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German Club Alumni Foundation Inc.
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2025 Spring Newsletter

May 21, 2025



Alumni Weekend

Virginia Tech's annual Alumni Weekend is set for June 5-8, 2025. The fun-filled weekend is family friendly, all-inclusive and offers food, drinks, entertainment and plenty of Hokie spirit.

The activities include the Taste of Virginia Food, Beer, and Wine Festival on Friday, and a massive dinner and party on the Drillfield on Saturday. Building from last year's success, there will again be designated space tailored to German Club alumni, making it easier to coordinate and reconnect with your classmates.

Whether you plan to attend Alumni Weekend or not, please join us on Friday night, June 6 from 5:30-8:00 p.m. for a German Club Alumni reception at the Manor with beverages and heavy hors d'oeuvres. The event is free to attend for you and your guests, but registration is required.

We hope you will join the following German Club men for a weekend of fellowship!

1950's - Dick Arnold, Doug Petty and Buddy Russell

1960's - David Lowe, Jerry Miller, Roger Moore, Mark Musick, Tom Rust and Charlie Warren

1970's - Doug Anderson, Jim Baldwin, Smith Chaney, Johnny Miller, Chuck Rowell, Keith Sinclair, Randy Walker, Richard Weinberger and Mark Wigginton

1980's - Reynolds Becker, Dave Cooper and Steve Lavinder

1990's - Keith Stemple

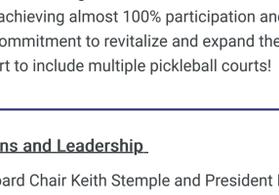
2000's - Ramsey Duck

[Click the button below to register for Friday's reception at the Manor](#)



Giving Day Results

Nearly 700 German Club members, alumni, and friends contributed \$125,000 to the German Club Alumni Account during Virginia Tech's Giving Day on February 19-20, 2025. Your efforts also netted the German Club an additional \$6,000 in prize money from the All-Stars Challenge, Ambassador Donor Challenge and the Additional Areas of Support Leaderboard! The German Club and the German Club Alumni Foundation are greatly appreciative of your outpouring of support in making Giving Day 2025 our most successful yet far!



As with last year, the decades squared off to see who could achieve the highest percentage of participation. Tommy Yambrick's 1980's sought a threepeat, but when the dust settled it was Carlos Muñoz and his 2000's that claimed the crown! The 1990's, helmed by Scott Cowan, rounded out the podium. A special thank you to Giving Day Chair Steve Upton and the other decades captains – Randy Minix, Ben Nicoll and Carter Ward – for their leadership and tireless work in this tremendous fundraising effort!

In our Club/GCAF Challenge, the German Club students stepped up in a big way too, achieving almost 100% participation and securing the Foundation's commitment to revitalize and expand the Manor's basketball court to include multiple pickleball courts!

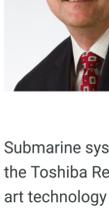
Board Elections and Leadership

This Spring, Board Chair Keith Stemple and President Dave Cooper were both elected to a second three-year term leading the GCAF Board.

Their first three-year term saw an extensive renovation of Alumni Hall, the reinvigoration of the Purple and Gold Society with the addition of several new members, record-breaking annual fund drives, and a successful transition in the Executive Director position.

New VP's - At the Executive Committee level, the Board welcomes three new Vice Presidents:

Ben Nicoll, VP for Alumni Relations



Having started my career in 2019 as Executive Director of GCAF I quickly became familiar with how effective the Foundation can be in bringing alumni of all ages together. As VP of Alumni Relations, I can't wait to build on the success we've had in fostering opportunities for folks to connect. Plus, it's going to be a tall task to top the 130th but I'm looking forward to the challenge!

Robbie Roberts, VP for Finance and Audit



I am most grateful to have been accepted by Virginia Tech and chosen for membership in the German Club, graduating in 1995. My best friends, without question, are members of the German Club. Five years later, I returned for graduate work and concurrently served as the Executive Director of the German Club Foundation from 2000 to 2003. In those years, I built relationships with the student members, reconnected with my classmates, and formed new friendships with alumni members across all decades. It has been my honor to continue to serve on the German Club Foundation Board of Directors, and I look forward to contributing further as VP for Finance. I also look forward to spending time with my German Club brothers in Blacksburg and at future regional social events and reunions. Go Hokies!

Wacho Slaughter, VP for Communications



I'd like to introduce myself as the new VP of Communication for the GCAF Board. My name is Wacho Slaughter, Class of 1984. I retired in October 2023 from a career in Retail Technology, working for IBM and Toshiba for 39 years. I was a Computer Science major at Tech and spent many years in Software Development/Testing for Submarine systems and Retail Technology. My last role was to run the Toshiba Retail Innovation Organization which uses state of the art technology to enhance shopper experiences. I am married and have 2 adult daughters and 2 grandsons. I joined the Board in the Fall of 2022 and am taking over for Luke Boorady as the VP of Communications as of this past March. Luke has done a fantastic job laying the groundwork for the Communications Committee and I look forward to executing those plans. Our projects include (1) an Oral History project whereby we will be interviewing alumni to record their valuable experiences, thoughts, and knowledge as previous German Club members, (2) updating the German Club Museum with various projects to help it be more current and interactive, (3) provide the GCAF Forum and Quarterly Newsletters for the GCAF, and (4) enhancing communications between the Alumni, current Club, and Board members. As such, I'm excited for the new role and would like to request your assistance/perspective on what we are doing well and what we need to improve upon. My email is wslaughter60@gmail.com and I welcome your input!

Alumni Spotlight - Dan Dick '70

(by Doug Anderson '76)



The VT Corps of Cadets recently honored USAF Maj Gen Daniel Dick with induction to its Aviation Wall of Fame. Maj Gen Dick is certainly deserving of the award, as an accomplished fighter pilot with 3600 flying hours (F-4s and F-16s), including 155 combat hours in 51 missions over Iraq, and an officer with multiple command assignments.

The general's official biography lists all his assignments, with one unassuming entry being "June 1996 - June 1997, Commander, 4404th Wing (Provisional), General Sultan AB, Saudi Arabia." What that doesn't say is the general arrived as its new commander the morning after a dormitory housing US forces (Khobar Towers) was destroyed by a terrorist bombing, killing 19 and wounding hundreds more. Maj Gen Dick immediately put his VT industrial engineering degree to use in leading the design and construction of a vast new Coalition Forces air base in the Saudi desert, a feat accomplished in just 45 days. Maj Gen Dick lists this assignment as one of the most memorable of his storied career.

Fun fact: Maj Gen Dick met his wife, Lynn, at a German Club party!

It's Not Too Late to Participate in AF25!

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

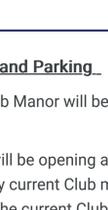


Manor Renovations

Thanks to your generosity, we have been able to complete extensive renovations and upgrades to the Manor over the past year.

What started as a long overdue renovation to the Alumni Hall restrooms in July of 2023 grew into a broader review of the Manor's furniture, fixtures and finishes and a realization that our home was beginning to look "tired." Originally charged with upping the "wow factor" in the women's Alumni Hall restroom, Marné Coetzer and Patti Williams of Alkemis Design offered to take a more comprehensive look at the property and provide their recommendations.

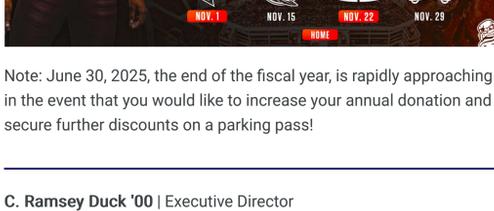
Their proposal was met with considerable enthusiasm by the Board in its Fall meeting and the project was scheduled for completion over Christmas and New Year's. In less than five weeks the parquet floors were replaced, new chandeliers and accent lights were installed, a new furniture package was put in place and the bar saw significant expansion in terms of footprint, equipment and functionality. We hope you have a chance to return to Blacksburg soon and experience the updates for yourself.



(Click for a virtual walkthrough!)

15 New German Club Members

On April 30, 2025, the German Club inducted 15 new members at Candlelight with current members and local alumni in attendance.



The Club has already been recruiting for the Fall semester class, with five 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.

Call for Class Notes and News

The GCAF Forum magazine will soon be in production!

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

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

2025 Football Tailgates and Parking

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

Starting next season, we will be opening a new area on the field designated for tailgating by current Club members and young alumni. This was a suggestion by the current Club to promote an increase in attendance by both groups. Additionally, it enhances the opportunity for all alumni to swing by and catch up with the current Club.

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, 2025, 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!

C. Ramsey Duck '00 | Executive Director

German Club Alumni Foundation, Inc.

[The German Club Manor](#)

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