2013 Handbook

Updated 7/10/13

School of Performing Arts
247 Henderson Hall, 195 Alumni Mall (0141)
Blacksburg, VA 24061

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2013 Leadership

Officers
  Executive Officer: Katie Plummer
  Personnel Officer: Ashley Adkins
  Librarians: Rachel Felix & Sarah Frame
  Services Officer: Liam Dillon
  Instrument Supply Officer: Cailin Clinton
  Operations Officers: Lucas Carver & Andrew Van Horn
  Treasurer: Matt Bollinger
  Public Relations Officer: Brianna Corleto

Drum Majors
  Gwen Elwood & Ben Tutko

Flag Leadership
  Captain: Emily Mounce
  Co-Captain: Tess Miller
  Rank Captains: Corinne Mayer & Grace Wilde

Section Leaders
  Piccolo: Olivia Stansbury
  Clarinet: Amberly Westermeyer
  Saxophone: Chris Conley & Ben Lawson
  Trumpet: Kevin Cheatham & Jeff Dera
  Horn: Sophie Tenaglia
  Trombone: Caleb Copeland
  Baritone: Ben Slaughter
  Tuba: Jack DiTrapani
  Percussion: Cole Edwards & James Morrison

Rank Captains
  Piccolo: Hayley Flynn, Catherine Morgan, Stephanie Such, & Jenni Sweet
  Clarinet: Sara Clark, Shelby Coleman, Corinne Tsapatsaris, & Jenny Wertheim
  Saxophone: Aaron Burns, Elliot George, Mitchell Long, & Chris Millehan
  Trumpet: Jules Clayton, Ben Heithoff, Trace Laux, Erin Palmer, Ryan Stewart, Rachel White, & Dan Wilson
  Horn: Daniel Critchfield, Katie Rockefeller, & Lee Sullivan
  Trombone: Chris McDonough, Tim Smart, Mallory White, & Ashley Young
  Baritone: Kyle Parker & JC McNally
  Tuba: Joe Millson & Suzana Pratt
  Percussion: Ryan McNamee– Snare, Ryan Whitcomb – Tenors, Matt Pangle – Bass,
               Matt Tucker – Cymbals, & Wonjae Kim – Mallets
  Feature Twirler: Kaytlyn Schmitt
  Head Manager: Nik Dimitry
**The Student Staff**

All members of the student staff are required to attend a weekly meeting, along with members of field leadership, to discuss the following week's show and aid in decision-making for the band.

**Executive Officer**

The executive officer is elected by a majority of voting band members early in the spring semester. Just as the drum major is responsible for the band on the field, the executive officer is responsible for the band off the field. Although each executive officer creates a personal style of management, six primary responsibilities must be addressed:

- Appointing officers for his/her executive term
- Supervising the work of all officers
- Presiding over all officers' meetings
- Acting as a liaison between the director and the band
- Serving as the official representative of the Marching Virginians
- Serving as a non-voting member of the Marching Virginians Alumni Association

**Personnel Officer**

The personnel officer is responsible for the organization and maintenance of student records. The personnel officer has five primary responsibilities:

- Providing the director with attendance records
- Implementing an effective attendance-recording system with the rank captains
- Operating and maintaining the University Bands' personnel database
- Coordinating band camp housing with the Office of Housing and Residence Life
- Providing mailing labels, dormitory rosters, and phone lists for the band

**Librarians**

The librarians are in charge of the distribution and handling of all music. The librarians have four primary responsibilities:

- Duplicating and distributing all wind and percussion music
- Supplying replacement music as necessary
- Maintaining and updating the music library inventory
- Maintaining the supply of music, flip folders, etc.

**Services Officer**

The services officer is charged with responsibilities essential for the daily operation of the band. The services officer has five primary responsibilities:

- Establishing and maintaining an active services committee
- Coordinating uniform issue/return with the University Tailor Shop
- Duplicating and/or collating drill charts, mailings, etc.
- Maintaining a schedule for committee members to assist in the band office
- Assisting with band camp registration
**Instrument Supply Officer**

The instrument supply officer is responsible for the distribution and inventory of university-owned equipment. The supply officer has six primary responsibilities:

- Maintaining and updating the inventory records of university-owned instruments
- Maintaining records of instrument issue/return
- Repairing equipment as approved by the director or transporting it to a repair shop
- Coordinating percussion inventory with the percussion section leader
- Supervising and assisting the loading/unloading of equipment in/out of storage
- Supervising the use of storage facilities by band members

**Operations Officers**

The operations officers are responsible for the transportation and setup of band equipment/props prior to all rehearsals and performances. The operations officers have five primary responsibilities:

- Providing timely transportation of university-owned instruments and equipment
- Maintaining and setting up field equipment, such as the public address system, podiums, and yard markers
- Supervising and assisting in loading/unloading of equipment in/out of storage
- Organizing and Supervising the packing of luggage and equipment on buses
- Overseeing the managers and their activities

**Treasurer**

The treasurer is responsible for student band funds. The treasurer has four primary responsibilities:

- Maintaining an effective management system for the timely acceptance and dispersal of funds
- Maintaining accurate records of receipts and expenditures
- Coordinating the activities and operation of band camp registration
- Collecting fees during band camp registration

**Public Relations Officer**

The public relations officer is responsible for the band's publicity and public relations tasks. The public relations officer has six primary responsibilities:

- Coordinating publicity related to special activities
- Writing original scripts for all field performances
- Writing, assembling, and distributing weekly press books
- Issuing press releases as necessary
- Coordinating the distribution of University Bands' publicity materials
- Serving as band historian by maintaining records and memorabilia of yearly activities
Field Leadership

All members of field leadership are required to attend a weekly meeting, along with members of the student staff, to discuss the following week's show and aid in decision-making for the band.

Drum Majors
The drum majors audition in the spring and are selected by the student staff and a panel of faculty advisors. They are responsible for the execution of rehearsals and performances. The drum majors are both field commanders and field conductors, and it is their responsibility to maintain discipline and order on the field. They must have a thorough understanding of the music and drill for each show and be able to assist those who need help. The drum majors serve as a liaison between the director, rank captains, and section leaders. They serve as officers on the executive staff and annually revise the band handbook.

Flag Leadership
The flag captain, co-captain, and rank captains present a creative audition in the spring and are selected by the student staff and a panel of faculty advisors. They must have above-average marching, flag, and communication skills. The captain and co-captain supervise the entire corps; their major responsibility is to write and teach flag routines. The rank captains' responsibilities are similar to those for the instrumental rank captains.

Section Leaders
Section leaders are chosen by the band director on the basis of proven leadership and excellent musical performance. Section leaders rehearse difficult musical passages and work on section posture, breathing, quality sound production, and tuning. The section leader is responsible for musicianship.

Rank Captains
Rank captains are chosen by the band director on the basis of proven leadership and marching ability. They serve as a liaison between the director, drum majors, and band members. Rank captains are the primary instructors of marching fundamentals and drill. They are required to mark drill charts and teach drill to the members of their ranks. Rank captains are responsible for maintaining discipline and order within their rank. In addition, rank captains must present the personnel officer with a daily attendance record. Prior to all performances, rank captains must inspect each uniform.

Feature Twirlers
Feature twirlers are selected each year through an audition process. The primary criteria for selection as feature twirler are creative and interpretive performance. See the director for further information and audition requirements.
Other Personnel

Graduate Teaching Assistants
Graduate teaching assistants work primarily with drill design and instruction. They may elect to write a complete show. In addition, graduate teaching assistants handle administrative tasks for the band.

Senior Staff
Senior staff members are senior-level music education students who are planning a career in secondary school music education. Participation in senior staff gives students an excellent hands-on experience with the musical and administrative tasks involved in music education.

Band Managers
Band managers attend rehearsals throughout the season to ensure that all equipment used by the Marching Virginians is where it needs to be, when it needs to be there. These tasks are vital and contribute to the overall success of the program. A thorough job description is available from the band director or the head manager.
Marching Style

The Marching Virginians, like many large university show bands, use a variety of marching styles depending upon the demands of the music and drill. It is critical to remember that uniformity is the goal. The majority of commands are given by whistle; however, verbal commands are used for teaching purposes. Please see page 11 for a list of commands.

![Whistle command for attention]

The whistle command for attention.

Attention
The position of attention is the most basic marching fundamental. Body carriage, the most important aspect of marching, should be identical throughout the band. See the instrument carriage section (p. 11-12) or your rank captain for further instructions.

Playing Position
Good instrument carriage is critical; it will improve your playing performance as well as body carriage. See the instrument carriage section (p. 11-12) or your rank captain for further instructions.

Parade Rest
Parade rest gives the band a way to relax and still look uniform. Unless instructed otherwise, fall in at parade rest prior to all rehearsals and performances. See the instrument carriage section (p. 11-12) or your rank captain for further instructions.

Attention from Parade Rest
This command is given in conjunction with a whistle. On the second short whistle, raise your instrument, head, and left leg as in a high mark time (see p. 9). On the first beat after the whistle, bring your left foot to the position of attention and return your instrument and head to their normal position. The entire band shouts the response "HO!" as the left foot hits the ground.

Parade Rest from Attention
When at attention, a long whistle is blown (with no visual from the drum major) to signal the fall-out from attention to parade rest. NOTE: This is not a “break” but rather a “transition” to a more relaxed position (see Parade Rest).

Fall In/Dismissal
One long whistle blow, along with a visual from the drum major, is the signal to fall in (assume the proper position on the field at parade rest) or for dismissal (clear the field).
Special Terminology

The following descriptions will aid in your reading and understanding of the drill charts used by the Marching Virginians. See the sample drill chart on the following page for labels.

- **Home** is the bottom of the drill chart. In Lane Stadium, *home* is the press box side and *away* is the student side of the field.
- **Inboard Turns** are executed by turning *toward* the 50-yard line.
- **Outboard Turns** are executed by turning *away* from the 50-yard line.
- **Step Intervals** are the number of steps between each band member.
- **A Rank** is a field unit that marches together. Each rank includes eight members. To allow for maximum participation and to provide for substitutes and other considerations, many ranks will include a ninth member. It is the responsibility of each rank captain to provide all members with equal performance opportunities. In most cases, ranks will be divided into two four-member squads.
- **Hash Marks** are lines on the field that divide it into three segments. There are 32 steps between the hash marks and the sidelines and 20 steps between the two hash marks.
  
  **Representation:**
  - *Regulation Field* - hash marks appear as dashes across each yard line.
  - *MV Field* - hash marks appear as two solid lines that run the length of the field.
  - *Drill Charts* - hash marks appear as dashes across each yard line.

- **Tick Marks** are a teaching aid on the Marching Virginians' field. Ticks divide the field into increments of five yard (eight step) widths.
  
  **Representation:**
  - *MV Practice Field* - tick marks appear as dashes every five yards lengthwise.
  - *Drill Charts* - tick marks appear as solid lines every five yards lengthwise.
Marching Fundamentals

It is important to remember that motion occurs below the waist in all marching maneuvers. Uniformity is the critical issue. The following are marching maneuvers commonly used by the Marching Virginians.

High Mark Time
Alternating legs, raise your leg so your ankle lands just below the knee on the opposite leg. Your foot/toes should be pointed straight toward the ground while in the raised position. Movement above the waist should be at a minimum.

Low Mark Time
Alternating feet, keeping your toes planted to the ground, lift your heels to your ankle. Body motion should be kept below the waist.

Glide Step
This step is also known as a "roll step" and is used for smooth, fluid motion in drill. With every step, your foot should roll from heel-to-toe and your weight should shift from the stationary foot to your extended foot. Body motion should be kept below the waist. In an 8-to-5 step, the distance between heel to heel should be 22.5 inches, but this distance will change when using an adjusted step*.

Power Step
Raise your left leg as in a high mark time and move forward, bringing your feet down in a toe-to-heel manner. As you move, your ankle should pass your knee on the “and” of the beat. Your ankle should remain relaxed, and your toes should not be pointed. The power step is generally used in an 8-to-5 or 16-to-5 step when a strong musical and visual impact is appropriate.

Watch While Playing
Both on and off the field, music should be positioned so it can be seen easily and comfortably. While reading the music carefully is vital during play, watching the drum majors is also crucial. The more comfortable with the music you are, the more often you should attempt to look up to watch the drum major and ensure that you are in tempo with the rest of the band.

*NOTE: A 6-to-5 step means it takes six steps to go five yards; an 8-to-5 step means it takes eight steps to go five yards; etc. In most cases, the Marching Virginians use an adjusted step, meaning you will decrease or increase your step size to fit the number of counts in a particular movement. Movements of this nature are called floats because the form “floats” to the next picture or set. In a float, it is imperative that you guide to your left and right, remaining equidistant from the band member on either side of you.
## Marching Commands

The following is a basic list of commands the Marching Virginians use for fundamentals:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Command Name</th>
<th>Vocal/Whistle Call</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parade Rest</td>
<td>Long whistle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attention</td>
<td>Whistle call (refer to “Marching Style” section on p.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Run-on to field</td>
<td>Long whistle and arm motion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instruments Up</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Time (Low or High)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarter Turn (Left or Right)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half Turn (Left or Right)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forward March (8-to-5 step)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backward March (16-to-5 step)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power Step (8-to-5 step)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dress (Left, Center, or Right)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flank (Left, Right, or To-The Rear)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slide (Left or Right)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oblique (Left or Right)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Instrument Carriage**

The following section describes specific instrument carriages at attention, playing position, and parade rest.

**Piccolo**

**Attention:** Cradle the piccolo in your right arm parallel to the ground with the hole in the mouthpiece facing down. Grip the instrument with your right hand and hang your left arm down at your side with your fingers together and relaxed.

**Playing Position:** The piccolo playing position is the same as in concert playing. Try to keep the instrument parallel to the ground.

**Parade Rest:** Position the instrument the same as you would for attention. Make your left hand into a fist, and place it in the small of your back. Turn your head downward.

**Clarinet**

**Attention:** Hold the clarinet in your right hand and parallel to your body with the mouthpiece at nose level.

**Playing Position:** The clarinet playing position is the same as in concert playing. The only difference is that you are standing. The angle of the horn should not be too close to the body or too far away from it.

**Parade Rest:** Hold the instrument in your right hand at a slight angle with the bell lightly touching the back edge of your knee. Make your left hand into a fist, and place it in the small of your back. Turn your head downward.

**Saxophone**

**Attention:** Hold the saxophone parallel to the ground under your right arm. Curve the fingers of your right hand into the side of the bell, and let your left arm hang at your side with the fingers in a fist. Tenor saxophone positions may vary slightly; your rank captain will inform you of any changes.

**Playing Position:** Hold the saxophone directly in front of you and perpendicular to the ground.

**Parade Rest:** Position the instrument the same as you would for attention. Make your left hand into a fist, and place it in the small of your back. Turn your head downward.

**Trumpet**

**Attention:** Hold the trumpet in your right hand as in concert position. Bend your right arm in at a right angle with your elbow next to your body. Hold the instrument perpendicular to the ground. Hang your left arm down at your side with your fingers together and relaxed.

**Playing Position:** Hold the trumpet at a 20° angle above parallel. The hand position is the same as that used in normal concert playing.

**Parade Rest:** Hold the instrument with your right hand in concert position. Rest the bell lightly against the back edge of your knee. Make your left hand into a fist, and place it in the small of your back. Turn your head downward.
Horn

**Attention:** Hold the horn in front of you so that the flat edge of the bell is parallel to the ground. Hold the mouthpiece at nose level, and put your hands in concert position.

**Playing Position:** Hold the horn at a 20° angle above parallel. The hand position is the same as that used in normal concert playing.

**Parade Rest:** Hold the instrument with your right hand in concert position with the bell resting slightly against the back edge of your knee. Make your left hand into a fist, and place it in the small of your back. Turn your head downward.

Trombone

**Attention:** Hold the trombone parallel to your body and perpendicular to the ground. Place your hands at chest level. The hand positions are the same as in concert playing in first position.

**Playing Position:** Hold the trombone at a 20° angle above parallel. The hand positions are the same as normal concert positions.

**Parade Rest:** Hold the trombone in your right hand, securing the slide with your fourth finger. Bend your right arm in at a 90° angle so that the slide slightly crosses in front of your left knee. Make your left hand into a fist, and place it in the small of your back. Turn your head downward.

Baritone

**Attention:** Hold the baritone in front of you perpendicular to the ground. The bell should face downward. Your hands should wrap around the valves.

**Playing Position:** Hold the baritone in front of you with the mouthpiece to your mouth and the bell facing outward. The proper horn angle is slightly above parallel.

**Parade Rest:** See your rank captain.

Tuba

**Attention:** Use your left hand to support the largest tube section near your shoulder; adjust for your flip folder. Put your right hand in concert position.

**Playing Position:** The playing position is the same as that for attention.

**Parade Rest:** Use your right hand to support the valve casing, and rest your left hand very low on your back (to help support the weight) with your hand in a fist. Turn your head downward.

Flags

**Attention (Order Arms):** Hold the flag slightly to your right, resting the flagpole beside your right toe. Grip the flag pole with your left arm and hold it at a horizontal in front of your face.

**Parade Rest:** Rest the flagpole beside your right toe with your feet spread shoulder-width apart. Bend your right arm behind your back, make your hand into a fist, and place it in the small of your back. Place your left hand about 8-12 inches from the top of the flag pole and hold it diagonally across your body. Your left arm should be completely bent, and your left hand should be gripping the pole in front of your left shoulder. Turn your head downward.

Percussion

See your rank captain.
Rules and Procedures

Attendance Policy

Class Conflicts
Band grades depend upon your attendance at rehearsals and performances. There are no excused absences except when a conflict occurs with another class or lab. If a class or lab conflicts with band (and the class is a required course that must be taken in sequence), band may be force-added into your schedule with the approval of the directors. You must submit a copy of your class schedule to your rank captain during the first week of classes in order to be excused from band.

Absences
The directors realize that an occasional rehearsal may be missed for reasons such as sickness, death in the family, academic difficulty, religious holiday, etc. Each band member has three free absences which they may use at their discretion. The fourth absence lowers your band grade by one letter. Additional absences will lower your grade one letter. A missed performance will lower your grade one letter. Being tardy or leaving early is considered one half absence, provided that no more than 45 minutes of a rehearsal are missed. Therefore, being tardy or leaving early twice will constitute one absence.

Absences on Friday afternoon or Saturday morning prior to a performance are not permitted.

If you will be absent for two or more days in a row, or need to be replaced in a show, please call the band office at 231-8497. We will notify your rank captain who will employ the rank's ninth member. Cases of extended illness may be given special consideration with respect to your grade.

If you have a question regarding rehearsals during inclement weather, please call 231-8497 after 4 p.m. or check the listserv!

Rules of Conduct

- Conduct yourself in a manner which will not bring discredit or embarrassment to the band or the university.
- Show respect and demonstrate sportsmanlike conduct to visiting teams and bands.
- Treat fellow band members with respect and friendship.
- Competition is encouraged, but not to the point of resentment or discourteous conduct.
- Carry out instructions from the directors, drum majors, officers, and rank captains without hesitation or disrespectful responses.
- Comply without hesitation when the full band makes a movement (e.g. stands, plays, marches, comes to attention, assembles, etc.)
- Do not play out of turn or "doodle" during performances or while in the stands.
- Handle band equipment with care. Abuse of equipment may result in a monetary fine or grade penalty.
- Abide by the university policies on alcohol abuse.
**Dress and Performance Procedure**

- Wear the full uniform at all times with no parts missing or improperly displayed. This includes walking to and from games.
- Keep your uniform clean and shoes polished. You will be inspected before each performance. If you have an unkempt uniform you do not march!
- Limit your amount of jewelry and accessories while in uniform.
- When appropriate, you may wear sunglasses during field performances.
- Wear your hat so that there is room for only two fingers between the hat brim and your nose.
- Do not smoke while in uniform.

**Equipment**

**Uniforms**
You are responsible for the care of your uniform while it is in your possession. You are required to return the uniform at the request of the director. Failure to do so will result in billing by the Tailor Shop and the withholding of your grades and/or transcripts.

**Tips on Uniform Care**
- Clean your hat, hat ornament, and spats with a damp cloth. Ammonia or Comet works well for cleaning spats.
- Never let your plume get wet. Shake your plume out before returning it to the managers.
- Wash your neck liner and gloves regularly (gloves may be purchased from Kappa Kappa Psi during band camp. You are expected to have gloves prior to the first performance).
- Brush your coat and pants after every game and dry clean them periodically. Store your uniform on a coat hanger.

**Instrument Use and Checkout**
The band provides all instruments on loan at no charge. You may obtain an instrument from the instrument supply officer, but you will need to supply your own mouthpiece. The band will assess fees for damage and delinquent equipment return at the end of the season.
Kappa Kappa Psi & Tau Beta Sigma
The National Honorary Band Fraternity and Sorority

Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma provide countless service and social activities that promote the existence and welfare of the University Bands program.

Kappa Kappa Psi
Kappa Kappa Psi operates as a student service and leadership organization whose chief aim is to assist the band’s director in developing the leadership and enthusiasm of the band. Kappa Kappa Psi's goals are to provide the band with service activities and offer their members experience in organization, leadership, and social contacts. The honorary nature of Kappa Kappa Psi membership is based on their promise that it is an honor to be selected to serve the band.

The Eta Beta Chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi at Virginia Tech was chartered in the spring of 1976 and has assumed several responsibilities and activities in view of its national goal. Such activities include stage setups for performing groups, upkeep of the rehearsal field, band parties, and publicity for band functions. Eta Beta continually seeks outstanding bandsmen to pledge their fraternity.

Membership in Kappa Kappa Psi is educational, social, and service-oriented. It is this kind of activity that enriches your life and sharpens your appreciation for the best music. The Brothers of Eta Beta wish all of you a prosperous season with the band and cordially invite your participation in their continued effort to build a better band.

Tau Beta Sigma
Tau Beta Sigma serves as a direct link between the music department and the students and creates a respect and appreciation for their activities and achievements. It honors outstanding members of the band, develops leadership, and promotes achievement through the performance of good music and worthwhile projects.

The Zeta Omicron Chapter of Tau Beta Sigma at Virginia Tech was chartered in the spring of 1979 and assists the bands with many activities including concert ushering, the MV Amis program, and Band Parents' Day. The sorority is always eager to welcome new people.

Service in the bands is rewarded through Tau Beta Sigma for outstanding bandswomen. The Sisters of Tau Beta Sigma invite your participation in their continued effort to build a better band and wish you success in your academic endeavors. They hope you will have a memorable experience as a member of the Marching Virginians.
**Band Awards**

The following awards are presented at the Marching Virginian's Bandquet in January to recognize exemplary band members.

**Outstanding Rank Members**
Each rank votes for one recipient. The recipients are members who have demonstrated cooperation, outstanding musical performance, and leadership within their rank.

**Outstanding Spirit**
The full band votes for the band member who has demonstrated the most enthusiastic and beneficial attitude toward the Marching Virginians and Virginia Tech throughout the season.

**Outstanding Service**
The full band votes for the band member who has served the Marching Virginians selflessly throughout the season.

**Outstanding Bandsman**
The full band votes for the band member who has demonstrated the qualities of an outstanding Marching Virginian: spirit, enthusiasm, musical and marching excellence, service, and dedication.

**Outstanding Freshman**
The full band votes for the freshman who has best demonstrated all the qualities of an outstanding Marching Virginian: spirit, enthusiasm, musical and marching excellence, service, and dedication.

**Four-Year Mugs**
Four-year mugs are presented to those who have completed four seasons with the Marching Virginians.

**The Directors' Cup**
Initiated in 1981, the Directors' Cup honors student-musicians who make significant contributions to University Bands. There are three main criteria for the award:
- Participation in marching band for four consecutive semesters (in season)
- Participation in Symphony Band and/or Wind Ensemble for four consecutive semesters (in season)
- Embodiments of the qualities defined by this award: dedication, professionalism and musicianship

Recipients receive an engraved sterling Jefferson Cup, are honored at the University Symphony Band spring concert, and have their names affixed to a plaque.
The James R. Sochinski *Spirit of Tech* Award

The James R. Sochinski *Spirit of Tech* Award is a financial award given to a band member who has demonstrated outstanding citizenship and dedication during their career as a member of the Marching Virginians. Candidates for this non-renewable award must have participated in the Marching Virginians for at least four seasons and are required to complete an application process. The director and assistant director of the Marching Virginians review the applications and submit up to five finalists to the Marching Virginians Alumni Association Board of Directors for a final decision.
Virginia Tech Songs & Cheers

Tech Triumph
Composed by Wilfred P. Maddux & Mattie Eppes
Techmen, we're Techmen,
with spirits true and faithful
Backing up our teams with hope undying;
Techmen, Oh Techmen,
we're out to win today,
Showing pep and life
with which we're trying.
VP, old VP,
you know our hearts are with you
In our luck that never seems to die;
Win or lose, we'll greet you with a glad
returning - you're the pride of VPI!

Chorus:
Just watch our men so big and active,
Support the orange and maroon,
LET'S GO TECH!
We know our ends and backs are stronger,
With winning hopes we fear defeat no
longer
To see our team plow through the line, boys
Determined now to win or die
So give a Hokie, Hokie, Hokie, Hi!
Rae Rah, Old V-P-I!

Old Hokie
Written by O. M. Stull
Hokie, Hokie, Hokie, Hi!
Tech, Tech, VPI
Sol-a-Rex, Sol-a-Rah
Poly Tech Vir-gin-ia
Ray Rah VPI
Team! Team! Team!

Virginia Tech Alma Mater
Composed by E.T. Sparks & L.G. Chase
Verse:
Sing praise to Alma Mater dear,
For VPI we'll ever cheer;
Come lift your voices, swell the song,
Our loyalties to her belong.

Chorus:
So stand and sing, all hail to thee,
VT, all hail to thee.

Verse:
The Orange and Maroon you see,
That's fighting on to victory;
Our strife will not be long this day,
For glory lies within this fray.

Verse:
All loyal sons and daughters, one,
We raise our banner to the sun;
Our motto brings a spirit true,
That we may ever serve for you.

VPI Victory March (original)
Composed by C.D. Steinweddel
You have seen the Hoyas tumble,
You have made the Indians cry;
And you know the Army mule
Once took a kick at V.P.I.
Worthy teams from Lexington
Have fought with all their might;
And now it's time to show the world
That victory is ours tonight!

Break strain:
GO TECH!
GO TECH!
H-O-K-I-E-S, HOKIES!

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