

The VMI Alumni Association
2022 Cadet-Alumni
Career Networking Forum

December 10, 2022



The VMI Network
Alumni Panelist Bios & Career Resources

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Construction, Industrial & Manufacturing

Warren Groseclose '83 – CEO, Lawrence Companies

Warren is a 1983 Graduate of the Virginia Military Institute with a BA in Economics. After a brief 6 months as a Congressional intern, he entered the Army as an Armor Officer in Fort Knox, KY, was accepted into flight school and served a total of six and a half years on active duty. As an Army aviator, he was selected to be a company commander as a first lieutenant and accumulated over 800 hours of accident-free flying while serving in the Federal Republic of Germany prior to the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Warren started his “land” transportation career in 1990 with Tidewater Transit Company out of Kinston NC. He began in a general management position for the family-owned tank truck company when it had 76 trucks and he rose to become the Executive Vice President. Warren’s primary duties were in operations and sales that helped expand this family-run business from 3 terminal locations in NC to 14 terminals in 8 states and by 2005 they had grown to over 330 trucks. In addition to helping expand Tidewater Transit’s customer base, he also was awarded a patent while working on a customer project with Amoco Chemical in Naperville, Illinois. The patent, “Use of Inert Gas in Transfer of Commuted Product to Tank” totally changed Amoco’s distribution system for a dry bulk material used in the production for plastic resins. Warren then moved to Richmond, VA in 2005 to go to work for Atlantic Bulk Carrier Corporation (ABC) as their VP of Operations and Sales. He was with ABC for 13 years and helped grow their business from \$16 million to \$40 million in sales. In 2018 he accepted a position with Hillcrest Transportation as their COO. Hillcrest is another family-owned tank truck company out of Petersburg, VA and in 3 short years Warren expanded their business primarily from Virginia into Decatur, AL and Pensacola, FL establishing Hillcrest’s second largest customer, Ascend Performance Materials.

In 2021 Warren moved to Roanoke to work for Lawrence Companies and became their CEO in January of this year. Lawrence Companies started in 1932 in the moving and storage business and is the oldest United Van Lines agent in the country. Lawrence Companies is in its 90th year of operation and has grown to 8 business divisions with 9 locations in Virginia and North Carolina and has been 100% employee owned since 2004. Lawrence Companies additional businesses include truckload and flat bed freight, Case Construction Equipment, Roll Off Container Services, Custom Truck Upfitting, Warehousing and Logistics.

Warren has served on the National Tank Truck Carriers Finance Committee, served as Finance Committee Chairman for Queen Street UMC in Kinston, NC and Reveille UMC in Richmond, VA. He currently serves on the board of the Virginia Trucking Association and Lanford Brothers Construction. Warren is active in the Boys and Girls Club of SW Virginia and hosts the Highland County Mountain Adventure for this group on his 300 acre ranch on an annual basis.

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Garrett Hedges '94 – President, Mirka USA

Garrett Hedges is an accomplished senior executive with broad, hands-on commercial, financial, and operational experience in major corporate environments, specializing in building products, distribution, and manufacturing. He has extensive experience building high level relationships with decision makers and has the ability to execute a wide range of product development and sales strategies that establish market presence and drive profitable growth. He is currently the president of the US division of Mirka, a global leader in surface

finishing technology which offers a broad range of groundbreaking sanding solutions and industrial tools for surface finishing across a broad set of markets.

Garrett Hedges is the President of Mirka USA, a division of KWH group headquartered in Finland.

Before being named President, Garrett worked for Associated Materials, first as Vice President of Sales Operations, and then as Vice President and General Manager of the Purchased Products division. As a private equity owned company, Garrett worked closely with the board to turn around falling sales to growth in just 2 years, followed by partnering with investment bankers through the ownership and potential sale process.

Prior to joining Associated Materials, Garrett worked in various commercial marketing and sales leaderships roles in public companies and through private equity ownership with Milacron LLC, Apex Tool Group, and Illinois Tool Works (ITW).

Prior to joining ITW, Garrett worked for Honeywell International for 7 years, most recently as the APU product leader for the Honeywell Aerospace Division serving commercial and defense aircraft programs around the world. Garrett was a member of the Honeywell Pathways executive leadership program starting in the corporate finance division.

Garrett earned his MBA from The Raymond A. Mason School of Business at the College of William and Mary where he was a marketing teaching assistant and served as the elected President of the graduate school Honor Council. Garrett is a 1994 graduate of the Virginia Military Institute.

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John Krovic '77 – Former Senior Vice President, Human Resources, Skanska USA, Inc.

John Krovic is a former human resources executive with extensive experience leading college recruitment networks, including intern and new grad career placement. Most recently, Krovic served as senior vice president of human resources with Skanska, one of the world's leading construction and development companies. Prior to that, he was chief human resources officer for Kenan Advantage Group, North America's largest tank truck transporter and logistics provider. In these roles, he has shared his passion for people development with students, colleagues, and the public as a regular group instructor, facilitator, and presenter.

A former Human Resources Executive with extensive experience leading College Recruitment networks, including intern and new grad career placement.

John earned a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from VMI and an MBA from the University of Richmond, E. Claiborne Robins School of Business.

He has been inducted into the VMI Sports Hall of Fame and served two terms on the VMI Keydet Club Board of Governors. John currently lives in Virginia Beach.

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Bryce Valentine '91 – President and CEO, Imperial Holding, LLC

Bryce T. Valentine was born in Norfolk, Virginia, on 20 October 1965 and was raised in Norfolk and Virginia Beach. He spent his early elementary school years at St. Mary's Catholic, in Norfolk, before attending Cape Henry Collegiate, in Virginia Beach. Bryce then briefly attended New Mexico Military Institute, in Roswell, NM, where he played varsity tight end for the Bronco's and rode guide-on in their cavalry troop. After an equestrian accident that shattered his knee, Bryce returned home to recuperate in Virginia Beach, where he then graduated from First Colonial High School, in 1983.

In August 1983, Bryce began his Rat Year at the Virginia Military Institute with the Class of 1987. In 1984 he transferred to VPI, where he continued his studies in English and History. In August of 1987, Bryce began his Rat Year with the Class of 1991.

In 1991, Bryce went full-time at the groundbreaking leader in American Black-owned companies, founded in 1970 by his father, Herman E. Valentine, Sr.: Systems Management American Corporation ("SMA"). His father, a two-time Presidential awardee of the Minority Businessman of the Year, had led SMA to become a top-10 minority owned enterprise, with over 800 employees nationwide, headquartered in Norfolk, VA, in a building that was the largest real estate acquisition by a Black man in the history of the Commonwealth at the time his father had purchased it. SMA had focused on information technology systems integration and communications work, landing many major contracts with government entities such as the US Navy and Federal Aviation Administration as well as with major corporations such as Rockwell and IBM. The end users of SMA's expertise ranged from sailors aboard vessels in the Atlantic Fleet to astronauts aboard the Space Station Freedom.

By 1992, Bryce was serving as SMA's VP of Strategic Planning. That same year, he became the Director of the company's nascent Telecommunications Division ("SMA Telecom"), wherein he oversaw the strategic rollout of 800 MHz trunked radio systems across multiple state markets, with a variety of government clients (such as the City of Cleveland) and corporate partners (such as Motorola). SMA Telecom furthermore became an early player in the Phase I rollout of private sector CDMA and TDMA communications infrastructure, nationwide – working with companies such as Sprint, Ameritech and AT&T Wireless.

In 1995 Bryce married his wife of 27 years, Suzette Valentine (nee Martinez). Suzette is currently the Senior Vice President of Integration and Innovation for Molina Healthcare (NYSE: MOH). Their daughter and oldest child, Natalie, is a graduate of George Mason University and currently works for Congressman Bobbie Scott. Their eldest son, Joshua, will graduate from George Mason University in 2023 with plans for a career in social work. Their youngest child is Justin, who will receive his Associate Degree in 2023 and plans to complete a bachelor's degree at George Mason University.

Over the course of thirty years, Bryce has been passionately involved with local and regional theatrical productions. While excelling on-stage, he has acquired critical knowledge in many back-stage facets of theatre, ranging from performances, lighting, sound, set design and direction of original plays. Bryce has further utilized

this skill set to research and direct a series of Virginia history based short videos for release on streaming platforms in 2023.

In July of 2021 Bryce organized a Virginia LLC, named “Imperial Holding.” His ambitions for this business entity are three-fold.

Firstly, the firm is a commercial enterprise, providing program/project management services to private sector and government sector clients, primarily in the areas of wireless communications and wind-based energy infrastructures. In this arena, Bryce and his team bring both proven and winning skill sets, as well as the value-added component of being a federal, state and municipally registered disadvantaged-minority business.

The second leg of Imperial Holding, LLC is to be operated from a 501(c)(3) subsidiary with the intentions of establishing and operating a college/university-based STEM initiative to focus on training college students, career professionals and VMI alumni in the principles of construction engineering as they pertain to the renewable energy sector and telecommunications industry.

A third leg is planned to produce history-based film and audio content, made via partnerships with federal, state, and municipal entities (such as the National Park Service and the Virginia Governor’s Office), as well as colleges and universities (such as the Virginia Military Institute). We will also look to introduce positive and affirming media content, seeking to highlight select stories and biographies from American history. A handful of such projects are already in pre-production.

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Government/Govt. Contracting

Andrew Bradshaw '17 – Intelligence Analyst, BAE Systems

After graduation, Andrew Bradshaw moved to Alexandria, Virginia, and began working as a contractor for the Department of the Navy. Shortly after, he began working on a master’s program with Norwich University and graduated with a master’s degree in public administration. After his time with the Department of Defense, he began working for CACI as a background investigator for security clearances before transitioning to his current position with BAE Systems as a contractor with a Department of Justice entity supporting a 24/7 mission in the northern Virginia area.

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Lt. Col. Quintin Elliot, VAANG (Ret.) '85 – Former Chief Deputy Commissioner, Virginia Department of Transportation

Quintin D. Elliott was appointed Deputy Secretary of Transportation by the Governor of Virginia in January 2018. The Secretariat is responsible for the oversight of seven state agencies that included; the Virginia Department of Transportation, DMV, Virginia Port Authority, Department of Rail and Public Transportation,

The Space Port, Motor Vehicle Dealer Board and Aviation. Prior to this he was appointed as the Chief Deputy Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) by Gov. Terry McAuliffe in January, 2014. Serving as the number two person that oversaw 7,800 employees and a budget of \$5.6 billion.

Quintin was with VDOT for 32 years serving as the District Administrator for six years in the Fredericksburg District and one year in the Culpeper District. As District Administrator he was responsible for all transportation related matters in a 14-county area that included highway construction, maintenance, land development, budget oversight, personnel management, public relations and coordination with state and local elected officials.

He held the position of VDOT's state maintenance engineer from 2002-2007 responsible for setting the direction and budget for the maintenance of Virginia's roadways. In that role, he managed the states \$1 billion highway maintenance budget and directed the maintenance of Virginia's 58,000 miles of state highways, bridges, tunnels and the equipment used to maintain them.

After graduating from college and starting his VDOT career as a transportation engineer trainee in 1985, he served as assistant resident engineer in the agency's Franklin and Williamsburg residencies. He was the Williamsburg resident engineer between 1991 and 2001.

Quintin holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the Virginia Military Institute.

In addition to his transportation career Quintin served in the Virginia Air National Guard. He retired, as a Lieutenant Colonel, in 2008 as Commander of the 192 Civil Engineering Squadron and prior to that he served in the 203 Red Horse Squadron as Commander of the Heavy Equipment Flight. During one of his many active-duty deployments he led a team in the construction of a two-mile taxiway in Oman and eventual was asked to serve as the base commander for the entire base. He earned several awards and decorations for his military service, most notably the Meritorious Service Medal for his service during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Originally from Natural Bridge Virginia, Quintin is married to the former Emily Simmons of Windsor Virginia, and has a son Quintin Jr. and a daughter Emma.

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Cmdr. Patrick J. "Pat" Griffin, USN (Ret.) '80 – Former Director, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

Patrick Griffin graduated from the Virginia Military Institute in 1980, he entered the Navy and served on active duty until 1983. He served as a Surface Line Officer. When Mr. Griffin left active duty, he entered the Naval Reserve. Mr. Griffin retired from the Naval Reserve as a Commander.

He began his career with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in May 1987 at the OSHA office in Waltham, Massachusetts as a Compliance Officer.

In January 2000, Mr. Griffin was selected as the first Compliance Assistance Specialist in New England. In this position he was responsible for outreach, training, technical assistance, partnerships, and alliances.

In April 2006, Mr. Griffin was selected as the Area Director for the Providence, Rhode Island, OSHA Area Office. He oversaw all safety and health for the State of Rhode Island. Mr. Griffin retired from OSHA in June 2018 after 31 years with the Agency.

Mr. Griffin currently works in the construction industry as a safety and health consultant.

Mr. Griffin also holds a degree in Labor Relations from Antioch University.

VMI Positions:

Mr. Griffin served as the New England Alumni Chapter President from 1990 to 1996 and again from 2006 to 2015. He was elected to the VMI Alumni BOD in 2015 as the Northeast Regional Director. He chaired the Outreach Committee while on the BOD. Upon completion of his term in 2021 he was made a Special Appointee to the VMI BOD to continue his work on the Networking Committee.

Currently Mr. Griffin serves on the VMI BOD as the Regional Director for SW Virginia.

Mr. Griffin also serves on the board of the VMI Research Laboratories.

Mr. Griffin and his wife Beth have two sons, Michael, class of '17 and John class of '23.

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Maj. Kenneth R. "Ken" Hirlinger, Jr., USAF (Ret.) '85 – Director, Program Performance and Pursuits, CACI

Kenneth R. Hirlinger, Jr. is a Director Program Performance and Pursuits at CACI responsible developing innovative approaches to win new work and sustain business operations. In this role he has led capture on 4 deals worth \$1.12B and performed as the Acting Manager for a \$430M Crypto Modernization Program. He also leads improving Basis of Estimates, conducting Model Based Capability Gap Analysis, and conducting lessons learned. In his previous role as a Senior Director for General Dynamics Information Technology he oversaw the pursuit of enterprise Department of Homeland Security opportunities. Previously he was the Senior Director for Air Force IT and Mission System Services. In that capacity he led teams supporting both AF enterprise and base level Network Operations, Civil Engineering Cybersecurity, F-22 Integrated Maintenance development and sustainment, Air Defense Communications Systems engineering and operations and maintenance, Air Operations Center Weapon System installation support, Air Force Research and Development Laboratory scientific studies, and program management activities.

Ken is a retired major whose last duty was as the HQ ACC Network Engineering and Sustainment Branch Chief. In the latter stages of his career, he was a recognized AF Network Operations expert and proven communications acquisition leader of the service's largest Communication and Information program valued at \$4.6B. In 2004 he deployed as the Director of Information Operations for the Office of Military Cooperation-Afghanistan. In this position he created the Information Operations Campaign Plan collating disjointed media relations, psyops, local national intelligence and civilian affairs into a tightly coupled plan. He also led the Coalition Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration Information Campaign Team to integrate information in a manner similar to his experiences as the AF Y2K Fusion Center Watch Officer. Other AF assignments included being a program manager on a variety of efforts including nuclear hardening, missile flight test, air vehicle integration, and suppression of enemy air defense.

In 1985 Ken received a B.S. Civil Engineering and commission from the Virginia Military Institute (AF ROTC Distinguished Graduate) and in 1996 a M.S. Systems Management from the Air Force Institute of Technology.

He is active in his community. In his Church Ken serves as a Deacon, teaches the Youth, and serves on Stewardship and Finance, Grounds, and Fellowship committees. Ken has coached swimming over the last thirty-five years to include community pools, YMCA and at Smithfield High School. Enjoying sports Ken swam competitively and previously participated in flag football, softball, volleyball, Taekwondo, racquet ball, and Ultimate Frisbee. Previously he was the High School Band Booster Vice President and chair of the Travel and Special Events Committee and is a director on his Home Association Board. Ken is a strong supporter of AFCEA with past positions being Secretary, Conference Coordinator, Vice-President, President, STEM Adopt-A-School Liaison to Summit Christian Academy, and VP of Affiliated Organizations. Ken currently is the AFCEA International Regional Vice President for the State of Virginia.

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Col. Anthony “Jamie” MacDonald, USA (Ret.), '83, Director, Strategic Initiatives Group, Headquarters, Department of the Army

Mr. MacDonald assumed his current position as Director of the Strategic Initiatives Group in 2013. Prior to this posting he served in the Army for over 30 years retiring as a Colonel. He has newly forty-years leadership and staff experience specializing in directing multi-discipline intelligence operations, coordinating and developing strategies, and developing joint and interagency partnerships and coalitions. He is strategist and trusted advisor to the US Army's Senior Intelligence Officer (G-2) and US Army G-2 Staff authority on the G-2's strategy and its related objectives. Mr. MacDonald is an authority on interpreting and integrating Army and intelligence policies, regulations and doctrine into Army programming and operations and strategic planning processes. A 1983 graduate of the Virginia Military Institute, Mr. MacDonald was commissioned a second lieutenant of Infantry. Later in his career, he transitioned into the Military Intelligence Corps. His military assignments include service with Airborne, Cavalry, Military Intelligence, Recruiting and Special Operations commands. Mr. MacDonald also served with the Defense Intelligence Agency, and with the Army and Joint Staffs. His overseas tours of duty include Germany, Afghanistan and Iraq.

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Guard/Reserve

1Lt. Quinn Conrad, VAARNG, '19 – Charlottesville Public Defender Office

Quinn is currently at University of Virginia School of Law. She has a special interest in military law and international law, particularly of the human rights and humanitarian focus. Conrad is currently working at the Charlottesville Public Defender Office but preparing ultimately for a career in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General Corps. Conrad is currently serving in the Virginia National Guard and will deploy in December 2021.

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Lt. Col. Patrick “Pat” Haddock, USAR ’00 – Director of Instruction, Command and General Staff Officer Course; Vice President, Treasury Solutions Consulting, Truist

Christopher “Patrick” Haddock currently serves as Vice President, Treasury Management Consulting at Truist Bank, helping mid-size businesses with cash flow, risk management, fraud prevention, and working capital needs. He previously served in a similar role at Wells Fargo, as well as Program Director for the Treasury Management and Digital Solutions for Business Talent Programs, a year-long leadership development rotational program for early-career professionals. He was also responsible to build a military veteran component to the same program. Prior to joining Wells Fargo in 2017, Patrick spent 11 years with The Coca-Cola Company, holding several managerial positions within the Coca-Cola system with experience in supply chain, equipment services, sales support, and project management. He concurrently served as President of the company’s Military Veterans Business Resource Group, which he co-founded in 2012, from 2014 through 2016.

Prior to joining Coca-Cola, Patrick served as an officer in the United States Army, where he led military organizations up to 150 personnel responsible for multiple aspects of logistics and supply chain. His service has included three combat tours in Iraq, Kuwait, and Afghanistan.

He earned his undergraduate degree in economics and business from the Virginia Military Institute, where he has served on the board of directors of the VMI Alumni Association for nine years. He earned his Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree from University of Georgia’s Terry College of Business, where he continues to support student-veterans. He is also a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. Patrick is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP) and a Lean Six Sigma Green Belt.

He continues to serve in the U.S. Army Reserve, holding the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and serving as the Director of Instruction for at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College distance learning program. Patrick is a founding member and on the board of directors of VETLANTA, an industry collaboration of Veteran friendly/affiliated organizations in the greater Atlanta area. VETLANTA’s mission is to make Atlanta a top destination for veterans to live and work. He has also served on the Atlanta Volunteer Board for Wells Fargo, he is a Cub Scout den leader, on the National Leadership Council of FourBlock, a national non-profit that assists military servicemembers with transition to the civilian workplace. He is a member of the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels and Kappa Alpha Order.

Patrick is an avid sports fan and veteran-advocate, but he mostly enjoys spending time and traveling with his family. He is married to Charlotte, and they have a son, Daniel (8 years old) and a daughter, Margaret (5 years old).

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Information Technology/Cybersecurity

Carlos Fernandes ’90 – CEO, Agile Cybersecurity Solutions (ACS)

As the founder and chief executive officer of Agile Cybersecurity Solutions, Carlos leads a team of elite cybersecurity professionals, ACS Cyber SEALS, in support of government and commercial clients. Fernandes is a results-oriented, hands-on leader with more than 30 years of experience in cybersecurity, recognized for setting the highest standards of performance for himself and his team of Cyber SEALS, best known for promoting his credo: “We will attract not what we want ... We will attract what we are.” He is a proven,

visionary leader who builds strong leadership teams and motivates others to deliver outstanding results. Fernandes has been a Certified Information Systems Security Professional for 20 years and holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Virginia Military Institute.

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Carmina “Mindy” Fernandes (Spouse) – Office Manager, Agile Cybersecurity Solutions (ACS)

Mindy Fernandes is an office management professional with over 30 years of industry experience. She has been with ACS since its founding in 2012 as the firm's office manager. She has the distinction of being employee number 1.

Mindy manages office staff and coordinates with human resources management. She oversees the daily operations of the office and plans meetings, conferences and special events for ACS senior leadership. She possesses excellent organizational skills and ensures the effectiveness of the company's processes. Mindy performs the mundane office work that is not always the most exciting but very important for the health and well-being of ACS.

Such activities include: accounts receivables, accounts payables, and a large number of administrative tasks, to include, but not limited to:

- Provides administrative support for senior executives; supports group of over 30 teammates
- Tracks and updates budget
- Assists with processing and tracking contracts and invoices
- Arranges travel for senior executives, as well as many other organizational projects
- Manages reception activities; serves guests by greeting, welcoming and directing appropriately
- Maintains all common areas organized
- Manages Inventory for office supply
- Partners with HR to maintain office policies as necessary
- Coordinates with IT on office equipment
- Receives, sorts and distributes daily mail and deliveries as well as prepares and sends outgoing mail (USPS/FedEx UPS etc.)
- Manages relationships with vendors and service providers
- Maintains office conditions and coordinates repairs
- Serves as liaison between the office team and headquarters office leadership
- Partners with HR to coordinate team activities

Mindy earned her associate's degree in Secretarial Studies from Briarcliffe College in 1986. She is a wife and mother to four adult children. Mindy is an avid cyclist and hiker.

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Travis Hughes '96 – Senior Manager, Software Engineering, Capital One

I started my career in civil and structural engineering and transitioned to IT and software development in 2004. After several years of developing and managing IT systems for the Department of Defense, I moved to Capital

One's Finance Tech organization where I was responsible for general ledger and treasury applications. Currently I provide platform services for SaaS applications built by Capital One Software.

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Internships

Robert “Paul” Edwards ’14 - Development Manager, Apex Clean Energy

Mr. Edwards currently works as a Development Manager for Apex Clean Energy. Apex is an established industry leader in originating, commercializing, and operating one of the largest portfolios of wind, solar, distributed energy, energy storage, and green fuels in the US. Mr. Edwards concentrates on developing solar/wind projects in the Mid-Atlantic and Southeastern US.

Prior to joining Apex Clean Energy, Mr. Edwards was a management consultant at Accenture and Deloitte, where he advised clients in both the public and private sectors. Prior to consulting he was a US Army Infantry officer in the 82nd Airborne Division.

Mr. Edwards received a BA from VMI in 2014 and is currently an MBA candidate at UVA Darden where he plans to graduate in May 2023.

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Lt. Gen. John “JD” Johnson, USA (Ret.) ’77 – VP for Business Development, General Motors Defense, LLC

John (JD) Johnson is vice president of business development for General Motors Defense. Johnson is responsible for identifying growth opportunities among military and government customers that align with GM Defense’s core capabilities, including integrated vehicles, power and propulsion and mobility and autonomy. He also leads customer engagements and develops strategic plans to win competitive pursuits in the defense and government markets in the United States and abroad.

Johnson spent more than 35 years in the U.S. Army, with extensive overseas tours in Germany, Korea and including combat tours in Iraq. Johnson held numerous senior positions within the Department of Defense, including Director of the Department of Defense's Joint Improvised Device Defeat Organization (JIEDDO) and Commander of Eighth Army in the Republic of Korea.

After his years of active service in uniform, Johnson entered the private sector and held numerous leadership posts within Raytheon, most recently holding the position of acting vice president of Customer Engagement and Solutions, and previously serving as vice president of U.S. Government Integrated Solutions for Raytheon Intelligence and Space and vice president of Business Development for U.S. Army and Special Operations.

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Lt. Cmdr. John “Jack” Keane, USN (Ret.) ’80 – Retired Supervisor of the Precision Strike Systems Branch, Applied Physics Lab, Johns Hopkins University

Retired naval flight officer. BS in Electrical Engineering and MS in Operations Research. While at JHU/APL, led a team of 325 technical professionals in developing precision strike systems as they pertain to aviation. He has participated in several Defense Science Board Task Forces dealing with intelligence support to the global war on terror and to counter-insurgency operations. Former president of the Military Operations Research Society and faculty member for the Whiting School of Engineering. Currently the vice-chair for the University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland Board of Advisors.

John F. “Jack” Keane recently retired as a member of the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory’s Principal Professional Staff and Branch Supervisor of the Precision Strike Systems Branch in the Force Projection Sector where he oversaw the development and fielding of multiple systems for offensive and defensive military aviation applications. He received a B.S. in electrical engineering from The Virginia Military Institute in 1980 and an M.S. in operations research from The Naval Postgraduate School in 1993. A retired naval officer, he served tours in maritime patrol aviation, staff tours with Commander, Patrol Wing Two, Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Group Eight, and The Naval Research Laboratory, and was a strike planner and Anti-Surface Warfare Commander in the Red Sea during the first Gulf War. As an analyst, he has conducted affordability analyses for the Joint Strike Fighter Program Office, served as a member of DoD’s Simulation Based Acquisition Joint Task Force, as lead analyst in the development of theater and national missile defense war games, and participated in numerous studies involving force composition, and command and control. In addition, he led the APL team in determining the requirements for the P-8 Poseidon aircraft, the US Navy’s next generation maritime patrol aircraft, as well as the Broad Area Maritime Surveillance Unmanned Air System, and follow-on aircraft to the EP-3 Aries. He has participated in several Defense Science Board Task Forces dealing with intelligence support to the global war on terror and to counter-insurgency operations. He was a member of the adjunct faculty of the JHU Whiting School of Engineering for seven years where he taught Systems Engineering and Technical Management. In 2016, he was appointed to the Southern Maryland Higher Education Center (SMHEC) Board of Governors by Maryland Governor Larry Hogan and remained a member until March 2019 when the SMHEC was subsumed by the University System of Maryland (USM). In September 2019 he was elected a member of the Board of Directors for the Maritime Patrol Association for a three-year term and appointed a member of the Board of Advisors for the University System of Maryland (USM) at Southern Maryland by the USM Board of Regents and serves as the Board Vice Chair and Nominating Committee Chair.

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Maj. E. Sean Lanier, USA (Ret.) ’94– Founder & Executive Director, Resolve Solutions, Inc.

E. Sean Lanier was born in McDonald Army Hospital, Fort Eustis, Virginia, and raised in Petersburg, Virginia. After attaining the grade of E-5 in the Virginia National Guard and upon graduation from the Virginia Military Institute with a Bachelor of Arts in History, Sean was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Aviation

Branch. In 2010, Sean earned a Master of Science in Business: Supply Chain Management & Logistics via the University of Kansas. Executive Masters in Nonprofit Administration, University of Notre Dame – Mendoza School of Business, expected completion July 2023. Ed.D., Corporate Learning Officer, University of Pennsylvania, expected completion 2026.

Sean initially served as a UH-60 A/L Flight Platoon Leader, HHC Executive Officer/ III-V Platoon Leader, and Flight Company Executive Officer in the 1-52nd Aviation Regiment, Seoul, Korea. His subsequent assignment to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, included a variety of leadership and staff positions: Flight Company Executive Officer L/1-159th (Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina), Assistant S-3 (Brigade Training and Current Operations Officer) XVIIIth Aviation Brigade, Assistant S-3 (Battalion Flight Operations Officer) 2-82d Aviation Regiment, Assistant Division Transportation Officer 82d Airborne Division, and the Combined Joint (CJ-4) Theater Rail & Sea Operations Officer (SFOR) in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina. Sean Lanier served as the Assistant S-2/3 (Highway Operations Officer) for the 28th Transportation Battalion, Mannheim, Germany, before assuming command of the 70th Transportation Company, 28th Transportation Battalion, 37th TRANSCOM, 21st Theater Support Command. Sean Lanier subsequently served as the Battle Captain/Current Operations Officer, 14th Transportation Battalion (MC), 1st Theater Movement Control Agency, 21st Theater Support Command, Vicenza, Italy, which then was forward deployed as part of Southern European Task Force's CJTF-76, Joint Logistics Command Movement Control Battalion in Afghanistan in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM. Sean served as the SETAF Fielding Support Team's Operations Officer and was responsible for overseeing the transformation and restructuring of the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, Caserma Ederle, Vicenza, Italy. Sean served as the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division S-4, FOB Hammer (Butler Range Complex), Zathia, Iraq OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM V, and then as the 203rd BSB, Support Operations Officer (SPO), 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Benning, GA. As the 1st Theater Support Command, Support Operations Distribution Integration Branch Chief, Sean was previously. Subsequently, the 1st TSC Secretary General Staff, while deployed to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait in support of OPERATION NEW DAWN & OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM and recently redeployed from OEF as the ARCENT Support Element (ASE-A) Logistics Sustainment Planner. Sean served as Operational Energy (OE) and Contingency Basing (CB) Executive Officer of the Headquarters Department of the Army G-45/7 Strategy & Integration Directorate and then the G-43 Director of Operations and Logistics Readiness XO, Executive Officer / Military Assistant to the Director for Logistics Strategy and Integration, G-45/, Headquarters Department of the Army G-4.

Sean is the Founder & Executive Director of Resolve Solutions Inc, an Alexandria, VA based, 501(c)3, service-disabled veteran-owned and operated non-profit that has helped over 500+ students from 23 states to earn over \$61 million in ROTC scholarships and service academy appointments toward their undergraduate degrees.

Sean's social activities include serving as a member of the Virginia Military Institute - Board of Visitors, President, Petersburg Public Schools, Career & Technical Education Advisory Board, President, Prince George's County Public Schools, Career & Technical Education PAC Committee, Field Force Liaison, United States Military Academy at West Point, The ROCKS INC – National Board Volunteer, former VMI Alumni Association Board of Directors, VMIAA Potomac River & George C. Marshall Chapter Vice-President, President Rotary International – Springfield, VA Chapter, The University of Kansas Alumni Association, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc and several other activities that help to create STEM & Diversity outreach, advocacy for higher education and service to country through military and civil service.

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Col. Charles W. “Charlie” Sachs, USAF (Ret.) ’79 – Former Lead, Information Technology Supplier Governance), USAA

Charles W. “Charlie” Sachs is a retired military officer with over four decades of experience in the public and private sectors. Upon graduation from VMI, Charlie commissioned in the United States Air Force and began his career in public service, progressively holding a number of roles spanning communication-electronics, information technology and irregular warfare. Assignments included the E-4B “Nightwatch” National Emergency Airborne Command Post (NEACP), Iraq (Operation IRAQI FREEDOM) and USAF Headquarters, Pentagon.

A lifelong student, Charlie continued to build on his education and pursued several advanced degrees. In addition to VMI (Economics), Charlie is a graduate of the Creighton University School of Law, the Air Command and Staff College, the Air War College and the United States Army War College. His Air Force career culminated in numerous leadership positions where he developed plans, programs, and requirements to maintain military readiness and evolved warfighting capabilities in a rapidly changing post-9/11 world.

In 2010, Charlie retired from the Air Force as a Colonel and began his transition into civilian life, beginning with Bank of America Corp., where he developed structures, controls, and policies needed to ensure business continuity for the bank’s mortgage servicing and operations arm. At Harland Clarke Holdings Corp, he held the position of Executive Director for Enterprise Resiliency, where he was charged with developing and managing a comprehensive Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery program across the enterprise. Charlie’s military and civilian career would ultimately converge at USAA, where he developed the framework and structures needed to govern the corporation’s IT suppliers, effectively driving regulatory compliance and managing risk.

Now fully retired, Charlie serves on U.S. Representative Chip Roy’s (TX-21) Veterans Advisory Group and has volunteered as a docent at the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum. He serves on the VMI Alumni Association Career Networking Committee, focusing on assisting cadets and alumni. Charlie resides in Southlake, Texas with his wife, Lt. Col. Jackie Purdy, USAFR (Ret.), Texas A&M Corps of Cadets ’90.

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Congressional Internships:

Congressman Ben Cline, U.S. Representative, 6th Congressional District, Virginia (much of the west-central portion of the state, including Roanoke, Lynchburg and most of the Shenandoah Valley.)

Intern Coordinator: Drew LeMay

(202) 225-5431

E-mail: drew.lemay@mail.house.gov

E-mail: va06interns@mail.house.gov

Intern: Nathan Royce, VMI '20

nathan.royce@mail.house.gov

<https://cline.house.gov/services/internships>

Congressman Bob Good, U.S. Representative, 5th Congressional District, Virginia (Virginia's largest district, The 5th District contains counties located in the Piedmont and Blue Ridge Region stretching vertically across the state from the Virginia-North Carolina Border going 250 miles up to Fauquier County in Northern Virginia, West of Washington DC.)

Intern Coordinator: Ian McGrew

(202) 568-0341

E-mail: Ian.McGrew@mail.house.gov

<https://good.house.gov/services/internships>

Congressman Chip Roy, U.S. Representative, 21st Congressional District, Texas (serves the area north of San Antonio and a significant portion of Austin in the state of Texas. Towns entirely or partially in this district include Boerne, Fredericksburg, Ingram, Kerrville, Kyle, New Braunfels, and San Marcos.)

Intern Coordinator: Leah Petree

(202) 225-4236

E-mail: leah.petree@mail.house.gov

<https://roy.house.gov/services/internships>

Congressman C. A. "Dutch" Ruppertsberger III, U.S. Representative, 2nd Congressional District, Maryland (parts of Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Harford & Howard counties, & Baltimore City), Maryland.)

Intern Coordinator: Jacey Max

(202) 225-3061

E-mail: jacey.max@mail.house.gov

<https://ruppersberger.house.gov/services/internships>

Congressman Michael Waltz, VMI '96, U.S. Representative, 6th Congressional District, Florida (located on the Eastern Florida Coast and stretches from the southern Jacksonville suburbs to New Smyrna Beach. It includes the city of Daytona Beach).

Intern Coordinator: Emma Scheidt

(202) 226-2773

Emma.Scheidt@mail.house.gov

<https://waltz.house.gov/forms/internships/>

Disney Internships:

Jose Corpuz, VMI '89, Staff Systems Engineer for Interactives, Walt Disney World

(773) 491-8928

jose.l.corpuz@disney.com

[Disney Professional Internship Program](#)

[Disney College Internship Program](#)

SWBC

Norman Paul, VMI '77, CEO, SWBC PEO (Professional Employer Organization)

(830) 980 1220

NPaul@swbc.com

Kelly Contreras – SWBC Internship Program Manager

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Q58zQIsqw4>

Gleb Taran '79 – Project Manager, Bureau of Overseas Building Operations, U.S. Department of State

Career project manager / consultant on the master planning, design, construction and commissioning of overseas diplomatic facilities for the U.S. Department of State worldwide. Professional experience in 36 foreign cities, in 28 countries worldwide - U.S. Embassies, U.S. Consulates General, residential and light industrial projects supporting the diplomatic missions. Professional work completed on high profile projects at U.S. Embassies - Moscow, Kyiv, Minsk, Baghdad, Basra, Berlin, London, The Hague, Khartoum, Rangoon, Monrovia, Tbilisi, Yerevan, Baku, Ashgabat, Tashkent, Dushanbe, Bishkek, Sarajevo, Budapest and U.S. Consulates General - St. Petersburg, Yekaterinburg, Vladivostok, Krakow, Hamburg, Munich. Experience included full spectrum of the project development life-cycle from identifying initial need, site search, land acquisition, topographic, boundary and utility surveys, scope of work development, hiring planning and design consultants, marshaling planning and design process through multiple integrated design reviews, managing the acquisition process for design-build and design-bid-build acquisition, construction and commissioning.

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Investments/Finance

C. Rodes “Dusty” Boyd '80 - Executive Vice President/ Chief Lending Officer, Blue Ridge Bank, N.A.

Dusty Boyd, VMI Class of 1980 and English major, has been a banker for last 22-years holding positions from Commercial Lender to C-suite executive roles. He has worked for community banks from \$56.0 million in asset size to 3.0 billion in asset size. He has been active in the Virginia Bankers Association, most recently as Chairman of the Lending Executive Committee. He is currently consulting with a Morgantown, West Virginia bank. Mr. Boyd resides in Richmond, Va.

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Bill Miller '89 – Co-Founder, Partner, 1839 Capital

1839 Capital provides exclusive access to unique investment opportunities, and is a firm founded upon personal relationships and the principles of integrity, character, work ethic and leadership. We leverage longstanding relationships, in the USA and abroad, which provide us visibility, exclusive access, and direct management involvement to unique private investment opportunities for accredited investors, institutions, endowments, and pension funds.

Bill co-founded a real estate development company with Matthew Tederick, VMI '89, in 1996. Their combined skills and experience paved their path as land acquisition, design, development, and construction executives in the USA for the world's largest owner and operator of commercial childcare centers. Bill's real estate development and business consulting experience is extensive. He has a B.A. in English from Virginia Military Institute where he was a student athlete (tennis) all four years, as well as an M.B.A. in Finance from San Diego State University. He is on the Board of Advisors of the charitable organization Tunnel to Towers Foundation (t2t.org). He is based in Sullivan County, Tennessee, and spends most of his time there, and also has a home in the DC Metro area.

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Law Enforcement

Michael Flury '17 – Special Agent, FBI

Michael graduated from VMI in 2017 with a degree in International Studies and a French minor. Following graduation, Michael commissioned in the US Army National Guard as an Armor officer with the 1st Squadron 221st Cavalry Regiment in Las Vegas, NV. After five years with the Nevada National Guard, Michael transferred to the North Carolina Army National Guard and the 1st Battalion 252nd Armor Regiment at Fort Bragg.

Michael completed the Central Shenandoah Criminal Justice Training Academy and began as a police officer with the Charlottesville Police Department in 2018. After two years with CPD, Michael attended the 133rd Basic Session of the Virginia State Police, the 2nd lateral transfer class in the history of the department. Upon completion, Michael started as a State Trooper in Division III working primarily in Albemarle and Fluvanna County.

In September 2021, Michael left the Virginia State Police and attended the FBI Academy Basic Field Training Course in Quantico, VA. Michael completed the FBI Academy and was assigned as a Special Agent at the Washington Field Office, Criminal Division, Health Care Fraud Squad.

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Kenneth “Ken” Morris ’81 – Retired Special Agent, Virginia Department of State Police

As a consultant for the Virginia State Police, I provide my investigative expertise, to include criminal profiling and bloodstain pattern analysis, to local, state, and federal agencies.

After having spent 27 years as a sworn member of the Virginia Department of State Police, criminal profiler Kenneth Morris retired from its Violent Crimes Unit of the Bureau of Criminal Investigation in 2014. He returned to the state police in 2015, in the same capacity as a profiler but as a civilian consultant. He continues to assist with violent crimes investigations for law enforcement agencies around the United States and internationally. Recently, he assisted with investigations in Virginia, Idaho, Colorado, California, and Missouri. Morris specializes in criminal investigative analysis, an investigative umbrella that includes determining personality traits and other characteristics of unknown offenders (criminal profiling), assessing threatening communications and actions, providing interview/interrogation techniques, and analyzing statements for truthfulness. He is also a crisis negotiator and court-certified expert in bloodstain pattern analysis. As a criminal profiler, Morris is able to extract indicators of an offender’s personality and other characteristics by examining various crime scene factors. As one of roughly 75 certified criminal profilers in the world, he has assisted local and federal law enforcement agencies throughout the United States and internationally. Morris also lectures extensively on criminal profiling throughout the United States and has done so abroad in Canada, Germany, and South Africa. His profiling certification was attained by completing a demanding training agenda mandated by the International Criminal Investigative Analysis Fellowship, a renowned group whose membership includes active and retired profilers from various elite law enforcement agencies from around the world. He served in the U.S. Army as an armor officer, before joining the Virginia State Police as a trooper in 1987. He is a graduate of the Virginia State Police Basic Academy, the International Criminal Investigative Analysis Understudy Program, the Virginia Department of Forensic Science Academy, the National Fire Academy, and the FBI Basic Bomb and Hazardous Devices School at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama. He is a member of numerous criminal justice organizations and is vice president of the Virginia Homicide Investigators’ Association.

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Legal

Sharif Gray ’11 – Trial Attorney, Marks & Harrison

Sharif is a trial attorney. He tried cases as a United States Army JAG Officer and as a prosecutor, served as a federal judicial law clerk at a trial court, and now takes cases to trial as a personal injury attorney with Marks & Harrison. There is nothing more professionally exciting for Sharif than preparing for and going to trial. And there is no greater privilege for Sharif than getting results for his clients at trial.

Sharif cares deeply about his work and the people he represents. Sharif’s record is evidence of this: in the Army, he successfully defended hundreds of soldiers at trial, in adverse administrative proceedings, and under

investigation; as a prosecutor, he pursued justice for crime victims and earned a reputation among judges and defense attorneys for being persuasive and fair; and as a personal injury attorney, he has won millions of dollars in verdicts and settlements for his clients. A senior attorney explained that “in all aspects of our practice, Sharif prepares like no other, persuades like no other, and—to the opposing party’s frustration—gets results like no other.”

Sharif received his law degree from the University of Virginia. During law school, he served on the Virginia Journal of Criminal Law’s Managing Board; led an Army Reserve Drill Sergeant Unit; and clerked for the United States Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Virginia, the Philadelphia District Attorney’s Office, and the United States Solicitor General’s Office.

Sharif graduated valedictorian and as a distinguished military graduate from the Virginia Military Institute. Among other honors, Sharif’s class elected him to serve as a prosecutor on the Honor Court, where he prosecuted honor offenses and first discovered his love for trial work.

Away from work, Sharif enjoys spending time with his wife and son, learning songs on his acoustic guitar, playing on a kickball team with friends, and working out each morning at a CrossFit gym.

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Michael Gwinn ’12 – Trial Attorney, McCandlish Holton PC

His practice is primarily focused on Civil Litigation, specifically, premises liability and personal injury defense. Michael has experience advising clients who provide goods and services to the federal government on compliance with federal procurement regulations and navigation of federal programs, including litigating claims and coordinating ADR. He has represented clients before the Small Business Administration’s Office of Hearing and Appeals and the Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals, as well as provided compliance support for clients with contracts with the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense.

Michael is a former infantry officer in the United States Army with the 101st Airborne Division. He earned his J.D. at the University of Virginia School of Law. During law school, Michael interned with the Albemarle County Attorney’s Office where he worked on a termination of parental rights in a case involving severe child abuse and developed a negotiation strategy to deter additional armed protestors from participating in the Unite the Right Rally in Charlottesville, Virginia.

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Daniel B. “Dan” Sweeney ’80, Attorney at Law, Sweeney Law

Daniel B. Sweeney - Graduate of VMI ‘80 and received his law degree from Washington & Lee University. Dan’s law practice specializes in estate planning, estate administration, elder law, trusts, deeds, and civil litigation.

Dan is a lifetime resident of Lynchburg, VA and lives there with his wife, Cindy. Together they have two children Daniel B. Sweeney, Jr., VMI Class of 2013 and daughter, Anna Jamerson.

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Sales, Marketing & Business Services/Consulting

Joel Andrus '04 – Kemper Consulting

Joel Andrus has over 17-years of state government relations experience and represents clients before the Virginia General Assembly, legislative and executive branch agencies and boards and commissions. Joel's practice includes education, manufacturing, energy, and healthcare, including helping Kemper Consulting's healthcare clients prepare applications and navigate Virginia's Certificate of Public Need process.

Prior to joining the firm, Joel worked with the City of Suffolk Economic Development Department where he mainly focused on new business development and retention in the downtown area. While with the City of Suffolk, he developed and implemented marketing strategies for attracting new businesses, helped local businesses understand and take advantage of the Virginia Enterprise Zone, as well as acting as a liaison between downtown businesses and historic preservation societies.

Joel graduated with distinction from the Virginia Military Institute. Currently, he is active in the VMI Alumni Association.

He also is a 2010 graduate of the Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership at the University of Virginia, a 2015 graduate of LEAD Hampton Roads and a 2016 graduate of the CIVIC Leadership Institute.

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Marc Barthello '81 – Retired Program Manager, Naval Facilities Engineering Command

Marc Barthello is a registered Professional Engineer currently managing Public Private Ventures for the U.S. Navy. He graduated from VMI with a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering and later earned his master's degree in engineering management from Old Dominion University. After graduating from VMI, Barthello served 12 years on active duty in the U.S. Air Force as a civil engineering officer. He's worked in various fields in the private and government sectors, including engineering design, environmental engineering, Geographic Information Systems, facilities management, and commercial real estate. He currently resides in Lexington, and you may see him and his wife walking their four rescued Siberian huskies on post.

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Michael "Mike" Kelly '73 - President and CEO, Senior Environmental Consultant, Southeastern Environmental Assessments

Worked in the chemical and hazardous waste industries; worked with the state of North Carolina as the deputy director for the Division of Waste Management overseeing the SUPERFUND, Solid Waste, Hazardous Waste, and Underground Storage Tank (UST) programs. Was the deputy state environmental health director overseeing six major environmental health programs. Retired and currently do private consulting work for Phase I Environmental Site Assessments on commercial property.

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Howard “Chappy” Lucas ’79, Senior Business Development Consultant, Saudi Aramco

Strategic business and economic development with an emphasis on the energy and energy intensive industries. Focus on developing and implementing strategies for new market entries and the creation of new ventures including joint ventures with industry leaders. International experience with 16 years in Saudi Arabia working for Aramco, one of the largest companies in the world.

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Charles “Chuck” Story Jr. ’91 – Business Development Manager, Wesco International

Chuck Story is a career sales professional who has spent most of his 30-year career in a variety of industries ranging from banking and finance to information technology, construction, and wholesale distribution. His current role as an outside business development manager has him working directly with corporations, educational institutions, and contractors to develop effective technology and security projects. He has worked with many of the largest companies in the world, all the way down to small family-owned organizations. He is passionate about the sales profession and the VMI community.

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