



INSTITUTE REPORT

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Second at San Remo Cadet Earns Highest Prize Ever for VMI at International Law Competition

By Mary Price

Three VMI cadets recently attended an international conference on military and humanitarian law in San Remo, Italy – and one walked away with the highest prize ever awarded a VMI cadet at this particular event.

Jarod Krug '16 was a member of an international team that placed second at the 15th annual International Competition on the Law of Armed Conflict, sponsored by the International Institute of Humanitarian Law. The competition, which is similar to Model United Nations, involves teams of three participants, all of whom are cadets at military academies.

This year, 22 military schools from 16 nations were represented. Funding for the VMI team's participation was provided by VMI's

Department of International Studies and Political Science and the Center for Leadership and Ethics.

During the competition, each team represents the interests of a fictitious country in a wartime situation, while a moderator, typically a lawyer or professor of international law, attempts to foil each team's argument by playing devil's advocate. Participants must back up their position statements by citing applicable statutes of international law, such as the Geneva Conventions.

Upon arrival, the three VMI cadets – Krug, Mike Piemonte '16, and John "Jay" Wainwright '16 – were placed on different teams

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In Reinvigorated Club, Cadets Certify, Assist Local Fire Stations

By Chris Floyd

The VMI Firefighters Club has had a new burst of energy this year, with 45 cadets signing up to volunteer with local fire departments, many of them actually riding with firefighters to battle blazes across Rockbridge County.

"What makes this club very special is cadets are learning and being certified in a skill that down the road, if they choose, can become a career they can follow," said Maj. Tim Burrows, the club's sponsor and a volunteer firefighter himself. "One of [VMI's] largest missions is to make leaders and citizen-soldiers, and we're going for both in this club.

"There's nothing higher than assisting your community and being an active part in maintaining your community's safety," Burrows continued. "All of the cadets have the opportunity to do that. Hopefully, it also fosters a love for community involvement."



Cadets in the Firefighters Club respond to emergency scenarios at the North Post leadership reaction course as part of their training. – VMI Photo by Kelly Nye.

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San Remo *continued from page 1*

because each team must have at least one native English speaker. Krug found himself paired with a cadet from Turkey and another from Uganda. Thankfully, each was conversant in English, although the Turkish cadet was far more fluent than his Ugandan peer.

"Dialogue was fine, just to talk with them over our morning coffee," said Krug, an international studies major who plans to commission in the U.S. Army. "But when you really got into the thick of legal concepts and the meaning of words, there were some spirited debates. But it always stayed good-natured."

Krug had high praise for his teammates, saying, "They were great workers, ... the best guys to work with that you could have asked for."

Praising the entire VMI contingent's work ethic was Col. Bob James, adjunct professor of international studies and faculty adviser to the team. Krug, Piemonte, and Wainwright "knocked home runs, in my opinion," said James, who's been taking VMI teams to San Remo since 2013.

"In the process of competition they all did really, really, really well," James continued. "They were able to take a position and defend it without much hesitation at all."

The trip, of course, was not all work and no play. Krug noted that while the competition itself was a valuable experience, the relationships formed outside the working sessions were every bit as worthwhile, if not more so.

"Where we learned the most, and had the most fun, was outside of the [Joint Operating Center] sessions, in interacting with the other cadets, just getting to know them and putting VMI out there on the map, because not many of them had heard of us," noted Krug.

Krug added that with a language and a culture in common, the VMI team bonded extremely well with the British cadets from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, where all future British Army officers are trained. Since the competition ended, the British and VMI cadets have stayed in touch via Facebook, and two of the three British cadets are planning to visit Lexington in early May.

For Col. Jim Hentz, chair of the international studies department, ties such as this are just the reason travel should be a priority for cadets.

"[The cadets] get to know colleagues from military academies all over the world," said Hentz. "They're starting already to develop networks and relationships that will promote their careers and promote the interests of the United States down the road."

And thanks in part to the trip, Krug has now visited 18 foreign countries since matriculating at VMI, with 17 visits paid for by either the Institute or the Army.

"VMI has presented me with a world of opportunities, and I'm very grateful to the school for that."



Jarod Krug '16 works with teammates from Turkey and Uganda during the International Competition on the Law of Armed Conflict in San Remo, Italy. – Photo courtesy of Col. Bob James.

Business Casual or Business Professional?

Society of Black Engineers Fashion Show Helps Cadets Learn the Difference

By Kelly Nye

A group of cadets joined students from Washington and Lee and James Madison universities attired in everything from khakis to formal gowns on a Wednesday evening earlier this month in Brockenbrough Auditorium in Nichols Hall.

The students had donned that unusual clothing because they were preparing for a fashion show. And despite the giggles, the presentation came with a lesson: how to advance in the world after college by impressing potential employers.

The event was organized by the VMI chapter of the National Society for Black Engineers, a group whose primary focus is teaching – and learning – professionalism. Other goals of NSBE, which is one of the largest student-run organizations in the country, are to improve academic performance and provide service to communities.

“We have had a couple workshops: lessons on how to interact, making that first contact, breaking the ice with corporations, what to say, how to dress, what to say during interviews,” said Marvin Burns '17, VMI chapter president and a mechanical engineering major. He and the chapter’s cadets organize workshops based on the sessions held at the NSBE national and regional conferences.

The fashion show was one of those workshops.

Last year’s fashion show, VMI’s first, was held just ahead of the NSBE national conference, which featured a career fair in which cadets had the opportunity to mingle with representatives from Fortune 500 companies.

“We had young students who would be going to the national conference for the first time, and we wanted to have that so they knew how to dress before going,” said Lt. Col. Wakeel Idewu, associate professor of civil and environmental engineering and faculty adviser for the VMI chapter. “But what they learned is it is always better at those conferences to wear your own uniform. Uniforms set them apart, head and shoulders apart, and that’s what you want if you’re competing against that many people at once.”

Uniforms may set cadets apart at a national conference where everyone has at least a 3.0 GPA, but it won’t be what they wear to a job interview in the business world.

Tamara Futrell, associate dean of students and dean of seniors at W&L, led one fashion show presentation called “Dress to Impress.” She presented casual, business casual, business professional, cocktail (or semi-formal), and black tie formal styles. The student and cadet participants modeled each.

Futrell helped the students recognize a proper fit and which styles are appropriate for work and other situations.

Biology major Christina Hill '18, chapter secretary, said she learned several things from the presentation. “You can wear some colors, but not completely solid bright colors,” she noted. “Black ... [is] not a good casual color; it’s more a formal color.”

JMU and W&L participants brought their own clothes for the runway. VMI cadets, however, got a little help from the local Peebles clothing store.

“Col. Idewu and I went to Peebles and talked to their store manager, ... and right off the bat he agreed [to help] us,” said Burns. Peebles also



Buka Anwah '18 (left), Marvin Burns '17 (on stage), and Oladokun Ekundayo '19 welcome participants from Washington and Lee and James Madison universities to the “Dress to Impress” presentation. – VMI Photo by Kelly Nye.

provided the group with tote bags and perfume samples to give away as door prizes.

The store is now considered one of the group’s sponsors, said Oladokun Ekundayo '19, chapter treasurer and computer science major, who also explained some of the other activities the group takes on:

“Resume building is big. ... At our meetings we try to help each other, or try to get the senior members, the more experienced members, to help out the younger members with updating their resumes.”

Another topic is dinner etiquette.

“It was kind of what to expect in formal dining – where everything is going to be placed, how to drink, what to order, what not to eat,” explained Burns. No spaghetti is a big rule, so is breaking a piece of bread, then setting it down and only eating the broken-off piece.

But Idewu stresses the importance of academics as the first priority. Cadets must have at least a 3.2 GPA to attend a conference. He provides a checklist that he says guarantees a 3.2 if the cadets follow the guidelines for right attitude and study approach.

“The whole idea is to focus on academics first, then the professional piece of it as a close second,” Idewu said.

He also believes that developing these “soft skills” in college is almost as important as the problem-solving skills they are learning in the classroom.

“I think it’s important because if you’re competing against someone with the same credentials as you but you can present yourself in a little bit better fashion, then that employer is going to feel more comfortable putting you in front of the CEO,” he said.

The NSBE program is open to cadets of any race and any major.

“The name sometimes throws people off, but that’s not what it’s about. It’s about everyone getting better at the same time and helping others through service,” said Idewu.

The next regional conference is this fall in Norfolk, Va. The group is hoping to raise enough funds through sponsors to attend.

Campaign Tops \$276 Million in Gifts and Commitments

By Scott Belliveau '83, VMI Foundation

The Institute's current comprehensive fundraising effort, *An Uncommon Purpose: A Glorious Past, A Brilliant Future: The Campaign for VMI*, is continuing its excellent progress, with 13,927 donors having given more than \$276.3 million in gifts and commitments as of March 31.

"Thanks to the enthusiasm of the VMI family, the pace of the campaign has never slackened since the beginning of the public phase in November 2014," said Brian Scott Crockett, VMI Foundation CEO. "That enthusiasm has generated hundreds of millions of dollars in new support for the Institute's academic, athletic, and co-curricular programs as well as greatly expanding the resources available for scholarship aid.

"Looking over the numbers associated with the campaign, you can see many great stories," added Crockett. "One of them is the fact that alumni and friends have made \$104.8 million in planned gifts, such as bequests. Over time, this foresight and generosity will translate into millions of dollars in support that, in turn, will mean a brighter, more secure future for the Institute."

Crockett also pointed out that the number of donors is close to 14,000.

"The public phase of the campaign has been pushing participation figures upward in all categories of donors, such as parents of alumni. Seeing that, as of March 31, the campaign needs only 73 donors to hit the benchmark of 14,000 donors, I hope to have

the pleasure of reporting that we have reached and surpassed it in May."

With \$49.8 million raised so far, fiscal year 2016 already is the third best fiscal year for the campaign. In fiscal year 2013 and fiscal year 2015, donors gave \$56.3 million and \$53.2 million.

"I am not making any promises or any predictions," said Crockett, "but, based on the momentum the campaign has sustained throughout its life and, more precisely, in the past several months, I think there is a good chance that this year will set a new record."

The VMI community can keep up with the monthly progress of the campaign by visiting vmi.edu/campaign/progress. More information is available at vmi.edu/campaign.

Firefighters Club *continued from page 1*

The club isn't new to VMI, but it lay dormant for several years. Last year, Bradley Mayberry '17 completed his firefighter training and joined the Lexington Fire Department, where Burrows volunteers his time when he is not working as VMI's assistant director of assessment and institutional research. As the two began running calls together, the conversation turned toward getting more cadets involved, and the idea of growing the club emerged.

"Brad was coming around the station and was enthusiastic, so at the end of last year, I asked him if he would be interested in getting the club going," said Burrows.

Neither of them expected the response they got. Earlier in the year the club had only two fire-certified members. Eight more have completed the course and are now certified, and four others are certified as emergency medical technicians. The rest of the group is working toward certifications in other areas and has become a valuable addition to local fire departments.

"There are lots of different ways [we] can help around stations," said Mayberry, noting that classes like the Emergency Vehicle Operator Course, which takes 16 hours to complete, are offered all the time. "There are a bunch of other little classes like that. Drivers are just as hard to get as firefighters."

"There's always a big need," added Burrows. "People always see the firefighters in action, but they don't think about how much time and work goes in after the call. The faster we can get those things turned over, the faster the trucks are back in service and the better service we provide the community."

Speaking to the need in fire stations, Burrows noted that 80 percent of the country's fire departments have some volunteer component, and of that number 90 percent often find themselves shorthanded.

With that in mind, it wasn't hard to get two of the area's fire departments to accept help from cadets. Lexington and South River have already embraced their new volunteers, and plans are

to expand across the county in the future, with sights now set on Buena Vista and Kerrs Creek.

"It was an easy pitch," said Burrows. "Pretty much, 'You are going to get good workers, good people, and good citizens.' It's a big plus to the community and the department."

"We've had stations come to us asking for cadets," said Mayberry.

As a result, more cadets are able to enroll in the Firefighter I course, a \$25,000 class that takes three months to complete and prepares volunteers "to get off a truck and get to work," said Burrows.

Among the group of eight to recently complete the course is Chelsea Sias '17, who finished her training with the Raphine Fire Department and fell in love with being a firefighter, so much so that she hopes to make it her life's work when she joins the Army after graduation.

"I feel the need to do something," said the Orange, Texas, native. "I think everyone should do some kind of service to the country. This is my way to get out there and do something besides just going to classes."

And she was tested right away. The night that she received her certification, as she and her group were making their way back to Lexington, they received a call to assist an ambulance and she found herself performing CPR on a man for more than 30 minutes.

The hope is that more cadets will get opportunities to provide this valuable service to the community. Burrows noted that he would some day like to see a fire course at VMI, similar to the EMT classes that are offered now.

"The sky's the limit, to be honest," said Mayberry.

"We have a good foundation, but we need to strengthen it more," Burrows said. "Ultimately, the only limit to the growth is classroom availability ... and the actual budgets of the departments. You're asking a lot of the community, but I think it's a bigger reward."

Environmental Science Students Tackle Horse Center

By Chris Floyd

Cadets in adjunct professor of biology Lisa Beckstrom's environmental science class are working hand in hand with the Virginia Horse Center to find sustainable solutions to some of center's environmental problems.

"We have a very diverse set of issues at the Horse Center," said Leigh Anne Claywell, chief operating officer of the Horse Center Foundation. "My hope is that the cadets come up with creative, innovative ideas for dealing with our challenges that are also cost effective."

The collaboration began when Beckstrom and an acquaintance, an architect working with the Center, were discussing issues he had noticed at the facility. He wanted Beckstrom, who has a background in environmental consulting, to offer some advice. She had a better idea.

"I thought, 'Why don't we just make this a project for the class?'" she said. "And then they can try to come up with innovative, cost-effective solutions. ... I usually give them a fake project. Why not give them a real project?"

This idea excited folks at the Horse Center and the cadets alike.

"It's not often that you get to go into a class and the first day the professor [says] you are going to be doing something that will impact the community," said Morgan Menaker '17. "You get to put theories you learned from class into real-world applications. I thought that was pretty exciting."

Initially, the 12 cadets took a tour of the facility, snapping pictures and compiling a list of problems. Back in the classroom, groups of three cadets each were charged with devising solutions to the problems.

And there are many. Cadets identified issues with water and drainage, most notably the fact that the center was using water purchased from the city to keep down the dust in the arenas, filling up 2,500-gallon tanks as many as four times a day during events and spending up to \$125,000 per weekend.

"They essentially pay for water to put it on the ground," said Dylan Griffin '17.

Several groups identified electrical issues, noting that the facility shells out \$300 every time it turns on the lights in the main stadium. It was also noted that the center is interested in beginning a recycling program.

The groups will present their findings at the end of the semester. Their solutions, which include ways for the Horse Center to collect its own water, will be judged by a panel that includes Beckstrom, officials from the center, an architect, and a sustainability expert. The hope is that one of the groups will come up with a viable solution, one that won't be terribly expensive for the non-profit organization.

"The biggest issue we saw was the funding," said Brody Stofflet '17, who, along with Griffin and Amanda Smith '17, decided to focus efforts on raising money to help offset costs.

Some groups are researching grants while others will be proposing community and corporate partnerships and volunteer efforts from VMI to reduce labor costs, an idea that some are hoping will one day lead to an internship for a cadet.

"The cadets were very adept at figuring out what ... [the] issues are, and I am certainly intrigued," said Claywell. "Low-cost solutions are essential for the Horse Center."



Cadets studying environmental science survey a problem area at the Virginia Horse Center. – VMI Photo by H. Lockwood McLaughlin.

While the Horse Center could be an obvious winner in this collaboration, and the students receive the benefit of applying classroom theories to real-world situations, Beckstrom hopes the experience has a more long-lasting effect.

"I try to get students to think about VMI being a temporary part of their lives," she said. "They're going to leave VMI, and they are going to be part of a community. So they have to understand environmental problems we are facing today and how they can be part of the solution."



Retirement Parade

Faculty members retiring this year were recognized at the retirement parade April 8. Those honored were (from left) Cmdr. Randy Zamora, Naval ROTC executive officer; Col. Donald Samdahl, head librarian; Col. James Park, chaplain; Col. Bruce Vandervort, professor of history; Col. Bob Spore '70, director of human resources; Col. Tim Golden '71, director of financial aid; and Brig. Gen. Charles Brower, professor of international studies. Those retiring and their families gathered at the home of Superintendent Gen. J.H. Binford Peay III '62 for a reception before the parade. – VMI Photo by Kelly Nye.

From Stocked Trout to Wild Trout

Fishing Club Improves Habitat for Growing Trout Population in Local Creek

By Kelly Nye

Wild brook trout habitat has been shrinking across the state of Virginia for many years. The trout need cold, clean water to spawn every fall, but erosion along creek beds – in the riparian zone – deprives the trout of the oxygenated pools with gravel beds that they need.

The VMI Fishing Club worked over Spring FTX, April 1-5, to combat that erosion in Moore's Creek State Forest.

"The fact is that trout need clean, clear, water, and so do humans," said Col. Lee Dewald, professor of applied math and the club's faculty adviser.

For several years the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries has enhanced the fishing at the Lexington Reservoir, located within the park, by stocking it with brook trout. Apparently not all the stocked fish are caught, as Robert Humston, a Washington and Lee University biology professor, and his team of research students discovered. Some of the hatchery-raised fish are leaving the reservoir and spawning upstream in Moore's Creek, creating, in effect, wild trout.

With precious few wild brook trout streams remaining across the state, the club joined with W&L's fly fishing club to take action and make Moore's Creek as suitable for spawning as possible.

The group consisted of 23 cadets including fishing club members, biology majors, and engineering majors recruited by Dewald, as well as eight W&L students and staff, four advisers, and four representatives of the Skyline Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Advisers included Larry Mohn, a fisheries



Col. Lee Dewald points the way as cadets hike to the work area at Moore's Creek. – Photo courtesy of Michael Smith.

biologist for the VDGIF, and Tom Zaebst, assistant manager of state forests for the Virginia Department of Forestry.

The cadets spent two nights camping in the state park, and, working in five crews with the W&L students, erected 14 spillways along Moore's Creek in one day.

"These structures that we were putting in are like the ones the state was putting in years ago. And so there is nothing new about the design of what we're doing," explained Dewald. He explained that the structures will hold up, even during relatively high water events.

"Any of the organisms in the environment can benefit from the work that we did," said George Liddicoat '16, a member of the fishing club and one of the crew chiefs, who pointed out that the crews had to hike two miles to reach the work area.

"So we were very limited ... [in] the kind of tools we could take; it was largely primitive. We were moving logs in excess of a thousand pounds with pretty rudimentary tools," said Liddicoat. The only power tools were two chainsaws shared among the crews.

But the rewards of their hard work were evident almost immediately.

"The last structure we built, as soon as we finished working on it, a six-inch brook trout was swimming in the pool underneath it," said Reid Anderson '16, a biology major who joined the group. "So it's rewarding to see it all come full circle."

Seeing the cadets and students enjoying the hard work was also rewarding for the advisers. Afterward, Dewald received an email from Zaebst praising the accomplishments of the crews that day.

"I overheard one young man say something like: 'I got up early, took a hike through beautiful woods, worked really hard saving the planet: ... how's that for a good day?'" Zaebst wrote. "As an aging forester who has lived this sentiment for many years, it is heartening to hear it from a young person. So many people avoid hard work and think their actions shrewd. The young folks under your tutelage not only embrace hard work but have reached the rewarding conclusion that it is fun; particularly if done with good friends."



This newly constructed spillway is an ideal location for brook trout to spawn. The oxygenated water keeps silt from building up. – Photo courtesy of Michael Smith.

ATHLETICS

VMI Baseball Victorious in Longest Nine-Inning Game

Taylor Edens '16 set a new VMI record with his 17th save of the season and the Keydets rallied from a 10-run deficit to top George Mason University 20-17 in the longest nine-inning game in school history March 16 in Lexington. The Keydets banged out 17 hits in the contest that lasted longer than 4 1/2 hours, and the 37 runs scored by the two teams were the most in the history of Gray-Minor Stadium. VMI trailed 10-0 but battled back with an eight-run third inning to take a 12-10 lead. The Keydets had just three hits in the inning, but one of those was a three-run home run off the bat of Matt Dunlevy '18. David Geary '16 went 4-for-5 in the contest, driving in five runs.

Edens' latest save came April 5, when the Keydets again fought from behind and edged Radford 8-7 to snap a four-game losing streak. VMI, 16-18 overall and 1-6 in the Southern Conference at press time, trailed 4-1 before scoring seven runs in the seventh and then holding on for the victory. Geary and Matt Pita '19 both drove in two runs in the inning. Geary finished with three hits, including a double, while Pita went 2-for-4 with a pair of RBIs. Blaine Lafin '17 picked up the win in relief, while Edens tossed three innings to earn the save.



Taylor Edens '16 made another save against Radford University where VMI won 8-7. – Photo courtesy of Athletic Communications.

Lacrosse Takes Hampton by Large Margin

VMI lacrosse scored its most goals in a game since 1992 and notched its largest margin of victory since 1991 in rolling past Hampton University 25-4 April 2 in Lexington. Sixteen players scored for the Keydets. The group was paced by Jay Hill '16, who finished with four goals and three assists. Wesley Sanders '18 added three goals to the VMI effort.

Three Post Top-Five Finishes at Track Invitational

Yaa Agyepong-Wiafe '18 set a new school record for the women while Greg Henderson '17 and Pete Reed '16 posted top-five finishes as the Keydets competed in the George Mason Spring Invite April 9 in Fairfax, Va.

Agyepong-Wiafe finished the 110-meter hurdles in 14:36 seconds to finish third overall and break her own school record. She also placed fifth in the 100. Henderson sprinted to a time of 11.11 seconds in the 100 dash finals to earn third place. Reed took fifth in the closely contested race with a time of 11.16.

Taps – Barbara C. Trent

Mrs. Barbara C. Trent, administrative assistant in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, died March 26. She was 59 years old.

Mrs. Trent joined the VMI staff in September 1998 as a computer operator/technician in Information Technology. She transferred to the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering in June 2010.

In addition to her mother, Helen Goff Cash, she is survived by two daughters, Bailey M. Trent and Ashley Taylor, and two grandchildren, Kayla and Aiden Taylor.



On Opera

Elaine Wilkinson presents her lecture, "Love, Violence and Loud Music," in Gillis Theater March 30. Wilkinson led an audience of faculty and cadets through a series of video clips highlighting operas by Puccini, Wagner, and other composers. She spoke of her friendship with Placido Domingo, which began in Salzburg, Austria, in 1978, and she described memorable experiences such as seeing the first Three Tenors concert in Rome in 1992. – VMI Photo by Kelly Nye.

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New York Fed President

William C. Dudley, the president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and vice chairman of the Federal Open Market Committee, speaks to a crowd in Gillis Theater during the Virginia Association of Economists annual meeting April 1. The opening sessions of the meeting were held in Marshall Hall, where cadets were among students giving poster presentations during a reception following the talk. – VMI Photo by Kelly Nye.



Honors Project Takes on the Economics of Terrorism

By Mary Price

Isaac Lewis '16 is wrapping up work on a project having to do with one of the most deadly and costly scourges facing the modern world: terrorism. And at the Virginia Association of Economists annual meeting, held March 31-April 1 at VMI, Lewis got the first of three opportunities to show off his research.

Lewis has spent the 2015-16 academic year doing an independent study and pursuing departmental honors with his project, which seeks to explain via economics why terrorism occurs where it does.

Lewis explained that his interest in the economic determinants of terrorism began in his 2nd Class year, when he took the institutions and economic development class taught by Lt. Col. Valentina Dimitrova-Grajzl, associate professor of economics and business. He did a small research paper on terrorism in that class and then decided to expand that work into something larger.



Isaac Lewis '16 and mentor Lt. Col. Valentina Dimitrova-Grajzl review his honors project. – VMI Photo by Kelly Nye.

For Lewis, collecting data was the easy part. The hard part was deciding which data to use and for which nations. In the end, he narrowed a list of 240 countries down to 80. Then, for each country, he collected data in 10 categories, among them economic freedom, gross domestic product, ethno-linguistic fracturing, diversity of language and religion, military expenditures, and expenditures on health care and education.

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Economics, Fitness, and a Side Dish of Leadership

By Mary Price

At this year's annual meeting of the Virginia Association of Economists, held March 31-April 1 at VMI, participants had a chance to learn about a topic they might not have considered before: the economics of physical fitness.

Mike Coppolino '16 presented the results of his interdisciplinary independent study on the impact of an athletic trainer on athletic performance.

Coppolino, an economics and business major with a passion for fitness and wellness, began to see the possibilities for an independent research project when he took an econometrics class taught by Lt. Col. Sam Allen, associate professor of economics and business. Econometrics is a field of study that uses mathematical modeling to analyze economic data.

Working with Allen and Lt. Col. Mike Krackow, associate professor of physical education, Coppolino designed an experiment that would measure the impact a personal trainer has on fitness gains, as opposed to gains by individuals working out alone. Coppolino planned to work out alongside his treatment group, while letting his control group exercise solo.

Coppolino quickly realized, though, that since he wouldn't be paid for his services, he couldn't replicate the economic motivation that comes from hiring a personal trainer. Instead, he used the desire to be thin and fit for spring break as a motivator.

"Operation Spring Break," as Coppolino dubbed his project, involved a group of 20 cadet volunteers. Ten of the cadets, the treatment group, worked out under Coppolino's personal supervision, while the other 10, the control group, were given instructions and expected to do their exercises on their own.

In the end, the results were the opposite of what Coppolino expected: the control group had made greater gains in fitness than the treatment group. He was quick, though, to explain that puzzling finding. Although he'd tried to assign his subjects randomly, somehow the treatment group had included more fit cadets.

"The [cadets] in my treatment group had previous experience with the different lifts I was testing them on," explained Coppolino. "So when you have previous workout experience, you don't see that initial huge jump in performance."

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VMI Institute Report

Dominion Resources Establishes Scholarship at VMI

By Scott Belliveau '83, VMI Foundation

Last month, Dominion Resources Inc. established the Dominion Citizen-Soldier Scholarship at VMI.

The first recipient will be a student matriculating this August with the Class of 2020. The award will provide a full four-year scholarship – including tuition and fees – to a Virginia cadet who has received and accepted an appointment to the Institute. A second four-year scholarship will be awarded to a cadet entering with the Class of 2021.

To be eligible for the scholarship, an applicant must be a resident of Virginia majoring in biology, chemistry, civil engineering, computer science, electrical and computer engineering, or mechanical engineering.

Finalists will be invited to post to interview with the scholarship selection committee.

“Dominion is proud to enter into this partnership with the Virginia Military Institute. The Institute remains true to its mission of providing well-educated, selfless, and purposeful citizen-soldiers who will be leaders in their chosen careers and continue to contribute so much to Virginia,” said Thomas F. Farrell II, Dominion chairman, president, and chief executive officer. “This scholarship supports VMI and Dominion’s shared goal of preparing skilled scientists and engineers with the leadership qualities our nation needs to maintain its technological and economic edge.”

VMI’s superintendent, Gen. J.H. Binford Peay III '62, concurred. “I am grateful for Dominion’s decision to establish this scholarship at VMI,” he said. “It expands our ability to provide deserving young people with a remarkable education that shapes them for lives of professional success and active citizenship. It also is a firm expression, from one of the country’s leading corporations, of its confidence in the Institute’s ability to sustain an excellent educational, workforce development, and leadership model.

“I thank Dominion for its vision and extend special thanks to Tom Farrell for his sustained support of the Institute,” Peay concluded.

Terrorism *continued from page 8*

Data on terrorism came mainly from the global terrorism index put out by the Institute for Economics and Peace. The index draws on statistics from the global terrorism database compiled by the University of Maryland.

“The big problem was the accuracy of data,” noted Lewis. “Most terrorism data is taken from news sources, and news sources greatly differ from developed countries to developing countries.”

To help make sense of the vast amount of information he’d amassed, Lewis used Stata, software designed for data analysis. “Part of the value added of the project was that he really got to work with the data and with the software extensively,” said Dimitrova-Grajzl, who served as Lewis’s faculty adviser.

Once he’d analyzed his data, Lewis got results that might not come as a surprise. Nations with a higher gross domestic product had a lower global terrorism index score, for example, while higher military expenditures correlated with an increased level of terrorism. Increased religious diversity was associated with less terrorism.

Data for the United States, Lewis found, show a less peaceful country than some might imagine. “The United States had a surprisingly high global terrorism score,” said Lewis. Accurate reporting is part of the reason for this, he noted.

Some of Lewis’s conclusions will come as no surprise at all.

“I confirmed a belief that terrorism is very hard to predict,” said Lewis, who plans to commission in the U.S. Air Force. “It’s very sporadic, and it’s very personal, in the sense that it doesn’t take a large organization to conduct a terrorist attack. It’s very hard to predict where it’s going to occur and when.”

Dimitrova-Grajzl had high praise for her student. “He’s been a very eager learner,” she commented. “He loves to learn new things, ... [and] he’s spent a lot of time and effort on it. He’s been very enthusiastic about working with data, which is quite refreshing to see.”

Lewis presented his research to faculty and cadets in the Department of Economics and Business on April 18 and then at the VMI Undergraduate Research Symposium April 21.

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Fitness *continued from page 8*

Comments from conference participants attending the poster presentation also helped Coppolino understand his counterintuitive result. One hypothesized that the cadets in the control group had pushed themselves harder simply because they knew they were competing against another group.

“I didn’t necessarily think about that, which is why it’s cool to have people talk to you,” said Coppolino. He’s now in the process of creating a statistical regression to control for other factors that might have influenced outcomes, such as nutrition, sleep, and credit hours taken.

“He’s on track for a good project,” said Allen. “He’s learning about things that he cares about, so it’s a nice combination of things I want him to learn and things he wants to learn.”

Coppolino, meanwhile, said he was glad he’d taken on the added challenge of an independent study project. “More than anything it gave me another leadership opportunity at VMI,” noted Coppolino, who plans to commission in the U.S. Marine Corps. “Any chance that I can step up, learn more, be in charge of people, I try and do that.”



Mike Coppolino '16 shares his research with participants in the Virginia Association of Economists annual meeting. – VMI Photo by Kelly Nye.

Army ROTC Cadets Train at Fort Pickett

Information provided by Army ROTC

Some 600 cadets from VMI's Army ROTC Marshall-New Market Battalion, along with their cadre, boarded buses, Blackhawks, and Chinooks April 1 heading to Fort Pickett near Blackstone, Va., for spring leadership development exercises. Each military science level had its own focus, building on the foundations laid the previous year and throughout the current academic year.

Drawing on their Fall FTX training, MS1, or 4th Class, cadets built patrol bases immediately upon their arrival. The next day, they conducted training on a virtual reality simulator that allowed them to practice basic rifle fundamentals before shooting for real on a zero range. The next day they did just that. Aided by drill sergeants, the cadets had the opportunity to shoot an M16 rifle and, while waiting their turn, received a historical weapons class from Lt. Col. Todd Pegg, who is also VMI's interim Physical Plant deputy director. Pegg showed his extensive weapons collection, with firearms dating back to the early 1700s. The class gave the cadets a look at the evolution of the U.S. Army's primary weapon system's history and heritage.

The MS2, 3rd Class, cadets worked on their day and night land navigation skills and negotiated training lanes. The MOUT, or military operations on urban terrain, experience proved challenging, forcing the cadets to draw on what they had learned and to think quickly and critically, adapting to rapidly changing scenarios provided by OPFOR – opposing force – cadets. Each platoon was given a task that would support the overall mission: secure three high-value targets. Some platoons interviewed the local populace while others pulled security around the town, but all worked together to accomplish the mission.

From the minute they stepped off the bus, the MS3 – 2nd Class – cadets were all business. In the cool of the night, the cadets, who are headed to the Cadet Leadership Course at Fort Knox this summer, moved to their patrol bases and worked late into the night preparing for the next day's missions. For the next two days, they put miles on their boots, moving to and from objectives. Each objective brought with it a different problem to solve. How do you attack an objective in the middle of an open field? How would you set up an ambush in less-than-ideal terrain? On their last day, they coordinated and executed a company-scale attack on a village. The exercise posed challenges designed to stretch the fatigued cadets' intellect and skills.

The MS4 – 1st Class – cadets fulfilled leadership roles from platoon and company leadership to battalion staff, training, supervising and mentoring the younger cadets. The cadre of the VMI Army ROTC unit ensured that all training was conducted safely.



Cadets traveling by Chinook to Fort Pickett for Army ROTC training got a beautiful view. – Photo courtesy of Army ROTC.

Naval ROTC Cadets Train at Norfolk and Natural Bridge

Information provided by Naval ROTC

The first week in April marked the Spring Field Training Exercise for Navy- and Marine-option ROTC cadets. The Navy cadets traveled to the greater Norfolk Fleet Concentration Area to visit the ships in port, participate in bridge simulator training, and meet enlisted sailors. The Marine cadets traveled to Natural Bridge to conduct tactical scenarios.



Navy-option cadets pause for a photo at the Norfolk Fleet Concentration Area. – Photo courtesy of Naval ROTC.

The Navy cadets kicked off their first exercise with antiterrorism force protection drills on the VMI post, completing active shooter and bomb threat drills. ATFP is conducted routinely on surface ships, and exposing the cadets to this type of training early eases the transition from cadet to commissioned officer. In the afternoon, the cadets worked through a search and rescue exercise for a downed pilot. These exercises offer experience with pre-planned responses.

Early Sunday morning, April 3, the cadets departed on charter buses to Norfolk and checked into the USS *Bataan* (LHD-5), where they would spend the next three days integrating with the crew. Once settled, the cadets split into two groups and toured the *Bataan* and the USS *Boise* (SSN-764). The tours were an eye-opening experience, as many had never been on an amphibious assault ship or a Los Angeles-class submarine. The cadets got a taste of the daily life aboard a U.S. Navy vessel.

On Monday the cadets split up for tours including a trip to Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek to learn about the capabilities of the Navy Expeditionary Combat Command and Assault Craft Unit. In the afternoon, the cadets took a short tug ride or toured the USS *San Antonio* (LPD-17), the USS *Arleigh Burke* (DDG-51), or the Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 120 (VAW-120).

“Navy FTX is always a great learning experience. Seeing and talking to JO's [junior officers] from various communities and platforms is a great way for me to figure out what I want to do in the Navy,” said Brandon Conley '17. “Talking to officers and enlisted [sailors] has broadened my knowledge of the Navy and our capabilities.”

The approximately 150 Marine cadets conducted an exercise designed to simulate a force-on-force encounter between their two platoons. The goal of the scenario was to secure an area while different scenario injects were strategically introduced with the purpose of challenging the cadets and pushing them into leadership roles in order to successfully complete the mission. The event ended with a live fire weapons shoot at the North Post range, with weapon systems including AK47s and P9s.

Air Force Cadets Complete FTX at New Jersey Base

Information provided by Air Force ROTC

Air Force ROTC cadets from VMI's Detachment 880 traveled to Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst in New Jersey for field training exercises earlier this month. Designed to educate the cadets on Air Force life and officership, the event included tours of the base and of the various wings, including the 305th Air Mobility Wing, 87th Air Base Wing, and 621st Contingency Response Wing. The cadets were shown the daily life of an officer in the wing in addition to the role of individual airmen in the overall mission.

The cadets were also led through Combat Arms Skills Training, which is designed for those entering combat so they are taught how to perform necessary field procedures. This training included weapons familiarization, mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicle turnover/egress training, combatives, and night vision use.



Cadets from VMI Detachment 880 pose for a photograph at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. – Photo Courtesy of Air Force ROTC.

On the third day, cadets were given the opportunity to fly in a C-17 or KC-10 during a refueling mission. This is an exciting experience that often motivates young people toward a career in aviation.

Lastly, the cadets were placed in front of both officer and senior non-commissioned officer panels to ask questions about Air Force culture or expectations. This prompted stimulating conversation and a highly educational experience.

VMI Foundation, Alumni Hold Leaders Conference

By Scott Belliveau '83, VMI Foundation

The VMI Foundation and the VMI Alumni Association hosted their annual Volunteer Leaders Conference April 8 and 9. The event brings together VMI Alumni Association chapter representatives and class agents with the goal of providing up-to-date information on the state of the Institute and the work of the VMI alumni agencies, as well as tips on how to better serve the Institute's alumni.

Highlights of this year's event were an update on the status of An Uncommon Purpose: A Brilliant Past, A Glorious Future: The Campaign for VMI and a presentation from distinguished alumnus Jerry Acuff '71.

The conference began with a luncheon in the Hall of Valor in Marshall Hall. Immediately afterward, participants moved to the Gillis Theater, where they were welcomed by Turner Perrow '96, VMI Alumni Association president. For the rest of the afternoon, they received briefings from Brian Scott Crockett, CEO of the VMI Foundation; Adam Volant '88, COO of the VMI Alumni Association; Andrew Deal '12, assistant vice president of the VMI Keydet Club; and David Prasnicky, CFO of the VMI Foundation.

Acuff, a nationally and internationally recognized expert on sales and marketing, talked about how to develop and maintain passion for the Institute and for supporting it. The day ended with cocktails and dinner in Marshall Hall and a special tribute from John Adams '96 to Turner Perrow '96, who is retiring as Alumni Association president.

Saturday was no less busy. The day began with a briefing from the Institute's chief of staff, retired U.S. Army Col. Jamie Inman '86, on the state of Institute and its future. This was followed by two hours

of round-robin breakout sessions covering several topics designed to assist the class agents in performance of their duties.

Next, Andy Tate '92 conducted an open forum to answer questions and exchange ideas. After final comments from John J. Wranek III '85, the VMI Foundation's vice president of annual and reunion giving, the conference ended with a luncheon in Marshall Hall.

"Volunteer leaders are vital 'go-betweens' for alumni in their relationships with the VMI alumni agencies and the VMI Foundation," said Wranek. "They usually turn to their chapter representatives or their class agents when they have questions about VMI, and we need to ensure that these volunteers have the information they need to answer questions. Class agents also are some of our best fundraisers, and we have a responsibility to help them make the best case possible for supporting VMI and its cadets. Although these conferences are short in duration, we make sure these volunteers leave knowing what they need to know to be effective in their roles – and knowing to whom they can turn on post for support in their important work.

"Of course," he continued, "some of the most valuable moments during these events are the informal conversations that they have with their fellow volunteers. There are decades of experience present throughout the event, and the attendees take full advantage of it.

"These alumni take a lot of time and put in a lot of miles to participate in this event. It speaks volumes about their commitment to serve their Brother Rats, fellow alumni, and the Institute. I hope that, next year, we have even more of our leaders partake of this always excellent experience," concluded Wranek.

ODK Members Pursue Service and Leadership Projects

By Mary Price

Members of the VMI circle of Omicron Delta Kappa, the national leadership honor society, recently had the chance to learn from a real-life leader.

Retired Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Frank Libutti, this year's leader in residence at VMI's Center for Leadership and Ethics, met with ODK members April 13, when he shared lessons on life, leadership, and finding one's path after college.

It was Libutti's second visit to VMI in as many months, as he also came for a week in March to share insights into leadership with faculty, staff, and cadets through a series of meetings and events.

For the cadet ODK members, all of whom are 2nd or 1st class cadets, Libutti's visit was a perfect complement to their regular activities, which are designed to stimulate the life of the mind and enrich leadership skills. Unlike some academic honor societies, Omicron Delta Kappa isn't just about good grades and fleshing out a beginner's resume.

"That's one of things I was trying to move away from, the idea of a resume-builder," explained Schafer Wymond '16, this year's Omicron Delta Kappa president. "That's definitely not what we have here."

In order to be selected for Omicron Delta Kappa, cadets must demonstrate "multiple dimensions of excellence," said Brig. Gen. Charles F. Brower IV, professor of international studies, who helped to bring the honor society to VMI in 2003 and now serves as its faculty adviser. "It's academics, and there's a service component to it, and it's leadership."

Each fall, approximately 30 cadets are inducted into Omicron Delta Kappa,

two-thirds of whom are 2nd Class cadets and five or six are faculty members. Wymond noted that holding induction in the fall is quite intentional, as it's meant to kick off a year of engagement and activity.

Chief among Omicron Delta Kappa's regular activities is a discussion and dessert series, held jointly with the Omicron Delta Kappa circle at neighboring Washington and Lee University, where the society was founded in 1914. Cadets and W&L students read and discuss articles from *The Atlantic*, as well as books by authors coming to

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Lt. Gen. Frank Libutti talks with cadets in VMI's Omicron Delta Kappa circle during a meeting in Pogue Auditorium. – VMI Photo by H. Lockwood McLaughlin.

Leader in Residence Helps Ethics Team Prepare for Naval Academy Competition

As they prepared for the third annual Military Ethics Case Competition at the U.S. Naval Academy in mid-April, members of VMI's Ethics Team, formed last year, had an extra advantage: insights from a retired Marine Corps general.

Lt. Gen. Frank Libutti, this year's leader in residence at VMI's Center for Leadership and Ethics, met with members of the Ethics Team in March, just after they'd gotten their topic for the Naval Academy competition. This year, competitors are being asked to consider the assigned topic, which is the sexual abuse of boys by Afghan policemen, and come up with a policy proposal for their commanding officer.

"Your proposal is supposed to be not only ethical, but also legally and strategically justified," explained Dr. Duncan Richter, professor of English, rhetoric, and humanistic studies, who serves as faculty adviser to the Ethics Team.

Libutti's visit was perfectly timed, Richter noted. "He's exactly the kind of person [the cadets are] supposed to be presenting to," he commented.

The cadets concurred, saying that Libutti's insights were just right for the time and situation.

"He helped us trim the fat off our topic and to streamline it," said Rori Stubbs '17. "With his experience as a general officer in the Marine Corps, he had that no-BS attitude, saying, 'This is what I want to know. This is what I want to get done. No fluff, just straight to the point.'"

Stubbs's teammate, Tom Nanartowich '16, added that Libutti asked good questions, encouraging the cadets to think critically and back up their answers with sound reasoning. "He wanted to know our thought processes," said Nanartowich. "When we explain in further detail at the competition, or anywhere else, we'll have the facts to back it up."

The Ethics Team, a program of the Center for Leadership and Ethics, began last year with 10 to 12 cadets. Four of those founding members – Stubbs, Nanartowich, Reagan Goulla '18 and Tyler DeJoue '18 – represented VMI at the Naval Academy competition.

– Mary Price

Service Translation Class Offers Skills and Insight

By Kelly Nye

“This is the Spanish class I’ve always wanted.” That’s quite a pronouncement from Apostolos Cominos ’16, a student in Col. Mary Ann Dellinger’s service translation class.

The advanced Spanish class is engaging in real-world translating projects. Whether it’s a religious text for use in a church or a picture book for children, the cadets are finding that learning a language is not just an academic achievement; it is also a valuable skill, a skill they can use to serve the community.

“In foreign languages for some time we’ve been emphasizing what you can do in the language. So when I studied language, or even my first years as a teacher, we taught about the language [itself],” Dellinger explained. “This is the way you conjugate a verb, this is the preposition that you use – that’s about the language, that’s not using the language.”

The cadets chose from a selection of projects presented by Dellinger or a project they had in mind, and she is making sure the final products go to a useful destination.

Kristen Whitehurst ’17 is writing a children’s book to send to the day care where she worked in Cusco, Peru. Whitehurst was part of last summer’s Peru program led by Dr. Ivelise Faundez-Reitsma, instructor of Spanish. The experience had a big impact on the cadets.

“I definitely got to see how little resources they had to learn and be creative. So giving back to them is huge for me. ... I want to see that development,” said Whitehurst. Several copies of her book, “She’s So Lucky,” will also go to Rockbridge County schools.

Another cadet, Aidan O’Connor ’16, is writing and drawing a coloring book for Waddell Elementary School. The book aims to make students from Latin America feel more at home in Lexington.

“I have siblings who have studied abroad in Latin America when they were very young, and they had trouble speaking the language. So I thought it would be good to have some kind of book that would interest kids,” said O’Connor.

Cominos has even bigger ambitions. He is translating a Greek Orthodox liturgy from Greek to Spanish. Cominos hopes it will be published and sent to churches Latin America. There are very few Orthodox Christians in the mostly Catholic Latin American countries, explained Cominos, making some resources scarce.

“There are no translations readily available,” he said. “I wanted to spread the knowledge.”

Dellinger finds that this practical use of the language deepens cadets’ understanding of the cultural differences and similarities between English speakers and Spanish speakers.

For example, the title of Whitehurst’s book was a challenge.

“‘She’s So Lucky’ is an English thing to say. Saying that in Spanish, would I say, ‘She has a lot of luck’ or ‘She is fortunate?’ It was hard to translate,” Whitehurst said. Whitehurst settled on the latter, “Ella está afortunada.”

To prepare the cadets for these kinds of challenges, Dellinger had them practice by translating in a variety of genres and levels, including slang. They talked about how Spanish has different registers – formal versus informal address – like English does. She also had the cadets do semiotic translations, translating from images instead of words.

In spite of all they’ve learned, however, the cadets find the most appealing aspect of the class is the opportunity for community service.

Said Dellinger, “Cadets are our clients. And for them to stay in and study Spanish – it’s because there’s some reason – something they see.” To find out just what that was, she had the cadets fill out index cards at the beginning of the semester saying why they were interested in the course. All of them were eager to serve.

To hear the cadets read their translations, visit www.vmi.edu/servicetranslation.



Cadets (from left) Kristen Whitehurst ’17, Apostolos Cominos ’16, and Aidan O’Connor ’16 review their translations. – VMI Photo by Kelly Nye.

Life and Leadership Lessons *continued from page 12*

speak at either VMI or W&L. The discussion and dessert program is funded by a grant from the Mellon Foundation.

In addition, Omicron Delta Kappa members, both cadets and faculty, meet for lunch or dinner twice a year, with a guest speaker following the meal. In January, the group heard from Col. Jim Hentz, professor of international studies, department chair, and sub-Saharan Africa expert, who spoke on the terrorist group Boko Haram.

“That was ... a bringing together [of] cadets and faculty who are in ODK, but may not have the constant contact,” said Wymond. “It was a chance for them to hear a topic and sit around and discuss it.”

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And for two years in a row, members of Omicron Delta Kappa have met with the leader in residence. In 2015, the leader in residence was retired Brig. Gen. Rebecca Halstead, the first female graduate of the U.S. Military Academy to be promoted to general officer.

For Wymond, meeting individuals with significant leadership experience, such as Libutti and Halstead, goes to the heart of what Omicron Delta Kappa is all about.

“Those are great experiences because you get the firsthand knowledge of them in a personalized way,” he said. “It’s face to face, with them answering your questions.”

It is, in effect, about preparing future leaders.

Leidos Establishes Leadership and Ethics Fund

By Scott Belliveau '83, VMI Foundation

Leidos, a Reston, Va.,-based company that provides scientific, engineering, systems integration, and technical services to national security, health, and infrastructure customers globally, has made a \$60,000 gift to create the Leidos/General John P. Jumper '66 Leadership and Ethics Fund at VMI.

Leidos established the fund in honor of Jumper who, after he retired as the 17th chief of staff of the U.S. Air Force, joined the Board of Directors of Science Applications International Corp. and, in March 2012, became SAIC's CEO. Jumper later guided the process by which the company separated into two entities, and he became the CEO of the one that became Leidos. In July 2014, he retired from that position.

The purpose of the fund is to enhance the work of VMI's Center for Leadership and Ethics by supporting cadets' preparation for and travel to national-level programs and competitions related to ethics, said Michael Coogan, Leidos director of corporate responsibility.

Coogan explained that Leidos established this fund at VMI because of the commitment that VMI and Leidos share to develop and promote strong ethics and leadership programs within their organizations and to foster strong leadership and ethics throughout the country.

"Operating ethically is important to all companies, but it's especially important to Leidos, because so much of our business is with the federal government. More to the point, much of that business is with the Department of Defense and the intelligence community, and that means Leidos helps the government meet its highest responsibility: defending the country."

The premium that Leidos places on behavior and values is not new to the company,

Coogan explained. In 1984, SAIC created its Employee Ethics Council and then developed an industry-leading ethics and compliance program, which Leidos has continued.

"This program combines policies, procedures, training, and communications, and it touches every aspect of employees' conduct. It also stresses responsibility and accountability. Compliance is everyone's responsibility at Leidos," said Coogan. "Managers at all levels are responsible for behaving in the way they expect their teams to behave. Accountability goes hand in hand with authority at our company, and managers are held accountable for what their organizations do – or do not do."

Leidos is equally committed to promoting ethics and leadership programs through its charitable giving and, whenever possible, employee volunteerism. It is, in fact, one of the company's four main philanthropic thrusts.

As to its decision to honor Jumper at VMI, Coogan explained, "As an officer, Gen. Jumper exemplified moral and physical courage and selfless dedication to the nation. At SAIC and then Leidos, he was an extraordinary leader who served as a role model for strong ethical behavior for every employee. He also is well-known for his deep loyalty to VMI and his desire to serve it. Establishing a fund in his honor that supports the Institute's Center for Leadership and Ethics was a perfect fit for Gen. Jumper, VMI, and Leidos."

Retired U.S. Army Col. David Gray, director of the Center, praised the gift from Leidos.

"It will help support our recently established Ethics Team as it competes in ethics competitions across the country. Additionally, the gift will expand cadets' opportunities to attend off-post conferences,

where they'll delve into the myriad issues related to leadership and ethics and encounter new thinking in these fields.

"This gift from Leidos," Gray continued, "will strengthen the Center's ability to prepare cadets to offer honorable and resolute leadership in their chosen career fields and keep the Institute at the forefront of national debate about ethics and leadership."



Retired U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Bill Lay (left), chief of staff and prior chief ethics/compliance officer of Leidos, presented the corporation's initial gift to VMI March 7 during the 2016 Leadership Conference, "Ethical Dilemmas in the Digital Age." Gen. John P. Jumper '66 (center), in whose honor the gift was made, was on hand, and VMI's superintendent, Gen. J.H. Binford Peay III '62, accepted the gift on VMI's behalf. – VMI Photo by Stephen Hanes.

Taps – Frank G. Louthan Jr. '41

Frank G. Louthan Jr. '41, recipient of VMI's New Market Medal and the VMI Foundation's Distinguished Service Award, died April 12. A resident of Richmond, Louthan was 95.

He was a member of the VMI Board of Visitors from 1972 to 1980, serving from 1977 to 1980 as that board's president. He joined the Board of Trustees of the VMI Foundation and served as the board's president from

1987 to 1991. He was also a former president of the VMI Development Board. For years, he has been a constant force in the life of the Institute.

Among his survivors are his widow, Marilyn; daughter, Lynn Slabaugh; sons, Frank G. Louthan III '66, R. Reaves Louthan, Robert T. Louthan '82, and Charles M. Louthan '75; and grandchildren Frank G. Louthan IV '91, Michael R. Louthan '10, Christopher Louthan '14, and Mason Louthan '18.

POST BRIEFS

Alerding Receives Soybean Grant

Lt. Col. Anne Alerding, associate professor of biology, has received a one-year grant of just over \$30,000 from the Virginia Soybean Board that will allow her to study stem growth of the soybean plant as a critical factor affecting seed production. In the project, titled, "Increasing seed yield by decreasing aborted seed production in Virginia soybeans," Alerding hopes to learn what influences late-season stem growth, with the goal of selecting soybean varieties that do not show this growth, which results in more aborted seed pods. Laura Davis '18 will work with Alerding on the project this summer.

Career Services Head to be Inducted into NACE Academy

Col. Sam Ratcliffe '74, director of career services, has been selected for induction into the National Association of Colleges and Employers Academy of Fellows. Only 33 people – 21 college and 12 employer members – have received this award previously. NACE fellows consist of distinguished leaders in the career services and human resources/staffing profession. Ratcliffe, who served as president of NACE during 2014-15, is being recognized for his leadership in the field. He will be honored at the 60th anniversary celebration and 2016 conference in Chicago in June.

Service and Sacrifice of Two Alumni Commemorated

By Scott Belliveau '83, VMI Foundation

On March 4, New River Electrical Corp. of Cloverdale, Va., which specializes in high voltage construction and maintenance projects, welcomed two new Hitachi LoDril TR20 pressure diggers into its equipment fleet. Although they are marvels of engineering, such machines are hardly extraordinary in the field of heavy electrical contracting.

Yet when these arrived at the NRE headquarters, they were received with ceremony and a sizable crowd, including three representatives of VMI. To top it off, the ceremony included presentation of a gift of \$14,000 to the Institute.

The manufacturer of the drill rigs, Bay Shore Systems Inc., requested that each piece of equipment receive a nickname. Another piece of equipment at NRE, for instance, was named "Big Mike" in honor of Michael R. Howell, an NRE fleet manager who died in 2014 of cancer.

Similarly, retired U.S. Army Capt. Joshua L. Bandy '03, NRE's director of fleet operations, requested the newest diggers be named "Griffin" and "Newton" in honor of two of his Brother Rats – U.S. Army Sgt. Dale R. Griffin and Capt. Michael W. Newton, both of whom died while serving in Afghanistan. The company's senior leadership was quick to agree to the request.

"Once the vendors involved in the order, construction, and design of these rigs found out the significance of the names," said Bandy, "they decided that, in addition to naming them after these two men, they would also make a donation in their honor, which we choose to designate to VMI."

In the end, five companies – New River Electrical Corp., Driller's Choice Inc., Bay Shore Systems Inc., Jeffery Machine Inc., and James River Equipment – made donations. VMI's electrical and computer engineering department was among the recipients.

"Supporting an academic department closely tied to NRE's business made perfect sense to the donors," recalled Bandy. "We also supported the VMI rifle team because Mike Newton was a member of that during his cadetship and VMI wrestling because of Dale Griffin's standout performance with that team during his time at the Institute.

"I wanted to commemorate the service that Dale and Mike gave our country and the sacrifice they made in its defense in a way that would continue their legacy," Bandy continued. "Here at NRE, we

employ many veterans across our spectrum of operations. My hope is that these people – fellow veterans – will come to understand the story and history of Dale and Mike, and know that, at the end of the day, we always will remember those that paid the ultimate price for our freedoms."

Megan Newman, VMI Foundation director of corporate and foundations relations, was instrumental in arranging both the gift and the ceremony. "I thank everyone involved in this process, especially Josh Bandy, whose dedication to the memories of his fallen Brother Rats was the catalyst that started it all. I also am grateful for the generosity of the corporations whose financial support will have a positive effect on the lives and futures of cadets."



Participating in the donation ceremony are (from left) John Verdin, Mid-Atlantic manager, Driller's Choice Inc.; Allen Cellar, president, Driller's Choice; Col. Eric D. Hutchings '77, VMI deputy athletic director; Megan Newman, VMI Foundation director of corporate and foundation relations; Joshua L. Bandy '03, director of fleet operations, NRE; Lillian Cook, fleet operations support administrator, NRE; Terry M. Garrett, senior vice president substation Atlantic Region, NRE; Daniel Beasley, sales, James River Equipment; Darrell Printz, general manager and vice president, James River Equipment; and Lt. Col. William F. Bither, VMI marksmanship director and rifle coach. – VMI Photo by H. Lockwood McLaughlin.



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Spring FTX

More than 500 non-commissioning cadets from the Virginia Military Institute participated in community service activities during their Spring Field Training Exercises April 1-5. Nearly half worked in the Rockbridge community with non-profit organizations, and the other half worked in other areas nationwide to help their home communities. Organizations such as Lime Kiln Theater used cadet volunteers to improve the facility's infrastructure and appearance. Other cadets worked on the Chessie Trail, smoothing out uneven terrain and a washed out slope at the entrance, applying their engineering knowledge to this real-life problem to provide a safer entrance to the trail. Cadets also helped out at local schools, retirement homes, and with conservation groups. - *VMI Photos by Kelly Nye, Stephen Hanes, and Andrew Bradshaw '17.*