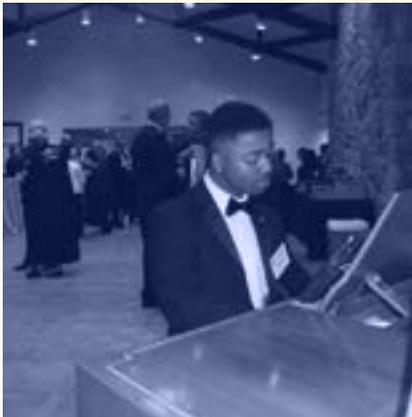


FORUM



FALL 2024



LEADERSHIP
SERVICE
FELLOWSHIP





Candlelight Ceremony



- Oct. 26, 2024 Football Tailgate, vs Georgia Tech
- Nov. 9, 2024 Football Tailgate, vs Clemson
- Nov. 23 - Dec. 1, 2024 Thanksgiving Break
- Nov. 30, 2024 Football Tailgate, vs Virginia
- Dec. 13-18, 2024 Exams Semester Ends
- Dec. 19, 2024 Winter Break through January 20, 2025
- Jan. 21, 2025 Spring Semester Begins
- Jan. 22, 2025 Fall Prospective Class Candlelight
- Feb. 19-20, 2025 Giving Day
- Feb. 22, 2025 Midwinters
- Mar.-Apr. 2025 GCAF Spring 2025 Regional Alumni Social
Board of Directors Meeting - Richmond, VA
- Mar. 8-16, 2025 Spring Break
- Apr. 8, 2025 Spring Prospective Class Candlelight
- May 5, 2025 Class of 2025 Senior Banquet
- May 9-14, 2025 Spring Semester Finals
- May 15-17, 2025 Class of 2025 Spring Commencement Ceremonies

calendar of

EVENTS



Womens Basketball NCAA tournament

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Tom Dalzell, 1957
- Chuck Gordon, 1969
- Earle Spruill, 1970
- George Umberger, 1970
- Ed Overton, 1971
- Chuck Rowell, 1971
- Randy Minix, 1972
- Alan Myers, 1972
- Calvin Henderson, 1972
- Mike Eggleston, 1973
- David Kiser, 1974
- Randy Walker, 1974
- Bob Derrick, 1977
- Mark Wigginton, 1977
- Richard Weinberger, 1978
- Craig Balzer, 1979
- Steve Wright, 1979
- Craig Nesbit, 1981
- Andy Scherzer, 1981
- Dave Cooper, 1983
- Steve Lavinder, 1984
- Wacho Slaughter, 1984
- Mike Foster, 1985
- Charlie Watson, 1986
- Howard Watson, 1987
- Tommy Yambrick, 1987
- Grady Baker, 1988
- Charles Long, 1988
- Steve Upton, 1989
- Billy Donavant, 1990
- Scott Sangrey, 1990
- Mike Clark, 1991
- Steve Wrenn, 1991
- Colin Wright, 1992
- Brian Dunch, 1993
- Scott Cowan, 1995
- Keith Stemple, 1995
- Robbie Roberts, 1995
- Ramsey Duck, 2000
- Andrew Lessner, 2000
- Mike Munsey, 2000
- Bret Gresham, 2001
- Charles Gordon, 2004
- Demas Boudreaux, 2006
- Jordon DeDona, 2006
- Brian Torgersen, 2007
- Andy Webb, 2008
- David Glenn, 2011
- Ash Heatwole, 2012
- Kyle Pryde, 2012
- Scott Guichard, 2013
- Jay Tucker, 2014
- Taylor Malbon, 2015
- Luke Boorady, 2019
- Ben Nicoll, 2019
- Carter Ward, 2020
- Adam Gentile, 2024

table of
CONTENTS

- 3 Out of Tragedy
- 4 German Club Officers
- 5 From the GCAF President
- 6 A Message From the German Club President
- 8 Development Update
- 11 Finance Update
- 12 Annual Fund 2024 Contributors
- 21 Leadership Profile – Did You Know
- 22 The German Club Class of 2024
- 24 Honoring Excellence – Lacrosse Hall of Fame
- 26 Facilities Update
- 27 Class Notes
- 28 From the Executive Director



LEADERSHIP
SERVICE
FELLOWSHIP



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman – Keith Stemple, 1995

President – Dave Cooper, 1983

VP of Alumni Relations – David Glenn, 2011

VP of Communications – Luke Boorady, 2019

VP of Development – Brian Dunch, 1993

VP of Facilities – Craig Balzer, 1979

VP of Finance & Audit – Jordan DeDona, 2006

VP of German Club Relations – Charles Gordon, 2004

VP of Nominations & Governance – Colin Wright, 1992

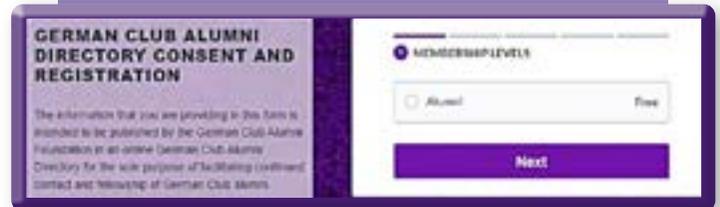
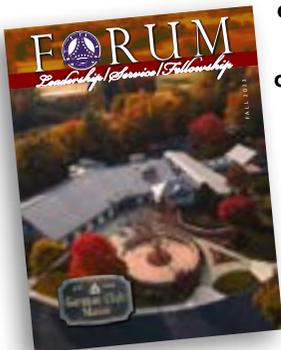
VP of University & Community Relations – Jay Tucker, 2014

Executive Director – Ramsey Duck, 2000

German Club Alumni Directory

German Club alumni can now create a secure log-in allowing you to access and update your profile; view your giving information; schedule and manage recurring donations; and monitor your pledges. This portal has also provided us with the ability to securely revive an online German Club Alumni Directory. Your consent to participate is required for inclusion of your contact data into the directory.

If you are reading a hardcopy of this issue and did NOT receive an electronic copy, it is because we do not have a valid email for you on file. To avoid this in the future and receive other critical emails (which is our most-used mode of communication), scan the QR code below to create your own account in our online database, where you will be able to enter all your contact information. That database account will allow you to reconnect with old acquaintances who have also created an account in the database.



There are just three steps to creating your portal account and authorizing your contact information for the German Club Alumni Directory:

1. First, go to the following link to create an account: <https://vtgc.app.neoncrm.com/forms/createaccount>.
2. After logging into your Alumni Portal account, click on "Register Now" in the Memberships section and begin completing an online form.
3. To access the directory, select "German Club Alumni Directory" in the portal's menu on the left hand side.

We are hopeful that our alumni will participate in great numbers in an effort to connect alumni and foster continued fellowship.



Out of Tragedy

We have often heard the axiom “out of tragedy comes good.” This rang true for Club members last semester, as they turned the sadness of the death of one member’s sister into a service event in the vein of those which she passionately championed.

Madie Nicpon was the older sister of Mikey Nicpon '25. To say that Madie had a heart for service would be a gross understatement. As a teen, Madie participated in her church’s youth ministry, traveling twice to Jamaica on mission trips, helping the less fortunate in any way she could while spreading the word of God. Maddie became a champion of both blood and organ donations after a surgical complication damaged her lingual nerve, which required her to receive a nerve graft. The nerve donation spurred Madie to become an advocate for Donate Life, where her diligent work got her nominated to ride on the Donate Life float in the 2019 Rose Bowl Parade.

Maddie enrolled at Tufts University where she was a member of the university lacrosse team, wearing jersey number 2. In her junior year, Madie passed away in October 2021 from an accident that occurred while participating in a charity event. In death, as in life, Madie continued to serve her cause as she was able to donate organs, tissue and nerve cells tissue.

The outpouring of support after Madie’s passing was overwhelming, generous and a testament to the person Madie was. The monetary gifts collected in her memory through Go Fund Me were a catalyst to start a charitable foundation in her name – MN2-Gether. The foundation supports a blood drive not only in Madie’s

hometown of Suffern, NY, every year, but also encourages drives to be held across the country, or for people to go to their local blood center to donate individually.

Through her brother Mikey, Madie’s service now extends to VT. In her honor, Mikey presented the Club with the idea of starting its own annual blood drive. The membership responded in true GC fashion, organizing the dates, advertising, preparing the manor, and coordinating rides for student donors to and from the Manor. The blood drive was a major success, with the 31 units collected exceeding the goal of 18 by 172 percent! The Red Cross representative was effusive in his praise, so much so that he nominated the event for “Drive of the Week” in the Virginia Region. The overflowing support and involvement of Club members was a prime example of the impact the German Club has on campus as it exemplifies our main pillars of Leadership, Service and Fellowship.”

The overflowing support and involvement of Club members was a prime example of the impact the German Club has on campus.

To learn more about Madie’s life, the Foundation, and how you can “Be Inspired to Challenge Yourself,” visit the website, www.mn2-gether.org. △



◀ **Current member, Mikey Nicpon (left) pictured with his sister Madie and their family in August of 2021.**

a message from the
GCAF PRESIDENT



DEAR FELLOW GC ALUMNI

I am thrilled to share with you some of the outstanding achievements of this past year, which have truly underscored the strength and dedication of our alumni and board. Our 2023-2024 annual fundraising drive was an unprecedented success, breaking all previous records thanks to your unwavering support and generosity. This remarkable accomplishment not only highlights our shared commitment to the German Club, but also ensures that we can continue to provide exceptional opportunities and resources for our Club members, Virginia Tech, and the Blacksburg community.

This year also marks what I hope is the beginning of cosmetic improvements to our cherished Manor. In the early 80s, our Manor was a shining new facility on the hill. Recently, however, many of you have commented to me that the Manor is “looking tired.” An updated design, adding a touch of elegance, will enable our Manor to continue to stand as a testament to our dedication to excellence

and our commitment to preserving our heritage. These improvements will enhance the Club’s ability to support its membership goals while increasing the use of the Manor by the University and Blacksburg community, therefore increasing revenue from Manor rentals.

Our Blacksburg Spring Alumni Social saw a great turnout, reaffirming the strong bonds and camaraderie within our community. We will be hosting our 2025 Spring Social in the Richmond area. We were also delighted to welcome 30 new 2024 graduates into our alumni base, each one ready to contribute their skills and enthusiasm to our shared mission. Together, we have achieved remarkable milestones. The board and I look forward to continuing this journey of success with all of you. △

Sincerely,
Dave Cooper '83
GCAF President

2024-25 GERMAN CLUB OFFICERS



Brooks Murden
President



Mike Makuszak
Executive
Vice President



Matthew Benevento
Leader



Michael Wunderlich
Vice President
for Membership



Ian McMillan
Alumni Secretary

Past Present Future



The German Club Alumni Foundation is investing in the future of the Club by preserving our past. This investment comes in the form of an alumni oral history project and enhanced interpretation in the Manor's museum.

The alumni oral history project will capture the voices and stories of German Club men from all eras. We want to preserve your invaluable insights, memories, and passion for the German Club to ensure they are not lost to time. This project will be an opportunity to connect with fellow alumni and recount your time as a student in the German Club – the countless memories, lessons learned, and major moments – and detail how the Ritual and the Club contributed to the successes you've achieved since graduation. Your

stories will enrich a vibrant archive that reflects the backgrounds and paths of our alumni. If you are interested in taking part in this meaningful project as an interviewer or interviewee, please reach out to the Executive Director at director@vtgc.net.

Over the next few months, you might notice some additions to the museum in the Manor. We aim to make the museum a communication tool to excite alumni, guests, and community members about the long and rich history of the German Club. We will refresh the displays, add interpretation, and feature the contributions of the German Club to the university and the New River Valley. △

Luke Boorady '19
Vice President of Communications



Colin Durken
Senior to the
Executive Committee



Jonah Middleton
Junior to the
Executive Committee



Rhett Moyer
Sophomore to the
Executive Committee



Sam Nuñez
Secretary



Heath Thompson
Treasurer



Anthony Goyanes
Historian



a message from the

GERMAN CLUB PRESIDENT

Given the circumstances over the last couple of years, the Club has evolved and developed in ways we never thought that we would have to.

With regards to leadership, the Club continues to have a strong leadership presence in many different organizations around campus. Some of these organizations that we have members in leadership roles in are the Corps of Cadets, Student Alumni Association, Ring Dance, Young Life, Cru, Relay for Life and other various organizations. We have Juniors and Seniors that work for their classes' Leadership Team, which is tasked with fulfilling some of the oldest traditions here at Virginia Tech, including designing the class ring and hosting Ring Dance last Spring. Our current Leadership Chair, Matt Zimmerman, has done a great job upholding leadership within the club by spreading awareness about leadership opportunities around campus as well as internally within the German Club. He also has a full semester of leadership events planned with things such as continuing the book club and hosting a resume building event with our academic advisor Dr. Bruce.

Our Service Chair, Justin Ward, has done an outstanding job organizing events and continuing events such as a local river clean up, helping with getting the Lions club lot prepared for tailgates, and landscaping tasks around the manor. We are also planning on continuing the long-running tradition of partnering with Relay for life to host a haunted house at the Manor to raise money for cancer research. Along with that, we are planning on cleaning a local park in Bristol,

Tennessee as a part of our motto weekend.

Our Fellowship remains firm and constant, both formally, and informally. We have continued to form brotherly bonds by spending time together during movie nights, watching sporting events together, playing pickleball or basketball, or events such as "Thursday Night Tradition". As former Fellowship Chair, I aimed to have more informal and

self-organized fellowship events to occur. The Club did well as many informal events occur every week. We also have continued our "Fellowship Talks" which is a space for guys to openly talk about struggles they may have going on in their life or to just listen and try to help their fellow Club members. This promotes a deeper side of fellowship within the Club and helps grow the relational side of Aim.

The Club is excited for our upcoming recruiting process. Our active membership is at 78, and we are excited to add more new members to our organization this Fall and Spring semester. We are just getting up and running with our Fall recruitment and our 13 new members from the Spring class have been acclimating well. Our Recruiting Chairs, Matt Chapman and Rhett Moyer have been working earnestly to get the name of the German Club out and educate potential prospective members on who we are and what we do. We will have a strong class of new members to welcome into the Club at the end of this semester.

Our Fellowship remains firm and constant, both formally, and informally. We have continued to form brotherly bonds by spending time together during movie nights, watching sporting events together, playing pickleball or basketball, or events such as "Thursday Night Tradition".



From top: Alumni enjoy a weekend social on the GC manor patio, alumni weekend party on the Drillfield, and members compete in a cornhole tournament in the Gordon Ballroom.

This Fall, we are proud to announce that our very own T.J. Brooks will be running for Homecoming Royalty on his platform “Buckle up with Brooks”. This platform is based on awareness and education on the importance of buckling up when driving or riding in a vehicle. With much hard work and dedication from T. J. and members of the Club, we are hoping to be selected as Homecoming Royalty for the third year in a row. If we can accomplish this outstanding goal, we will host an event with VTPD and other local medical workers to help bring awareness to the importance of buckling up.

This Fall semester we are happy to announce that we are hoping to bring back Gold Rush. This a Fall philanthropy that the Club used to sponsor and we are hoping to continue to enhance the good name of the Club this Fall as well. We will be hosting booths to raise money for the first two days on campus and a day of field games on the Manor lawn on the third day. Similar to Midwinters, all proceeds raised would go back to the participating organizations. Our Gold Rush Chairs, Anthony Goyanes, Bray Sehnert, and Rowan Leary have been working earnestly to plan out this fun weekend.

From R: “The Reputation of the German Club is a glorious heritage bequeathed by those German Club men who have gone before you.” You all are those who have gone before us and have made and kept the Reputation a glorious heritage. In closing, I, along with the rest of the Club, would like to thank you for your continued trust and support as we all continue to build up and enhance the German Club and three pillars that make the Club so special. △

GERMANly,
Brooks Murden



Exceptional Giving Results for

FISCAL YEAR 2024

This was our most successful fundraising year since the endowment campaign ended. We received \$375,600 from 729 unique donors, which is an all-time high for unique donors. We all should be tremendously proud of that result and of the engagement and generosity of our alumni community as a whole. Thank you!

Our budgeted goal for the year was \$250,000 and we exceeded that by a whopping 50+%! You may be wondering how we exceeded the goal by that much. There are contributing factors, including the following:

- 1. We received four large gifts from alumni** in the classes of 1950, 1983, 1997, and 1999 that totaled almost \$90,000. It's a reminder that it is never too late nor too soon to make a current donation or a planned legacy gift. Contact us to learn more about the Purple & Gold Society that recognizes cumulative lifetime giving and bequests.
- 2. We crushed Giving Day!** In one 24-hour period (Noon, Feb 21st to Noon Feb 22nd), we raised over \$75,000 from over 400 unique donors. It was our best Giving Day result by far. We were awarded a \$2000 bonus from Virginia Tech by placing first among student organizations and sports clubs with the most donors. We also finished 15th on the overall leaderboards for most unique donors and

most funds raised, which includes colleges and departments across Virginia Tech. Our performance raised both eyebrows and our standing within the University's Advancement organization. Also, congratulations to the active Club, whose participation rate was 98%, which exceeded the challenge goal the GCAF set to unlock funds for the renovation of the DJ booth in the basement. We again held our "decade challenge" among the alumni. Using an Olympic reference, the 80s won the gold (barely – it required an official review), the 90s won silver, and the 10s earned bronze. A challenge goes out to the 20s! Since the decade winner is determined by percentage participation, take advantage of your smaller denominator while you can. Many hands made light work for our Giving Day performance; however, Steve Upton '89, our Giving Day leader, deserves special thanks as his hands were busier than most!

▶
Alumni from the decade of the 80's celebrating their back-to-back VT Giving Day victories, having achieved the highest participation rate among the decades.



3. Our base of donors is broadening and every gift matters.

This year, we received over \$80,000 from donors giving \$600 (\$50 month) and less. That represents 32% of our budgeted goal. Because of our previous success in fundraising, we recently were able to upgrade our technology for managing our alumni records. This upgrade is making it easier for us to reconnect with alumni that have been missing our communications, but we still have work to do! There are over 400 alumni records for which we have no email address, which is our cheapest and therefore primary means of contact. We are working to close that gap and will be soliciting your help in the coming months. In addition, the new system has a directory you can join that allows alumni to connect with each other (as long as both are in the directory), review giving history, and establish a recurring gift schedule. Contact the Executive Director's office to learn more.

Regardless of the above, the broader fact remains that your engagement and generosity achieved these results. Again, thank you!

When we exceed our budgeted goal like we did this year and last, nearly all the excess funds are invested in our endowment with the Virginia Tech Foundation, which helps secure our future. At the conclusion of the endowment campaign in FY22 we crossed the \$5 million mark in our unrestricted endowment accounts. Thanks to your generosity and market performance, we recently crossed the \$6 million level. That larger principal yields a little more in guaranteed interest earnings, which makes us less dependent on annual giving to fund GCAF operations. Of course, we will always need to conduct annual fundraising, as it is still the largest single source of funds for the GCAF annual operating budget.

This all translates into confidence in our financial posture to pursue improvements in the Manor and grounds, which makes us an attractive venue for Virginia Tech and community organizations to hold meetings and events. It also allows us to fund German Club alumni gatherings in regional locations, young alumni events, and receptions during Virginia Tech summer reunion weekends. And, of course, it allows us to provide financial support when requested, and support a fitting home for the active German Club members and our alumni.

Alas, the need to fund raise never ends. We'll be reaching out soon enough to solicit your support for the FY25 cycle, which started July 1st, but for now let's enjoy our successful results for FY24! △

*Brian Dunch '93
VP of Development*

The German Club Purple & Gold Society

Since its founding in 1892 as the first fraternal organization at Virginia Tech, the German Club has remained steadfast over generations to its dedication of Leadership, Service, and Fellowship.

The German Club Alumni Foundation's mission is to ensure the continuation of the German Club and to serve as a unifying force for fellowship to foster leadership for service. While serving as leaders in their communities and beyond, German Club men endeavor to remain true to the guiding principles of the German Club Ritual. One of these is Responsibility, and we as alumni are responsible for ensuring the continuation of the German Club for future generations of leaders. We are calling upon German Club alumni and friends to support the GCAF to increase the endowment through various methods of direct and deferred giving.

The German Club Purple & Gold Society reflects the pinnacle of this commitment and recognizes those who have made extraordinary financial contributions to the future of the German Club throughout their lifetime.

Any German Club alumnus, spouse, honorary member, or friend may be invited to join the German Club Purple & Gold Society, based on their extraordinary philanthropic commitment.

The German Club Purple & Gold Society replaces its predecessor, the German Club Legacy Society, and its members are included as founding members of the German Club Purple & Gold Society. There are 38 members of the German Club Purple & Gold Society; 15 are living members.

(continued on page 10)



◀ Alumni from the late '70's and early 80's joined VT Men's Basketball players Lynn Kidd and Sean Pedulla for a behind the scenes tour of the Hahn Hurst Basketball Practice Center.



▲ (L to R) - Current members and recent alumni Zeyd Myers, Keller Coolbaugh, Nick Loveday '24, Brooks Murden and Sam Nunez enjoy an evening on the lake.

Purple & Gold Society continued



Membership is determined based on a donor's cumulative lifetime giving to the German Club Alumni Foundation. It includes annual giving, any participation in capital or endowment campaigns, real assets (art, land, jewels, or precious metals) or deferred* gifts, such as beneficiary designations or bequests from a will or trust. It also includes unrestricted as well as restricted gifts, such as scholarships and specifically directed and designated gifts. Pledges, other than deferred gifts, cannot be counted toward a donor's lifetime giving until the pledge is fulfilled. The required cumulative lifetime financial commitment threshold for Purple & Gold society membership is \$100,000. This threshold may change in the future. However, once admitted, members in good standing shall remain members even if minimum threshold financial commitment levels change. △

** Deferred gifts require documentation on file with the VT Foundation and/or the German Club Alumni Foundation*



The German Club Alumni Foundation **Fiscal Year 2024**

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through the continued support of our alumni and careful financial management of our resources, the GCAF was able to finish last fiscal year with a \$182,000 surplus and a total cash position of approximately \$470,000.

REVENUES*

Gifts to GCAF	139,000
Gifts through VTF	237,000
VTF Endowment Income	197,000
Other Income**	143,000
Total Income	\$716,000

EXPENSES*

Foundation Ops	151,000
Manor & Guest House Ops	158,000
Capital Projects	150,000
Club, Alumni & VT Relations	74,000
Total Expenses	\$533,000

*All amounts rounded to nearest thousand

**Includes Manor & Guest House rentals, etc.

These incredible results allowed us to reinvest \$200,000 in the GCAF endowment and pushed the unrestricted endowment balance over \$5M for the first time. This money, invested with the Virginia Tech Foundation, grows at a guaranteed rate of 4% putting the foundation ever closer to funding all operations through our endowment income.

Likewise, our scholarship programs are healthy and self-sustaining at current award levels allowing the foundation to positively impact several German Club students as well as proven campus leaders in the broader University.

Thank you for your ongoing generosity and the incredible benefit that you provide to Virginia Tech and the German Club. 

▶ **Ramsey Duck '00 and Aaron McClung '00 catch up on the banks of the Rappahannock near historic Burhan's Wharf.**



▲ **TJ Weisenfeld '80 was married to Iris on June 14 in Blowing Rock, NC. (below) Several German Club men gathered for Weisenfeld wedding** Second from left: Dr. John Mitchell '80, Crennie Reed '78, Graham Wilson '78, Steve Lantz '79, Mark Wigginton '77, Blair Jost '81, Jeff Bryant '80, Rusty Shaw '80, Remie Arnold '82 (Not pictured: Craig Nesbit '81). ▼



▲ **Graham Wilson saves John Mitchell from disaster at the Mile-High Bridge near Blowing Rock. Photos courtesy of Craig Nesbit**



DID YOU KNOW?

For those of you who have any enthusiasm at all for wine, you probably already know the epicenter of wine production in the US is the Napa Valley in California. And for those of us of a certain vintage, we know that Robert Mondavi was once the best known of Napa vintners.

But times in Napa have changed, and now the most dominant presence is not a vintner, but a viticulturist (vintners make wine from grapes grown by viticulturists). His name is Andy Beckstoffer, and he has revolutionized the wine business in the Napa Valley and surrounding areas.

Beckstoffer is responsible for many changes in the business operations of the wine industry. It all started when he moved to Napa Valley in 1970. At that time, the industry model was that most winemakers also owned their own vineyards. But Beckstoffer had a different vision: to concentrate just on growing the best grapes available, and to sell them to

wineries to make high quality wine. Accordingly, over many decades, he bought up much of the best land in the area, much of it from the wineries. His company now oversees about 4,000 acres of vineyards.

But Beckstoffer didn't buy just any land. His innovative approach was to pay attention to the "terroir" of the land. According to the Oxford dictionary, terroir is French for the "natural environment in which a particular wine is produced, including such factors as soil, topography, and climate" (and we know the French know their wine!) Thus, he sought out locations whose terroir would be most conducive for growth of a particular variety of seedlings he desired to plant.



Andy Beckstoffer, vineyard Napa Valley.

More innovations followed. One involved pricing - he would base his price per ton of grapes on a formula based on the price of a corresponding bottle. For example, if a bottle of a particular variety of wine sold for \$100, he charged \$10,000 per ton. His model has been widely adopted. Another innovation was in branding - if a winery bought grapes from him, their label had to so state (free advertising anyone?). He also elevated the caché of the Napa Valley wine-growing region by championing an ordinance requiring at least 75% of the grapes used must be "from the 'appellation'" (wine-growing region) for a wine to be labeled as a Napa Valley wine.

According to the Oxford dictionary, terroir is French for the "natural environment in which a particular wine is produced, including such factors as soil, topography, and climate."

So now you know a little bit about the California wine industry. And you know a few terms I'm guessing you didn't know before: viticulturist, terroir, and appellation. And you know about how Andy Beckstoffer's unique methods and vision have revolutionized the wine industry in the Napa Valley and beyond. And you should also know that for his achievements, this Richmond, VA native was awarded the University Distinguished Achievement Award from his alma mater - you guessed it - Virginia Tech. But did you know that this innovator, whom the Wall Street Journal labeled "Napa's most powerful grape grower," is a German Club man? Well, of course he is... △

Doug Anderson '76

OUR 2024 GRADUATES



Jack Adams
Industrial & Systems Engineering



Keaton Band
Human Nutrition, Foods & Exercise



Collin Bernstein
Human Nutrition, Foods, & Exercise



Timothy Bryan
Finance



Nate Cunningham
Management, Consulting
Analytics Marketing



Paul Dragan
Finance



Dimitiri Fifs
Hospitality & Tourism Management



Chris Finn
Civil Engineering



Jack Fox
Marketing Management



Landen Furr
Civil Engineering



Adam Gentile
Business Information Technology



Chris Hall
Political Science



Austin Hayden
Construction Engineering & Management



Ethan Leinberger
Cybersecurity Management & Analytics

*“The high reputation of the German Club is your responsibility,
not alone to keep but also to enrich by your words and your deeds.”*



Nicholas Loveday
Philosophy, Politics & Economics



Ben Lyday
Civil Engineering



Robert Lynch
Business Information Technology



Matt Mine
National Security & Foreign Affairs,
Spanish & Economics



Cale Newton
Human Nutrition, Foods & Exercise
& Psychology



Matt Owen
Human Nutrition, Foods & Exercise



David Peritore
National Security & Foreign Affairs



Tyler Scott
CMDA MBA



Noah Shaffer
Chemical Engineering



Mason Stanley
Marketing Management & Professional Sales



Barrett Stuckey
Marketing



Wesley Surdam
Business Information Technology & OSM



Eli Swan
Industrial & Systems Engineering



Gabe Wiggins
Environmental Economics,
Management & Policy



Nicholas Wolff
Building Construction



Taylor Young
Civil Engineering

Honoring German Club Excellence:

LACROSSE HALL OF FAME

With immense pride, we in the German Club celebrate the induction of Dave Cooper '83 and Bryan Cooper '17 into the Virginia Tech Men's Lacrosse Hall of Fame. This recognition underscores their exceptional leadership contributions and athletic achievements in lacrosse during their time at VT, and beyond.

Dave Cooper, an esteemed lacrosse player and current President of GCAF, has been an unwavering advocate for VT, Hokies lacrosse, and our German Club. His well-rounded athletic skills are highlighted by picking up the game his freshman year, starting his sophomore year, and culminating in outstanding performances his junior and senior years by recording over 20 goals and assists each season. Known for his effective leadership, Dave played pivotal roles as co-captain and president. Maintaining his commitment beyond graduation, Dave provides unwavering moral and financial support to the VT community, further exemplifying our Club's Aim:

"The enrichment of our own lives and the enrichment of our Alma Mater must forever be our aim, our common goal."

Bryan Cooper, a distinguished lacrosse alumnus from the German Club Class of 2017, exemplifies the Club's principle of Earnestness:

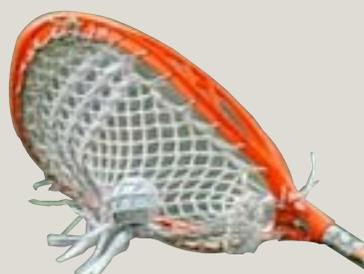
"Work earnestly always for the good of the German Club. If you have great talents, earnest work will improve them; if but moderate abilities earnest industry will supply their deficiencies."

Bryan's impressive accolades underline his earnest work ethic. Identified as the 1st Team All-Conference

Goalie, All-Tournament Goalie, 2nd Team All-America Goalie, and a two-time Defensive Tournament MVP, Bryan's achievements extend beyond the field. His teammates recognized him as Rookie of the Year, a two-time Team MVP, and a two-time recipient of the Team Dedication award. Serving as an officer and co-captain for three years, alongside a two-year presidential term, Bryan continues in his relentless support of the VT community as a member of the VT Men's Lacrosse Board of Advisors and a co-president of the Dallas-Fort Worth Hokies alumni chapter.

As we convey our heartfelt congratulations to Bryan and Dave, their enlightening journeys serve as inspiring narratives, aligning their personal victories and endeavors with the G.E.R.M.A.N. principles that form the pillars of strength for the German Club. They continue to uphold the club's Name and take on the Responsibility to enhance the German Club's Reputation.

The embodiment of these principles continues to set the path for current and future members of the German Club. Their stories are proof that our principles serve as lasting guidelines for personal achievement and contribution to our community. △



**Alumni Dave and
Bryan Cooper
Receive Lacrosse
Hall of Fame Accolades**



Smaller improvements **Big Picture**

FACILITIES UPDATE

The past year has been a relatively “slow” year for the Foundation’s Facilities Committee as it focused on fewer and much smaller improvements and repairs to the Manor. The Committee has been able to catch its breath after about 5-10 years of extensive and expensive capital improvements to ensure the ongoing maintenance and repair of the Manor. Three major areas were prioritized - upgrades to Alumni Hall, restrooms, and completion of the rehab of the Dekker Conference Room.

The previously renovated restrooms received a “cosmetic” overhaul with some new paint, wall coverings, lighting, furnishings, and artwork. Integral to the completion of the upgrade was a Blacksburg interior design firm whose principal is Ms. Marné Coetzer, mother of German Club member Wian Coetzer '19, who passed away shortly after graduation. Wanting to do something for the German Club in honor and memory of her son, Marné donated her interior design services to help the Committee address the improvements. She and her business partner, Ms. Patti Williams, also have agreed to help develop a long range “Master Plan” for the interiors of the Manor – addressing items neglected in the past due to the much needed and higher prioritized capital

improvements. Their Master Plan is being reviewed by the Executive Committee for further action. The Foundation greatly thanks Marné and Patti for their professional assistance and guidance, and we look forward to some exciting and refreshing changes to our dated Manor interior.

The Henry J. Dekker Conference Room saw the completion of a much-needed upgrade to its audio visual system with fabulous technology additions and integrated video conferencing and presentation capabilities. Many thanks go out to Executive Committee member David Glenn '11, who devoted countless hours of his time working with local equipment vendors and installers to get great state-of-the-art equipment at terrific pricing. David oversaw the entire installation and handled all close-out procedures, ensuring the successful completion of the project just in time for the Foundation’s Executive Committee meeting.

With the assistance of Colonel Tom Dalzell '57, the Committee completed an update to a maintenance and sustainability document Tom created several years ago. We will continue to use that document to guide and prioritize maintenance and repair projects in the coming years. With the recently completed large capital improvements, the Committee’s emphasis will now concentrate on the continued upkeep and sustainability of the facility.

As always, I offer great appreciation for the help and efforts of fellow GCAF Facilities Committee members over the past year, and special thanks to our new Executive Director, Ramsey Duck '00. Thank you Ramsey for taking over the oversight and operations of our Club and the Manor. △

*R. Craig Balzer '79
Vice President of Facilities*



▲ **Friends and family gather at the Manor on May 18 to celebrate and remember the life of alumnus Wian Coetzer '19.**

class NOTES

IN MEMORIAM

Through quite a bit of research and help from fellow alumni, we became aware of several alumni whose passing was not previously known, some as far back as 2020. If you learn of one of your GC classmate's passing, please email us so we can update our database and pass that information on to the rest of our members.

Claude C. Arthur, Jr., '45, a WWII veteran and long-time commercial airline pilot, passed away December 20, 2022.

John E. Scott '48, the founder of UVA's Aeronautical Engineering program and a distinguished professor there for four decades, passed away March 16, 2024.

Robert M. Parker '49, passed away February 12, 2022.

William R. "WR" Reid '50, retired president of Community Hospital of Roanoke and co-founder of the Jefferson College of Health Sciences, passed away April 25, 2023

Vestal Keith "Keith" Shelton '56, a Human Resources professional and later a Realtor, passed away August 16, 2024.

Donald C. "Don" Dumlao '56, a Coast Guard Commander and pastor, passed away Nov 7, 2023.

Daniel A. Penny '56, passed away May 18, 2020.

Ralph L. Lincoln '58, who had a long career as a chemical engineer, passed away March 30, 2023.

John W. Hale '59, passed away on July 9, 2022.

Donald G. McCants '58, passed away on November 20, 2020.

Robert R. Cosby '59, a farmer and Supervisor for Powhatan County for four decades, passed away on December 5, 2020.

Randall A Farmer '60, Air Force veteran and chemical engineer, passed away on June 11, 2024.

Henry C. Page '60, passed away on May 25, 2023.

James E. "Jim" Johns II '60, a leader in manufacturing of high efficiency, low emissions combustion equipment, passed away October 3, 2022.

William R. "Pat" Phillips '60, who capped nearly a half-century of employment at Newport News Shipbuilding by serving as CEO, passed away September 23, 2020.

William R. May '60, passed away September 14, 2020.

W. David Thompson '61, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, passed away Aug 8, 2024.

Robert "Dutch" van Luyn '61, a holocaust survivor, professional engineer, and inventor, passed away March 30, 2023.

David L. Cooksey '61, passed away on October 26, 2020.

Herman J. Beckstoffer '62, renowned architect, passed away Jun 10, 2024.

Douglas O. Hubbell '63, chemical engineer and statistical analyst, passed away on September 26, 2023.

Douglas R. Overstreet '64, passed away on October 24, 2021.

James E. Gardner '64, a Vietnam War veteran and industrial engineer, passed away on October 7, 2023.

James P. Browning '68, passed away on June 27, 2024.

Robert Loron German '72, former Fightin' Gobblers QB 1969-1971, passed away March 13, 2020.

Arnold Little, Jr, '74, passed away on December 2, 2021.

Dennis J Phillips '74, passed away April 23, 2020.

Benedict Oliver Dichoso '92, who served in several national security intelligence positions, passed away March 4, 2023.



Blake Butler '19 married **Mackenzie at the Manor**, complete with their arrival to the reception via helicopter landing on the front lawn.

Alfred Fusco '17, married Sarah on July 27.

TJ Weisenfeld '80, was married to Iris on June 14.

Scott Salcetti '11, was married to Camille Vinogradov on June 1 at the Manor.

TJ Loeffler '17, and Savannah announce the birth of twin girls, Caira Lee Loeffler, born Dec. 5, and Colette Amira Loeffler, born Dec. 6, 2023.



A few words from the

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Looking back on my first year as executive director still feels surreal. As you discovered in this issue of the Forum, it has been a banner year in many respects and I feel incredibly privileged to have worked alongside the Executive Committee, Board members, local alumni and the Club to help achieve some of the accomplishments this past year. I would also like to extend a special thank you to Tommy Yambrick, who we called back into action with manpower and a much-needed refresher on some of the technical intricacies of the role. My first year would not have been possible without his reengagement and the support, patience and direction of GCAF President Dave Cooper and the entire Executive Committee.

As a result of your continued passion and generosity, the annual fund far exceeded our goals and indeed our wildest expectations. We also achieved a major milestone with respect to our unrestricted assets, passing the \$5 million mark. We completed long overdue renovations to the restrooms in Alumni Hall and a technology overhaul to the Dekker Conference Room that enhanced the value of the space as well as its functionality for conducting the Foundation's business. The Foundation and the Club's participation in Virginia Tech's annual Giving Day reached previously unknown

heights and netted the Club a massive upgrade to the DJ equipment and lighting gear in the basement. And, most recently, we have set early record sales on this season's football parking.

We also marked some more somber occasions. German Club men gathered in Norfolk, Blacksburg and Charlottesville to remember men like Gene Justice, Dutch van Luyn and John Scott, some of the men who built what we enjoyed as students and continue to enjoy as alumni. These and other losses underscore the importance of a new oral history project where we hope to better preserve the lived experience and German Club traditions that make this organization so special.

The Foundation and the Club's participation in Virginia Tech's annual Giving Day reached previously unknown heights and netted the Club a massive upgrade to the DJ equipment and lighting gear in the basement.

Lastly, the Club is continuing to rebuild from its Covid experience, working to reestablish traditions like the leadership conference and Gold Rush, and refining its membership and recruiting processes. As always, alumni are encouraged to reconnect with the Club members whenever they are in town or to share leadership, service and fellowship opportunities wherever they are located.

Thank you all for what you do to make this organization remarkable! △

*GERMAN-ly,
Ramsey Duck '00
Executive Director*



Bret Gresham '01 leading the memorial service for Robert "Dutch" van Luyn '62.

▶ Taylor Young '24 entertains guests at the VT Finance Department's end of semester party.



◀ German Club men Doug Petty '52, Ramsey Duck '00, Robbie Roberts '95 and Jim Baker '54 gathered with the family of Helen and Gene Justice '54 in Norfolk, VA for a memorial service long delayed by Covid.



BACK COVER PHOTO: Alumni and their spouses from the decade of the 1980's celebrating their VT Giving Day win before the Hokies squared off with the Thundering Herd of Marshall University.

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