

The VMI Alumni Association

Cadet-Alumni

Networking Forum

September 2025



Alumni Panelist Information

Banking | Investments | Finance | Insurance
Business Consulting | Entrepreneurship
Energy, Oil, and Gas
Engineering | Manufacturing | Construction | Industrial
Government (civil service | contractor)
Health | Healthcare
Internships
IT | Cybersecurity | Tech
Law
Law Enforcement (federal, state, local)
Post-Graduate Planning (law, medicine, business)
Resume Review
Sales | Marketing
Transportation | Logistics

Banking | Investments | Finance | Insurance

Frank Bell, III '80

Frank Bell's career in banking began shortly after graduation from VMI. Bell began as a Management Trainee, a two-year program, that introduced him to various areas of a commercial bank. Bell's roles have included retail branch management, commercial lending and management with the experiences culminating into the role of President and CEO of a startup bank in the early 2000's.

Throughout Bell's positions, he has served on credit committees, asset & liabilities committees and have participated in numerous strategic planning sessions, helping to set the direction for various financial institutions. On several occasions, Bell has raised bank capital and assisted with mergers. Bell has had the opportunity to see significant technological changes in the way banks make decisions with respect to traditional banking to the more recent changes in the payment's world.

Bell's professional education and service includes Alex Scheshunoff, Executive Banking Institute, Bell Leadership Institute, Leader's Roundtable, and Center for Creative Leadership, Leadership Development. Bell serves as a Board of Trustees and faculty member for the Virginia Banker's School of Bank Management.

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Joe Simmers '10

Joe Simmers was originally from the Hershey, PA area, but now resides in Charlotte, NC. Simmers was in Hotel Company and served as Corporal, First Sergeant, and First Platoon Commander. Simmers graduated with a Civil Engineering degree and was commissioned in the Marine Corps. Simmers was a Military Police Officer stationed in Yuma, AZ, Chesapeake, VA, and finally at Camp Lejeune. I deployed to Afghanistan in 2011 and twice with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit from 2017-2019.

Simmers left active duty in 2021 and moved to Charlotte, NC. Since then, Simmers has worked for a private equity firm, residential home construction, Headquarters Marine Corps as a contractor, and finally at his current role at Bank of America since 2024. Simmers received my MSF from William and Mary in 2023.

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Business Consulting | Entrepreneurship

Clint Alanis '03

Clint Alanis is a co-founder and COO of Smack Technologies, an early-stage defense-technology company building AI/ML-enabled decision-support software for the Department of Defense and the Joint Force. Alanis work focuses on integrating modeling & simulation, deep reinforcement learning, generative AI, and human-machine teaming into operator workflows for

joint planning, targeting, and contested logistics. Alanis's teams have supported pilots and proposals with organizations across the Department of Defense, including the Defense Innovation Unit, the Indo-Pacific Command's development of a Joint Fires Network, Pacific Air Forces , U.S. Army Pacific, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific, Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory, and the Department's Chief Digital and AI Office.

Before founding Smack, Alanis served more than 20 years as a U.S. Marine Corps officer, holding roles as an infantry officer, fires planner, special operations officer, diplomat, staff officer, and battalion commanding officer. Alanis led cross-functional teams through problem framing, operational design, and plan execution across two active combat zones and three combatant commands, working closely with partners across the interagency. Alanis is passionate about mentoring early-career professionals and is happy to discuss breaking into defense tech (engineering, product, and operations), how the DoD buys software (SBIRs, OTAs, DIU), startup careers versus traditional routes, and building technology that solves real problems for end users.

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Mike Freeman '78

Mike Freeman did not have a clear goal or vision of what career path he was going to pursue. Freeman started a six-week training program with Wendy's Old fashion Hamburgers in August of 1978. By week 4, Freeman was running my own shift and by week six was doing inventory and weekly schedule soon after that. Freeman was exposed to inventory responsibilities, human resource, cost controls and more immediately, which he believe helped me throughout my career. Within a year, Freeman had his own store to manage, supervisor in 3 years and district manager in 5 until he left in 1986, to go to work at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

Worked in Auxiliary Services which operates many of the services on campus for students, faculty, and staff. Freeman had many amazing experiences and learned lessons as he progressed. Help bring the campus ONE Card for both financial as well as for building and parking access. This was still very new in the early 1990's and Freeman had to understand how the banking industry worked and was regulated. The UNC Campus One office now handles over 50 million dollars in transactions annually.

Around 1998, Freeman was offered the position of Auxiliary Services and fulfill this duty until retiring in 2017. New areas added were Bookstore, Printing, Dining, campus copier program, campus and US Mail Services on campus, Student Laundromats, and management of various contracts for the campus. Freeman was fortunate to learn that he could not be a subject matter expert in all these various areas. So, teamwork and collaboration helped to have all the resources needed available.

For 18 months around 2012, Freeman also held the position of Director of Facilities Services for the UNC campus. This department has over 2,000 staff and a budget of over 200 million. They provide all services to the campus, from normal maintenance for heating, electrical, plumbing support to designing as created an energy department that was credited with saving millions through energy management.

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Norman L. Paul Jr., J.D. '77

Norman L. Paul, Jr., J.D. joined SWBC PEO in 2011, serving initially as corporate counsel and then as CEO from 2012 until his retirement on December 31, 2024. Paul oversaw the company's PEO services in Texas and over 40 states. SWBC PEO provides employment-related services, including payroll, workers' compensation, employee benefits, and HR consulting services to over 400 companies employing more than 20,000 employees.

Prior to joining SWBC PEO, Paul served as corporate counsel for Brumley PEO from 2002 until it was acquired by SWBC in 2011. From 1984 to 2002, Paul was engaged in the private practice of law in San Antonio, Texas. From 1980 to 1984, he served as a JAG officer in the USAF following law school.

Paul received his Juris Doctorate from St. Mary's University in 1980. Paul was a member of the Phi Delta Phi Legal Honor Society. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in English, from the Virginia Military Institute in 1977.

Paul is active with the National Association of Professional Employer Organizations (NAPEO), where he served as the Chair of the NAPEO Board of Directors in 2018 and as Chairman of NAPEO's Texas Leadership Council in 2016. Paul served as a member of the Board of Directors for ESAC, an association that provides accreditation services for the PEO industry. Paul also served as a member of the Board of Directors for the Texas Business Hall of Fame.

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Kevin Reardon '87

Kevin Reardon matriculated from Richmond, Va into the Class of 1987 and graduated with a degree in English. Reardon served as a Second Class Representative to the Honor Court and as Prosecutor. Following graduation, he attended the Army Engineer Officer Course and served six years in the Virginia National Guard.

Upon completion of the EOBC, Reardon worked in Richmond at Signet Bank for two years before joining the family business. Reardon spent time at Franco's Fine Clothiers managing various retail locations before assuming ownership with a brother-in-law. Franco's Fine Clothiers is a multi-store clothing retail operation in Richmond with approximately 30 employees.

Reardon currently serves as Board Chairman for InUnison, a local non-profit dedicated to serving independent local businesses in Central Virginia. Reardon also serves on the Board of ValorRva, an organization dedicated to supporting first responders in Central Virginia. Reardon and his wife have two sons, both graduates of VMI Class of 2014.

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Jamel P. Lynch, Jr. '94

Jamel P. Lynch, Jr. (JP) is the visionary founder and CEO of Champion Distribution Group (CDG), whose mission is to deliver exceptional beverages and services often overlooked by craft beer distributors. The portfolio embodies the rich flavors and unique character of the crafts and the communities that inspire them. Prior to establishing CDG, Lynch excelled as the

Director of Engineering and IT Services at Belden. He forged the company's first North American Technical Services Department, pioneering networking services across diverse sectors, including water, food and beverage, transportation, and security markets. Lynch's leadership drove an extraordinary \$2 million in additional service contracts in its inaugural year. Lynch's professional journey began in development engineering at IBM's Personal Computing Division in Research Triangle Park, NC, where he was at the forefront of integrating groundbreaking wireless technologies like Bluetooth and Wireless Wide Area Networking into IBM's ThinkPad systems. Lynch's distinguished client list featured renowned organizations such as Booz Allen Hamilton, Accenture, Coca-Cola, the World Bank, and the International Finance Corporation.

Lynch has been honored with numerous accolades, including the President's Award from Belden, the Engineer of the Year Award from IBM, and an Invention Achievement Award from IBM. His remarkable work has been recognized in Black Enterprise Magazine, and he has inspired audiences at many engineering conferences, including delivering the keynote address at the World Bank IT Conference in Kigali, Rwanda. Beyond his professional achievements, Jamel is a published author, a dedicated professor, an avid boater, and has led the SEEDs non-profit organization as President of the Board in Durham, NC. Lynch holds a B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering from the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) '94 and an M.S. degree in Electrical Engineering from the Virginia Tech College of Engineering. At VMI, he demonstrated leadership as President of the IEEE, President of the Promaji Club, Vice President of the Investment Club, Vice President of the FCA, and showcased his athleticism as a triple jumper on the Track and Field team.

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Jeffrey Minch '73

Jeffrey has a professional background in entrepreneurship, real estate, venture capitalism, and finance. He graduated from VMI in 1973 with a BS in Civil Engineering and later completed his MBA at Monmouth College. Jeffrey is the founder of the Littlefield Corporation.

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Energy, Oil, and Gas

Howard "Chappy" Lucas '79

Howard "Chappy" Lucas '79 is a BS Civil Engineering and obtained an MBA from the Harvard Business School. Lucas is a Strategy and Strategic Business Development Executive with over 40 years of experience in the energy industry, consulting and economic development. Lucas's energy experience includes the upstream and midstream oil and gas and electric industries as well as natural gas and electricity trading and marketing. Lucas worked in Saudi Arabia for 16 years with Aramco focused on the localization of supply chains, commercialization of Intellectual Property and various special projects including creating and directed a new training program for new business development staff, establishing a new government agency for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia responsible for the diversification of the Kingdom's economy and leading the development of the initial strategy and organization structure for the King Abdullah Humanitarian Foundation.

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Ken Kalisky '73

Ken Kalisky '73 has extensive experience in the energy sector, as an engineer, in executive management, and as a Director of Sales and Marketing.

Following military service, Kalisky worked for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. While working full time, he went back to school earning a second B.S. degree, this in Chemical Engineering, graduating with honors. Kalisky then took a position with Exxon Corporation starting as a Design Engineer. Kalisky again went back to school while working for Exxon and earned an MBA in Finance with honors from New York University. Kalisky also earned a post MBA, Advanced Professional Certificate in Finance from NYU. Kalisky progressed through field engineer positions, through Technology and then to Operations Manager in the Refinery/Chemical Plant Complex. Following, Kalisky had the opportunity to work on the business side, starting with Sales positions and then being selected as the Americas Procurement Manager. When Exxon and Shell Corp formed a privately held Joint Venture called Infineum, Kalisky elected to join the new venture. In 2003, Kalisky was named Global Procurement Manager responsible for over one billion dollars spent in manufacturing plants and technical centers around the world. In 2005, Kalisky was selected to be the Sales Director for North and South America. Several years later, in addition to his sales Director role, Kalisky was selected to head the Commercial Operations Board which had responsibility for Global Sales and Marketing decisions. Kalisky was also a member of the Executive Leadership Team, was the key negotiator for complex deals and was the primary crisis manager. Infineum has become a hugely profitable and prized asset of Exxon and Shell.

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Paul Edwards '14

Paul Edwards is a Project Development Manager at Bechtel, one of the world's leading engineering, procurement, and construction companies that has delivered more than 25,000 projects in 160 countries across power, energy, defense, metals & mining, and infrastructure. Within Bechtel, Edwards is a part of Bechtel Enterprises – the development, investment, and financing arm – where he focuses on utility-scale solar and combined-cycle gas development, project M&A activities, and project financing.

Prior to joining Bechtel, Edwards worked as a renewable energy project developer at both Sol Systems and Apex Clean Energy and earlier held management consulting roles at Accenture. Paul began his career as a U.S. Army infantry officer in the 82nd Airborne Division.

Edwards is a graduate of the Virginia Military Institute and earned his MBA from the University of Virginia Darden School of Business and an MA from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.

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Engineering | Manufacturing | Construction | Industrial

Colonel William E. Bynum III '77, United States Army Reserve (Ret.)

William Bynum is an experienced civil/structural engineer with over 46 years of experience designing and managing projects and programs, primarily for the United States Department of Defense. Bynum is skilled in relationship building with federal and other clients, as well as leading highly performing multi-disciplined design teams to create facilities which strengthen our national defense. Bynum is a retired Army Reserve Colonel in the U.S Army Corps of Engineers, with 30 years of service that ran concurrently with a civilian engineering career. Bynum is a profession engineer in the States of South Carolina, Florida, North Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, and Maryland.

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Commander Colleen Wall '05, United States Navy

Colleen Wall, native of Warrenton, VA, is a 2005 honors graduate of the Virginia Military Institute, where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry and received her commission from Officer Candidate School later that year. CDR Wall earned a Master of Science degree in Chemical Oceanography from Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR in 2014. CDR Wall is also graduate of the Air Force Command and Staff College, Joint Forces Staff College, and National Defense University. CDR Wall is a Plankowner onboard USS FARRAGUT (DDG 99) where she was the first officer to earn a Surface Warfare Officer designation on the newly commissioned ship and served as the Strike and Gunnery Officer. A graduate with distinction from Nuclear Power School and Prototype, she served aboard USS JOHN C STENNIS (CVN 74) as the Reactor Mechanical Division Officer where she deployed to the Western Pacific for 7 months. She also spent 11 months in the Arabian Gulf as part of an OEF mobilization as the Weapons Officer aboard USS PONCE (AFSB(I)-15) and 2 months in EUCOM supporting contingency operations. After transferring to the Navy Reserve in 2011, CDR Wall held unit assignments with NR Naval Mine and Anti-Submarine Warfare Center (NMAWC), San Diego, CA; NR Undersea Warfare Operations Detachment ZULU, Port Hueneme, CA; NR C3F Joint Forces Maritime Component Command (JFMCC), San Diego, CA; NR CSG4 Air C2, Norfolk, VA, and NR SOUTHCOM HQ. She completed a 27-month command tour of NR Navy Beach Group – TWO. CDR Wall is currently assigned to the United States Naval Academy as a member of the Chemistry Department Faculty.

In her civilian career, CDR Wall worked as a research assistant for a Chemical Oceanography Laboratory at Oregon State University performing research alongside university, NOAA, and USGS scientists. CDR Wall went to work for The Boeing Company in Seal Beach, CA in 2014.

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William “Bill” M. Wieners '85

William “Bill” Wieners, a civil engineering graduate of VMI from Braintree, Massachusetts, has built a distinguished 40-year career in engineering, construction, and business leadership. Wieners is an equity partner at Simon Design Engineering (SDE) in Wellesley, MA, where since

2003 he has led national structural engineering and parking consulting services, helping deliver projects across healthcare, aviation, higher education, and commercial sectors.

Earlier in his career, Wieners held leadership and management roles with Northeast Concrete Products, Suffolk Construction and The Shockey Companies, where he combined his critical thinking and communication skills with his hands-on manufacturing, engineering knowledge, P&L and operational leadership. Wieners has been instrumental in the success of more than 4,000 projects nationally valued at over \$50 billion, ranging from multi-billion-dollar infrastructure projects such as Boston's Central Artery "Big Dig," Logan International Airport's Terminal B, D & E expansions, and the Bath Iron Works naval shipbuilding facility, to high-profile commercial and institutional projects including the Carolina Panthers NFL Stadium, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute's Yawkey Center, and Education First's North American Headquarters.

Wieners has been a member of or held senior leadership roles across 20+ industry national organizations and previously served as a past Chairman within the Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute, representing over 150 manufacturers throughout the Americas, and remains a published thought leader in national industry journals. Wieners is also a committed alumnus, serving as Class Agent for VMI's Class of 1985 and past New England Chapter President.

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Carter Steward '23

Carter Steward was born in Fairfax, Virginia, and grew up in Midlothian, outside Richmond. After graduating from Trinity Episcopal School in 2019, he matriculated at VMI and earned his Mechanical Engineering degree with distinction in December 2023, along with minors in math and physics. Following graduation, Steward joined Nexus Refrigeration in Norfolk, Virginia—a firm specializing in industrial refrigeration and process safety. Since starting in July 2024, Steward has traveled widely for projects across the United States and was recognized as Rookie of the Year at the 2024 Company Summit.

Outside of work, Steward enjoys visiting family, the beach, skiing, boating, sports, and music. Originally considering commissioning into the military, he shifted to the civilian path due to medical reasons, but credits VMI with preparing him for both. He emphasizes the leadership lessons learned in Lexington as critical to his success and lives by a simple motto: treat everyone with respect and kindness, putting out as much positivity as possible.

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Government (civil service | contractor)

Pedro "Pete" Alvarez '79

Pete Alvarez is a veteran intelligence officer with 46 years of experience in intelligence analysis. Shortly after graduation, Alvarez began a 32-year career with the Central Intelligence Agency before retiring in 2012. Alvarez conceptualized, prepared, and presented insightful assessments for national-level decisionmakers. He spent his last eight years at the CIA's Sherman Kent School for Intelligence Analysis delivering courses and modules related to critical

thinking and application of structured analytic approaches. Alvarez also earned the CIA University's Level II certification as a senior instructor. Alvarez has an unparalleled reputation as an expert military analyst and manager with expertise in developing world conventional forces, particularly Latin American and Asian militaries. He currently serves as an analytic tradecraft consultant within and outside the US Intelligence Community while continuing to design and deliver tailored instruction on various aspects of analysis. Paralleling his CIA service, Alvarez also served as an Air Intelligence Officer in the Naval Reserves, reaching the rank of Commander while serving in billets both ashore and afloat.

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Christopher Cole '09

Christopher Cole is a Contracts Manager at BAE Systems with 9 years of experience working and supporting the U.S. Federal Government and Federal Government Programs. Cole holds a bachelor's degree from the Virginia Military Institute and a J.D. from Western Michigan University. With extensive experience in supporting federal programs, Cole has played a pivotal role in BAE Systems and AT&T's largest Federal Government Program's and Customers.

Cole's work focuses on contract negotiations, program management, subcontract negotiations, supply chain management, and new business development support. Specializing in contract and subcontract negotiations, strategy and end-to-end contract and subcontract management. Cole uses that experience to provide strategic support for program managers, federal government programs and new business development and overseeing cradle-to-grave contract lifecycles for Intelligence Community and Department of Defense Contracts.

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Colonel M.R. "Duke" Ellington '86, United States Army (Ret.)

Colonel "Duke" Ellington has almost four decades' experience in various regions across the African continent. His 26-year career in the Army culminated in Ethiopia where he was the Senior Defense Official and Defense Attaché, coordinating all DoD activities for what was then the largest number of deployed U.S. Forces on the continent outside of Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti. These activities included counterterrorism (CT) operations, humanitarian civic action, peacekeeping capacity-building, liaison, and foreign internal defense.

A career intelligence officer and sub-Saharan specialist, Duke has served as a military attaché in almost a dozen embassies, as well as in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, providing policy advice and intelligence information to ambassadors, the Geographic Combatant Command, the Department of State, and the National Command Authority. Duke's military attaché assignments on the continent include Ethiopia, Burundi, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Niger, Sierra Leone, Sudan, and Uganda. Colonel Ellington spent his formative years in the 25th Infantry Division (Light), the Military Intelligence Battalion (Low Intensity), and the 297th Military Intelligence Battalion.

Duke has operational experience establishing CT platforms and bilateral defense programs, and has supported non-combatant evacuation operations in Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, and Chad. Duke has also had firsthand experience in several African rebellions and insurgencies and spent his entire childhood in the Democratic Republic of Congo (then Zaire) as the son of missionaries.

Following his military career, Duke joined the African Development Bank as Chief Security Officer. There he was responsible for the return of 1,600 staff and 4,000+ dependents from the temporary relocation site in Tunisia to the Bank's original Headquarters in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire. Duke also ensured that safety/security measures were planned, programmed, and budgeted for in the renovation and construction of two high-rise office buildings.

Subsequently, Duke was the Regional Security Advisor assigned to the Bank's regional center in South Africa where he was responsible for the safety and security of the Bank's personnel, properties, information, and reputation in Southern Africa, including Angola, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa. Duke's duties included hardening facilities against criminal and terrorist threats, investigations, risk assessments, residential security, business continuity, executive close protection, and evacuation planning. Colonel Ellington has a bachelor's degree in history and modern Languages from the Virginia Military Institute and a Master of Science in Strategic Intelligence from the National Intelligence University. He is a graduate of the Army Command & General Staff College and the French Army Staff College. His military specialty skills include Airborne, Air Assault, Pathfinder, and SCUBA. He is a fluent French speaker.

Colonel Ellington's decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal (fourth award), Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal (second award), Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal (second award), Joint Meritorious Unit Award (fifth award), Superior Unit Award, National Defense Service Medal (second award), Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and Overseas Service Ribbon (seventh award). In 2017, Colonel Ellington was inducted into the Defense Intelligence Agency's Attaché Service Hall of Fame.

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Maj. Kenneth R. "Ken" Hirlinger, Jr., USAF (Ret.) '85

Kenneth R. Hirlinger, Jr. is a Director Program Performance and Pursuits at CACI responsible for 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 like 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 chapter positions being Secretary, Conference Coordinator, Vice-President, President, STEM Adopt-A- School Liaison to Summit Christian Academy, and VP of Affiliated Organizations. Ken also was the AFCEA Regional Vice President for the State of Virginia and currently serves as an AFCEA International Board of Directors as an Associate Director.

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Anthony Moore '78

Anthony Moore served as the Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources for the Commonwealth of Virginia and Assistant Secretary of Natural Resources Chesapeake Bay Restoration from 2010-2014. In these positions, Moore led the development and implementation of the Virginia Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan and managed the agencies of the Secretariat. Before serving the Commonwealth, Moore was appointed to the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency as a Senior Policy Advisor for the Office of Water from 2003 - 2009. In this position, Moore helped to develop innovative and sustainable market-based programs to protect and restore our environmental resources and managed the legislative affairs for the Office.

Moore's commitment to environmental conservation is evident in his roles as the Director of Policy for the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality from 2000 to 2002 and the Assistant Secretary of Natural Resources for the Commonwealth from 1998 to 2000. In these positions, Moore managed legislative, regulatory, public affairs, and constituent service activities, and worked with agencies to protect and restore our natural resources.

Moore worked as a Chemist at Dominion from 1981- 1996. Moore was a member of the Virginia Board of Medicine and the Radford University Board of Visitors, and the President of the VMI Alumni Association.

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LtCol Michael C. Starling "Mike", USMC (Ret) '92

LtCol Michael C. Starling was raised across several East Coast states and in Scotland due to his father's Navy assignments, completed high school in Virginia before attending VMI. At VMI, Starling served as a Guide Sergeant, Color Sergeant, and Captain/Lieutenant of the Rugby Team.

Upon graduation, Starling commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps. As a lieutenant, served as a platoon commander and company executive officer, later commanding companies in both infantry and light armored reconnaissance battalions as a captain. Starling also served as an intelligence staff officer in an infantry battalion and on a joint duty at a combatant command headquarters.

During the second half of his 20-year Marine Corps career, served exclusively in operations officer and executive officer roles as a major and lieutenant colonel. Starling's assignments included operations officer for a light armored reconnaissance battalion during Operation Iraqi Freedom I, operations officer at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C. - the Corps' honor guard, and cadre member responsible for training and certifying deploying units. Starling later served as executive officer for an infantry battalion during OIF, and as executive officer for a 2,200-person crisis response force deployed aboard three Navy amphibious assault ships to the Mediterranean and Persian Gulf.

After transitioning from active service, Starling has worked with four small government contracting firms in Virginia, supporting the Navy, Marine Corps, Army, and Department of Defense. Here, Starling's roles have included curriculum developer for the Marine Corps Intelligence School, project manager for a DoD-wide marksmanship test and evaluation, facilitator for a futures wargaming exercise, as an operations manager for a skydiving company, and currently as a performance management analyst helping to resolve Service-level issues to improve training and operational performance of deployed Marines.

Between contracting roles, he also held a senior staff position in a boarding, military secondary school. Starling has three advanced degrees in Management and Leadership, Military Studies (Operational Planning), and an MBA.

Trivia: Alongside his two brothers, who also attended VMI, the Starling family maintained an unbroken presence at the Institute for 10 consecutive years.

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LtCol Todd G. Witt '94, USMC (Ret.)

Todd G. Witt is a seasoned professional who dedicated 25 years to the Intelligence Community, achieving significant roles within the CIA before retiring in 2021. Throughout his career, Witt served in various positions, gaining operational experience across Latin America, the Middle East, and Africa, including multiple tours in Afghanistan. Witt is widely experienced in field operations, covert action, counterterrorism, and cross-agency coordination. Witt has worked extensively within the Intelligence, Special Operations, Military and Law Enforcement communities, to include DEA, FBI, CBP, JSOC and DHS. Upon retirement, Witt received the Career Intelligence Medal, for distinguished career service.

Prior to his tenure with the CIA, Witt served 10 years on active duty as a U.S. Marine Corps Officer, specializing in Intelligence and Special Operations. Witt's roles included serving as the Force Reconnaissance Detachment Commander for the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit and as a Company Commander with the 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion. Witt continued his service with the Marine Corps Forces Reserve, retiring in 2015 as a Lieutenant Colonel.

Witt is an alumnus of the Virginia Military Institute with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics and holds a Master of Business Administration from Thunderbird, the School of Global Management. He is also a graduate of the USMC Command and Staff College.

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Colonel Ron Norman '75, United States Air Force (Ret.)

Ron Norman has over 16 years of federal government service as a senior intelligence officer and national agency liaison officer. Norman retired from civil service as a GS-15. As a senior intelligence officer and national agency liaison officer. Norman advised senior defense officials, represented the US and his intelligence agency in international forums, and provided intelligence liaison support and training to other national level agencies.

Prior to joining the federal government, Ron served in the US Air Force for 30 years, also as an intelligence officer. He retired from the Air Force at the rank of Colonel. In his military career, Norman trained and briefed air crews, briefed military organizations and senior leaders on intelligence matters, and commanded an intelligence squadron and group. In his assignments before retiring, Ron was the senior intelligence officer of a numbered Air Force, providing support during contingencies and advising senior level Air Force and Allied leaders. Norman's last assignment was at the Pentagon, where he advised Defense officials as senior liaison for a national intelligence agency.

Norman graduated from the Virginia Military Institute, where he was a Dean's List student and Cadet Captain on the Regimental Staff. He is the Vice President of the Class of '75 and active in the VMI Alumni Association. He was selected to Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. Norman received a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree from Marymount University. While in the military and federal government, Norman graduated from junior, mid, and senior level professional development schools and colleges.

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Colonel Timothy K. Bridges '79, United States Air Force (Ret.)

Timothy K. Bridges currently serves as Executive Director for Navy Installations Command, where he is the senior civilian responsible for policy, strategy, governance and business management oversight for Navy Shore support at 70 installations and 10 regions worldwide. He leads efforts to develop Navy-wide Shore investment strategy, long-term planning, resource programming and business management for the most efficient and effective delivery of shore support services to sustain and improve current and future fleet readiness and mission execution.

Prior to this position, Bridges was the Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, Engineering and Force Protection, Headquarters, U.S. Air Force. He was responsible to the Chief of Staff for leadership, management and integration of Air Force civil engineering, force protection, logistics readiness, supply, transportation, and aircraft and missile maintenance. In this capacity he set policy and prepared budget estimates that reflected enhancements to productivity, combat readiness and quality of life for Air Force personnel.

Bridges retired from Active Duty in the rank of colonel in July 2006 and entered the Senior Executive Service as the Director of Installations and Mission Support for Headquarters, Air Force Materiel Command. He has served in various roles at the base level to include design, planning, contract management, operations, and RED HORSE. His active duty tours included service as an installation commander, two tours as a base civil engineer squadron commander, an Air Force ROTC assistant professor, and various staff positions at the major command and Air Force levels in the readiness, environmental and resources arenas.

Bridges was commissioned in 1979 as a distinguished graduate of the Air Force ROTC program at the Virginia Military Institute, earning a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. He holds a Master's degree in business management and supervision from Central Michigan University.

Bridges has received the Distinguished Executive Presidential Rank Award, Meritorious Executive Presidential Rank Award, Air Force Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service, Legion of Merit and Bronze Star Medal.

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Health | Healthcare

LTC Seth Enterline '06, United States Army Reserves

Seth Enterline works as an orthopedic trauma Physician Assistant at the Northeast Georgia Medical Center in Gainesville, GA. NGMC is a level 1 trauma center in the state of GA which serves a region that encompasses North GA as well as parts of North and South Carolina. Enterline maintains a state license in GA and is a member of the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA), Physician Assistants in Orthopedic Surgery (PAOS), the Society of Army Physician Assistants (SAPA). Enterline is the lead APP for his service and also holds an administrative position as the APP Service Line Leader for all specialty practice Physician Assistants, Nurse Practitioners and Nurse Midwives. Enterline is active in PA Education precepting for multiple PA programs from the state of GA.

Enterline currently serves in the U.S. Army Reserves as a LTC. Enterline was commissioned and graduated from the Virginia Military Institute in May 2006. Enterline attended officer training in San Antonio Texas at Ft Sam Houston. Enterline then went on to serve as a platoon leader and executive officer in the 1st Cavalry Division in Iraq. After Returning from Iraq, Enterline attended the Military Physician Assistant Program in San Antonio, Texas. After graduating from the military PA program in 2012, Enterline was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, KY where he would deploy to Afghanistan in 2012 and 2014. After Returning from his 2nd deployment in Afghanistan, Enterline left active service to join the Georgia Army National Guard in 2015, where he would deploy a third time to Afghanistan. After returning from his third deployment to Afghanistan, Enterline transitioned to the US Army Reserve where he would deploy to Somalia in East Africa with a Surgical Team. Enterline is currently in command of a Medical Support Unit at Fort Benning, GA.

Enterline holds a B.S. in Biology from VMI, B.S. in PA Studies from University of Nebraska, MPAS from University of Nebraska and a MBA from Norwich University. Enterline is a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College as well as the NGHS 2025 Advanced

Practitioner Leadership Academy. Enterline awards and decorations include: the Bronze Star Medal with 1 oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal with 2 oak leaf cluster, Valorous Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Citation, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with campaign star, Iraq Campaign Medal with bronze star device, Global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terror Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, NATO ISAF Medal. Enterline is married to his wife Jamie (his high school sweetheart and ring figure date) of 19 years. Enterline has two children: Parker (16) and Ellie (14).

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Melissa Williams '01

Dr. Melissa S. Krawiec (née Williams) is a board-certified Family Practice physician and Virginia native. Dr. Krawiec earned her Bachelor of Science in Biology from Virginia Military Institute in 2001 and completed her medical degree at the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine in 2005.

Dr. Krawiec completed an internship at WVU's Charleston Area Medical Center and a family practice residency at the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine in Maine.

Following several years in Family Practice and Urgent Care in the Portland, Maine area, Dr. Krawiec joined the U.S. Department of State as a Regional Medical Officer. Krawiec served two overseas tours in this capacity, in New Delhi, India and Warsaw, Poland, respectively.

Following over a decade of service in the U.S. State Department, Dr. Krawiec came to VMI as the Institute Physician and is thrilled to join the VMI family and give back to the Institute in such a meaningful way.

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Richard Moore, MD '77

Richard Moore graduated in 1976 with a BS Biology with honors and attended medical school at Medical College of Virginia 1980. Moore's specialty boards include Pediatrics, Family Medicine Practice Indian Health Service UVA Student Health Emergency Medicine. Dr. Moore retired in 2019.

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Ellie Pickford '24

Ellie Pickford graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and a minor in Applied Mathematics with Institute Honors. At VMI, Pickford tried to take advantage of the many experience-building opportunities: conducting behavioral neuroscience research through SURI, working as a nationally registered EMT for three years, and studying abroad in Dublin. Pickford was on the Women's Water Polo team and held leadership roles as an S2 officer, Cadet Facilitator for Inclusive Excellence, and as the founder of the Pre-Health Professions Club.

Currently, Pickford is pursuing a Master of Science in Molecular & Microbiology with a concentration in Stem Cell Biology at San José State University and Stanford University. As an

intern with the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) Bridges Program, Pickford conducted translational research at the Stanford School of Medicine, exploring how neuronal activity shapes brain tumor progression. Building on my combined experiences from VMI and graduate school, Pickford have applied to MD/PhD programs with the goal of integrating clinical training and scientific discovery to create positive change in medicine. Pickford invite conversations about research, STEM careers, medical and graduate pathways, leadership in civilian life, and fostering community in demanding environments.

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CAPT Dave Richards '81, United States Navy (Ret.)

Upon graduation, Dave Richards I was commissioned in the US Navy and attended the Nuclear Power Submarine program and served on two submarines. After almost 12 years active duty, Richards continued in the Naval Reserves with numerous units for 18 additional years and was lucky enough to retire at the rank of Captain (O6).

Richards's first position in the civilian workforce was with Hoescht-Celanese, a very large German chemical company, as a hands-on chemist in the pilot plant production area. After five years Richards moved on due to plant closure (and did qualify for a pension he started receiving at 55) to various manufacturing positions including plant manager of a specialty plating firm. Richards did want to apply his chemistry major again and wanted to get into biotechnology.

Richards was living in Rhode Island and was hired as a shift supervisor in manufacturing for Amgen which today is still in the top 10 US firms. These types of positions are hands-on leading a team of 6-10 technicians of various seniority. Over the next 14 years, Richards worked and relocated to North Carolina, back north to Massachusetts and ending in California. Richards continued in the manufacturing area as a supervisor and manager from teams of up to 35 personnel. The companies included Covidien, Hospira, Lonza, Sanofi (also in the top 10 worldwide) and Boehringer Ingelheim.

Some of the companies are contract manufacturers as they produce products for other companies. This is an exciting, fast-paced industry which in most cases uses state-of-the-art equipment and technology. They believe in exceptional training, 24-hour operations and provide in my opinion the best benefits packages, The 401K programs have generous matching and, in some cases, Richards had immediate vesting. The medical benefits packages are superb as my wife's cancer treatments were fully covered. You may wonder about the multiple companies Richards worked for. There is a lot of mobility in industry as if you want to move to new areas, make higher pay, or seek promotions earlier, that is what is done. Not only in management, but in all levels. It is not unusual to have team members having worked for three or more companies. Finally, Richards chose to work most of my career on overnight shifts. There is a significant pay differential (even for salary) and it has many challenges when you and your team has to resolve issues at 3 am without the many day staff available during 9-5.

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Mike R. Fleenor '75

Michael R. Fleenor, MD, Class of '75, Biology major and AFROTC grad. Fleenor graduated in 1979 from Medical College of Virginia and completed internship and residency University of Kentucky and University of Louisville in Orthopaedic Surgery. Then after four years active duty

as an orthopaedic surgeon in the Air Force, Fleenor returned to Louisville for a fellowship in hand and microsurgery. After that I returned to my hometown of Bristol, Virginia, where he practiced over 30 years before retiring in 2021. During Fleenor's practice years, he has been an active member of our volunteer fire department and still serve as a Medical Director of the Bristol Va Fire Dept. Now, Fleenor spends time farming, serving on several boards of directors and have taken up blacksmithing and the banjo.

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Victoria J M Smith, RN, BSN

Victoria Smith's career in healthcare began after earning her BSN from Johns Hopkins School of Nursing in 2014. She has served in a variety of clinical roles including emergency department nurse, PACU nurse, and sexual assault nurse examiner, with experience spanning trauma centers, forensic medicine, endocrinology, and reproductive health.

Smith's military service as a U.S. Army officer (O-3/CPT) included leadership roles in logistics and civil affairs, with a 14-month deployment to Iraq. Her background also includes research work at Johns Hopkins Hospital and forensic internship experience in Dallas, Texas.

Smith holds a Legal Nurse Consultant certificate from Duke University and has been recognized with two Daisy Awards for excellence in patient care. Her diverse experience and leadership across both military and civilian healthcare settings reflect a deep commitment to service and clinical excellence.

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Internships

Justin Tammelin '09

Justin Tammelin the reporting to the COO of the VMI Alumni Association, the director of alumni networking will assist with the planning and implementation of strategies, programs and projects that increase alumni mentorship, career guidance, military transition assistance and networking. The director of alumni networking will work to support alumni as well as other stakeholders on post, including the office of career services and the commandant's office.

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IT | Cybersecurity | Tech

Jon Dano '96

Jon Dano is an Industry Executive Advisor with over 25 years of business technology leadership experience in sales, marketing, supply chain, manufacturing, finance, and digital workplace services in the consumer products industry. Dano builds trusted relationships with customers that includes industry thought leadership, digital strategic plan development, business transformation initiatives, the business application of artificial intelligence, business process

optimization and change management. Dano's passion is developing business and technology strategies alongside his customer executive teams that enable business transformation and growth. Prior to joining SAP, Dano held technology leadership positions at the \$9B Campbell Soup Company including Chief Information Officer for Campbell North America and Campbell Food Service business divisions, as well as the Campbell Sales organization. Prior to joining Campbell's, Dano served in the United States Air Force as a communications and computer systems officer working on Air Force level telecommunications programs. Dano is a 1996 distinguished graduate of the Virginia Military Institute where he was the Regimental S-6 Cadet Captain, the Captain of the VMI Men's Soccer Team, the recipient of the Lt. Randolph T. Townsend Award as the first-standing graduate of History Majors.

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Carlos Fernandes '90

Carlos Fernandes serves as Founder and CEO at Agile Cybersecurity Solutions (ACS), a veteran-owned company, providing cybersecurity consulting services to state, local, DoD, IC and commercial client relationships. With over 30 years of intensive and progressive experience in information security, Fernandes is an accomplished seasoned security professional with expert level experiences in Cybersecurity.

In his role, Fernandes is responsible for developing and implementing overall Cybersecurity strategies focused on PREDICTING, PREVENTING and PERSISTING against cyber incidents, anytime and from anywhere. Fernandes brings over two decades of experience in international project management supporting U.S. Government customers including CIA, ODNI, NRO, NSA, DISA, and DIA. Prior to his role in Cybersecurity, Fernandes served in the United States Air Force, as an Intelligence Applications Officer.

Throughout his career, Fernandes has provided expert leadership to complex security-related engagements (CNO, CNE, CNA) analyzing project problems and engineer creative solutions, having held senior positions at Salient, CACI, L-3, Booz Allen Hamilton, and EDS.

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Sarah Gunter '10

Sarah (Whitten) Gunter '10 graduated with a BS in Computer Science and minor in Mathematics. Gunter obtained an MBA from Liberty University in 2015. Gunter is married to Jonathan Gunter '08 in Lynchburg, VA and we have two wonderful cats. Gunter became a Certified SCRUM Master in 2021.

My IT career started as a contractor for Genworth Financial in November 2011 as a Web Assist Support Agent, Gunter progressed to a Change Management Systems Analyst in May 2012. Gunter then transitioned into my current career passion, IT Application Support, in December 2012.

Gunter moved to the Healthcare environment in January 2020 at Centra Health. Gunter am a System Analyst II for General Business Solutions under the Enterprise Business Applications department. We help support the non-clinical applications within the Centra organization. Gunter currently supports over 40 different applications and am working on 15 projects at various stages from Concept Approval to Active.

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Lucas “Luke” Hale '00

Luke Hale matriculated to VMI in 1996 from Pendleton, Indiana, on an Army ROTC scholarship. A civil engineering major, Hale served in the Corps of Cadets as a cadre corporal, color sergeant, and eventually Golf Company Commander. He also was a member of the VMI Glee Club and the Timmons-Gentry Society, where he attended numerous concerts across the East Coast. As a 1st Class cadet, Hale designed, built, and raced VMI's first-ever concrete canoe, named Farfromflöten, in the American Society of Civil Engineers annual competition. As an alumnus, Hale has served as the Central North Carolina – Raleigh Alumni Chapter president and now serves as regional director for the Carolinas.

After graduation, Hale commissioned as an active duty officer in the Armor Branch, where he served in Germany with the 1st Armored Division. In 2004, Hale joined the Army Intelligence Corps, where he continued his active duty service in organizations like the National Reconnaissance Office, the National Security Agency, and the Joint Special Operations Command, among others. During his service, Hale deployed in support of the Global War on Terrorism on multiple occasions. He retired from active duty as a lieutenant colonel in 2021 after 20 years of service. He is now serving as a software product manager for IBM, where he is focused on the development of artificial intelligence-enabled business automation solutions.

Hale's awards and qualifications include two master's degrees (a Master of Science degree in strategic intelligence and a Master of Business Administration degree) and certificates in technology entrepreneurship and supply chain operations. Since his retirement, Hale has been honored as a McLaughlin Fellow with the Jenkins MBA program for his leadership displayed while a student at North Carolina State University. He is now serving as an alumni advisor to the North Carolina State Poole College of Management Career Center and admissions teams. Hale is also an IBM Pathfinder Mentor, partnering with North Carolina State students interested in the technology industry, and an occasional speaker at IBM veteran events.

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Jim Masella '89

Jim Masella is the Vice President of the Compliance Advisory practice at Coalfire, a leading cybersecurity consulting and audit firm, where he oversees the growth, strategy, and delivery of advisory services across commercial, global, and public-sector markets. With over 20 years of experience in IT security, Masella transitioned into cybersecurity following a successful career in the paper industry. Masella leadership has driven multimillion-dollar growth in compliance services across public, commercial, and global markets, while mentoring high-performing teams and shaping strategic initiatives for Coalfire's Advisory services line. A decorated U.S. Army veteran, Masella retired from the Virginia Army National Guard in 2021 after more than 30 years of military service and three mobilizations. Masella was among the Army's first fully qualified

cyber warfare officers and was instrumental in establishing the National Guard's Cyberspace Operations Directorate and its inaugural Cyber Protection Brigade.

Masella earned his BS in Mechanical Engineering from VMI, as well as an MBA from Augusta University in 2000. Masella professional certifications include CISSP, CISA, PMP, and CCSK, reflecting his deep expertise in cybersecurity, compliance, and cloud security.

Masella is a resident of Lexington, Virginia. He is an active member of the VMI Alumni Association and Keydet Club.

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Edward Wagner '88

Ted Wagner is the Business Information Security Officer for SAP National Security Services (SAP NS2). SAP is the world's leading provider of business software solutions, and National Security Services provides industry-focused services for the US DOD, Intelligence Community, and Civil Departments/Agencies.

Wagner joined SAP National Security Services in March 2015 as the Chief Information Security Officer. Wagner has overseen the security and compliance of the corporate network, sharing best practices with customers and supporting NS2's FedRAMP Cloud initiative. Wagner was previously the CISO for TASC. Wagner supported the Army's CERT for 9 years as a project manager for Northrop Grumman. Wagner was responsible for the Incident Response, Forensic and Malware Analysis support provided to Army Cyber Command and 1st IO Command.

Wagner is an adjunct professor at University of Maryland University College, teaching Cyber Policy. Wagner serves as a member of the Cyber Tech Council for the National Security Institute and is published in the book, Cyber Infrastructure Protection, Strategic Studies Institute.

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Karl Renne '96

After graduating from VMI in 1996, Karl Renne was commissioned in the Marine Corps. Following The Basic School, Renne served as an Artillery Officer with 1st Battalion, 12th Marines in Hawaii. After three years in the Pacific, Renne was assigned to Marine Corps Security Forces at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Georgia.

In 2002, after leaving active duty, Renne joined the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) as a Paramilitary Operations Officer in the Special Activities Center. Over the next 16 years, Renne led intelligence collection and covert action operations overseas, with assignments across the Middle East, South Asia, Southeast Asia, Africa, and other regions.

Upon retiring from CIA in 2018, Renne founded GhostWolf Industries, a data and SaaS company serving the investigative (state, local, and federal law enforcement) and intelligence (DoD and Intelligence Community) sectors. Based in southwestern Montana, GhostWolf operates at the forefront of national security and law enforcement challenges, leveraging advanced data and technology solutions to accelerate operations and help teams achieve mission success

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CAPT Stewart Wharton, III '87, United States Navy (Ret.)

Matriculating from West Virginia in 1983 as a History Major, Wharton was commissioned and graduated in May 1987. Wharton held the rank of corporal his third class year, but remained a private the rest of his cadetship. Wharton was elected as president of the Officer of the Guard Association his senior year. Wharton also played rugby Third, Second and First Class years.

Upon commissioning, Wharton served two years on active duty aboard a guided missile cruiser as the Division Officer in charge of the main engines division. Wharton was later assigned to also be the Division Officer of the Automated Data Processing division where he began his compassion for computer and computer security. After this tour, Wharton transferred to the Navy Reserves. In civilian life, Wharton began a career in what is now known as cyber security. Initially working for a bank helping to secure its data as the internet started to explode. From this point, Wharton held a similar position for a manufacturing company when the events of 9/11/2001 happened. Having been selected as the Commanding Officer for a Navy Reserve unit that supported the Telecommunications Station in Bahrain, Wharton and his unit mobilized for support on the Global War on Terror. Wharton was fleeted up to be the Executive Officer (XO) for this command when the Active Duty XO developed a medical condition.

After this tour, Wharton returned to civilian employment working for government contractors where he focused on roles in cybersecurity. Wharton was asked to come back on active duty to serve in the newly established Chief of Naval Operations N6 organization. While on this three-year tour, Wharton held the positions of the first Navy Chief Information Security Officer, the Navy Data Strategy Officer, and Deputy CIO for Information Assurance.

Returning to civilian life, Wharton worked as a contractor for DHS, HHS, DoD where he focused on leading teams performing cybersecurity. While a Reservist during this period, Wharton held back-to-back Commanding Officer tours within the Navy's Information Dominance Corps (IDC), and a tour with NSA. Wharton's final Navy Reserve tour was as the officer community lead at the Headquarters for the Information Dominance Corps Reserve Command where he was tasked with manpower, training and organization for the entire Navy Reserve IDC community. Wharton retired after this tour, completing 27 years of Navy service. Post Navy retirement, Wharton has held the positions of Cyber Executive in various companies including one of the Big 3 Consulting firms. Wharton is currently a Global Chief Information Security Officer.

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Law

Hugh Fain '80

Hugh Fain has been a litigator and dispute resolver for over forty years. With broad experience as a civil trial attorney, Fain's practice has focused on commercial and business litigation. Fain is licensed in both Texas and Virginia.

Fain has equal experience in federal and state trial courts. Fain has argued cases before the Virginia Supreme Court, the Virginia Court of Appeals, and federal circuit courts of appeal. Fain

also has experience handling matters and trying cases before administrative agencies, including the Virginia State Corporation Commission.

Fain has been named by his peers in Chambers USA and Best Lawyers in America in four categories; Bet-the-Company Litigation, Commercial Litigation, Employment Litigation, and Intellectual Property Litigation. Fain is a Fellow of the Virginia Law Foundation. He currently serves as a Commissioner in Chancery for the Henrico County Circuit Court.

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Sharif Gray '11

Sharif Gray is a trial lawyer at Broughton Injury Law. Gray tried cases as a United States Army JAG Officer and as a Drug and Vice Prosecutor, served as a Federal Judicial Law Clerk at a trial court, and now takes cases to trial as a personal injury lawyer. There is nothing more professionally exciting for Gray than preparing for and going to trial. And there is no greater privilege for him than getting results for his clients.

Gray cares deeply about his work and the people he represents. Gray 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 victims and earned a reputation among judges and defense attorneys for being persuasive and fair; and as a personal injury lawyer, he has won millions of dollars in verdicts and settlements.

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

Gray received his law degree from the University of Virginia. During law school, Gray 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.

Gray earned his masters of law degree in trial advocacy from the Temple University Beasley School of Law, which has consistently been ranked as the nation's top trial training program for more than twenty years.

Gray also graduated from the Gerry Spence Method — the premier training for trial lawyers who represent people. Away from work, Gray enjoys spending time with his wife and sons, learning songs on his acoustic guitar, playing on a kickball team, and working out each morning at a CrossFit gym.

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Frank Hilton '80

Frank is a Distinguished Graduate of the Virginia Military Institute (VMI), after which he attended law school at Wake Forest University. He subsequently served three years on active duty in the Army JAG Corps at Fort Carson, Colorado. Upon leaving the Army in 1986, he began his legal

career at Wharton, Aldhizer & Weaver (WAW), the largest law firm in the Shenandoah Valley, with offices in Harrisonburg, Staunton, and Waynesboro.

His legal practice has focused exclusively on civil litigation, with a primary emphasis on medical malpractice cases. In this capacity, he has tried numerous cases throughout Virginia, representing hospitals, physicians, and injured patients. He is licensed to practice law in Virginia, North Carolina, and West Virginia.

Frank has contributed extensively to the legal profession through service on various committees of the Virginia State Bar. His roles have included serving as a faculty member for the State Bar Professionalism Course and as a board member of the Client Protection Fund, which administers over \$10 million to assist Virginians financially harmed by attorney misconduct. Additionally, he was elected President of the Virginia Association of Defense Counsel, a statewide organization with over 800 members. He holds an AV rating and has been recognized by his peers in *Best Lawyers in America* and as a *Virginia Super Lawyer*.

He resides near the village of Pineville in Rockingham County on a farm with his wife, a Doberman, a cat, goldfish, and honeybees—alongside the local wildlife including foxes, groundhogs, and deer. An avid fisherman, Frank is known to keep the smallmouth bass on high alert whenever he's on the Shenandoah River.

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Major General Joseph G. Lynch '69, United States Air Force (Ret.)

MG Joseph Lynch entered active duty in the Air Force in 1972 following graduation from law school at Emory University. MG Lynch served 10 years on active duty as a judge advocate, followed by 22 years in the Air Force Reserve. MG Lynch final Air Force assignment was mobilization assistant to the Judge Advocate General of the Air Force. While serving in the Air Force Reserve, MG Lynch civilian position was assistant general counsel (manpower and reserve affairs) for the Department of the Navy, a career senior executive service position (Level 5). MG Lynch is a recipient of the Air Force Distinguished Service Medal and the Department of the Navy Distinguished Service Medal.

MG Lynch joined the MOAA staff in 2010 as general counsel and corporate secretary. Founded in 1929, MOAA is the largest and most effective military advocacy organization in the United States with over 350,000 members. As the corporate secretary, MG Lynch supported the board of directors and performed other duties associated with the operation of a large, nationwide corporation. As the general counsel, MG Lynch advised the board of directors, president, and staff on a wide variety of corporate governance matters and directed MOAA's legal affairs. MG Lynch retired from his position at MOAA Jan. 31, 2025.

In addition to his duties as MOAA general counsel, MG Lynch has been actively involved in supporting the military community. MG Lynch served as a member of the board of governors of the Army and Navy Club of Washington, D.C., and continues to serve on its finance, investment, and strategic planning committees. MG Lynch also served on the boards of the PENFED Foundation and the Air Force Retired Judge Advocate Association. MG Lynch and his late wife established the Major General and Mrs. Joseph G. Lynch Scholarship Fund at VMI to provide financial assistance to recent VMI graduates attending law school. MG Lynch is a member of the Institute Society, the Washington Arch Society, and the George C. Marshall Order.

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Honorable John McClellan Marshall '65

The Honorable John McClellan Marshall holds degrees from Virginia Military Institute, B.A. '65 (Valedictorian), Vanderbilt University, M.A. '66 [Thesis: The Sparks of TORCH: The Anglo-American Invasion of French North Africa, November 1942], and Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law, J.D. '75 as well as an honorary Doctor of Laws from the Mexican Academy of International Law, LL.D. 1985. He was a member of the history faculty at VMI 1968-69. As an historian, he co-authored the NASA history of Apollo/SaturnV Launch Operations at Kennedy Space Center and was an instructor on the Skylab Program during the period from 1970-73. In addition to service on the bench for 48+ years, he is an Honorary Professor of the University, UMCS, Lublin, Poland, where he has taught courses in American Constitutional and political history since 1993. Judge Marshall is an internationally recognized prize-winning author whose works include "The Terminator Missed a Chip!: Cyberethics", International Astronautical Congress, Oslo 1995; MEDEL Conference, Kraków, Poland, 2018 - "The Constitution and the Independent Judiciary"; "The Modern Memory Hole", *Athenaeum Review*, Fall 2019 (University of Texas at Dallas); "Cyberethics In The 21st Century: The Reign Of The Machines", *Mensa Bulletin*, January 2020; "Machine-Machine To Major Tom: Cyberethics", IAA/UT Conference on Space Traffic Management, Austin, TX, February 2020; "Technoevidence: The 'Turing Limit' 2020", *Journal of AI and Society* (Springer 2021), DOI 10.1007/s00146-020-01139-z. See ORCID ID: 0000-0003-4504-144X for a detailed listing of publications.

Judge Marshall is married and has two daughters. He is an award-winning sailor and holds a second-degree black belt in tae kwon-do.

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Grover C. Outland III '81

Grover C. Outland III '81 has, since January 2025, been serving as President and General Counsel of Tech USA, Inc. (TUI), a company he co-founded more than 27 years ago. At TUI, Outland focuses on consulting, commercial real estate investment/management, litigation & transactional legal matters, and facilitating TUI's performance as an equity holder representative.

From September 2024 - early January 2025, Outland was the CEO and Chairman of each of- Tech USA, LLC (IT, Engineering & Technical recruitment and consulting solutions for commercial and government customers); Site Tech Staffing, LLC (Construction, Manufacturing & Infrastructure recruitment and consulting solutions for the private and public sectors); and Tech USA Government Solutions, LLC (Subcontracting services for the Defense sector and the Intelligence community).

Those three affiliated companies were spun off from Tech USA, Inc. in 2007 - 2009. In early January 2025, Outland spearheaded the sale of those three affiliates to a PE-backed strategic buyer.

From TUI's inception in early 1998 until September 2024, Outland's focus was serving as Senior Vice President, General Counsel, and Facility Security Officer of the above three affiliated Tech USA companies. Outland started his career in law and business with a large Norfolk law firm,

then joined two law firm clients (VMI alumni, '55 and '78) in a commercial real estate brokerage, development, and investment firm in Virginia Beach. In the late '80s, Outland moved to Maryland to accept an offer from an entrepreneur client of the Virginia Beach commercial real estate firm to serve as an in-house attorney for, and corporate officer of, several of that entrepreneur's start-up and mid-size businesses. Outland is a member of the Virginia State Bar and is also admitted to practice law in Maryland; he retired as a member of the District of Columbia Bar in June 2025, due to lack of business/legal activity for several years in that jurisdiction.

A native of Norfolk, Outland received a B.A. degree in Modern Languages from Virginia Military Institute ('81), for three years double-majoring in Mathematics, and earned a J.D. degree from the University of Virginia School of Law ('84). At VMI, Outland was for two years a class officer (Historian and then Vice President). A first class private, he was Editor-in-Chief of The Cadet newspaper, served as President of the Cadet Program Board (the CPB organized and executed social and entertainment events/programs for cadets on Post, other than the dances sponsored by the Hop and Floor Committee). Outland was selected for membership by the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, which awarded him, just before graduation, a partial scholarship for the study of law at UVa Law School. A Distinguished Graduate and Distinguished Military Graduate of the Institute, Outland commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Army at graduation. After an educational delay granted by the Army enabling him to start law school before attending OBC/BOLC, he served in the U.S. Army Reserve as a combat engineer before transferring to the Individual Ready Reserve. Following assignments as a training officer and company commander, he was promoted to Captain and received an Honorable Discharge in 1992.

An engaged alumnus for four decades, Outland was New Cadet Recruiting Chair of the Norfolk VMI Alumni Chapter in the mid-1980s, a member of the VMI Alumni Association's Bylaws Review Committee in the mid-late 1980s, and Vice President and President, respectively, of the Baltimore and Maryland Alumni Chapters in the mid-late 1990s and early 2000s. From 2005 until his 2020 appointment to the BoV, Outland served on the VMI Alumni Association Board of Directors at different times as director, special appointee, Career Networking committee chair, member of the Outreach/Networking, Chapter Operations, Finance, and Executive committees, and as Mid-Atlantic Regional Director (serving two 3-year terms representing alumni in Maryland, Pennsylvania & Delaware). Many in his extended family have "buckled on their boots & spurs and gone to VMI" over the past 8 decades, including his late father ('49B, a past president of the VMI Alumni Association and former member of the BoV), his late uncle/godfather, a First Jackson Hope Medallist ('46), his brother, an '83 Class Officer, his brother-in-law ('83), a retired VMI Sports Information Director and "Voice of the Keydets" on ESPNU and radio, his first cousins ('79 and '82), and two nephews ('17 and '19).

Among Outland's other community activities, he served as a member of the Class Agent team for the UVa Law School Class of '84 from 2009 - 2022 and as a POC with UVa Law Admissions for VMI cadets & alumni interested in admission from 1995 - 2020. Soon after graduating from UVa Law School, taking & passing the Virginia Bar Exam, and completing the Army Engineer Officer Basic Course at Ft. Belvoir, he met his future wife Melissa, then a UVa student, in Charlottesville. Just over four years later they wed in the University Chapel adjacent to Mr. Jefferson's Rotunda. They recently celebrated their 36th wedding anniversary, are the proud parents of three adult daughters, and welcomed their first grandchild (a girl) one year ago.

Outland is a member of St. Margarets (Episcopal) Church in rural Annapolis, where he served as a Lay Reader and as Chair of the St. Margarets Church Endowment Committee. A respectful student of history, he is a hereditary member of the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Virginia, representing a fifth great-grandfather who served as an officer in Virginia's Continental

Line throughout the American Revolution. Outland is also an active member of Kappa Alpha Order's Beta Commission.

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Daniel B. “Dan” Sweeney '80

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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Virginia Townsend '24

Virginia Townsend graduated in 2024. At VMI, Townsend majored in chemistry and international studies with a minor in national security. After graduation, Townsend began attending UVA Law School, where she is currently a 2L. Townsend is primarily interested in national security law and international law, and spent this past summer as a legal intern with the Army JAG Corps.

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Law Enforcement (federal, state, local)

Colonel Vince Carag '86, United States Army (Ret.)

Colonel Vince Carag is an experienced law enforcement professional with over 25 years of service in county and state police agencies. Carag has served as a patrol officer, field training officer, SWAT team leader, patrol supervisor, criminal investigator, and supervisory criminal investigator. In Texas, Carag's team of state police investigators was tasked with investigating high profile, politically sensitive cases that included child deaths, human trafficking, public corruption, and complex multi-million dollar contract fraud. The work of his team was frequently briefed at the highest levels of state government, to include Texas Governor Greg Abbott.

In addition, Carag received a highly competitive Regular Army commission as an Armor officer upon graduating from VMI and completed five years of active-duty service before transitioning to the Army National Guard. He has three combat deployments - Central America, Desert Storm, and Operation Iraqi Freedom, where he commanded an armor battalion. Carag awards include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal with Valor Device, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (4th Award), Combat Action Badge, Ranger Tab, Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, and the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency. Carag retired from military service as a Colonel after a highly successful brigade command.

Carag earned a Bachelor of Arts in History & International Studies from VMI, a Master of Arts in International Relations from Webster University, and a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S.

Army War College. Carag is currently the Director of the General Investigations Division for the Texas Education Agency, the state's department of education.

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Scarlett Collins '05

Scarlett Collins graduated from VMI in 2005 with a degree in Psychology. Collins commissioned in the active duty Army as a Field Artillery officer. Collins transferred to the Quartermaster Corps and deployed to Baghdad in 2007 as a company commander. Upon redeployment and completion of the Combined Logistics Captain's Career Course, Collins worked as the S-4 for the 6th Psychological Operations Battalion (Airborne), during which she also completed Airborne School. Collins separated from the Army in 2011 and went to work as a Material Planner at Ingersoll Rand. From 2014-2015, Collins lived in Kansas City, where she worked for an anti-Human Trafficking non-profit called Exodus Cry. Collins decided she wanted to go into law enforcement with the intent to investigate Human Trafficking.

Collins attended North Carolina Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) in 2015 and worked for the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office in Fayetteville, NC from 2016-2020. Collins worked as a courthouse bailiff, patrol deputy, and Major Crimes Investigative Unit (MCIU) Detective. As a detective, Collins was primarily responsible for investigating violent felony crimes including but not limited to felony assaults, non-lethal shootings, sexual assaults, robberies, and missing persons. In 2020, Collins moved back home to the Nashville, TN area and attended the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department's (MNPd) lateral academy. Since joining the MNPd, Collins have worked patrol, robbery investigations, and am currently assigned to the Special Victims Unit, responsible for investigating adult sexual assaults and human trafficking. Collins is also taking graduate courses through Liberty University for Criminal Justice Leadership.

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Jonathan Glasscock '06

Sergeant Jonathan Glasscock joined the Virginia State Police in 2012, graduating with the 119th Basic Session. Glasscock was assigned to the Bureau of Field Operations (BFO), Division I (Richmond), Area 6 (Chesterfield, Powhatan, and Amelia Co's), where he provided full-service law enforcement services, including enforcement of the Virginia motor vehicle code, crash investigation, speed and DUI enforcement, and even assisting the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries with anti-spotlighting operations using State Police aviation assets. Glasscock transferred to the Training Division in 2017, serving as the crowd control coordinator and becoming an instructor in many disciplines, including chemical agents and less-lethal impact munitions. Glasscock was promoted to Sergeant in 2021, currently serving BFO, Division III (Apomattox), Area 21 (Appomattox and Prince Edward Co's) as an area supervisor. Glasscock's specialties include the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) General Instructor, Safariland munitions instructor certification, and multiple instructor certifications through the Texas State University ALLERT active shooter response center.

Glasscock is also a former Virginia Army National Guardsman, retiring as a Captain after 22 years in the enlisted and commissioned officer ranks. In 2004, Glasscock participated in the

largest VMI cadet mobilization since World War II, deploying to Afghanistan with HHC, 3/116 Infantry Regiment, 29th Infantry Division, as a medical evacuation team leader. Glasscock returned to graduate in 2007 with a B.A. in Psychology. Glasscock's awards include the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Combat Medical Badge, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal (5th Award), the Virginia Army National Guard Legion of Merit, and the NATO Medal. Glasscock lives in Powhatan, Virginia, with his wife and two daughters.

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Jeremy Methven '13

Jeremy Methven, VMI Class of 2013 and is from Springfield, Pennsylvania (outside of Philadelphia). Methven was a Golf Company Corporal, Operations Sergeant, and Executive Officer, at VMI. Methven graduated with a Civil Engineering degree and commissioned in the Marine Corps. After graduation, Methven worked at the VMI Admissions Office until he went active duty and checked in to The Basic School. Methven was a Combat Engineer Officer and was stationed at 9th Engineer Support Battalion in Okinawa where he served as a Platoon Commander, Company XO, and Battalion Future Plans and Operations Officer. Methven's last duty station was at Parris Island, Beaufort, SC, where he served as a Series Commander.

Methven left active duty in June 2019, moved to Texas, and began the Austin Police Department (APD) academy in June 2019. During his time with APD, he have served as a Patrol Officer and Intelligence Officer assigned to the Austin Regional Intelligence Center (ARIC).

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Ken Morris '81

Upon graduating from the Virginia Military Institute, Ken Morris served in the U.S. Army as an armor officer before joining the Virginia Department of State Police (VSP) as a Trooper in 1987. Morris enjoyed a varied career that included traffic enforcement, bomb and fire investigations, bloodstain analysis, and evidence collection at crime scenes. Morris entered training to become a criminal profiler in 2002. After 27 years as a sworn member of the State Police, Morris retired from its behavioral assessment unit on September 1, 2014. My days of leisure were short lived however, as he was asked to return to the VSP behavioral assessment unit on October 26, 2015, as a civilian criminal profiler-consultant. As of 2025, Morris have been in law enforcement for nearly 37 years and have assisted on hundreds of investigations. As one of only about 50 certified criminal profilers in the world still actively working cases, Morris continue to assist with violent crimes investigations for local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies around the United States and internationally. Recently, Morris assisted with investigations in Virginia, North Carolina, Idaho, California, and Missouri. Morris specialize in criminal investigative analysis, a "toolbox" of investigative skills that includes crisis negotiation, bloodstain pattern analysis, crime scene reconstruction, threat assessment, statement analysis, investigative strategies, and criminal profiling. Criminal profiling is a process that predicts personality traits of an unknown offender by assessing the facts of a criminal act and interpreting offender behavior and interaction with the victim, as displayed in the crime scene. Morris lecture extensively on criminal profiling throughout the United States and have done so abroad in Canada, Germany, and South Africa.

Morris am a graduate of the Virginia State Police Basic Trooper Academy, the International Criminal Investigative Analysis Fellowship (ICIAF) Understudy Program for Criminal Profiling, the Virginia Department of Forensic Science Academy, the National Fire Academy, and the FBI

Basic Bomb and Hazardous Devices School at Redstone Arsenal. Morris served as a Board Member and Vice President of the Virginia Homicide Investigators' Association for 16 years.

Morris have been mentioned in various media outlets, including the book AMERICAN FIRE by Monica Hesse (2017), the HBO series BURDEN of PROOF (2023), and an upcoming true crime documentary tentatively entitled "Ignite" (2025).

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Daniel Vaden '12

Daniel Vaden graduated from VMI in 2012. Vaden's goal in attending VMI was to obtain a commission into the military. When Vaden was a second classman, he realized that my future did not include a commission. Vaden always felt called to serve somehow and decided that he could serve my community in a Law enforcement capacity. Vaden applied to the Virginia State Police because they were considered the best law enforcement agency in the state. Vaden started the State Police academy in October 2012 and graduated in June 2013.

Vaden's first post was Culpeper County and worked patrol there for 8 years. Vaden was involved in multiple presidential inaugurations. Vaden was involved in several civil unrest situations to include Charlottesville in 2017 and The January 6 riot at the capital in 2021. After all that civil unrest, Vaden decided to take a different route in my career and took a spot in the Sex Offender Investigative Unit in March of 2021. Vaden have been a member of this unit to present day. Vaden investigate registered sex offenders and make sure they are in compliance with the Sex Offender Registry. Vaden has been a State Trooper now for 12 years.

In 2017, Vaden joined the Virginia Army National Guard. Vaden was in the National Guard until 2023 and was deployed in 2022 to Iraq and Syria. Vaden was a member of Alpha battery 1-111 FA out of Hanover VA. Vaden can speak to the relationship of being a first responder and a member of the national guard to serve my community and my country.

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William "Woody" Woodward Jr. '18

Officer William Woodward has served with U.S. Customs and Border Protection since 2018, joining the agency less than a month after graduating from VMI. His career has included five years on the land border at Houlton, Maine, two years at Washington Dulles International Airport, and multiple temporary duty assignments nationwide. Over that time, he has served on the Baggage Enforcement Team, the Anti-Terrorism Contraband Enforcement Team (AT-CET), and taken on qualifications and details including pursuit driver training, earned expert rifle and pistol qualifications, served on the seized property security detail, mobile field force (riot control), recruiting team, and field training team. He has also served as an instructor at the OFO EMT Academy, helping train the next generation of emergency responders within the agency.

Officer Woodward first trained as an EMT while a cadet at VMI, an experience that carried forward into his CBP career and eventually into teaching at the EMT Academy, work he describes as his most personally rewarding assignment. Among his many roles, he highlights AT-CET as most representative of CBP's mission in action. He encourages cadets to see that there is almost no limit to the depth of training and education available through CBP, whether directly through agency programs or through tuition assistance for outside degrees and certifications.

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Post-Graduate Planning (law, medicine, business)

Colonel (Virginia Militia) Keith E. Gibson '77

Colonel Gibson is Executive Director of the Virginia Military Institute Museum System. He is responsible for the operation and development of the VMI Museum and the Jackson House Museum in Lexington, Virginia, and the Virginia Museum of the Civil War, New Market Battlefield State Historical Park in New Market, Virginia. The museum system is professionally accredited by the American Alliance of Museum.

Growing up near Richmond, Virginia, on land hotly contested during the Civil War, kindled Keith's interest in history at an early age. He received a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from VMI in 1977. Graduate work at George Washington University and James Madison University prepared him for a career in public history.

Colonel Gibson has worked as a consultant on a number of documentary films, made for television films, and feature films including *Salvage Dawgs* (TV, 2017); *Field of Lost Shoes* (feature film 2015); *Man, Moment, Machine* (2006); *Gods and Generals* (2001/2), *History's Lost and Found* (2000), *Field of Lost Shoes* (2000/1—winner of two PBS Emmys), *Wicked Spring* (2000), *The Civil War Journal* (1993-1997), *The Johnson Whittaker Story* (1993), *Sommersby* (1992), *Gettysburg* (1992), *The Smithsonian's Civil War* (1990) and *Dress Gray* (1985). He appears frequently as a spokesperson for historic preservation on radio and Public Broadcasting television programs.

Colonel Gibson is author of *Virginia Military Institute*, released in November 2010. He is also the author of *The VMI Spirit: A Portrait of VMI* (1989) and co-author of *Moses Ezekiel: Civil War Soldier; Renowned Sculptor* (2007). He is a contributing author to *Crowd of Honorable Youths* (1989), *Forces of the British Empire* (1992), and *The Virginia Biography of History* (1991) and the Oxford University Press *Grove Encyclopedia of American Art* (2009). He wrote a new introduction and biographical sketch for the reprinting of Frances Smith's *History of Virginia Military Institute* (1989), *The Corps Forward* (2005) and *Call Out the Cadets* (2019).

He appears frequently as a spokesperson for historic preservation on radio and Public Broadcasting television programs. He was instrumental in the development of the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District and Commission Act passed by Congress in 1996.

Colonel Gibson was awarded the Governor's Agency Star as the outstanding state employee of 2012. That same year he was recognized by the Shenandoah Valley Travel Association with the award of the Shenandoah Bowl for life-long contributions to heritage tourism.

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Colonel Charles W. Sachs '79, United States Air Force (Ret.)

Charles W. "Charlie" Sachs, a proud member of the Class of 1979, earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics, was a Company E cadet, and an NCAA tennis letterman. He later co-founded the Omaha, Nebraska Chapter of the VMI Alumni Association. Following distinguished

military and corporate careers, Sachs now serves as the director of Region X–South, responsible for 11 alumni chapters in six states with over 1,500 alumni. He chairs the Outreach Committee, serves on the Executive Committee and Nominating Committee, and previously chaired the Engagement Committee.

Commissioned into the U.S. Air Force as a communications-electronics officer upon graduation, Sachs served 25 years across the active Air Force, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserve. His notable assignments included serving as a flight crew member and communications team officer-in-charge on the E-4B National Airborne Operations Center, commander of a Special Operations combat communications squadron, and Iraq-deployed J6 director of communications supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. He also served as the first Air Force deputy director of irregular warfare requirements. Sachs retired as a colonel in 2010.

After retiring from the Air Force, Sachs held executive leadership roles at Bank of America, Harland Clarke Holdings Corporation, and USAA, specializing in business continuity, disaster recovery, and IT supplier governance.

He holds a Juris Doctor degree from Creighton University School of Law and a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. He is also a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Air War College and Air Command and Staff College. Now retired from both public service and the private sector, Sachs currently advises Congressman Chip Roy on national security and veterans affairs and serves on the Military Officers Association of America Board of Directors.

Sachs is married to retired U.S. Air Force Reserve Lt. Col. Jacqueline Purdy, a 1990 graduate of Texas A&M (Corps of Cadets). They live in Southlake, Texas, with their lively household of three dogs and three cats.

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Anne Townsend '24

Anne Townsend is currently pursuing a three-year Master of Architecture degree at the University of Virginia. Townsend graduated from VMI with a B.S. in Civil & Environmental Engineering and minors in Spanish and Applied Mathematics, making architecture a meaningful pivot that allows me to apply my technical and liberal arts background to a new field. During my time at VMI, Townsend interned with Austin Brockenbrough & Associates in Richmond, VA as a civil/structural engineering intern the summer before her first-class year. After realizing that traditional CE office work wasn't the career path she was seeking, Townsend set my sights on UVA Architecture and began my graduate degree in July 2024. Since then, Townsend has externed with the historic preservation studio at Glave & Holmes Architecture in Richmond, VA, and completed a fellowship with 100 Fold Studio in Lakeside, MT, where she was immersed in a faith-based architectural community focused on mission work and community design. Townsend has also been blessed with opportunities to serve as a teaching and research assistant, supporting a graduate housing studio studying temporary housing for refugee populations in Greece. This work has taken her to Acadia, Maine for research and will bring me back to Acadia and Greece this year. In addition, Townsend is currently serving as a TA for a graduate and undergraduate structures course.

After graduating from UVA in 2027, Townsend hope to commission into the Marine Corps or Army as an engineer officer, serving in either an active duty or reserve capacity. Alongside military service, Townsend aspire to pursue mission-oriented architectural work, providing

homes, community centers, churches, and other essential resources to populations in need—both locally and abroad.

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Jack E. Smith '18

Jack E. Smith is a Captain in the United States Air Force and a seasoned Special Warfare Officer with extensive experience in tactical operations, international defense strategy, and crisis response. Currently serving as Assistant Director of Operations for the 724th Special Tactics Group, he has led multinational collaborations across NATO and the Middle East, integrating advanced combat capabilities and strategic planning. A graduate of Virginia Military Institute with distinction in Computer Science and a Master's candidate in Cybersecurity Law at Norwich University, Jack combines technical expertise with operational leadership. His decorated career includes top honors from USAF Officer Field Training and U.S. Army Ranger School, and he actively mentors veterans through the Service to School program.

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Resume Review

Jerry Aveta '72

Jerry Aveta was raised New Jersey and matriculated to VMI in the summer of 1968 and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering in May 1972. After graduation, Aveta immediately went to work for United Engineers out of Philadelphia as a project engineer in training at the construction site of Three Mile Island until leaving to complete his military obligation in the Air Force. Completing his active-duty requirement, Aveta worked for Virginia Electric and Power Company for three years before beginning his Civil service career. Aveta was a career Civil servant in the Department of Defense holding various engineering, program management, and executive positions. Retiring in 2005, Aveta was awarded by the Secretary of the Army the Award for Distinguished Civilian Service.

After Aveta's civil service retirement, he spent seven years teaching Algebra, Geometry, and Trigonometry in high schools in Virginia and Maryland. Aveta concluded his career serving as the first Facilities Engineer at Ocean Pines Association in Berlin, Maryland. Ocean Pines is Maryland's second-largest HOA, consisting of various recreational facilities and over 5,000 residential homes.

Aveta's diverse career included an avocation of teaching, counseling, and pastoring in various communities of faith for over thirty years. Aveta was raised Catholic, but his faith journey included both non-Pentecostal and Pentecostal Protestant faith communities including Independent Baptist, Assembly of God, and other independent ministries. During this time Aveta earned an MA in Religion and Counseling from Liberty University. Aveta's ministry concluded as a licensed, ordained minister in the International Pentecostal Holiness Church. During that time, Aveta started and pastored his own IPHC church from 1999 to 2006.

Aveta has served in many capacities in denominational and non-denominational churches during which he developed a view of faith that is unique and relevant for our times.

www.faithforthetimes.net has been his forum for writing about current issues and their relevance to our faith. "The Evidence of Things Unseen" was published in 2021 by West Bow Press. Reviewed by Readers' Favorite Book Review it was assigned three 5-star reviews. "Faith for the Times," his second writing was published by ABUZZ Press the publishing arm of Booklocker.com. Aveta's first short story "Into the Light" was selected for publication in the 2022-2023 Indignor Playhouse Short Story Annual Competition. Aveta's most recent book is "When Liberty Enslaves – The Toxic Blend of Politics and Faith" being published by MSI Press. All publications are available on Amazon and all major book outlets.

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Cmdr. Patrick J. "Pat" Griffin, USN (Ret.) '80

Patrick Griffin is a 1980 graduate of the Virginia Military Institute. During his cadetship he held the rank as a corporal, sergeant and lieutenant in Charlie Company. Griffin is very proud to have served the VMI Alumni in various positions for over 24 years. He served as VMI's New England Alumni Chapter President from 1990 to 1996 and again from 2006 to 2015. He was elected to the VMI Alumni Board of Directors (BOD) in 2015 as the Northeast Regional Director. While on the BOD, Griffin served on the New Cadet Recruiting Committee and the Networking Committee; he also chaired the Outreach Committee for three years. Upon completion of his term in 2021, and after relocating to Lynchburg, Virginia, Griffin was selected as a Special Appointee to the VMI BOD to continue his work on the Networking Committee. In 2022 he was again elected to the VMI Alumni BOD, this time as the Southwest Virginia Regional Director. He continues to serve as a member of the Networking Committee. Additionally, Griffin is currently serving a 9-year term as a member of the VMI Research Laboratories Board responsible for vetting all academic department research project proposals. He also served on the VMI Parents Council from 2020 to 2022 where he was an active participant and leader on the Parents Council Recruiting Committee and the Mess Hall Committee.

Upon graduation from VMI, Griffin commissioned in the United States Navy as a Surface Warfare Officer where he served aboard the USS Blue Ridge, LCC-19, flagship of the 7th fleet. He was subsequently selected for special duty assignment as a Naval Gunfire Liaison Officer, with the United States Marine Corps 2nd Air and Naval Gunfire Liaison Company (2nd ANGLICO), Camp Lejeune, NC. After leaving active duty, Griffin joined the U.S Navy Reserve where he served in various positions with units of the Naval Control of Shipping Organization (NCSO) and the U.S. Military Sealift Command (MSC), retiring as a Commander. In 1987 Griffin began his federal career with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) where he served as a Compliance Safety and Health Officer, a Compliance Assistance Specialist, Compliance Assistance Coordinator and Area Director. Griffin retired from OSHA in 2018 after 31 years with the agency. Griffin currently works as a Safety Consultant in the construction industry.

Griffin's civilian board service includes Chairman of the Federal Executive Council, State of Rhode Island; Commodore, Quonochontaug Yacht Club; VMI Research Laboratories Board. His military awards include Navy Commendation Medal; Navy Achievement Medal; and Meritorious Unit Citation. Griffin's civilian awards include U.S Secretary of Labor Honor Award; U.S. Secretary of Labor Exceptional Achievement Award; and Hurricane Katrina Response Award. His memberships include Military Officers Association of America; Disabled American Veterans; American Legion; and Kappa Alpha Order/Beta

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Casey Haeg '17

After earning a bachelor's degree in Business and Economics from Virginia Military Institute in 2017, Haeg entered the civil service as a Budget Analyst supporting the Department of Defense (DoD). Haeg time in the DoD has been focused on justifying and securing funds through the Congressional budget process and working in the legislative affairs shop. Haeg is currently serving as an executive assistant to the Chief Financial Officer (CFO). In Haeg's free time, she enjoys traveling, hiking, and camping with her adventurous husband, Jared, and their two dogs.

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LtCol Tom Linn '73, USMC (Ret.)

Since 1996, Tom Linn, of Linn Write & Associates, Inc., has communicated advanced technologies for the Department of Commerce (NIST), Department of Defense, Department of Justice, Applied Research Lab at Penn State University, University of Maryland and corporate industry. This service has included articulating artificial intelligence, cloud computing, quantum communications, 5G, 6G, and Internet of Things and more. Linn is a Distinguished Fleet Professor in the U.S. Naval War College, in which he develops and teaches instruction on artificial intelligence in international security and naval operations, as well as U.S. space security.

Linn has published on technology and national security in the Baltimore Sun, Chicago Tribune, International Herald-Tribune, Los Angeles Times, Richmond Times Dispatch, San Diego Union-Tribune, San Francisco Chronicle, USA Today, Wall Street Journal, Wall Street Journal Europe, Washington Post, Washington Times and in several defense journals.

Linn is a 1973 graduate of the Virginia Military Institute and holds Masters of Arts in national security studies from Georgetown University and U.S. Naval War College. Additionally, Linn is a retired Marine Corps lieutenant colonel, with operational service in Cambodia, Vietnam, and Iraq.

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Colonel Anthony J. "Jamie" MacDonald '83 - United States Army (Ret.)

Anthony J. "Jamie" MacDonald graduated from the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) in 1983 with a Bachelor of Arts in History. During his time at VMI, he held various leadership positions, including A Company Corporal, Sergeant, and Lieutenant. An active participant in VMI alumni affairs, Jamie is a former president of both the Potomac River and George C. Marshall Alumni Chapters. Currently, he serves as the Regional Director for Region XIV (Metro D.C.) and chairs the Alumni Association's Engagement Committee. He also serves on the association's Executive, Finance, and Outreach Committees and is the Class Agent for VMI's Class of '83.

Jamie is the Director of the Strategic Initiatives Group for the Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence (G-2) on the United States Army Staff. In this capacity, he acts as a strategist and

advisor to the Army's Senior Intelligence Officer. He assumed this role after retiring from the Army as a Colonel, having completed over 30 years of active service.

Originally commissioned into the Infantry in 1983, Jamie transitioned to the Military Intelligence Corps in 1987. He has over 40 years of leadership and staff experience, specializing in multi-discipline intelligence operations, strategy development, and the coordination of joint and interagency partnerships and coalitions. Jamie has commanded units ranging from the platoon to the group level and is recognized as an authority on combined joint and interagency intelligence operations. His military career includes assignments with Airborne, Armored Cavalry, Military Intelligence, Recruiting, Joint Task Force, and Special Operations commands. Jamie has also served with the Defense Intelligence Agency and on both the Army and Joint Staffs. His overseas service has taken him to Germany, Afghanistan, Iraq, and other locations in Europe, Central and South America, Southwest Asia, and the Pacific region.

In addition to his degree from VMI, Jamie holds a Master of Science in Administration from Central Michigan University and a Master of Science in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College.

Jamie is married to Jennifer, and they have three wonderful children: Liam, a director for a global healthcare company; Molly, an elementary school special education teacher; and Grace, a registered nurse.

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Sales | Marketing

Jay Hutt '78

Jay Hutt's experience over the past 45+ years is broad and multi-faceted. Hutt have spent time in a variety of industries, all sales and sales management related, from life and medical insurance sales and management (John Hancock and Piedmont Community Health Plan/Centra Medical) to medical sales (Johnson & Johnson), followed by search and placement, or "headhunting," in both medical marketing and sales and medical/pharmaceutical R&D. Hutt then spent a significant number of years with ADT Security Systems and security-related organizations, and have travelled extensively across the US, establishing and managing a national customer base in 44 of the lower 48 states. The latter years included numerous public speaking events, with audiences ranging up to 400-500 participants.

Although Hutt's has not had a typical linear career, the breadth of his experiences has demanded highly-refined networking and business-solutions oriented skills, and the ability to develop strong relationships with owners and managers of businesses ranging from 5 to 1000+ employees. Many of those relationships developed into close personal friendships that remain in place long after my active role serving many former customers. Of particular benefit to job seekers at any stage is my experience counseling on matters specific to resume writing, interviewing skills and tactics, and job-offer negotiations. As the old saying goes, it's not what you know – it's who you know, and my career has left him with many doors that remain open even in my retirement years. Hutt look forward to meeting you!

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Chris Kemper '93

Chris Kemper received a bachelor's degree in International Studies and Spanish from VMI, an MBA from Brenau University, a graduate certificate in Financial Management from the University of Maryland Global Campus, and numerous certifications from Google, Hubspot, and other providers. A retired 23-year Army veteran, Kemper has 18 years of civilian experience in business administration, both working for other companies and as a business owner.

In 2018, Kemper and his business partner, Samie, started EMILY Revolutionary Marketing Group®. They started with a group of 6 part-time interns from a local college, servicing clients from across South Carolina. Today, in 2025 EMILY is in its 6th year of business, has a team of 12, and has served over 220 clients across the United States and Canada.

EMILY's services include graphic designs, social media content development, website development, Google PPC, search engine optimization, geotargeted ads, and AI search. Kemper is skilled in search engine optimization, data analytics, financial management, project management, and operational management.

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Colonel William S. Robertson '78, United States Army (Ret.)

While going through his first semester, Colonel William Robertson noticed so many options were available to me. Robertson was 18 years old. Would I feel the same in 4 years? Robertson needed options. Robertson made a decision to travel down a new road with options. VMI provided me with what he needed to excel in two simultaneous careers.

Robertson retired after 44 years in building material sales in the commercial construction industry. Robertson helped contractors with their building material needs to build bridges, schools, universities, water and wastewater plants, concrete tilt up projects and more. Robertson started with a local company in Lynchburg, Virginia, and worked for that company for over 10 years. Robertson moved to a bigger company in the same industry based in Raleigh, NC with an office in Richmond, VA. Robertson had more options and a larger inventory to sell from. Robertson kept my same customer base and added more territory and customers. Another company based in Orlando, FL bought the company from Raleigh. Robertson stayed on with the Orlando company covering my same territory in Virginia. Then the Home Depot bought the Orlando company. Robertson stayed on with the Home Depot growing my sales. Next the Home Depot sold us to a private company with offices all over the U.S. Robertson stayed on and continued to grow my business. Before Robertson retired from this company, it became available to the public on the New York Stock Exchange. Robertson kept the same customers all through the years with the expansion of products and services for my customers. Robertson always liked having more and more options to sell to my customers.

Robertson's second career was with the Army Reserves. Robertson retired as a Colonel from the 80th Division after completing 30 years of service. Robertson held command positions at the company, battalion and brigade level. Robertson served as the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-4 Logistics and the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-6 Information Management for two 80th Division Commanders. The Reserves were an important option for Robertson. The key was getting health insurance when he retired. Robertson served with many VMI alumni throughout my

military career who were great mentors. Some of these same alumni were also my customers in civilian life. Roberston's civilian employers always supported my military duties.

Roberston am actively involved in two non-profit organizations in Richmond, VA., one since 2012 and the second one since 2022.

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Eric Schwarz '79

Eric Schwarz, CF APMP, graduated with distinction from VMI in 1979 with a BA in History. Schwarz was also a Distinguished Military Graduate from Army ROTC. As an active duty Army Infantry Officer, Schwarz led soldiers at the platoon and company level and was a staff officer for battalion, brigade, and command organizations. Additionally, Schwarz was a Senior Small Group Instructor/Faculty Advisor for the Engineer Officer Advanced Course. Schwarz earned an MBA from Strayer University and separated from the Army after 13+ years in 1992.

From 1992 to 2024, Schwarz worked in the government-services industry for a number of small and mid-size companies. After starting out as a systems analyst and project manager, Schwarz moved into positions where he managed and supported all aspects of capture/business/proposal development. Essential elements of these positions were to identify, qualify, and develop opportunities; conduct and analyze market research; build multi-disciplinary teams; and plan, develop, and produce written and/or oral proposals. Schwarz management and/or technical support experience was demonstrated on 100's of proposals, responses to Request for Information (RFIs), white papers, marketing materials, etc. Schwarz's expertise in bid & proposal process development, proposal management, and technical writing/editing were valued by current employers and highly sought after by potential employers. In 32 years, Schwarz was never unemployed. Schwarz earned the Association of Proposal Management Professionals (APMP) Foundation Level Certification in 2013 and was an Officer of the Board of Directors of the APMP National Capital Area chapter for over 15 years.

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Roberto H. "Rob" Robinson '81

Roberto H. "Rob" Robinson was a 35-year veteran of the rail industry spending his entire career with Norfolk Southern and predecessor, Southern Railway Company. Robinson began his career in 1982 as an Engineering Trainee in the Maintenance of Way/Engineering Department. He held several positions of increasing responsibility both in division and production maintenance before assuming his first position in Marketing: Special Equipment Engineer - Automotive.

Robinson held various positions within marketing that include Equipment Marketing, Coal Marketing, Distribution Services, Modalgistics, and Industrial Products. He retired in 2017 as Group Vice President Short Line Marketing and Commercial Development, where he was responsible for managing the marketing, sales, and relationships with NS' 245 short line partners that participate in approximately one million short line carloads annually. Robinson was also responsible for the business development of new and non-traditional markets at NS.

Robinson received his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the Virginia Military Institute in 1981 and his master's degree in business administration from Averett University in 1991. Robinson holds a certification in "Integrated Supply Chain Management" from the University of

Tennessee and is a graduate of Northwestern University, Duke University and University of Tennessee Executive programs in Advanced Transportation Management.

Robinson board experience includes service on the Transportation Advisory Board to the Commanding General at USTRANSCOM Scott Air Force Base and on the Surface Executive Working Group at USTRANSCOM. He served on the Board of Trustees of the North Cross School in Roanoke, VA (two terms). He currently works on the Board of Directors of the VMI Class of 1980 Foundation. Robinson is an active member of the Rockbridge Chapter of the VMI Alumni Association, Leadership member of the VMI Keydet Club, and a member of the VMI Institute Society.

Robinson has two daughters, Madeline UVA '20 and Caitlin UVA '25.

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Lee Adams '19

Lee Adams is a marketing strategist with over five years of experience in both agency and in-house environments, specializing in content development, brand strategy, and integrated marketing campaigns. At Charles Ryan Associates, Adams led the agency's tourism division and worked closely with national clients such as Dominion Energy, Appalachian Power, and Anthem Healthcare. He developed brand and advertising materials tailored to each client's industry and audience, helping drive engagement and visibility across Virginia's eastern shore and broader regional markets.

Currently, Adams serves as a Product Marketing Specialist at Apex Systems, a global IT consulting firm, focusing on the AI, Cybersecurity, and Cloud sectors. His work includes crafting strategic messaging, developing marketing materials, and launching campaigns that translate complex technologies into accessible, compelling narratives. Adams collaborates with product management, sales, and technical teams to ensure alignment with business goals and market trends. Lee's ability to bridge creative strategy with technical insight allows him to deliver impactful marketing solutions that resonate across both B2B and B2C audiences.

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Transportation | Logistics

CAPT Keith E. Sykes, '89, United States Navy (Ret.)

A native of Capron, Virginia, Keith Sykes graduated from the Virginia Military Institute with a Bachelor's Degree in Economics in 1989. After graduation, Sykes received a commission into the United States Navy as a Supply Corps Officer. In 2000, he received a Master's in Business Administration with a concentration in Logistics Management from the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS), Monterey, CA. Additionally, he attended the Stanford University Graduate School of Business, Executive Program in Strategy and Organizational Management.

As a navy veteran, Sykes spent over 27 years in uniform and has top level management and leadership experience with diverse and complex organizations demonstrating a blend of

executive decision making. A career logistician, Sykes's specific emphasis has been in supply chain, inventory, transportation, acquisition, personnel management and strategic planning. Keith retired as a Navy Captain in 2016.

Sykes has been a member of the Acquisition Professional Community and is Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act (DAWIA) Life Cycle Logistics Level III certified and Program Management Level I certified. Sykes is a graduate of the University of North Carolina Kenan-Flagler Business School for Logistics and Technology Management (LOGTECH). Additionally, he is a Graduate of the Advanced Management Program (AMP)

Sykes currently works for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) at the Academy campus in Quantico, VA where he serves as the Unit Chief for the Facilities Services Unit. He is married to the former Dawn M. Moore of Suitland, MD. They reside in Alexandria, VA.

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William “Bill” P. Hamlin ‘79

William “Bill” P. Hamlin ‘79 grew up in Roanoke, Va, and graduated from Patrick Henry High School and is VMI Class of 1979. Hamlin served in the U.S. Army and Army Reserves and worked for Caterpillar, Carter Machinery Co. Carter is the Cat Dealer for Virginia and Southern West Virginia. While with Carter, Hamlin worked in operations and heavy equipment machine sales. Hamlin lived in Grundy and Norton in the Virginia coalfields. Hamlin also worked out of Warrenton, Chesapeake and Fishersville.

After Carter, Hamlin worked 35 years for Boxley Materials Company. Boxley is a construction materials supply company focusing on aggregates, asphalt, brick, block and hardscapes and ready-mix concrete in Central Virginia, Southern Virginia, Southwest Virginia and Southern West Virginia. Boxley is a vertically integrated company where the other lines of business were all customers of the aggregates line of business. Hamlin started off with Boxley as a single. quarry superintendent. Hamlin became the vice president of aggregates and was accountable for their 12 aggregate sites. Hamlin was a member of Boxley’s Executive Leadership Team.

Hamlin served on the board of the Virginia Aggregates Association. Hamlin served on the board and was President of the (VTCA) Virginia Transportation Contractors Alliance. The VTCA is the result of the merger of The Virginia Roadbuilders Association and the Virginia Aggregates Association. Hamlin was a Paramedic and was listed on the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians – Paramedic. I volunteered in EMS, Emergency Medical Services, for 15 years with Staunton Augusta Rescue Squad and then Campbell County Rescue Squad. Hamlin served on the board of the American Red Cross, Lynchburg Chapter.

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