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(Fall Semester Candlelight)

GCAF Spring 2026 Newsletter

Spring Regional Alumni Social

German Club Alumni will be gathering at the Watermark Hotel in Tysons, VA on Saturday, May 2nd for our Regional Alumni Social. Don't miss this annual opportunity to enjoy fellowship, network, relive the good ole days with your classmates, and cross generational boundaries with other GC alumni. This is a free event. Sign up here:

[Alumni Social Signup](#)

New Executive Director

The German Club Alumni Foundation is pleased to announce that Wesley Surdam '24, has taken the reins as our Executive Director. Wesley has a degree in Business Information Technology and previously worked for Amazon as an Area Manager in Concord, NC. While in the Club, Wesley served as VP Membership, Midwinters Chair, and Philanthropy Chair.



New German Club Leadership

The German Club elected new leadership for the 2026-27 academic year. The new leadership includes:



President - Will Forth '27
Pottstown, PA
Aerospace Engineering
Exercise



Executive VP - Rowan Leary
Richmond, VA
Human Nutrition Health & Exercise



Leader - Matthew Chapman '27
Roanoke, VA
Biomedical Engineering
Technology



VP for Membership - Rhett Moyer '27
Roanoke, VA
Business Information

Giving Day 2026



Thank you to all those that participated in the annual Virginia Tech Giving Day event on February 19th & 20th. The German Club and German Club alumni combined for 433 unique donors raising \$123,654 including a \$2,000 award for one of the challenges sponsored by Virginia Tech.

Our internal Club-GCAF challenge was a success. The German Club exceeded its 95% participation goal and the GCAF exceeded its 30% participation goal. So, the GCAF will be resurfacing the floor in the Manor basement, which a primary space for the Club to host events and gatherings.

Our alumni decade challenge saw the 80s return to glory with a 38.6% giving rate followed by the 90s in second place and the 20s in third place.

Midwinters

Midwinters 2026 marked the first time in over a decade that the Club hosted the event in Squires Ballroom. But before we get to the concert, we have to recap the rest of the week.

Starting on Sunday, before the week officially kicked off, the Club hosted the 57th annual Pork Award. Junior Jacob Sundberg took home the win this year after eating 13 huge pancakes.

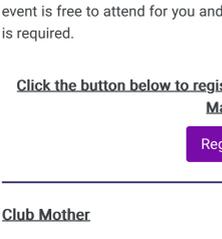
The first official event of the week took place Tuesday night, when Line Dancing Night was hosted at the Manor. We sold over 200 tickets for the event and taught attendees the line dances the Club knows and loves. From Hollaback Girl to I Will Survive, the ballroom was packed wall to wall. We also incorporated a line dance competition in which each organization had 15 minutes to create and perform its own line dance. The winners were, of course, Dance Company, with AXO and AOE taking second and third place, respectively.

On Wednesday, the Club hosted Burgers and Bingo at the Manor. We sold over 400 tickets and used every last chair in the building. People were sitting in the hallway, the kitchen, and even on the floor; there was no room left in the ballroom. Our grill masters were hard at work all night cooking more than 800 burgers and hot dogs to keep everyone fed.

The week culminated with the concert on Friday night. We sold over 650 tickets to the event, filling Squire's Ballroom for a night to remember. The Jack Wharff Band was thrilled to perform and told us afterward that it was one of the most fun shows they've ever played. They even said they would love to come back if the opportunity arises. The night featured crowd surfing, swing dancing, and memories that will last a lifetime.



Over the course of the week, we raised more than \$10,000 for the winning philanthropies, an increase of over \$6,000 from last year. The funds will go toward Domestic Violence Awareness, Girls on the Run, and Ronald McDonald House Charities.



The Club also collected 575 cans, which were donated to the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry to support individuals and families across Montgomery County.

All in all, the week was a huge success, and we hope to continue building on it for years to come.

- Alex Frank '27 (Historian)

Alumni Weekend & German Club Mixer - June 4-7, 2026



Virginia Tech Alumni Association's fun-filled weekend is a family friendly, all-inclusive event offering food, drinks, entertainment, and plenty of Hokie spirit. [Click here to sign up for Virginia Tech's annual Alumni Weekend events for 2026.](#)

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 5 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. for a German Club Alumni mixer at the Manor with beverages and heavy hors d'oeuvres. The event is free to attend for you and your guests, but registration below is required.

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

[Register](#)

Club Mother

In February, the German Club selected a new Club Mother. Mrs. Laura Yambrick, of Roanoke County, VA is a 1987 graduate of Virginia Tech, with a degree in Political Science. Laura served in the United States Navy for 21 years, while also earning a Master's Degree in National Security Studies & Strategic Planning from the United States Naval War College. Laura served in various roles during her time in the U.S. Navy, to include Communications, Underseas Surveillance/Intelligence, Administration, and Information Technology. Her overseas duty stations included Greece, Bahrain, and Japan.

Laura is the spouse of Tommy Yambrick '87, they have a son Philip (VT '17), a daughter Amelia (Texas Tech '16), and two granddaughters, Sofia and Juliana.



While welcoming Laura to her new role as Club Mother, the German Club and the GCAF appreciate the leadership and service of Mrs. Nancy Brittle, our previous Club Mother from 2022 to 2026.

We'd like your photos!

Now that we have an updated website that provides a landing spot for photos and Alumni news (<https://vtgc.net/alumni/news>), we'd like to hear from you. If you have current photos of events with German Club Alumni, please send them to the Communications Committee (wslaughter60@gmail.com) along with the event, date, location, and names of members in the photo. We'll do our best to post them to the website to help us all stay connected.

2026 Football Tailgates and Parking

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

The 2026 Virginia Tech Football Spring Game is scheduled for Saturday, April 18th with a 3:00 pm game time. The Manor and grounds will be open (free parking!) for tailgating. Please note: the **Ballroom will be closed** in preparations for an evening rental event on April 18th.

For the fall football season, stay tuned for additional information and parking pass purchase options during the month of July 2026.

Note: June 30, 2026 is the end of Fiscal Year 2026. Discounts for the 2026 football parking season passes are based on all donations received by the end of FY26.

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!

Calendar - Alumni Invited to All Events (at the Manor, unless indicated otherwise)

- April 15 - Ritual Night (Week 8)
- April 18 - Spring Game Tailgate
- April 28 - Spring Semester Candlelight
- May 1 - German Club Private Weekend Wine & Cheese Social
- May 2 - Spring Alumni Social - Tyson, VA
- May 4 - GC Senior Banquet
- May 9 - Wian Coetzer '19 Memorial Walk
- June 4-7 - Virginia Tech Summer Reunion Weekend (GC Social June 5)

Please reference the new German Club website at <https://vtgc.net/> for upcoming events.

The Office of the Executive Director

Executive Director: Wesley Surdam '24, wesley.surdam@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 Wesley and Doug.

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

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