The Institute Report

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Twenty Three Honored at Awards Convocation

*Honorees at April 28th Institute Awards Convocation: (L to R), **front row** – Cadet Eric D. Mowles, Col. C. Dale Buckner, Col. Richard S. Trandel, Col. Donald E. Thomas, Lt. Col. N. Turk McCleskey, Maj. Edward D. Wheeler, Maj. Stacey K. Vargas, CDR John E. "Ned" Riester, Jr., Claudia M. Pirkle, Lt. Col. Holly J. Richardson. **back row** – Cadet Stephen E. Fern, Jr., Cadet Colin P. Mahle, Mrs. Sylvia Jeans, Maj. Robert M. Granger, Col. Tappey H. Jones, John S. Trudgeon, Michele M. Marlowe, Theodore S. "Peppy" Kessler, Alan B. Campbell, Lt. Col. Keith D. Dickson, Col. John A. Brodie, Cadet Christopher J. Lowrance.*

Colonels Buckner and Trandel Receive Professorships

Twenty-three members of the VMI family received honors at the annual Institute Awards Convocation held Wednesday April 28th in Cameron Hall. Cash prizes accompanying the awards totaled $105,500, the majority funded by the VMI Foundation, Inc. In addition, grants totaling $6,500 were bestowed.

Among the honorees were Col. Richard S. Trandel '59, who was re-appointed to the Charles S. Luck, Jr. '20 Institute Professorship in Engineering and Col. C. Dale Buckner, who retained the Benjamin H. Hardaway, Jr. '13 Institute Professorship in Engineering. Each award includes a cash prize of $37,500 to be paid in annual installments over five years.

Col. Buckner, professor of civil and environmental engineering, came to VMI in 1985 following 11 years on the faculty at Louisiana State University. He received his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. from North Carolina State University.

Col. Buckner has set a standard of academic excellence in his department as evidenced in the fact that he received a VMI Distinguished Teaching Award after

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Commencement Exercises May 15

Class valedictorian W. Benjamin Kincaid and radio personality G. Gordon Liddy will share the stage during VMI's commencement exercises to be held in Cameron Hall on May 15 at 11 a.m.

Liddy will speak following the valedictorian's address. Kincaid (see article on page 4) was elected valedictorian by his classmates.

Educated privately by Benedictines and Jesuits, G. Gordon Liddy earned a B.S.

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Balazs, Jeans, Zdinak to Retire

Three members of the VMI family with a combined 78 years of service to the Institute will retire at the end of the current fiscal year, June 30.

Colonel Gabriel Balazs

Colonel Gabriel G. Balazs, professor of Electrical Engineering, joined the VMI faculty in 1966 having earned his Ph.D. from The Pennsylvania State University a year earlier. As the Institute's first Computer Center Director and a teacher in the Department of Electrical Engineering, he guided VMI into the computer age. The Computer Center grew from a centralized mainframe unit into a decentralized computer network serving faculty, staff and cadets throughout the Post. He also develop and taught several computer oriented courses for cadets enrolled in engineering and economics. In 1991, Col. Balazs focused his talents completely on the Department of Electrical Engineering. He was appointed department head in 1996, and in April 1997, he was awarded the Jamison-Payne Institute Professorship in Electrical Engineering.

On the state level, Col. Balazs was a member of the 1975 State Council of Higher Education Task Force for Educational Data Processing, which set the direction for higher education computing. A registered Professional Engineer since 1975, he is a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers and the Association of Engineering Educators.

In addition to his professional duties, he has rendered significant service to the Lexington community. Since 1985, he has been the collector of local weather data for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). He has donated his computer expertise to the Rockbridge Regional Library, served as director for the Rockbridge Red Cross Chapter, served as a judge in local science fairs, and been active in the area's United Way campaigns.

Sylvia A. Jeans, Registrar, joined the VMI staff in 1989 as assistant registrar. A resident of Lexington since 1975, she served with the Virginia Employment Commission in Buena Vista for 13 years before coming to the Institute. She is a native of North Carolina and a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She was promoted to acting registrar in 1992 and a year later became permanent head of the department.

Sylvia Jeans (right) and Maj. Gen. Josiah Bunting III, superintendent

Her insistence on excellence in every detail of her work has paid great dividends to some 5,000 cadets who have passed through her office. She and her dedicated staff have done a remarkable job in a complex and time-consuming area of academic support. She is a problem solver by training and nature, and because of her ability to discover problem areas in cadet records, many cadets owe her a debt of gratitude for receiving their diplomas on time.

Colonel Edward Zdinak

Col. Edward G. Zdinak, professor of mathematics and computer science, came to VMI in 1964 after teaching five years at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. He was promoted to associate professor in 1973 and full professor four years later. He earned his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D degrees from the University of Pittsburgh, the latter after coming to VMI. During his career, he has concentrated on developing new approaches to teaching in order to encourage cadet participation. He also conducted research into learning styles developing several educational models. He wrote a study entitled "A Cognitive Style in Relation to Teaching and Learning." He also participated in the work of the Mathematical Association of America serving as a judge for student papers at regional conferences.

Col. Zdinak has been active on departmental committees, the Institute Financial Aid Committee, the Miller Learning Style Committee, and the New Cadet Advising Committee. His interest in the career preparation of cadets led him to assist the Director of Cadet Affairs in planning several Institute "Career Fairs."

Former VMI Board Member dies

Dr. Robert Q. Marston '44, former President of the University of Florida and Director of the National Institutes of Health, died on Sunday, 14 March 1999 in Gainesville, Florida. He was 76.

Marston graduated from VMI with a degree in chemistry and earned his MD from the Medical College of Virginia. A Rhodes Scholar, Marston also held a BS from Oxford University, and served in the Army during World War II and again during the Korean War. He served on the VMI Board of Visitors from 1986 until 1993.

The Institute Report

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Ten selected for Virginia Program at Oxford

Eleven VMI cadets, representing three classes, have been chosen to attend the 1999 Virginia Program at Oxford. The VMI contingent will join students from five other Virginia Colleges.

The students will have six weeks of study at St. Anne's College beginning July 5 and ending on August 14. Subject matter for the concentrated program will be the literature, history, and society of the late 16th and early 17th century England. Participants will earn two units or six semester hours of credit. The program follows the English system, combining lectures and weekly tutorials conducted by Oxford dons. Tutorial groups are small, allowing for considerable individual attention and active participation. The Elizabethan, Jacobean, and Caroline periods will be the central theme of both lectures and tutorials.

Cadets attending the 1999 Virginia Program at Oxford are: second classmen James W. Burns III, history; Scott C. Hillyer, William W. Huffman III, and Phillip D. Hopkins, Jr., economics and business (EB); Todd D. Kennedy and Benjamin C. Murray, English; third classmen A. Tappan August, (EB), Douglas T. Bates IV, history, Tennille B. Chisolm, psychology, and Melissa S. Williams, biology; and fourth classman Odis E. Hickman III, history.

Commencement

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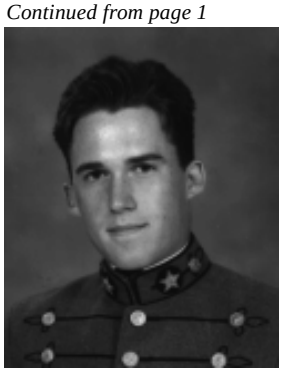
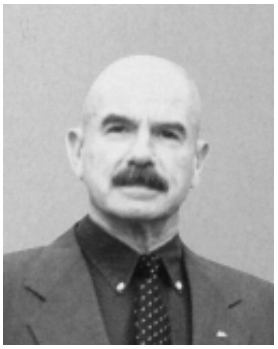


William B. Kincaid '99



G. Gordon Liddy

degree from Fordham University and an LI.D. from the Fordham Law School graduating as a member of *The Law Review*. After two years service as an Army artillery officer during the Korean War, Liddy entered the FBI as a special agent and rapidly earned multiple commendations from the late J. Edgar Hoover. At the age of 29, Liddy became the youngest bureau supervisor at FBI national headquarters in Washington, D.C., where he served during the Kennedy administration.

Liddy resigned from the FBI in 1962 to practice international law in Manhattan. Thereafter he served as a prosecutor and ran unsuccessfully for Congress from the 28th district of New York. In 1968, he ran the presidential campaign of Richard Nixon in that district.

In the Nixon administration, Liddy served first as a special assistant to the Secretary of the Treasury. He later was appointed Enforcement Legislative Counsel where he authored the Explosives Control Act. In 1971, Liddy was sent to the White House as staff assistant to the President of the United States.

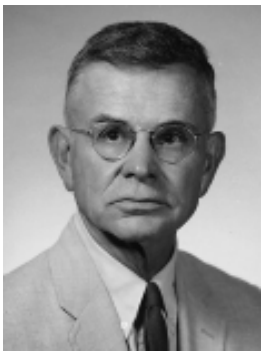
At the White House, Liddy had oversight responsibility for Treasury policy on firearms and explosives and authored the memorandum that led to the creation of the Drug Enforcement Administration. Subsequently he was assigned additional special duties as a member of the top secret White House Special Investigations Group. Liddy resigned his White House post to accept the positions of general counsel of the 1972 Republican presidential campaign and the campaign finance committee, with additional duties as campaign political intelligence director.

For his role in Watergate, and for refusing steadfastly to implicate others, Liddy was sentenced to over twenty years in prison. He served nearly five years, many in maximum security, including 106 days of solitary confinement, before his release by President Carter.

Today, Liddy is the host of "The G. Gordon Liddy Show," a radio program syndicated in over 240 markets. He is the author of three best-sellers and numerous magazine articles; the editor-in-chief of *The Liddy Letter*, a monthly published nationally; and is an actor in motion pictures and television. Liddy was awarded his paratrooper wings after training in Israel and jumping with the elite IDF parachute regiment. He is a member of the Honor Legion of the police department of the city of New York and according to *The Wall Street Journal* is "one of the most sought after speakers in the nation."

Former Civil Engineering faculty member dies

Benjamin S. Clark, Jr., a 1931 graduate who taught at VMI for nearly 30 years., died May 3 at Roanoke Memorial Hospital.



Benjamin S. Clark, Jr. '31

Clark received his B.S. in civil engineering then worked for the Virginia Dept. of Highways as a draftsman and inspector from 1931 to 1936. Following four other positions in the engineering field, he joined the Solray Process Company in Hopewell, Va. as a draftsman in 1940 and worked there until joining the VMI faculty in 1948.

He came to VMI as an instructor and lecturer in the Department of Civil Engineering. He taught basic courses required of all civil engineering majors who under his patient guidance were given a thorough knowledge of surveying, topographic mapping, and basic geometronics. He retired from VMI in 1975, but continued to work as a land surveyor. Following his retirement, Clark returned to the faculty on a part-time basis during the school years of 1980-81 and 1981-82.

He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Roberta D. Clark, daughter and son-in-law, Elizabeth Clark and Thomas Morton Gathright, II , three grandsons, and two great-grandchildren. He was a former member of St. Paul's Anglican Church of Lexington and, most recently, St. Thomas of Canterbury ACC of Roanoke.

A graveside service was conducted Friday, May 7 at Stonewall Jackson Cemetery.

Kincaid elected Class Valedictorian

John Pasco, VMI Class of 1900, delivered the first valedictory address of the twentieth century. Ben Kincaid, a first classmen from Richmond, Va., has been elected by his classmates to deliver the century's final valedictory address at commencement ceremonies to be held May 15 in Cameron Hall.

"I am deeply indebted to my brother rats for this honor. I look forward to the opportunity to speak in my class's behalf," said Kincaid recently.

An international studies major, Kincaid has served as EIC of *The Cadet* during the current school year and has been cited by many for engineering a turnaround in the newspaper's editorial content and business fortunes. He has also been a member of the track and field team. He spent the second semester of his third class year in Spain as part of VMI's extensive study abroad program. Following graduation, Kincaid will be going to Budapest, Hungary to work as an English teacher in another of VMI's international studies exchange programs.

Ironically, this year's graduating class will be the first VMI Class of '99 to have a public graduation ceremony. Col. William Couper, author of *One Hundred Years at V.M.I.,* wrote of the antics of the Class of 1899:

" ... (T)he first class was 'dismissed January 3, 1899 for mutinous combination and insubordination,' a penalty which applied to each of the thirty-six members of the class save one, George A. Derbyshire, who was officer of the day on the night of the mutiny. It was the first occurrence of the kind since 1880 and the customary plea for reinstatement of the group was made and declined. Individual petitions were considered and when the error of their ways accompanied by willingness to accept the penalty and abide by the regulations was forthcoming the thirty-five dismissed cadets were reinstated on January 26th. Numerous penalties were assigned and among them was a requirement that they would not be eligible to hold office for two months; that `they shall not be publicly graduated and that the diplomas of those who may qualify' should not be awarded before September 1, 1899."

One hundred years later, the VMI Class of 1999 prepares for its upcoming commencement, and Kincaid prepares to deliver the valedictory address.

First Women to Graduate from VMI

Neither Melissa Graham nor Chih-Yuan Ho saw herself as a revolutionary or trailblazer when they matriculated at VMI in the fall of 1997. Yes, they were two of 30 women who enrolled at VMI that fall, but neither sees any particular significance in that fact.

On May 15, the duo will become the first women to be awarded VMI diplomas, but neither thinks too much about it. Rather, both see tremendous benefits to being VMI graduates.

"Years from now, I hope to be remembered as a VMI graduate ... period ... not as a woman who graduated from VMI," said Ho recently. Graham, who graduated from New Mexico Military Institute in 1997 before transferring to VMI, concurs, "Yes, I am a woman, but first and foremost, I am a member of the Corps and proud to be so."

Both took interesting routes to arrive at VMI. Ho, who hails from the Republic of China, learned of VMI as a very young girl through her appreciation and admiration for countryman Li-Jen Sun, a member of the VMI Class of 1927.

Ho reached into her hat and pulled out a photograph of a current exhibit in the VMI Museum extolling Sun's life. The exhibit placard reads: "Historians have called General Li-Jen Sun the greatest Chinese military officer of the twentieth century. Fighting against the Japanese from 1936-45, Sun became known as `The Ever Victorious General.' General Sun was awarded the Order of the British Empire in 1942 for rescuing 7,500 British soldiers who had been surrounded by an army of 10,000 Japanese. Sun worked closely with U.S. General Joseph Stilwell and was confidant of Generals MacArthur, Eisenhower and Patton.

"Fearing political rivalry, Chiang Kai-shek placed Sun under house arrest from 1958 until 1988. After Chiang Kai-Shek's death, General Sun was recognized throughout China for his contributions. When he died in 1990 at age 91, 10,000 Chinese attended his nationally televised State funeral."

Chih-Yuan Ho (left) and Melissa K. Graham will be the first women to receive VMI diplomas.

Even as a young girl, Ho dreamed of following Sun's footsteps to VMI, but her hopes appeared to be nothing but a pipe dream until the announcement that women would be assimilated into the Corps in the fall of 1997. Ho had completed one college career in her homeland, graduating in just three years from Fu-Jen Catholic University.

"I had always wanted to attend a military school like General Sun. What a joyful day it was for me when I realized that I could attend VMI," added Ho, who will graduate as a

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Exchange Professor decides to stay at VMI

At 16 young Englishman Robert Bennell could envision little beyond the sterling professional soccer career that was most certainly to be his calling. Today, Lt. Col. Robert Bennell is an associate professor of mathematics and computer science at VMI.

"If you had told me when I was 16 that I would be either teaching or having anything to do with something related to the forces (military), I'd have said you were bloody crazy," said Bennell, 26 years after the professional soccer dreams evaporated.

The young Briton had seemingly lived several lifetimes before 16. With his father in the Merchant Navy serving extended tours aboard such vessels as the *Queen Mary*, Bennell attended 12 different schools before graduating from secondary school at 16. "I was good at chemistry and not so good at math. Funny, but I liked math and didn't particularly like chemistry. I was a bit of a rebel and didn't care for the formality of school, so I chased the soccer thing for a while.

"It became obvious I was no great player, so my thoughts returned to school," he recalled. Bennell enrolled at Eastbourne College of Further Education. "I was lucky to encounter a bloke named Holmann, who was a wonderfully enthusiastic and gifted mathematics teacher. I realized that not only did I like math, but I could excel at it if I applied myself. So I did."

At 18 Bennell enrolled in Brunel University in West London and continued his work in mathematics. Brunel afforded the budding mathematician a unique educational experience combining classroom studies with practical work experience. The first three years at Brunel were divided into six months in the classroom and six months in the working world. His work experience took place at the Rothampstad Agricultural Research Station writing computer programs for predicting the movement of aphids across the United Kingdom.

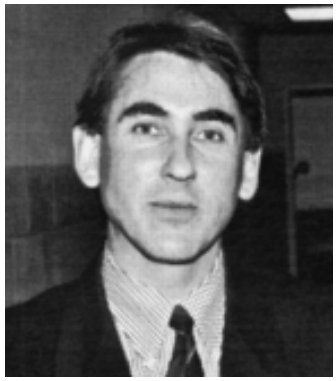
After his 1982 graduation, Bennell remained at Brunel and earned a master's degree in 1983. "My parents were very happy to see me pursuing a real job." Armed with his degrees, he went to the Royal Military College of Science at Schrivenham in pursuit of a doctoral degree. For three years, he worked in the field of approximation theory, using computers to solve math problems.

In 1986, needing funds to continue working on his doctorate, he agreed to accept a temporary lectureship at Shrivenham. "I had this love-hate relationship with my doctoral work. I loved teaching much more than spending time alone working on research." He laughs and continues. "I was on the 12-year plan for a doctorate. Shrivenham seemed to appreciate my teaching ability, but they let me know – by giving me some time with no classes to teach – that they would like me to finish the degree, which I finally did."

In 1996, an opportunity that changed the direction of Bennell's life "came out of the blue when I learned of the teaching exchange program between Shrivenham and VMI.

"After finishing at Brunel, I had spent a summer hitch-hiking from Calgary to Los Angeles and back and had become smitten with the states." He applied for the exchange program and came to VMI for the second semester of the 1997-98 school term.

Faced with slim prospects for imminent promotion at Shrivenham and buoyed by those who encouraged him to apply for a full-time opening in the math and computer science department at VMI, he decided to apply to remain on the Institute faculty.



"Teaching here is unique. On my first day as an exchange teacher at VMI, I don't know who was more frightened – the cadets or me. Understand that in England, people with little or no hair are called 'skinheads,' and one cannot be always so sure what they are thinking or what they might do. My first classes were primarily Rats. I look out at these young men and start wondering if they have any 'skinhead' connections. It was quite strange, really," the affable Bennell recalled recently.

Bennell and his wife, Sarah, are more than happy about their decision to become full-time members of the VMI family. "It was stunning to us to find out how friendly everyone is around here. It's not like England where everybody just ignores everybody. We've learned that if we plan for a 10-minute walk, we should allow 30 additional minutes for conversation with those we encounter along the way. I love teaching, and it is a blessing to be able to do that in a place my wife and I both find so attractive. I wonder if folks who have been here forever appreciate just how wonderful this area is."

Math and wife Sarah are not the only passions in Bennell's life. "I'm a bit of a golfing fanatic," he admits. He'll admit to a 12-handicap, but adds "I've never seen greens like those on the local course." One gets the sense that he'll put as much attention into that dilemma as he did the movement of aphids, and that handicap will move quickly to single digits.

"Living in Virginia" to feature Ratline

"Living in Virginia", a monthly news magazine TV show produced by Harrisonburg public television station WVPT, will air an episode entitled "The Ratline" on Tuesday, May 25, at 8 p.m.

"Living in Virginia" chronicles the Rat year of the Class of 2002, from matriculation through commencement, in the half-hour series. Camera crews and producers from the program visited Lexington throughout the year and monitored the progress of the Rats.

"Living in Virginia" airs in Winchester on channels 42 (antenna) and 12 (cable); in Harrisonburg on channels 51 (antenna) and 7 & 11 (Adelphia cable), 7 (CFW), 6 & 12 (Frontier Vision), and 12 (Shentel); in Charlottesville on channels 19 & 49 (antenna), 11 (Adelphia cable), and 12 (Frontier Vision); in the Staunton/Waynesboro area on channels 51 (antenna) and 11 (cable); and in Lexington/Buena Vista on channel 11 (cable). Check local listings for repeat showings.

Twenty Three Honored at Annual Awards Convocation

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just three years on the faculty. He was promoted to full professor in 1990. He has a well-deserved reputation for rigor in the classroom and patience with instruction. A prolific professional writer, he has written or co-written approximately 20 publications. In the last five years, he has twice received national recognition in the form of separate awards from the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Prestressed Concrete Institute for his work in developing prestressed standards for bridge design

The Hardaway Institute Professorship in Engineering was established in 1980 by the family of Benjamin Hurt Hardaway, Jr. '13. After graduation, Mr. Hardaway joined the construction firm established in Columbus, Georgia by his father in 1911. At his death in 1963, Hardaway Construction Company had become one of the nation's largest construction and engineering firms with world-wide operations. His son, Benjamin H. Hardaway III, a 1940 VMI graduate, continues as Chairman of the Board of the company.

Col. Trandel is a member of the VMI Class of 1959 and except for time on active military service and graduate work, he has been on the VMI faculty since graduation. He was named a full professor in 1977 and became department head in 1980. In that capacity, he guided the development of the mechanical engineering curriculum; and under his leadership, the department received degree-granting status and was successful in its first attempt to achieve accreditation.

He is well known as chairman of the Institute's highly successful Energy Conservation Commission. Through this committee, VMI has realized significant reductions in energy cost over the past 15 years. A dedicated and enthusiastic teacher, Trandel is the 1980 recipient of the Haliburton Award for Teaching Excellence. The capstone ME 444 advanced design course, fashioned by Trandel, has been highly successful with major corporations. Within VMI, he chaired the committee that developed the Merit Pay Plan and also the committee that revised the Faculty Handbook. As vice-chairman of the Maury River Service Authority, he serves as the owners' engineer, reviewing the construction of the new 15 million dollar Waste Treatment Plant, currently being built for Lexington/ Rockbridge County.

The Luck Professorship was established by Mrs. Charles S. Luck, Jr., of Richmond, Virginia, in memory of her husband. Mr. Luck, who died in 1972, was a leader in the crushed stone business in Virginia. He developed Luck Quarries, Inc. from a family owned construction business, and it grew into a major producer and distributor with quarries across the state. His son, Charles S. Luck III, VMI Class of 1955 and former member of the VMI Board of Visitors, is president of the business, now known as Luck Stone Corporation.

Distinguished Teaching Awards: These awards were presented to Col. Donald E. Thomas, Jr., professor of history; Lt. Col. N. Turk McCleskey, associate professor of history; and Maj. Edward D. Wheeler, assistant professor of electrical engineering. Each carries a $3,000 prize and an additional $2,000 grant to be used for further academic growth. Col. Thomas also received the Matthew Fontaine Maury Research Award in 1987.

Distinguished Service Awards: Three members of the VMI family received awards for outstanding service to the Institute in their respective areas. Honored were Alan B. Campbell, programmer/analyst for Information Services; Theodore S. "Peppy" Kessler, laboratory mechanic for the Departments of Physics and Biology; and Michele M. Marlowe, executive secretary for the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. Each received a $3,000 stipend.

Faculty Scholarships for Merit: Established in 1982, these awards are presented to upper class cadets and are funded from contributions made exclusively by active and retired VMI faculty. Three awards, which include a $1,500 cash prize, are given in liberal arts, engineering, and science. The 1999 recipients are Colin P. Mahle, a second class history major from Sacramento, Ca. for liberal arts; Christopher J. Lowrance, a second class electrical engineering major from Lexington, Ind. for engineering; and Stephen E. Fern, Jr., a second class biology major from West Terre Haute, Ind. for science.

The **Thomas Jefferson Teaching Award** was given to Major Stacey K. Vargas, assistant professor of physics and astronomy. This award, which includes a $1,000 cash prize, is presented to an outstanding junior member of the faculty.

Col. Tappy H. Jones, professor of chemistry, received the **Matthew Fontaine Maury Award** recognizing the performance or promotion of research by a faculty member. The award was established by the VMI Research Laboratories, Inc. and carries a $1,000 stipend.

The faculty/cadet team of Maj. Robert M. Granger, II, assistant professor of chemistry, and first class chemistry major Eric D. Mowles from Buchanan received the **Wilbur S. Hinman, Jr. '26 Research Award**. Created by the directors of the VMI Research Laboratories, the award recognizes superior achievement by a cadet in the performance of research and recognition for his faculty sponsor's effort to encourage cadet participation in such research. The award includes a $500 cash prize for each recipient.

The **Distinguished Coaching Award** was presented to head wrestling coach John S. Trudgeon. The award includes a $1,000 prize and a $500 grant for professional development. It marked the third time Trudgeon has received the award.

The **Award for Distinguished Teaching** was instituted last year. The award was suggested by members of the Corps of Cadets and established and funded by the Office of the Dean. One recipient from each of the four academic divisions is honored each year and receives a $1,000 cash prize. Selection is made by the Corps. Faculty members honored this year are: CDR John E. Riester, Jr., assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering (engineering division); Lt. Col. Holly J. Richardson, associate professor of physical education (behavioral science and leadership division); Lt. Col. Keith D. Dickson, assistant professor of history (liberal arts division); and Claudia M. Pirkle, instructor of chemistry (science division). CDR Riester and Mrs. Pirkle are repeat honorees.

Three **VMI Achievement Medals** for exceptionally meritorious service or acheivement were also presented during the ceremony. Receiving these awards were Sylvia Jeans, Registrar; Col. Ronald W. Williams '64, Deputy Commandant; and Col. John A. Brodie, Director of the VMI Regimental Band.

Summer Scholar Program

Five cadets have been selected to participate in the Dr. Fred C. Swope Summer Scholar's Program. The Summer Scholar's Program was developed by Col. Swope, professor emeritus of biology, and Dr. James E. Turner '65, chairman of the department of Anatomy and Cell Biology University of North Texas Health Sciences Center (UNTHSC). Selected students are exposed to the rigors of graduate school coursework and to cutting edge research.

Since the program's inception in 1991, more than 65 percent of the participants have entered graduate school or health professions schools. This year's participants are: Steve Fern '00, Ross Fuller '00, Chris Gamble '00, Bill Lambert '00, and Josh Petry '00. They will spend the month of June at VMI learning about the anatomy and physiology of the retina and learning research techniques used in molecular biology laboratories. They will to delve into the scientific literature, analyze and discuss results, develop hypotheses, design experiments, and collect data.

A number of guest lecturers are scheduled and include Dr. Wade Bell, assistant professor of biology at VMI; Dr. Jim Burns,'68 professor of oral pathology at MCV; Dr. David Wilkinson '66, professor of pathology at MCV; Dr. Dan Felty '94, resident at Roanoke Memorial Hospital; Tom Perrault '96, Ph.D. candidate at Bowman Gray School of Medicine; Joey DuBose '96, medical student at the University of Virginia; Dr. Lee Southard '59, CEO Atrix biotechnology company; Dr. Wayne Lambert '94, Ph.D. completed from UNC-Chapel Hill; and Dr. Harold Sheedlo, research associate UNTHSC.

After the first month, the cadets will present a symposium on the first portion of the program. They will then spend July at the UNTHSC working on independent research projects. The research experiences are designed to meet the interests of the cadets and hopefully produce a publication. Over the past few years, several papers have been published with cadets as co-authors and cadets have presented results at national and regional research conferences.

The costs of the program are covered, in part, from an endowment established by the late Dr. William Watkins '29 and by Dr. Lee Southard '59

Michael P. Wilson'99 is the recipient of this year's Future Captain of Industry Award. The Award consists of a framed antique security, a Messioner print showing Napolean's retreat from Russia, and Rothschild's "Twenty Rules for Business Success." The antique security is a bond issued by the Imperial Government of Russia in 1822, issued and signed by N.M. Rothschild, the namesake of today's powerful and influential bank, N.M. Rothschild & Sons. The security financed the rebuilding of Russia after Napolean's invasion. The award was presented at the annual Cadet Investment Club banquet by G. Haley Garrison '61 and his wife Hannelore. Also at the banquet, cadet Joseph R. Furtek '01 was presented the Robert H. Wentz Jr. '54 Award. The Cadet Investment Club consists of cadets who volunteer their free time to invest $200,000 of real money, given by the VMI Foundation, Inc., to gain experience in investment. The members of the club make all decisions about when to buy and sell. The results of the club's investments between September 1998 and April 1999 were a return of $45,000 which will be used to fund worthy projects at VMI.

Award winners flank B. Drummond Ayres, Jr. '57 at the April 19th Publications Award banquet. Ayres, a national correspondent for the ***New York Times****, was the guest speaker. (l-r) Ben Kincaid, editor in chief, received the James L. Morrison Award; David N. Hunt received the Col. John E. Townes '07 Award; Corey Kearse, of the* ***Bomb*** *staff, Col. William Couper '04 Award; and Jack Hagel, news and features editor, won the David B. Jordan '93 Award.*

Dr. Harvey Sadow '44 (right), past-president of the VMI Board of Visitors and recipient of the VMI Foundation's 1998 Distinguished Service Award, speaks to the Corps of Cadets in Jackson Memorial Hall. Seated are VMI Superintendent, Major General Josiah Bunting III (left) and Dr. James L. Adams '71, executive vice president of the VMI Foundation, Inc.

Women

Continued from page 4

Distinguished Graduate. She hopes to attend dental school, become a United States citizen, and serve with the fleet in the U.S. Navy."

Graham, who lives in Burleson, Texas, attended her father's alma mater, New Mexico Military Institute. "While I was at NMMI, Col. Bissell, Lt. Col. Reddings and several cadet leaders came to New Mexico as part of their assimilation studies. I was so impressed by them individually and institutionally for the highly organized manner in which they were approaching their assimilation efforts, I decided to apply to VMI.

"I came for a visit, and I was sold. Not only was the post beautiful, but I grew even more impressed with VMI's assimilation efforts. I'm glad I made the decision to attend VMI. VMI has taught me to keep trying and persevering no matter what, and that is an ethic that has served and will serve me well."

Both are psychology majors. Of them, Capt. William G. Hughes, professor and head of the Psychology and Philosophy Department, said, "Both are quite bright. They have both worked extremely hard and take their commitment to VMI quite seriously. They have done well not only in class, but they have also participated fully in the life of the Corps."

Graham, who will also be a distinguished graduate, was a member of VMI's first women's cross country team. Brig. Gen. Michael L. Bozeman, USAR, head track and cross country coach said, "Cadet Graham was quite helpful in our ability to field a full cross country team the first year and expand to track and field in the second. She was an inspiration due to her work ethic and competitive desire and was a member of the mile relay teams that scored in both the indoor and outdoor Southern Conference meets."

Graham, who received her Army commission as a 2nd Lt. when she graduated from NMMI, will report in October for Officer Basic Course for Field Artillery. After completing her commitment, she aspires to attend graduate school and pursue a career in family counseling.

Honor Society Inductions

Numerous members of the VMI Corps of Cadets have been selected to honor societies this spring. The new inductees are:

The Zeta Chapter of the international economics honor society, Omicron Delta Epsilon: Claxton T. Fallen '99, Jason D. Fletcher '99, Dylan S. Williams '99, Michael P. Wilson '99, Ian P. Doyle '00, Michael P. Goldman '00, Scott C. Hillyer '00, Phillip D. Hopkins, Jr. '00, William W. Huffman, III '00, Jason S. Miller '00, Nathaniel W. T. Rhodes '00, James G. Sheldon '00, and James R. Wallace '00.

VMI's chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the international honor society in English: W. Benjamin Kincaid '99, Isaac D. Moore '99, Daniel A. Alvarez '00 and Delton G. Lowery '00.

Pi Delta Phi, national honor society in French: Brett L. Carter '01, Odudu E. Ekpoudum '00, Mark J. Jamouneau '00, Timothy M. Joyce '00, Kelly R. Underwood '00, William T. Warthen '00, and Bradford A. Wineman '99.

Delta Phi Alpha, the national honor society in German: Charles O. Fleet '99 and Lt. Andrea E. Nagy (hungarian exchange student).

Sigma Delta Pi, the national honor society in Spanish: James W. Burns III '00, John P. Garneski '99, Craig A. Giorgis '00, Timothy M. Joyce '00, Colin P. Mahle '00, Matthew T. Milburn '00, Jeremy R. Obenchain '99, Richard H. Robinson II '99, and David S. Thompkins '99.

Wilkinson awarded Fulbright Professorship

Colonel Mark Wilkinson, Professor of History, has been awarded a Fulbright professorship as a visiting professor at Lanzhou University in central China for the spring 2000 semester. Wilkinson will teach U.S. history, history of U.S. foreign relations, and Sino-American relations. Lanzhou University, an engineering school located in Lanzhou, Gansu province, is a remote but growing industrial center.

Fulbright awards allow recognized scholars to pursue research and teaching opportunities in foreign countries. Competition is keen for the awards, of which approximately 700 are awarded annually to recipients in over 100 countries. Wilkinson, whose academic specialties include recent Chinese history and Sino-American relations, will use the opportunity to broaden his knowledge of Chinese culture and history and improve his Chinese language skills.

Promotions

Two VMI staff members were recently promoted by Major General Josiah Bunting III during ceremonies in Neikirk Hall. Lt. Col. Timothy P. Golden, Director of Financial Aid, was promoted to colonel. Maj. Betty Jane Teichman, Counselor to the Corps of Cadets, was promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel.

VMI engineers have been busy this semester. Above, a cadet demonstrates a digital scope camera designed and built by a team of cadets from the mechanical and electrical engineering departments. The camera is able to capture images seen through the scope without interfering with the operation of the scope itself. Mechanical engineering cadets also designed a working gas turbine engine—similar to a jet engine—and designed and built a machine to cut foam "chaplets" (spacers) for local industry. VMI's engineering departments are able to offer their cadets numerous internship/externship opportunities where they are able to put their engineering education to practical use with local industries.

Electrical Engineering holds Awards Ceremony

The Department of Electrical Engineering (EE) held its annual Awards Ceremony on April 20. Seven cadets received awards including: Stephen R. Lucas (first standing first classman in EE), the Stewart W. Anderson '08 Memorial Award; Christopher J. Lowrance (first standing second classman EE), Maj. Gen. Richard C. Coupland '15 Electrical Engineering Award; Visun Chanarat (first standing third classman EE), Maj. Gen. Richard C. Coupland '15 Electrical Engineering Award; Caleb A. Sylvester (first standing fourth classman EE); Sidney M. Toland II, most improved; Wen-Jeng Huang, faculty award; Matthew R. Brooks, IEEE student section scholarship; Filip E. Heist and Carl S. Trask, outstanding engineering design. Also at the ceremony, Col. Gabriel Balazs, head and professor of electrical engineering, was presented a plaque in honor of his long-time service to the VMI community. William W. Berry '54, former president of the VMI Board of Visitors spoke at the ceremony.

Cadets attend American Physical Society meeting

Six VMI cadets attended the centennial meeting of the American Physical Society (APS) held in Atlanta, Ga., March 19-24. As a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the American Physical Society, many of the annual meetings of subgroups in physics were combined into one very large conference. Over 11,000 people registered for the event.

Cadets attending were Kevin Ryan '99, Janchaysang Suwatwong '99, Sean Stockwell '99, Erin Claunch '01, Kendra Russell '01 and Chris Tyree '01. The cadets were accompanied by Major William W. McNairy, assistant professor of physics, They attended three days of talks and presentations covering every area related to physics. Forty-two concurrent meetings were held during the morning and afternoon sessions.

Special exhibits included a photography exhibit to honor APS Novel Laureateates and an exhibit displaying images and momentos from APS detailing its history as an organization. Cadet Suwatwong and Major McNairy attended a special course in Surface Physics techniques that complements the ongoing research efforts in Scanning Tunneling Microscopy of surfaces.

Cadet Suwatwong spoke on his senior research project on STM studies of iron-doped layered materials and Maj. McNairy discussed the use of computer-interfaced sensors to measure the speed of sound in metal rods.

The highlight of the meeting was a lecture by Dr. Stephen Hawking on "The Universe in a Nutshell." Dr. Hawking has been acclaimed as the most brilliant physicist of the 20th century. He was presented the 1999 Lilienfeld Prize by the APS in recognition of his efforts to convey physics to the general public.

Construction continues on Scott Shipp Hall.

ROTC Corner

AFROTC Cadets Enjoy "Fun in the Sun" in San Antonio

During this year's Spring Field Training Exercise (FTX), AFROTC cadets in the 880th Cadet Wing traveled to San Antonio, Texas to learn about Air Force career opportunities and enjoy some fun in the sun. Sixty-six AFROTC cadets flew round-trip from Roanoke to Kelly AFB, Texas on a C-130 Hercules airlifter, courtesy of the South Carolina Air Guard.

Upon their arrival, cadets quickly took advantage of the beautiful Texas weather, touring the Alamo, the Riverwalk, and Fiesta Texas (a large amusement park). The next day, cadets split up into four different groups to explore a variety of Air Force career fields and facilities. Group one went to the Security Forces Academy where they fired the Firearms Training Simulator and learned about Security Forces training. Group two went to the San Antonio Air Logistics Center, the largest engine repair and development plant in the world, where they learned about the industrial side of military logistics. Group three visited the Human Resources Center where the Air Force conducts G-force/disorientation training using a centrifuge chamber (several cadets were allowed to give it a try). Group four went to the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence where they learned about environmental engineering. Junior officers from multiple engineering disciplines provided groups of cadets (1 officer per 2 cadets) with personal tours of the facility.

Army ROTC sponsors JROTC visit

VMI's Army ROTC detachment sponsored a visit by the Fisburne Military Academy on Saturday, 13 April. The Fisburne cadets were trained by 30 Army ROTC cadets in 4 round-robin events. All Fishburne cadets must be in JROTC as part of the requirements for attending school. The events, which served to reinforce their JROTC training, consisted of terrain association, land navigation, completing a rope bridge and the VMI obstacle course. The VMI cadets were the primary instructors and organizers for the event.

VMI cadets from Army ROTC's Ranger Company spent three days at Ft. Bragg, N.C. The cadets were given tours of the Special Operations Training facility and the 82nd Airborne Museum, went rapelling off of a 90 foot tower and watched units rig their equipment for a heavy drop. They were met by Maj. John Pitcock '86 who just left VMI after a three-year tour in the ROTC detachment and Maj. Bill Tiertechny '87 who will join the detachment this summer.

Lowrance receives Phi Eta Sigma scholarship

Christopher J. Lowrance '00, an electrical engineering major, is the winner of a $1,000 scholarship from Phi Eta Sigma. The award is to be used for full-time undergraduate study during the 1999-2000 school year. The award is part of $115,000 in awards the society will present this year to eighty-three outstanding members for graduate or undergraduate study.

The James A. Anderson '13 Chapter of Phi Eta Sigma was established at VMI in 1998. As a national and scholastic honor society for freshman, Phi Eta Sigma encourages and rewards high scholastic attainment in institutions of higher learning. Induction is based upon achievement of a 3.5 GPA or better during the first semester of the freshman year at VMI.

Potpourri

❖ *The Vietnam War: An Encyclopedia*, written by **Col. Spencer C. Tucker**, which was published last year has received three book awards: Booklist Editors' Choice - for reference; Library Journal — best reference; and Independent Publishers' Book Award — reference. Col. Tucker was in Hungary in April and gave three lectures on the Vietnam War at Hungary's National Defense University. He was also interviewed on parallels between the fighting in Hungary and the Vietnam War by a local newspaper and television station during a visit to the Air Officer Training Institute at Szolnok.

❖ The VMI Chapter of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), hosted the annual Region IV Student Conference at VMI in March. Students and faculty advisors from the fifteen engineering schools that make up the Region IV, came to the conference to compete in a number of contests. Students competed in oral presentation, poster competition, and student design. Cadet **Andrew L. Harrison '02**, who competed in the oral presentation, received an honorable mention and second classmen **David Whetstone, Andrew Pelton, and Jacob Bilthuis** competed in the design contest.

❖ Cadets **Daniel E. Boyers '00, Campbell C. Kane '01, Kevin A. Ryan '01, and Charles C. Dekeyser** '02 competed in a marathon with the VMI Marathon Club in Charlotte, N.C. Cadet Boyers placed first in the male 20-24 age group. Also competing were **Colonel Francis H. Bush**, professor of economics and business, and Chris Wells '96 (placed second in 20-24 age group).

❖ **Lt. Col. Zhicheng Zhang**, associate director of institutional research, and **Col. Stephen Richarde**, director of institutional research, co-wrote a paper entitled "Freshman Academic Achievement: A Structural Equation Model." Lt. Col. Zhang presented the paper at the annual conference of the American Educational Research Association held in Montreal, April 21-26.

❖ Emeritus professors of physics, **Cols. D. Rae Carpenter and Richard B. Minnix** will teach a three-day course in physics lecture demonstrations in July. This marks the second consecutive year the two have taught this course at VMI.

❖ **Lt. Col. Rose Mary Sheldon**, associate professor of history, hosted the sixth Military and Naval History Forum in Lancaster, Pa. on April 17.

❖ On April 22, **Col. E. Burwell Wingfield**, professor of biology, hosted the Area One meeting of the Virginia Association of Conservation Districts at VMI. Membership of Area One of the association includes Natural Bridge, Shenandoah Valley, Lord Fairfax, Mountain Headwaters, and Mountain Castles Districts of the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Virginia, a 13 county representation. The meetings coincided with the Environment Virginia Symposium so participants could attend the afternoon sessions of the annual conference.

❖ Cadet **Charles F. Bryan III '00** , computer science major, presented a research paper at the 37th Annual Southeast Conference of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) which was held at Mobile, Alabama on April 15-18, 1999. The title of the paper was *"Design and Implementation of a Supervisory Software for Intelligent Robot."* He was recognized as one of the four finalists for the best student research paper and presentation among many graduate and undergraduate research papers from approximately 20 universities and colleges including Clemson University, University of Alabama, and Georgia Institute of Technology. The other three finalist papers were graduate research papers. Cadet Bryan's paper was a product of summer research work from the Intelligent Automation Group at VMI, supervised by **Lt. Col. Maung M. Htay**, associate professor of mathematics and computer science. Cadet **Cameron K. Tabor II '99**, a computer science major, also submitted a research paper to the conference. His paper was a result of an independent study course supervised by Lt. Col. Htay. The paper, entitled "Parallelizing the Process of Rendering 3D Animations on the Internet Using Java," was accepted and published in the conference proceedings.

❖ A book written by **Colonel Gordon V. Ball, Jr.**, professor of English, has been published. The book, entitled "'66 FRAMES: A Memoir" was published in April by Coffee House, the 288-page book is a recollection of the author's first year in New York.

❖ **Dr. Eric Thompson**, instructor of history and international studies major **Matt Irving '99** led a group of 8 other VMI cadets to the National Model Arab League in Washington, D.C., April 7-10. The VMI delegation represented the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.) during the conference, which included delegations from the Air Force Academy, the University of Pennsylvania, Miami University, and 13 other colleges. While there, the cadets also had the opportunity to tour the U.A.E. embassy and receive a briefing from an embassy official.

❖ The VMI admissions poster was recently selected as a 1998 Admissions Advertising Awards merit winner by the Admissions Marketing Report in their 14th annual competition.

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE
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LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA 24450-0304

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUMMER SCHEDULE 1999

First Five-Week Term ..... May 19—June 19

Registration ..... May 19
Classes begin ..... May 20
Last day for late registration ..... May 21
Last day to drop or add courses ..... May 21
Examinations ..... June 18—19

Second Five-Week Term ..... June 22—July 24

Registration ..... June 22
Classes begin ..... June 23
Last day for late registration ..... June 24
Last day to drop or add courses ..... June 24
No Classes ..... July 5
Examinations ..... July 23—24

FALL SEMESTER 1999

New Cadets matriculate
(9 a.m. — 2 p.m. — must report by noon) ..... Mon, 16 Aug
Old cadets return (by 10 p.m.) ..... Sun, 22 Aug
Registration (8 a.m. — Noon) ..... Mon, 23 Aug
Classes begin for all cadets (8 a.m.) ..... Tue, 24 Aug
Last day for curriculum and course changes ..... Mon, 30 Aug
Fall FTX ..... Fri - Sun, 8-10 Oct
Parents Weekend ..... Fri - Sun, 15-17 Oct
Fall Break begins (CMD) ..... Fri, 29 Oct
Fall Break ends, (by 10 p.m.) ..... Mon, 1 Nov
Ring Figure Weekend ..... Fri - Sat, 5-6 Nov
Founders Day (no classes) ..... Thu, 11 Nov
Thanksgiving furlough begins (CAD) ..... Fri, 19 Nov
Cadets return from furlough (by 10 p.m.) ..... Sun, 28 Nov
Classes end ..... Wed, 8 Dec
Reading Day ..... Thu, 9 Dec
First semester examinations begin ..... Fri, 10 Dec
Christmas furlough begins
(after last scheduled exam, or CAD on Friday) ..... Sat, 17 Dec