return to campus with a series of social events, information sessions and interviews. Alumni are always welcome and encouraged to introduce potential recruits to the Club as well by emailing recruiting@vtgc.net.

On a vote from the current Club membership, [Tom Gabbard, retired Senior Associate Athletic Director](#), was offered and accepted honorary membership. Rooster Brittle ('71) and David Crist ('68) highlighted Gabbard's character as reflected in the Ritual, as well as his service and leadership contributions to the University.

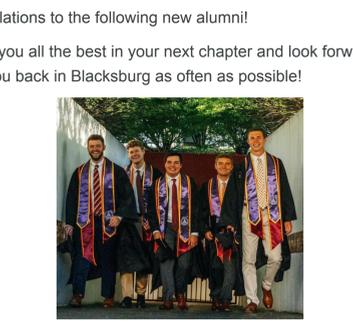
Did you know...?

So, you probably know about Gene Justice, Class of 1954, one of the German Club's most distinguished alumni. In addition to being president of both the Club and GCAF, Gene was a leader in other campus and alumni organizations, and in business.

But did you know that Gene had a younger brother who also attended "VPI," and while not as famous as Gene, also has a place in Virginia Tech lore?

R. Glen Justice, '58, was part of Tech's all-male cheerleading squad that was responsible for integrating the first women into cheerleading at VPI. As you *might* know, VPI was almost exclusively male until it transitioned from a military college in the mid-1960s – a demographic that made the task of finding female cheerleaders a challenge.

The idea of integrating women into the squad was the brainchild of the squad's head cheerleader in 1955-56. He was charged with the task of getting the fan base more involved during the game and reasoned adding "gals showing their legs" might do the trick. (Well, the middle of the lower leg as was the fashion).



Jeri and Glen Justice, second and third from right.

To meet the challenge, the guys recruited from the scarce resources in the "Skirt Barn" (Hillcrest dorm), and the way more plentiful all-female "Women's Division of VPI" (now Radford University). After Glen and the others held a tryout of 120 women, three women from "Radford" and one from VPI became our first female cheerleaders in 1955/56.

So, did you know that Glen became head of the VPI cheerleader squad in his senior year and that one of those first female cheerleaders, Jeri Hagy, became Mrs. Glen Justice?

So now you know that Glen Justice was one of the guys responsible for paving the way for the lovely ladies we enjoy seeing perform today. But did you know...he was a German Club man?

Well of course he was!

by Doug Anderson, '76

Executive Assistant

Note: Most of the information for this story is from *Virginia Tech Magazine*, Fall 2006.

Call for Class Notes and News

The GCAF Forum magazine is currently in production!

Please send any notes or news to director@vtgc.net to share any updates with your brothers!

Weddings, children, promotions, moves and more all serve to keep our bonds strong!

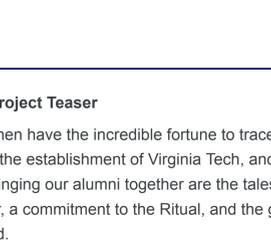
Graduation

Congratulations to the following new alumni!

We wish you all the best in your next chapter and look forward to having you back in Blacksburg as often as possible!



Jack Adams - Industrial & Systems Engineering - Tampa, FL
Keaton Band - Human Nutrition, Foods & Exercise - Roanoke, VA
Collin Bernstein - Human Nutrition, Foods, & Exercise - Chesapeake, VA
Timothy Bryan – Finance – Northern Virginia
Nate Cunningham – Management, Consulting/Analytics/Marketing – Crystal City, VA
Paul Dragan – Finance – Norfolk, VA/USS Stout
Dimitri Fifis - Hospitality & Tourism Management - Cherry Hill, NJ
Chris Finn - Civil Engineering - Freehold, NJ
Jack Fox - Marketing Management - Northern Virginia
Landen Furr - Civil Engineering - Blacksburg, VA
Adam Gentile - Business Information Technology - Blacksburg, VA
Chris Hall - Political Science - Charleston, SC
Austin Hayden - Construction Engineering & Management - Charlotte, NC
Ethan Leinberger - Cybersecurity Management & Analytics - Charlotte, NC
Nicholas Loveday – Philosophy, Politics & Economics – Salem, VA
Ben Lyday - Civil Engineering - Atlanta, GA
Robert Lynch – Business Information Technology – Raleigh, NC
Matt Mine – National Security & Foreign Affairs, Spanish & Economics – U.S. Army, Ft. Leonard Wood, MO
Cale Newton - Human Nutrition, Foods & Exercise & Psychology - Blacksburg, VA
Matt Owen - Human Nutrition, Foods & Exercise - U.S. Army, Fort Moore, GA
David Peritore - National Security & Foreign Affairs - U.S. Navy, Pensacola, FL
Tyler Scott – CMDA/MBA – Tysons, VA
Noah Shaffer – Chemical Engineering – Alexandria, VA
Mason Stanley - Marketing Management & Professional Sales - Blacksburg, VA
Barrett Stuckey - Marketing - Charlotte, NC
Wesley Surdam – Business Information Technology & OSM – Charlotte, NC
Eli Swan - Industrial & Systems Engineering - U.S. Navy, Pensacola, FL
Gabe Wiggins - Environmental Economics, Management & Policy - Blacksburg, VA
Nicholas Wolff – Building Construction – U.S. Navy
Taylor Young – Civil Engineering – Newport News, VA



Oral History Project Teaser

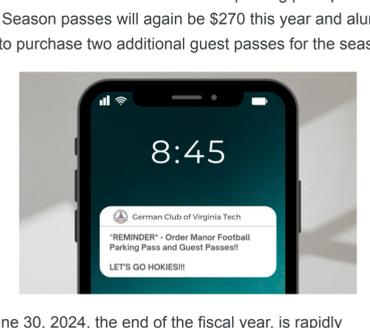
German Club men have the incredible fortune to trace their heritage back almost to the establishment of Virginia Tech, and one of the great joys of bringing our alumni together are the tales of enriching our Alma Mater, a commitment to the Ritual, and the good fellowship we have shared.

With this in mind, the Board allocated funding in next year's budget to capture these stories and preserve this gift to leave to the German Club men of tomorrow.

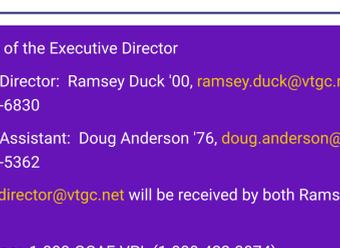
Expect to hear about the project in greater detail in the upcoming Forum, and if you are interested in participating, the please email the Executive Director to be added to the list.

2024 Football Tailgates and Parking

As always, the German Club Manor will be ground zero for all home football tailgates!



Stay tuned for additional information and parking pass purchase options. Season passes will again be \$270 this year and alumni will be able to purchase two additional guest passes for the season.



Note: June 30, 2024, the end of the fiscal year, is rapidly approaching in the event that you would like to increase your annual donation and secure further discounts on a parking pass!

[Click to Donate](#)

The Office of the Executive Director

Executive Director: Ramsey Duck '00, ramsey.duck@vtgc.net, 1-540-552-6830

Executive Assistant: Doug Anderson '76, doug.anderson@vtgc.net, 1-540-951-5362

Emails to director@vtgc.net will be received by both Ramsey and Doug.

Office phone: 1-800-GCAF-VPI (1-800-422-3874)

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