



# INSTITUTE REPORT

VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE

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## Cadets March in Inaugural Parade

By Maj. Michelle Ellwood

The VMI Corps of Cadets proudly participated in the inaugural ceremony of Gov. Glenn Youngkin, Virginia's 74<sup>th</sup> governor, which is a tradition at VMI for nearly every class. In order to prepare, the Corps returned a few days earlier than originally planned for spring semester. The typical planning took place, including visits to the barber shop, weapon distribution, uniform inspections, and practice parades, but first, each member of the Corps was tested



The Corps of Cadets marches in the inaugural parade for Gov. Glenn Youngkin, Virginia's 74<sup>th</sup> governor, in Richmond Jan. 15.—  
VMI Photo by Kelly Nye.

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## Cameron Hall Turns 40

By Maj. Michelle Ellwood

The massive white pine trees could tell many stories of the happenings at Cameron Hall. What started as saplings planted around 1980 are now towering over the roof of the multipurpose facility as the VMI community and guests celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> year.

The Dec. 11, 2021 basketball game against Gardner-Webb was a chance to mark the milestone. At halftime, a line of individuals staged across the court were introduced, passing a basketball along the way. Each person has a special connection to VMI basketball during its time so far in

Cameron Hall, including several members of the VMI Sports Hall of Fame and Jim Miller, current interim athletic director, who was an assistant basketball coach for the Keydets in 1981. Others included Mike

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## Inaugural Parade *continued from page 1*

for COVID-19 and given new face coverings. The return and inaugural ceremonies took place as the Omicron variant of COVID-19 was reaching peak levels and impacting all aspects of life after the holiday season.

When the buses loaded before sunrise on the morning of Saturday, Jan. 15, just over 950 cadets left for Richmond. A group of 50 cadets were assigned as ushers for the various ceremonies, and the remaining cadets marched in the parade, second in line behind the Virginia National Guard. More than 20 groups and organizations were represented on the chilly afternoon with temperatures barely reaching the low 30's. Luckily the snowstorm predicted for the state held off for another day.

"It's in the cadets' blood to do something like this," said Kasey Meredith '22, regimental commander, just after the cadets practiced on Friday afternoon before the parade. "I'm not nervous at all, because watching the battalion commanders work today made me very proud. This is the leadership we have and they're able to execute so successfully. This is why VMI makes great leaders."

A semester into his leadership as commandant, Col. Adrian Bogart '81 was excited for the day. "We are very thankful for this opportunity," he said. "We take great pride in saluting the commander-in-chief [for the Corps of Cadets] as we pass in review."

For more photos, see page 15. 🌟



The Corps of Cadets, led by Kasey Meredith '22, regimental commander, approaches the Capitol building in Richmond at the start of the governor's inaugural parade Jan. 15.—VMI Photo by H. Lockwood McLaughlin.



The Corps of Cadets waits behind the Capitol building to march in the governor's inaugural parade Jan. 15.—VMI Photo by H. Lockwood McLaughlin.



Cadets serve as ushers during the inaugural ceremony of Gov. Glenn Youngkin in Richmond Jan. 15.—VMI Photo by Kelly Nye.

The Institute Report, VMI's monthly newsletter, publishes eight issues during each academic year. Inquiries, suggestions, news items, and address changes should be directed to Editor, Institute Report, VMI Communications and Marketing, Lexington, VA 24450-0304; (540) 464-7207; or [VMIReport@vmi.edu](mailto:VMIReport@vmi.edu). © 2022 Virginia Military Institute.

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COVID-19 information and current VMI protocols can be found at [www.vmi.edu/COVID](http://www.vmi.edu/COVID).

## Cadet Training Saves Lives

By Eric Moore

Excited to see family and loved ones over furlough and take a break from classes, Adam Gild '24 never expected to find himself in the middle of a life-or-death first aid situation on the side of a highway. As the mechanical engineering major from Nashville, Tennessee, and his girlfriend were driving along a major highway in that area, they noticed a tire rolling down the middle of the road. At first, they thought it was amusing, but then they realized that someone might need help.

"We started looking for any sort of accident," Gild said. "We saw a couple cars that had pulled over, and one of them was this gray truck that was facing the wrong way. All the airbags had deployed, and there was someone [inside who was] unconscious."

Gild pulled over to the side of the road with the intent on checking on the man inside the truck, but that got more complicated when the truck went back across four lanes of traffic and crashed because the man's foot was still on the accelerator. Determined to offer aid, Gild searched for a way to cross the highway to get to the truck. He shot through the gap between two cars, arrived at the truck, and took in the scene. The car was on fire and heavily damaged, and the man inside was not conscious or breathing.

"I was trying to talk to him: 'Sir, you've been in this crash, you need to stay still, and I need you to breathe,'" Gild said.

Gild offered first aid to help open his airway. Thankfully, the man began breathing, and Gild then focused on keeping him as still as possible. Additional bystanders arrived at the scene, and together the group kept talking to the victim and tried to keep him safe until first responders arrived and took over.

"Because of the training I got here [at VMI], I knew not to move him," Gild said. "I was just trying to keep him calm and keep him breathing. This is a prime example of why every second of training that you have counts. The paramedic told me that I saved his life. I got pretty emotional."

The man recovered, and Gild later talked with him. Gild credits his VMI training for developing the mental fortitude to respond



Adam Gild '24

in such a dire situation, especially New Cadet Military Training (NCMT), a course taught to 4<sup>th</sup> Class cadets.

In NCMT, "there's a decent chunk of time they dedicate to emergency medical situations just like this, and [those hours of training] were just so instrumental in making the difference."

Looking back on the situation, Gild remains humble and thankful. After graduating, he hopes to commission in the Marine Corps. The Marine instructors have taken notice of Gild's use of training.

"Cadets at VMI are constantly put in situations that test their decision making," said Capt. Joshua Jordan, junior Marine officer instructor. "He was able to take what he has learned as a young cadet, apply it in a life-or-death situation, and achieved life-saving results. This kind of quick decision-making is exactly what we are trying to foster in our [Navy ROTC] program."

A mere 4,000 or so miles away in Hawaii, a similar circumstance played out just a few weeks later. Evan Richey '17, who is a nuclear Naval officer stationed at Pearl Harbor, was hiking with a friend when they administered aid to an injured hiker. The woman had fallen 100 feet from Olomana Trail.

"A lot of people have thanked me for the service I've done," said Richey. "Truly, I would not have been able to react and assist in a positive way had I not developed the skills and character over the years at Virginia Military Institute." ❄️



# Kilbourne Papers Now Preserved at VMI

By Kelly Nye

Lisa Tracy, a granddaughter of VMI's sixth superintendent Maj. Gen. Charles E. Kilbourne, VMI Class of 1894, had no idea what treasures hid in her attic.

Not until Col. Diane Jacob, then-head of VMI archives, asked her to check.

"Years ago, when I was working on my book, Colonel Jacob said to me, 'I don't suppose you have any Kilbourne papers left in the house anywhere,'" explained Tracy.

At the time, Tracy lived in the same house on Pendleton Place in Lexington her grandfather had built and moved into after his tenure at VMI. It was the only house the military family had ever really considered home. But Tracy thought there was nothing to be found after all the moves her grandparents had made. Then she and her sister, the late Jeanne Tracy Eichelberger, started to sort through the attic.

That's when the treasures started to emerge.

The sisters found hundreds of documents, ranging from Kilbourne's cadet photo, taken by Michael Miley in 1894, to news clippings of his meeting with President John F. Kennedy in the spring of 1963, just six months before both men's deaths in November of that year.

Kilbourne had a distinguished military career before returning to VMI in 1937. He was the first person in American history to hold the nation's three highest military awards: the Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Cross, and the Distinguished Service Medal. Kilbourne received the Medal of Honor for "distinguished gallantry at Paco Bridge, Philippine Islands, February 5, 1899," his citation



Lisa Tracy shows Maj. Jeff Kozak, head of VMI archives, a newspaper clipping featuring her grandfather, Maj. Gen. Charles E. Kilbourne, VMI Class of 1894.—VMI Photo by Kelly Nye.

reads. "Within a range of 250 yards of the enemy and in the face of a rapid fire climbed a telegraph pole at the east end of the bridge, and in full view of the enemy, coolly and carefully repaired a broken telegraph wire, thereby reestablishing telegraphic communication to the front."

He served multiple tours of duty in the Philippines and was instrumental in the development of the military installations on Corregidor Island, including the Malinta Tunnel, which was later used during World War II by Gen. Douglas MacArthur's troops

and the Philippine government as they resisted the Japanese invasion.

Kilbourne became superintendent of VMI on Oct. 1, 1937. He oversaw the centennial Founders Day celebration in 1939, and guided the Institute through the challenging years of World War II. He retired on June 20, 1946, and moved with his wife, Bess Egbert Kilbourne, to the family home on Pendleton Place.

This is where items like his Jackson Hope medal, awarded to him as a cadet, were stored. Now the medal—he was awarded the second, the first was awarded to former superintendent Brig. Gen. William H. Cocke, VMI Class of 1894 that year—will go to the VMI Museum.

It took Tracy five years to sort through



Maj. Gen. Charles E. Kilbourne, VMI Class of 1894, meets with President John F. Kennedy on the White House lawn in May 1963.—Photo courtesy of VMI Archives.

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the papers and photographs they found in the attic.

“We started this in 2016, but it wasn’t until the very end of this year that I found a number of personal family letters that really did reconnect me with Charles Evans [Kilbourne] and Bess,” said Tracy, who often lovingly refers to her grandfather as “Charlie.” There were letters between the husband and wife, and letters between her mother and grandparents. “It was really wonderful,” she said.

With the help of local artist Merryn Williams scanning what they found, Tracy was finally ready to bring the documents to VMI Archives and fulfill the now-retired Jacob’s wish.

“The opportunity to receive historic papers belonging to a notable VMI alumnus, particularly one who served as superintendent, is remarkable,” said Maj. Jeff Kozak, head of VMI Archives. “General Kilbourne’s papers will provide greater insight into his successful career in the U.S. Army, his leadership at VMI during the World War II era, and his lifelong connection to VMI.”

Tracy brought many important items with her. Kilbourne’s promotion papers, military documents, and photos of him

receiving the first New Market Medal ever awarded were all among the haul. But even the seemingly less significant notes and scribbles are of value to VMI Archives. Kilbourne wrote limericks, letters to artists, and a recipe for spiked punch, labeled as “good but not weak,” all indicators of culture and trends at the time.

“Lisa’s personal connection to her grandfather’s papers and her knowledge of her family’s history is a great asset,” said Kozak.

“Having it in context already, and having someone who can tell us the context, is so much easier than what we’re usually dealing with,” added Mary Laura Kludy, VMI archives and records management specialist.

Tracy is comforted to know these treasures will now be stored in acid-free archival folders and boxes, instead of sitting in an attic, vulnerable to time. And there is no better place for them than at VMI.

“His first venture into the military was at VMI,” said Tracy. “And his last assignment was at VMI. So, in a way, by bringing these papers

to the archives, I feel as if he has really come home.” ❄



Maj. Gen. Charles E. Kilbourne, VMI Class of 1894.

## Altitude Chamber Added to Baur Lab

Trejan Cannon '22 runs on a treadmill inside the new altitude chamber in the Baur Exercise Physiology Lab. The chamber, funded in part by the Jackson-Hope Grants for New Directions in Teaching and Research, can simulate altitudes up to 20,000 feet. Three machines attached to the 8-by-8 foot chamber lower the oxygen level in the airtight vinyl structure. Cannon, and other cadets involved in the study by Maj. Dan Baur, will have their heart rate, VO<sub>2</sub> max, rate of perceived exertion, and their pulse oxygen level measured once while resting then once after running for ten minutes. Bret Trahan '22 participated by taking Cannon’s measurements at about 1,000 feet, roughly the elevation of Lexington, to establish a baseline. Then Cannon did the same tests again after the chamber was pressurized to 12,500 feet, closer to the height of Rocky Mountain peaks. Baur hopes to use the chamber as a teaching aide, and to further his research in exercise physiology. —VMI Photo by Kelly Nye.





## Cameron Hall *continued from page 1*

Strickler '71, sports information director from 1977 to 1992; longtime basketball administrator Betsy Nicely; Reggie Williams '08, one of only two VMI basketball alumni to play in the NBA and VMI's all-time leading scorer; and Mike Herndon '85, sixth all-time in most season and career blocks in VMI basketball history. As the halftime introductions wrapped up, Herndon passed the ball to his former teammate, Maj. Gen. Cedric T. Wins '85, superintendent, who made a shot to a huge applause.



Maj. Gen. Cedric T. Wins '85, superintendent, shoots a basket in Cameron Hall in honor of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the facility. —VMI Photo by Kelly Nye.

After the halftime celebration, the game was a nail-biter to the end, with VMI finishing on top, and senior center Jake Stephens scoring his 1,000<sup>th</sup> point of his career. The final score was 64-61.

When Cameron Hall first opened in early November 1981, a weekend of celebrations took place to dedicate the building, which was named for Bruce B. Cameron '38 and his brother Daniel D. Cameron '42, both civil engineering graduates who financed a significant portion of the nearly \$7 million project. Funds given by the Virginia

General Assembly and raised by the VMI Foundation, paid for the rest. At the dedication, Vincent J. Thomas '43, then-president of the Board of Visitors, gave each of the Cameron brothers a life ticket good for every event at Cameron Hall. Daniel passed away in 2005, and Bruce in 2013.

The ground-breaking ceremony was held during the summer of 1979 and a wide variety of events were planned for the building, including sporting events, plays, concerts, special speakers, plus the inclusion of of-

of Virginia. A 4<sup>th</sup> Class cadet by the name of Cedric Wins became the first Keydet player to score in Cameron Hall. He, of course, is now the Institute's 15<sup>th</sup> superintendent.

"Cameron Hall helped sustain VMI basketball into a new era and continued the tradition of a tough place to play for opponents just as 'The Pit' did in earlier years. Many players and coaches, both VMI and opponents, have expressed what a home court advantage it has given them when the Corps is in the stands at full force. The results speak

for themselves," said Wade Branner '83, associate athletic director for athletic communications. Branner was a cadet involved in sports information when Cameron Hall opened its doors and just happened to be running the scoreboard during that 1981 inaugural game. He was also one of the special guests recognized on the court during the 40<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration.

The Cameron brothers were honored with the Spirit of VMI Award on Jan. 17, 2009, the same night that Cameron Hall saw record high attendance of just over

5,000 fans. The game was against nearby rival Liberty University and featured a 35-point performance from Liberty's Seth Curry, an eventual NBA player. In addition to seeing thousands of cadets matriculate, graduate, and get their class rings, Cameron Hall has seen some pretty special moments and hosted a diverse group of some very special guests. Memorable speakers include U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, Secretary of State

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The first basketball game held in Cameron Hall was on Dec. 5, 1981 against University

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Alumni, faculty, and staff who have had an impact on the happenings of Cameron Hall over the last 40 years pose for a photo on the court during halftime of the Dec. 11, 2021 game.—VMI Photo by Kelly Nye.

Hillary Clinton, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley, Secretary of Defense James Mattis, and Vice President Mike Pence, among others. Four U.S. presidents have spoken in Cameron Hall: Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, and both Bushes. Many governors of Virginia, also holding the role as the commander-in-chief of the VMI Corps of Cadets, have visited since 1981.

“The moments captured in, and individuals that have passed through, Cameron Hall over the last four decades are what make this place extraordinary,” said Wins. “People have been inspired, cheered our teams to victory, cried, walked across the stage to receive class rings and diplomas, and said farewell to their cadetship in this building. The memories that I carry and will continue to experience in Cameron Hall will forever stand out.”

During the coronavirus pandemic, markers were placed on seats throughout the facility to allow for social

distancing during events like matriculation and the Ring Figure presentation in 2020. Cadets were very limited to the number of guests they could have in attendance. Strict limits were also placed on basketball tickets during the 2020–21 season.

Prior to the construction of Marshall Hall, the annual Environment Virginia

conference was held in Cameron Hall. The facility has also been home to graduation ceremonies for Rockbridge County and Parry McCluer High Schools, band competitions, and science fairs. And true to its community commitment, Cameron Hall has been designated as a state emergency shelter in times of mass emergency. ❁



Cameron Hall during its construction in 1980.—Photo courtesy of VMI Athletics.



## Breakout

Members of the Rat Mass of 2022 plus 3 were awakened at 5 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 5 to begin the day they would break out of the Rat Line. This year, Breakout was held entirely on post, as rats did physical challenges in the Corps Physical Training Facility and Cocke Hall while also participating in two rucksack marches around post. The rats then crawled across the Parade Ground to barracks where they removed sandbags blocking Marshall Arch. After one last sweat party in barracks, they received their name plates from their dykes. That evening, the Class of 2025 had dinner in Crozet Hall with guest speaker Reggie Webb '75. The class then joined together in barracks for its first Old Yell. —VMI  
Photos by H. Lockwood McLaughlin and Kelly Nye.





# VMI Celebrates December Graduates

By Maj. Michelle Ellwood

Just shy of 40 cadets crossed the stage in Memorial Hall during the commencement ceremony on Dec. 21, 2021.

The graduates and their guests heard from Lara Tyler Chambers '03, vice president of the Board of Visitors. Chambers is founder and co-owner of Tyler Development Group LLC, an engineering and real estate development group, in Richmond, Virginia. She graduated with a degree in civil engineering. During her cadetship she achieved the rank of regimental cadet captain, serving on the Institute's first S7 staff, responsible for cadet life and Corps morale. She is a third-generation graduate of VMI.

Chambers offered the graduates tips and recommendations she has learned along the way, including telling them to drink water, have respect for others, and to have a life outside of work—"keep your day job your day job." She also encouraged them to never stop learning. "Learning gets a little easier once you're away from school because it's easier to see the relevance."



Cadets toss their gloves in the air after their degrees during December commencement in Memorial Hall Dec. 21, 2021.—VMI Photo by H. Lockwood McLaughlin.

Chambers wrapped up her advice with something they hear a lot through their cadetship: never give up. But she also told

*Continued on next page*



Capt. Ned Riester '78 administers the U.S. Air Force commissioning oath to Nina Rodriguez '22 in Memorial Hall Dec. 20, 2021.—VM Photo by H. Lockwood. McLaughlin.



Lara Tyler Chambers '03 addresses graduates during the December commencement in Memorial Hall.—VMI Photo by H. Lockwood McLaughlin.



them to make life fun. “I hope you make lots and lots of goals, just make having fun one of them.”

The evening before was a time to recognize the seven commissionees who were graduating. Three commissioned to the Army, three to the Marine Corps, and one to the Air Force. Offering officer remarks and administering the oath of office was Maj. Gen. Johnny K. Davis, the 15<sup>th</sup> commanding general of U.S. Army Cadet Command in Ft. Knox.

Davis emphasized the intelligence and strength of those commissioning over the last year across the nation, including more than 800 in December alone. “We’re in really good hands,” he said. He reminded

the seven commissionees to always be positive regardless of circumstances, always love their service and those who serve beside them, invest in the soldiers assigned to them, and stay humble.

Graduates were excited to have loved ones in attendance, as those the year before weren’t as lucky. The December ceremony in 2020 was a virtual event, also recognizing May graduates since they were not able to have a graduation due to the coronavirus pandemic. ❄️



Maj. Gen. Johnny K. Davis addresses commissioning cadets during the joint ceremony held in Memorial Hall Dec. 20, 2021.—VMI Photo by H. Lockwood McLaughlin.



## January Snow

A heavy snow fell on Sunday, Jan. 16, after cadets returned from a successful trip to Richmond for Gov. Youngkin’s inaugural ceremonies. Col. Adrian Bogart ’81, commandant, hosted a capture the flag-type competition between the classes. The S7 staff and Kasey Meredith ’22, regimental commander, also organized events like snow dodgeball for the cadets. Several January snow storms hit Lexington after a very mild holiday season.—VMI Photos by Eric Moore.





# Scott Shipp Hall Renovations Complete

By Maj. Michelle Ellwood

The Scott Shipp Hall ribbon cutting took place on Saturday, Jan. 29 in collaboration with the Board of Visitors meetings. The event celebrated a five-year planning, design, and construction effort totaling \$43 million. The project included a 28,000-square foot expansion and a complete renovation of the previously-existing 68,000-square foot space. Progress could be seen from just about every area of post over the years, including from the home-team seats in Foster Stadium. A beloved giant crane in place from fall 2019 until summer 2020 across from Crozet Hall practically became a part of the Corps through frequent social media posts from cadets.

The wrap-up of the most recent expansion and renovations of Scott Shipp Hall came at a time when materials were hard to come by or delayed due to the effects of the coronavirus pandemic. Ironically, when the groundbreaking of the facility happened in the summer of 1918, material shortages were a problem for the workers then, as well, due to the impacts of World War I.

In addition to being the home to multiple departments' classrooms and offices, including history; economics; international studies; and English, rhetoric and humanistic studies, the building



Board of Visitors President Tom Watjen '76 and Superintendent Maj. Gen. Cedric T. Wins '85 ceremoniously open Scott Shipp Hall after a five-year renovation project.—VMI Photo by H. Lockwood McLaughlin.

has a photography lab, an art studio, a 70-seat auditorium, and courtyards for outdoor study. It also now holds a 3,600-square foot space for the John A. Adams '71 Center for Military History and Strategic Analysis.

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Suzanne Leaprot '25 studies in the new space for the John A. Adam '71 Center for Military History and Strategic Analysis in Scott Shipp Hall.—VMI Photo by Kelly Nye.



An aerial view of Scott Shipp Hall shows the new addition to the building.—VMI Photo by H. Lockwood McLaughlin.



Cadets' needs were top of mind in the design, and the benefits are already paying off. "In the [international studies] space, our offices surround a central study area where cadets congregate," said Lt. Col. Patrick Rhamey, associate professor of international studies. "This significantly improves the frequency and quality of cadet interactions. When cadets have a question or concern, they can quickly ask their professors, and the new arrangement has been conducive to a lot of great, constructive discussions outside the classroom."

Originally named Smith-Shipp Hall, the building, costing about \$138,000, was changed to Scott Shipp Hall in June 1921. It was the home to all academic departments except engineering, chemistry, biology, and physics for many years. The building was gutted in 1955 with a two-story wing addition, then a three-story annex was added in 1958. Major updates took a halt until 1996 when the interior space was renovated.

Scott Shipp, VMI Class of 1859, was born in 1839, the same year as VMI. He became a professor, the longest-serving commandant, and then the Institute's second superintendent. During his time as superintendent, the first electric light was switched on at VMI, the Blue Book was adopted, and he initiated the construction of the first purpose-built library at VMI. He died in 1917. Attending the ribbon-cutting ceremony were Shipp's great-granddaughter, Julia Littlefield, her husband Mo, and their son, named after his great-great-grandfather, Scott Shipp Littlefield. ❁



Renovations to Scott Shipp Hall were complete this winter.—VMI Photo by Kelly Nye.



Classrooms and study spaces in Scott Shipp Hall were designed with cadets' needs in mind.—VMI Photo by Kelly Nye.



Maj. Gen. Cedric T. Wins '85 addresses a crowd during the ribbon-cutting ceremony for Scott Shipp Hall Jan. 29.—VMI Photo by H. Lockwood McLaughlin.



# POST BRIEFS

## Lt. Col. Love Named Impact Maker

Lt. Col. Jamica Love, chief diversity officer, is included in Virginia Business' "100 People to Meet in 2022." This annual list introduces readers to a list of Virginians in categories like "Angels," "Innovators," "Educators," and

"Go-Getters." Love was featured in the "Impact Makers" category. Each person on the list is chosen for making an impression on how he or she is improving the way people live and work in the Commonwealth.

## CIS Cadets Present for International Audience

Noah Goldsmith '22 recently presented research completed with John Barker '22 in the ACM International Conference on Advanced Information Science and System (AISS 2021) hosted in Sanya, China. Guided by Dr. Youna Jung, assistant professor of computer information sciences, the cadets presented their work to an international audience. The cadets

researched trust management solutions for mission-oriented Internet of Things devices.

"It was a unique experience to present research in an international conference, and [it] offered me a great experience to use the skills that I have been learning throughout my education," Goldsmith stated.

## VMI Joins Cyber Network

As part of the efforts in the DoD Cyber Institute program, VMI, alongside the five other senior military colleges, recently joined the newly-created United States Cyber Command (USCYBERCOM) Academic Engagement Network. The network, made up of more than 80 institutions, offers events that will engage faculty and cadets in research and several other

academic activities. USCYBERCOM plans to leverage the following four lines of effort of the Academic Engagement program: future workforce, applied cyber research, analytic partnerships, and cyber strategic dialogue. This partnership continues VMI's expansion of cyber opportunities for cadets and faculty.

## Jones' Research Gets History Channel Coverage

The History Channel website featured a story in December 2021 on research done by Maj. Jonathan Jones, assistant professor of history, concerning the opioid crisis that developed during The Civil War. Jones' book "Opium Slavery: The Civil War Veterans and America's First Opioid Crisis" will be released in 2023. This research, which has also been featured

on NPR's "With Good Reason" and BBC World Service, not only furthers historians' understanding of the Civil War's human costs, but also reveals how the U.S. has a long, but largely forgotten, history of opioid crises with troubling parallels between past and present.

## First African-American Class President Passes Away

Anthony Hamilton '79, the first African-American general committee president, passed away on Jan. 26 in St. Louis, Missouri. He was a pioneer at VMI and gained an extensive background in leadership in the world of information technology and business strategy. He was an active alumnus

supporting many outreach programs. Hamilton returned to VMI in the fall of 2018 with fellow pioneers to take review of the Corps of Cadets. He was originally from Staunton, Virginia. 🌿

## Vaccine Clinic

VMI partnered with the Virginia Department of Health to host a three-day COVID-19 vaccine clinic in Marshall Hall, Jan. 12-14, with a focus on the booster shots. Appointments were open to the higher education communities, as well as the Lexington-Rockbridge community. More than 300 vaccines were administered.—VMI Photo by Kelly Nye.







## Cadets March in Gubernatorial Inauguration

In a tradition that has continued for decades, the VMI Corps of Cadets participate in the inaugural ceremony for the newly-elected governor. —VMI Photos by H. Lockwood McLaughlin and Kelly Nye.







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## Chessie Nature Trail Bridge Complete

On the morning of Friday, Dec. 10, 2021, members from the local community joined in excitement to finally walk the Chessie Nature Trail over South River, via a bridge connecting the trail between Lexington and Buena Vista. The new 210-foot structure, which can withstand winds up to 140 mph, replaces the original railroad bridge that was taken out by Hurricane Isabel in 2003. The \$2.1 million project was possible because of the generous support of local partners, including the City of Buena Vista, the City of Lexington, Rockbridge County, and partners from the Federal Highway Administration's Eastern Federal Lands Access Program. A new parking area, landscaping, and benches were also unveiled during the ribbon-cutting ceremony. —VMI Photos by Kelly Nye.



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