



INSTITUTE REPORT

VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE

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Wins Inaugurated as VMI Superintendent

By Mary Price

On a clear and pleasant afternoon, Maj. Gen. Cedric T. Wins '85 was inaugurated as Virginia Military Institute's 15th superintendent Friday, Sept. 10, and honored with a parade by the Corps of Cadets and a reception in Marshall Hall.

Wins came to VMI in November 2020 as interim superintendent following a 34-year career in the U.S. Army. In April 2021, he was named superintendent by a unanimous vote of the VMI Board of Visitors. Earlier this year, Wins released his "One Corps—One VMI: A Unifying Action Plan," which focuses on five goals: honor, diversity and inclusion, the VMI brand, competing and winning, and one VMI.

Friday's parade and brief ceremony were marked by a mix of military traditions and those unique to VMI. Prior to the parade, faculty members donned their academic regalia and processed from Moody Hall to the Parade Ground, where they were seated.

Wins was honored with ruffles and flourishes and a 13-gun salute from VMI's

howitzers before trooping the line to inspect the Corps of Cadets with Thomas "Tom" Watjen '76, president of the VMI Board of Visitors, and Cadet 1st Captain Kasey Meredith '22.

After the colors were brought forward and the national anthem was played, Sgt. Maj. William T. "Tom" Sowers passed the VMI regimental flag to Watjen, who then passed it to Wins. Later, Wins received the key to the main door of the 1816 arsenal which preceded VMI, becoming the fourth VMI superintendent to take part in this unique tradition.

"VMI is strong and will remain forward focused," said Wins in brief remarks at the parade. "Since our founding,

See Wins Inaugural, page 14



Sgt. Maj. Tom Sowers passes the regimental flag to Board of Visitors President Tom Watjen '76 who then passed it to Maj. Gen. Cedric T. Wins '85, ceremoniously making Wins the 15th superintendent of VMI.—VMI Photo by Kelly Nye.

VMI Pays Tribute on 20th Anniversary of Sept. 11 Attacks

By Mary Price

On the weekend marking the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in which almost 3,000 individuals lost their lives, including two VMI alumni, the Institute paid tribute to those individuals with a variety of

observances involving many members of the VMI community.

Observances began at 8:30 a.m. on the morning of Saturday, Sept. 11, with members of the VMI Board of Visitors conducting a short ceremony and laying

two memorial wreaths at the base of the statue Virginia Mourning Her Dead.

Giving brief remarks at the ceremony was retired Air Force Gen. John Jumper

See Sept. 11 Tribute, page 8

Leadership Conference to Focus on Citizen-Leaders

By Mary Price

As summer turned into fall, staff at the Center for Leadership and Ethics (CLE) were doing what they do best: planning the CLE's annual Leadership and Ethics Conference. This year's 12th annual event, "Evolving Civic Leadership: Citizenship and Social Responsibility," will be held Monday, Nov. 1, and Tuesday, Nov. 2, in Marshall Hall.

Getting ready for the Leadership Conference isn't as easy as lining up speakers and ordering food. Putting together the conference integrates the skills of all CLE staff members, from theme and topical research to speakers to selection and execution of activities for the audience to reinforce learning objectives.

This Leadership Conference is designed to engage participants; speakers are followed by table-group activities.

"Over the course of the two days, no matter what our theme is, our audience goes

on a personal development journey," said Maj. Catherine Roy, communications and marketing specialist at the CLE.

"I like to call it a learning arc," added Lt. Col. Kim Connolly, assistant director of programs and conferences at the CLE. "Each speaker, each activity builds on what came previously."

Speakers are carefully chosen and just as carefully evaluated. Roy and Connolly watch videos of potential speakers to get a sense of their energy and style, and Col. David Gray, CLE director, talks with them on the phone. It's a process that can easily take six to eight months.

As they work, CLE staff members keep in mind their goal: to make sure the theme of the Leadership Conference relates to the CLE's yearly theme, which this year is citizen-leaders. That goal was chosen to support the unifying action plan put forth by Maj. Gen. Cedric T. Wins '85, superintendent.

"We tend to, I find, stick around themes regarding American society, citizenship, who we are as Americans, where's our place in the globe ...because it goes back to the VMI mission," said Roy. "Our mission is to create citizen-leaders."

Supporting that goal, CLE staff are planning this year's conference with three modules, each supported by a speaker. The first module will focus on the rights and responsibilities of American citizens, and the speaker will be Amy Chua, a Yale law professor and author of the book, "Political Tribes: Group Instinct and the Fate of Nations."

The second module, social responsibility, will feature remarks from John Wood Jr., national ambassador for Braver Angels, an organization dedicated to helping Americans overcome political polarization.

With Braver Angels facilitators on site to guide them, participants in the Leadership Conference will then debate four controversial topics chosen by participants themselves.

"Each side gets to express their thoughts on an idea and then critique their own position," explained Roy. "It's really about listening and understanding what your talking points are."

"You're not there to change people's minds, but to learn to listen, understand, and respect opposing viewpoints," said Connolly. "It should be very powerful."

The first day will end with a dinner speaker, Eric Liu, founder of Citizen University, whose mission is to build a culture of powerful, responsible citizenship in cities across the country.

On the second day of the conference, William McNulty, a Marine veteran and founder of Team Rubicon, a group which trains veterans to respond to natural disasters, will speak in support of the third module, unity.

His remarks will be followed by a panel discussion featuring alumni who've made an impact by initiating collaborative efforts to address diversity, equity, and inclusion

at VMI. Moderating the panel will be Lt. Col. Jamica Love, the Institute's chief diversity officer.

The conference's final speaker will be Staff Sgt. David Bellavia, the only Medal of Honor recipient living from Operation Iraqi Freedom.

A new offering at this year's conference will be a poster contest with cash prizes, open to all undergraduate students, with judging by a panel of experts as well as audience voting for the best final presentations. Winners of the contest will be announced just before Bellavia speaks.

Both Connolly and Roy urge cadets to sign up for the conference as soon as possible, as it's a valuable networking opportunity, in addition to a chance to learn from leaders from a variety of backgrounds. Permits will be available.

And each year, the feedback from participants is almost uniformly positive. "We get remarks like, 'This event was fabulous. I didn't know you guys did this,'" said Roy.

To register for the conference, go to www.vmi.edu/about/conferences/leadership. ☘



The 12th Annual VMI Leadership and Ethics Conference will be held Nov. 1–2.—Image courtesy of the Center for Leadership and Ethics.

INSTITUTE REPORT

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The Institute Report, VMI's monthly newsletter, publishes eight issues during each academic year. Inquiries, suggestions, news items, and address changes should be directed to Editor, Institute Report, VMI Communications and Marketing, Lexington, VA 24450-0304; (540) 464-7207; or VMIReport@vmi.edu. © 2021 Virginia Military Institute.

Director Col. Bill Wyatt
Editor Maj. Michelle Ellwood
Assistant Editor Kelly Nye
Designer Robbin Youngblood
Institute Report Staff
H. Lockwood McLaughlin
Eric Moore
Mary Price

Header photo on page 1 by
H. Lockwood McLaughlin

The Virginia Military Institute is committed to providing an environment that emphasizes the dignity and worth of every member of its community and that is free from harassment and discrimination based on race, sex, color, national origin, religion, age, veteran status, sexual orientation, pregnancy, genetic information, against otherwise qualified persons with disabilities, or based on any other status protected by law. In pursuit of this goal, any question of impermissible discrimination on these bases will be addressed with efficiency and energy and in accordance with VMI General Order 16. General Order 90 addresses complaints or reports of retaliation against those who have opposed practices prohibited by General Order 16, those who have filed complaints or reports of prohibited practices, and those who have testified or otherwise participated in enforcement of General Order 16. Questions regarding discrimination prohibited by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, or other federal law, may be referred to the VMI Inspector General and Title IX Coordinator, 212 Carroll Hall, VMI, Lexington, VA 24450, (540) 464-7072. Any cadet or prospective cadet having questions about disability services for students should contact the Director of the Center for Cadet Counseling and Disability Services, 448 Institute Hill, 2nd floor, Post Infirmary, Lexington, Va. 24450, (540) 464-7667. For employment-related disability services, contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator in the VMI Human Resources Office, Lexington, VA 24450, (540) 464-7322.

COVID-19 information and current VMI protocols can be found at www.vmi.edu/COVID.

Young Named VMI Chief of Staff

By Col. Bill Wyatt

Maj. Gen. Cedric T. Wins '85 has named Dr. J.M. "John" Young to be Virginia Military Institute's next chief of staff. Young was most recently chief of staff and vice chair for administration/assistant professor in the Department of Preventative Medicine and Biostatistics at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' F. Edward Hebert School of Medicine, U.S. Department of Defense.

"Dr. Young brings a strong academic, management, and leadership background to VMI," said Wins. "His service as a U.S. Marine, defense industry, and higher education experience have prepared him well for the rigors of the Virginia Military Institute, and I am looking forward to his fresh perspective."

Young earned a doctor of professional studies in information management from Syracuse University iSchool, an executive master's in leadership from the Georgetown University McDonough School of Business, a bachelor of science degree in health systems administration from the University of Maryland Global Campus and a master teacher professional development certificate from the George Washington University School of Medicine.

He taught courses in leadership, research methods, health care management, and quality at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and the George Washington University, where he held joint faculty appointments in clinical research and leadership at the School of Medicine and in epidemiology and biostatistics at the Milken Institute of Public Health. As a civil servant, Young was a senior advisor and policy analyst at the Department of Health and Human Services for over a decade. He served four years as a public member, Board of Directors, Federation of



Lt. Col. John Young.—Photo courtesy of the Department of Defense.

State Boards of Physical Therapy. Young also served as a U.S. Marine Corps reservist.

"I am honored to be the next chief of staff at Virginia Military Institute," Young said. "Maj. Gen. Wins has put forth a bold vision for VMI through his 'One Corps—One VMI: A Unifying Action Plan.' I am excited to join the Institute's faculty, staff, and cadets in continuing to move VMI forward as one of the nation's top institutions of higher education."

Young began his responsibilities as chief of staff on Sept. 20. VMI's chief of staff is responsible for coordination, control, and integration of Institute priorities and issues. The chief of staff oversees VMI's operations, financial aid, admissions, and communications and marketing efforts.

Young is originally from Chicago, Illinois, and currently resides in Washington, D.C., with his wife, Erie, and German shepherd, Luna. Young is an active member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. ✪

Learn more about what's happening at VMI and see the upcoming calendar of events here.



Baur Exercise Physiology Lab Dedicated

By Kelly Nye

Family legacies at VMI are not uncommon, but most of them involve graduating from the Institute, passing down the family uniform, or even living in the same barracks room. The Baur family has a more direct legacy, one that impacts VMI academically and physically. A member of the family has taught a course on exercise physiology since 1989.

“It’s our family business,” said Maj. Dan Baur, assistant professor of physical education. “More specifically, it’s our business to teach exercise physiology at VMI.”

And now that legacy will be honored with the newly named Thomas S. Baur Exercise Physiology Laboratory in Cormack Hall.

The late Thomas “Tom” Baur graduated from VMI in 1975 with a degree in biology. He commissioned into the U.S. Army and served two years of active duty, primarily stationed in Korea. He then pursued a master’s degree in exercise physiology at West Virginia University, finished it at Purdue University, and eventually returned to VMI to teach biology in 1988. With Baur’s background in exercise physiology, he began a course on the subject at VMI. By 1992 Baur was a colonel, serving as department head of biology.

When Baur retired in 2013, his son, Capt. Steve Baur, began teaching the course in the physical education department. By then, the course was fondly known by cadets as the “Baur Power Hour.” That same course was then taught by his



Maj. Dan Baur, assistant professor of physical education, speaks of his father’s career at VMI during a dedication ceremony on Sept. 5 naming a lab after him in Cormack Hall.—VMI Photo by Kelly Nye.

sister-in-law, Capt. Katie Baur, who taught it until 2018 when her husband, Steve’s brother Dan, took it over.

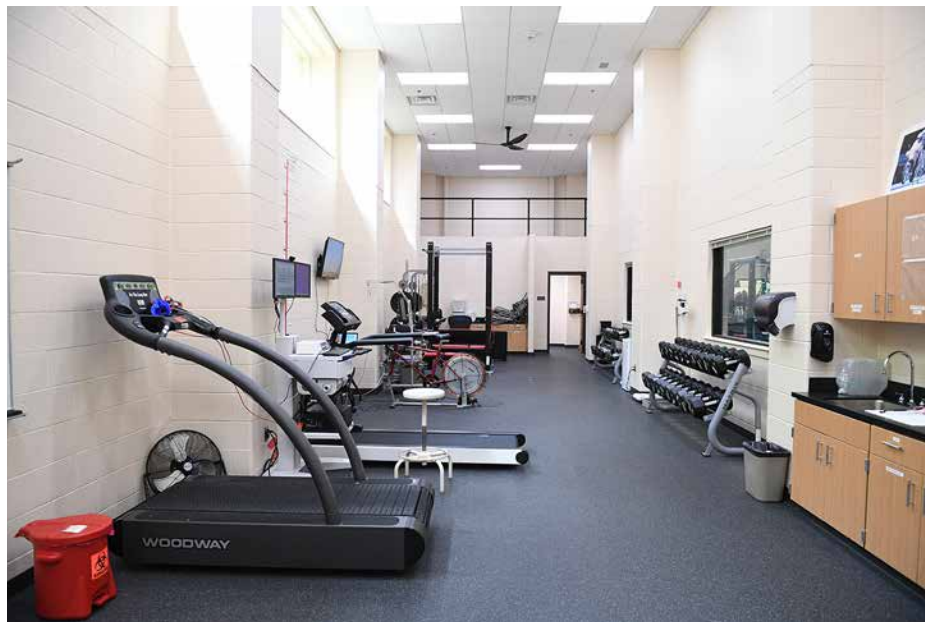
Tragically, Tom was struck by a vehicle while cycling in Rockbridge County and died in 2018.

“I can’t think of anything more meaningful and inspiring than working in a lab named after my dad,” said Dan during the dedication ceremony held on Sept. 5.

Close to 100 people attended the ceremony, many of whom were Tom’s brother rats from the Class of 1975. Also in attendance were faculty and staff, including Maj. Gen. Cedric T. Wins ’85, superintendent, current cadets, and alumni whose lives were all impacted by the Baur family.

Donations from the Class of 1975 led to an endowment in Tom’s name which funds research for cadets participating in the exercise science minor. The endowment also includes the Thomas S. Baur ’75 Award for excellence in exercise science. Two cadets have received the award so far: Aldo Vidro ’21 and Cole Bordonie ’20.

Bordonie attended the ceremony and spoke of the Baur family’s impact on his life. He never knew Tom, but after the international studies major took Katie’s exercise physiology course, he realized his interest was greater than he expected. With some help from Tom’s widow Judy Baur in the registrar’s office, Bordonie was able to take Dan’s course as well. Now he is attending the same



The Thomas S. Baur Exercise Physiology Laboratory in Cormack Hall is a place of research and development for cadets and faculty.—VMI Photo by Kelly Nye.

See Baur Lab, page 16

VMI Institute Report

2021–22 New and Promoted Faculty

Brig. Gen. Robert “Bob” Moreschi, deputy superintendent for academics and dean of the faculty, has announced the promotion and granting of tenure to several faculty members.

Promoted: _____

- » **Applied Mathematics**—Col. John David, promoted from associate professor to professor.
- » **Biology**—Col. Emily Lilly, promoted from associate professor to professor.
- » **Civil and environmental engineering**—Col. Matthew Swenty, promoted from associate professor to professor.
- » **Economics and business**—Col. Jennifer Gerow, promoted from associate professor to professor.
- » **International studies**—Col. Brent Hierman, promoted from associate professor to professor.
- » **Mechanical engineering**—Col. Joyce Blandino, promoted from associate professor to professor.

Promoted and Granted Tenure: _____

- » **Applied mathematics**—Lt. Col. Amy Chapman, promoted from assistant professor to associate professor.
- » **Computer and information sciences**—Dr. Youna Jung, promoted from assistant professor to associate professor.
- » **English, rhetoric, and humanistic studies**—Lt. Col. Mary Atwell, Lt. Col. Catharine Ingersoll, and Lt. Col. Michelle Iten, all promoted from assistant professor to associate professor.
- » **International studies**—Col. Spencer Bakich, promoted from associate professor to professor.
- » **Modern languages and cultures**—Dr. Sabrina Laroussi, promoted from assistant professor to associate professor.

New Full-Time Faculty: _____

- » **Applied mathematics**—Maj. Megan Chambers
- » **Chemistry**—Maj. Shannon Quevado
- » **Computer and information sciences**—Dr. Sherif Abdelhamid, Dr. Imran Ghani
- » **Electrical and computer engineering**—Lt. Col. Jaafar Alghazo
- » **English, rhetoric, and humanistic studies**—Maj. Curry Kennedy
- » **History**—Maj. Patrick Klinger, Maj. Jonathan Jones
- » **International studies**—Maj. Megan Roosevelt
- » **Modern languages and cultures**—Dr. Lu Lu
- » **Physics**—Lt. Col. Durig Lewis
- » **Psychology**—Maj. Aubrey Whitehead

Adjunct/Part-Time Faculty: _____

- » **Computer and information sciences**—Adjunct Kurt Luther
- » **Economics and business**—Adjuncts Stephen Lowe and Hannah Becker
- » **English, rhetoric, and humanistic studies**—Adjuncts George Walter, Laura Parsons, and Margot Hughes
- » **Modern languages and cultures**—Adjuncts Stephen Gerome and Hugo Moreira
- » **LEAD fellow/psychology**—Adjunct Kelly Henry

All promotions and tenure were effective Aug. 1, 2021, and are listed here by department. ❁

New Library Director Driven by Innovation

By Mary Price

On Sept. 16, Col. Pongrácz Sennyey began his new job as director of Preston Library, filling a position that had been vacant throughout the entire time of the coronavirus pandemic.

Sennyey has extensive experience as an academic librarian, having worked at Saint Edward’s University, Furman University, and the University of Vermont, among others. Most recently, he was dean for discovery, access, and technology at James Madison University. He has also taught history courses at a number of schools.

“When I saw the job ad for VMI, and it emphasized innovation and collaboration, it piqued my attention,” Sennyey explained. “I know for a fact that innovation cannot happen without collaboration.” He also mentioned the attractive nature of Preston



Col. Pongrácz Sennyey.—Photo courtesy of James Madison University.

Library, which he noted was “beautifully renovated” in 2020.

As he settles into his new role, Sennyey is looking forward to getting to know cadets, faculty, and staff. “One goal I have to is to reach out to the faculty and the Corps of Cadets to understand their information needs so the library can meet those,” he stated.

A native of Brazil, born to Hungarian parents, Sennyey is fluent in Hungarian, Portuguese, and Spanish, in addition to English. He earned a bachelor’s degree in history from Middle Tennessee State University and a master of arts in medieval studies from Western Michigan University. Sennyey then did doctoral work in history at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign before earning a master’s in library and information science there. ❁

Keydet Football Returns to Fall Action

By Maj. Michelle Ellwood

The first Saturday in September was a reunion weekend. Not only was it a reunion for VMI Classes of 1970 and 1975, but also a reunion for the Corps of Cadets, rat pushups, Little John II, and Keydet football all together in Foster Stadium for a fall season. The 17th-ranked Keydets were ready to show fans that their success was not a fluke of the unique spring season.

The first test was against Davidson, a team who was also the champions of their conference, the Pioneer Football League, in the spring. Keydets took a 21-0 lead in the second quarter, and didn't let the Wildcats get within two scores the rest of the game, with the final score being 45-24.

After the win head coach Scott Wachenheim said, "Congratulations to our players who fought hard and got a win against a quality football team." He went on to say, "Our big-time players stepped up and made big-time plays. I liked the fast start we got out to."



Running back Korey Bridy '22 carries the ball while opposing players give chase during the Keydets' 45-24 victory over Davidson Sept. 4.—VMI Photo by H. Lockwood McLaughlin.

Just days before the first game, it was announced that Wachenheim had agreed to a contract extension that will run through the 2025 season. This is his seventh season as VMI's head football coach. He was named Southern Conference Coach of the

Year in 2019, and most recently named the 2021 Spring FCS National Coach of the Year by both Stats Perform and the American Football Coaches Association.

Another shining example of how far this team has come was presented on Aug. 21. As rats and cadre were finishing up Matriculation Day activities, Wachenheim and members of the 2020-21 football team were in Marshall Hall, as the Southern Conference championship rings were handed out.

The second game on Sept. 11, a tough loss, was in Ohio at Kent State, facing their only Football Bowl Subdivision opponent of the season, followed by one more non-conference game against Ivy League opponent Cornell. The road trip to Ithaca, New York, was a successful one, bringing back a win, 31-21, in the first meeting between the Keydets and the Big Red. VMI was scheduled to play against Princeton in the fall 2020 season, which was canceled due to the pandemic, meaning the last time VMI football played an Ivy League opponent was in 1939 against Columbia.



Scott Wachenheim, head football coach, celebrates with players after distributing their Southern Conference championship rings.—VMI Photo by Eric Moore.

Continued on next page

The remaining eight games are against Southern Conference opponents, including the battle to retain the Silver Shako on Oct. 2 in a game against the Citadel in Charleston.

A longtime in-state rivalry will kick up again in 2025. It was announced in late August that the Keydets will play the University of Richmond Spiders, which is the most played series on the Keydet record book with 90 meetings, beginning in 1893. The last time the teams met was in 2015.

As of mid-September, stadium capacity is not limited due to any COVID restrictions, and tickets are available at www.vmitickets.com. 🦘



Defensive back Will Bunton '21 and offensive lineman Shane Strand '21 carry the flags as the Keydet football team takes the field for its home opener against Davidson Sept. 4. —VMI Photo by H. Lockwood McLaughlin.

VMI Again Ranked Highly by Major Publications

By Mary Price

Virginia Military Institute has retained its high placing among the nation's best colleges, according to 2022 college rankings released this fall by nationwide publications.

Among public liberal arts colleges, the Institute ranked fourth only behind the United States Naval Academy, the United States Military Academy, and the United States Air Force Academy, according to U.S. News & World Report. The Institute was ranked 67th among more than 220 national liberal arts colleges, up from 69th a year ago and 72nd two years ago.

VMI is also included on the unranked list, "A+ Schools for B Students." Contributing to the Institute's inclusion on that list is its first-year retention rate of 85%.

Unlike many other publications that issue college rankings, U.S. News also ranks certain programs found at many colleges and universities. This year, VMI ranked 29th out of 239 institutions nationwide that have an accredited engineering program but do not grant a doctoral degree. In undergraduate computer science, the Institute ranked 191st out of 538 programs, up from 210th last year.



Col. Tinni Sen teaches an economics class in Scott Shipp Hall on Aug. 31, the first day of classes for the 2021–22 academic year. —VMI Photo by Kelly Nye.

Washington Monthly ranked VMI 42nd out of more than 200 liberal arts colleges nationwide, making it the top-ranked public liberal arts school in Virginia. Washington Monthly ranks colleges and universities according to their contribution to the public good as measured by three factors: social mobility, research, and the promotion of public service.

The Institute is also included on

Washington Monthly's "Best Bang for the Buck" list, which is meant to guide students from low- and middle-income families toward schools that will help them earn marketable degrees at affordable prices.

Payscale.com, which bases its college rankings on how much graduates typically earn, ranked VMI 48th in return on investment and 77th among institutions granting a bachelor's degree. The Payscale.com report noted that Institute alumni earn an average of almost \$70,000 early in their careers and \$129,000 mid-career. Sixty-seven percent say that their work makes the world a better place. 🦘

'66, a former member of the Board of Visitors who was in the Pentagon that day. Just four corridors away, he noted, was Lt. Cmdr. David Williams '91, who was killed when the plane struck the building, and less than an hour earlier, Charles Mathers '62 had died when a plane plowed into the first tower of the World Trade Center.

"Dave Williams and Charles Mathers died on the first day of America's longest conflict," said Jumper. "One served in uniform and the other was a civilian—the citizen and the soldier—the heart and soul of VMI's mission."

In his remarks, Jumper urged his listeners to strive for the sense of unity that pervaded the nation in the days and weeks following the terrorist attacks.

"In that moment we displayed to the world the sympathetic and unifying nobility of a truly great nation," he commented.

New challenges will always arise to face new generations, and Jumper acknowledged this as he spoke of how he came of age during the Cold War and the Vietnam War, just as his father had come of age during World War II.

"Today's generation must deal with a more complex world in need of compassion, empathy, more comprehensive cultural and social awareness; and deeply in need of principled leaders to ensure America endures as a truly great and strong nation," the former Air Force chief of staff noted. "Those leaders are made here."

In addition to Williams and Mathers, the 15 alumni who died in the global war on terror stand as examples of citizen-soldier heroism.

"Will we do all we can to make our nation, ourselves, and our Institute—through the generations of 182 years—worthy of their sacrifice?" asked Jumper.

Nearby, cadets participated in the 20th Anniversary 9/11 Memorial Event at Glen Maury Park in Buena Vista by conducting the 21-gun salute.

Also on Saturday morning, more than 25 members of the 1st Class and others holding leadership positions were dropped off at the Arnold's Valley overlook on the Blue Ridge Parkway to begin a two-day, 46-mile march back to the Institute that would take them through parts of Bedford, Amherst, and Rockbridge counties.

The number of miles was chosen to commemorate the 40 innocent lives lost on United Airlines Flight 93, which crashed into a field in Shanksville,

Pennsylvania, plus the four planes that went down that day and the two VMI alumni killed in the attacks.

As they marched from Arnold's Valley, the cadets carried the names of the 40 brave passengers and crew on Flight 93 taped to their rucksacks.

During the day on Saturday, the cadets marched 21.6 miles to Rice Mountain Overlook, where they had dinner and camped outdoors overnight.

While the cadets were marching, approximately 250 cadets back on post participated in the 9/11 memorial stair climb, an annual commemoration sponsored by the VMI Firefighting Club that involves climbing 110 flights of stairs, the heights of the two World Trade Center towers that were hit.

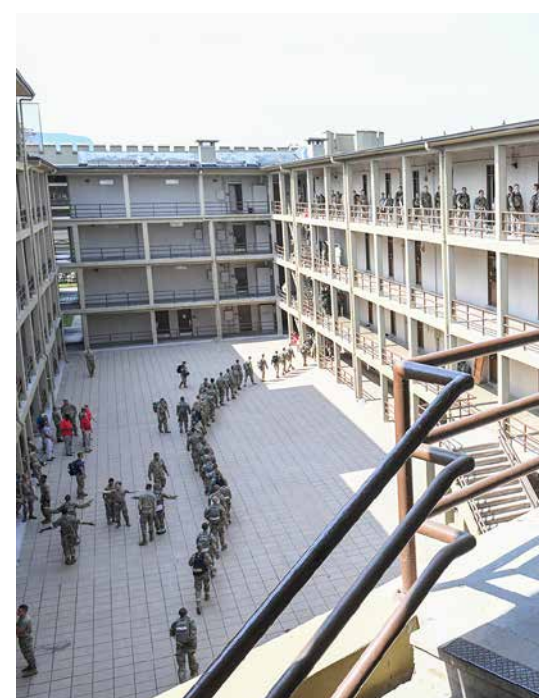
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A cadet carries the American



Two wreaths were placed in front of Virginia Mourning Her Dead in honor of the two alumni, Lt. Cmdr. David L. Williams '91 and Charles W. Mathers '62, who died during the Sept. 11 attacks.—VMI Photo by Kelly Nye.



Rats wait in line in barracks to climb stairs during the 9/11 tr



flag during the 9/11 tribute in barracks.—VMI Photo by H. Lockwood McLaughlin.

Each participating cadet climbed the stairs in memory of one of the 343 firefighters, 61 law enforcement officers, and eight paramedics who were killed in the attacks, and many chose to carry the same weight of gear, 45 pounds, that a typical firefighter

would have carried entering the World Trade Center.

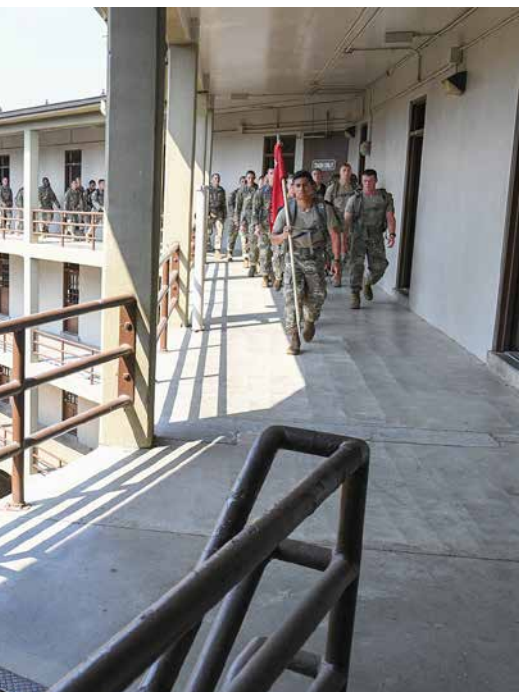
Organizing the event was Dan Hamner '22, cadet in charge of the Firefighting Club and a firefighter for the past seven years.

“The deaths of 343 firefighters showcased the core of American firefighting, risking life for the opportunity to save another,” Hamner stated. “To be able to honor their sacrifice, along with the sacrifice of 61 law

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Representatives of the 1st Class and cadet leadership march 46 miles on the Blue Ridge Parkway while carrying the shoulder boards for the Rat Mass Sept. 11–12.—Photo courtesy of Julian Ruffin '23.



tribute Sept 12.—VMI Photo by H. Lockwood McLaughlin.



After completing a 46-mile march, Mary Madison '22 hands shoulder boards out to rats who completed climbing 110 flights of stairs Sept. 12.—VMI Photo by H. Lockwood McLaughlin.

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enforcement officers and eight paramedics, by not only participating in this climb on the 20-year anniversary but being able to organize it, is one of the highlights of both my cadetship and my time in the fire service.”

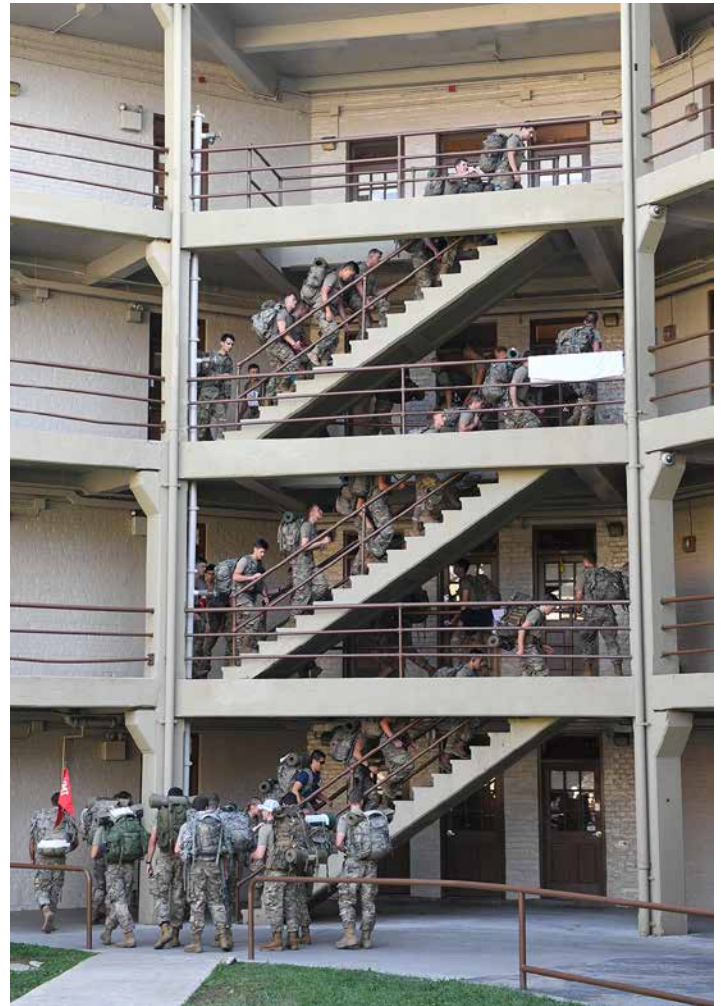
Sunday dawned early for those cadets camping out on the Blue Ridge Parkway. After a 5 a.m. wakeup, they marched the remaining 17.7 miles to VMI and then did 6.7 miles around the Parade Ground to complete their 46-mile journey.

Upon their arrival back on post, the 46-mile marchers joined up with the Rat Mass of 2022 plus three for another stair climb,

also in barracks. During the two-day march, those cadets had been proudly carrying the rats’ shoulder boards. This year, the rats earned their shoulder boards once participating in this stair climb and then marching around the Parade Ground. ❁



Cadets carried the names of first responders and victims on their rucks, and several wore firefighting gear during the stair climb in barracks Sept. 11 and 12.—VMI Photo by H. Lockwood McLaughlin.



Cadets climbed 110 flights of stairs on both Sept. 11 and 12 to mark the 20th anniversary of 9/11.—VMI Photo by H. Lockwood McLaughlin.



Tom Watjen '76, president of the VMI Board of Visitors, Noah Kirk '22, 1st Class president, Maj. Gen. Cedric T. Wins '85, superintendent, and Kasey Meredith '22, regimental commander, place two wreaths at Virginia Mourning Her Dead in honor of the VMI alumni killed on September 11, 2001.—VMI Photo by Kelly Nye.



Retired Air Force Gen. John Jumper '66, who was in the Pentagon on 9/11, gave remarks and two wreaths were placed in front of Virginia Mourning Her Dead during the VMI Board of Visitors meeting Sept. 11.—VMI Photo by Kelly Nye.

Wins Calls for Unity at Convocation

By Mary Price

Maj. Gen. Cedric T. Wins '85, superintendent, addressed cadets, faculty, and staff gathered in Cameron Hall Wednesday, Sept. 8, for the Institute's academic convocation, the ceremonial beginning of its 182nd year.

After a virtual convocation was held in 2020, this year's event marked a regathering of the VMI community after the coronavirus pandemic caused a need for social distancing, and the efforts that made it all possible were acknowledged by Wins as he thanked members of the VMI community for their commitment throughout the 2020–21 academic year. The superintendent cautioned, though, that the pandemic is not over, and that adjustments may be needed going forward this academic year.

"I ask you to remain supportive of each other, demonstrate patience if confusion or disruption arises, and remember, we want to keep our most vulnerable people safe," said Wins.

In his remarks, Wins gave his listeners an overview of outcomes he'd like to see as a result of his "One Corps—One VMI: A Unifying Action Plan," which was released over the summer as a road map forward for the Institute. This plan, Wins noted, is a successor to Vision 2039, a set of goals articulated by former superintendent Gen. J.H. Binford Peay III '62. Wins' plan will emphasize creating an inclusive Institute in which all young men and women who choose to come to VMI are treated the same way and given the same opportunities to excel.

"You must continue to respect, learn from, and rely on each other," Wins stated. "We must come together as one and not let factions form between us."

A commitment to personal honor and integrity by the Corps of Cadets was also an area of emphasis. "One day when you are far from here, you demonstrating integrity around your peers or superiors will create an unshakeable foundation of trust,"



Maj. Gen. Cedric T. Wins '85 is the speaker for the academic convocation ceremony in Cameron Hall.—VMI Photo by Kelly Nye.

the superintendent said. "I would encourage all of us to remind ourselves why we embrace a life of honor here at VMI. Encourage each other to stay focused on doing the right thing in every action you undertake."

Wins also discussed the personal growth that comes when cadets of different backgrounds get to know one another—and also the need for cadets to be vocal, if necessary, in the name of justice and equity.

"After talking with so many of you over the past year, I know there is a passion here at VMI to do what is right," he stated. "Please do not be afraid to speak up if you see something wrong."

Noting the strength of the VMI alumni network, Wins gave many examples of alumni who had forged their own paths at the Institute and then gone on to make significant contributions to their communities and the larger world, among them Air Force Gen. Darren McDew '82, an aviation specialist; Jim Spellman '85, a law enforcement officer and firefighter who assisted with search and rescue in the days following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001; and Lara Tyler Chambers '03, one of the first women to graduate from VMI, who now runs her own land development firm.

These alumni, the superintendent noted, come from varied backgrounds but share many common attributes, such as hard work, goal setting, and a commitment to success.

"The citizen-soldier mindset is much broader than just in the military," Wins said. "It is a way of life."

As he concluded his remarks, Wins stressed the need for cadets to set goals and strive for them, keeping in mind that they are at VMI to succeed and the Institute wants no one to fail.

"Look out for one another this academic year and challenge each other," Wins counseled. "We are stronger together. Stay focused on your honor and never forget what Martin Luther King Jr. said: 'The time is always right to do what is right.'" ❧



Maj. Gen. Cedric T. Wins '85 addresses cadets, faculty, and staff during academic convocation Sept. 8.—VMI Photo by Kelly Nye.



Rat Crucible

Matriculation Week culminated Aug. 29 with Rat Crucible, which included training on the North Post obstacles and swimming in the Maury River to Jordan's Point. Storms in the area caused events to be moved inside the barracks, but once the weather cleared, Rat Crucible proceeded as scheduled. The event concluded with a march up Letcher Avenue and the rats' first Old Yell.—VMI Photos by H. Lockwood McLaughlin.



VMI Logos Have Changed with the Times

By Mary Price

They're everywhere now—on water bottles, billboards, and stadium seat cushions, even onesies for babies. College logos are big business, producing multimillion dollar revenue streams for the largest schools.

At VMI, the familiar spider-shaped logo made out of the intertwined letters is as familiar to members of the Institute community as the shape of the barracks seen through morning fog. But has VMI always had its current logo? And who came up with the idea of putting letters together to form a logo in the first place?

Answering those questions, Col. Keith Gibson '77, director of the VMI Museum System, tells a story of 19th century innovation in the form of a cipher—a mark deliberately meant to convey meaning to the initiated, while puzzling outsiders. Even Queen Victoria had a cipher, Gibson noted. The mark of royalty soon appealed to commoners as well, and the popularity of the cipher spread.

“The VMI cipher of the 19th and early 20th century took on an enormous variety of very creative and artistic interpretations,” said Gibson. Cadets were free to design their own ciphers, or ones representing their class, and many did so, with the emblems adorning invitations and dance cards. Graphic artists at printing firms likely also assisted with the creation of ciphers.

The earliest cipher dates from the late 1860s, and many late 19th century ciphers are quite elaborately drawn, with flourishes and other enhancements reflecting the tastes of the Gilded Age.

“[The ciphers] very much capture the aesthetic of the period in which they're found,” said Gibson.

By 1900, intercollegiate athletics were becoming increasingly popular, and the need for sports teams to be instantly recognizable made the cipher a natural fit. The intertwined letters were first worn by the football team in 1901.

Around the same time, the Institute adopted its colors of red, white, and yellow, and the familiar scheme in which each letter is a different color began. Gibson explained that at the time, the Army only had three branches, so red was chosen for the artillery, white for the infantry, and yellow for the cavalry. All of the 19th century ciphers had been black and white only.



1878



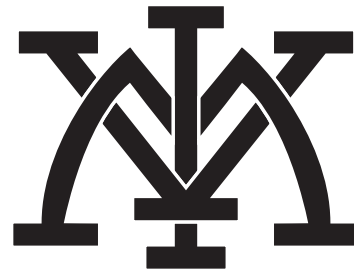
1880



1881



1889



1911



1921

VMI's earliest monograms were black and white, and were often designed by either cadets or employees of local printing firms.—*Images courtesy of Col. Keith Gibson '77.*

In 1922, the familiar shape of today's logo first took form, with a yellow V, a red M, and a white I. The trademarked logo of today, with the words “Virginia Military Institute” in black letters surrounding the logo in a circle, was adopted in 1989 on the occasion of the Institute's 150th anniversary. 🍀



The current VMI logo was adopted in 1989 on the occasion of the Institute's 150th birthday.—*Image courtesy of the VMI Office of Communications and Marketing.*

Class of 1970 Celebrates 50th Reunion

The Class of 1970 presented the preliminary proceeds of its 50th reunion campaign to the Institute during halftime at the football game Sept. 4. With an emphasis on raising funds for the Foundation Fund and the Keydet Club Scholarship Fund, as well as the Class of 1970 Merit Scholarship and the Class of 1970 Athletic Scholarship, this effort brought in \$13,007,070.70 in gifts and pledges from 186 brother rats. Maj. Gen. Cedric T. Wins '85, superintendent, accepted the gift from Thomas Zarges '70 (center) and Ralph Costen '70 (second from right), the campaign's co-chairs. Also accepting the gift was the VMI Alumni Agencies' CEO Stephen M. Maconi and Sgt. Maj. Tom Sowers.—*VMI Photo by H. Lockwood McLaughlin.*



Wins Inaugural *continued from page 1*

we have weathered many storms, and they have helped us to improve. Our foundation is solid and not easily shaken... VMI remains what it always has been: a disciplined community for learning and leadership development dedicated to the highest standards of integrity and personal honor.”

Special guests at Friday’s ceremony included Lt. Gen. John W. Knapp ’54, the Institute’s 12th superintendent; Virginia Deputy Secretary of Education Fran Bradford; Virginia Chief Diversity Officer Dr. Janice Underwood; and state Sen. Thomas “Tommy” Norment ’68.

Other guests included Wins’ family, friends, and brother rats, along with some key individuals who held leadership positions at the Institute



Maj. Gen. Cedric T. Wins '85 proudly accepts his role as superintendent and expresses his gratitude to all in attendance during his inaugural parade.—VMI Photo by Kelly Nye.

Continued on next page



VMI faculty and visiting college leadership process onto the Parade Ground during the inauguration parade of Maj. Gen. Cedric T. Wins '85 Sept. 10.—VMI Photo by Kelly Nye.



Maj. Gen. Cedric T. Wins '85 and his wife Cassandra cut the cake during the reception honoring him as superintendent.—VMI Photo by Kelly Nye.



The Cadet Battery fires howitzers for a 13-gun salute during the inauguration parade of Maj. Gen. Cedric T. Wins '85 Sept. 10.—VMI Photo by Kelly Nye.

when Wins was a cadet. Among them were Col. Edward “Ed” Claiborn, who was head of the economics and business department; Col. Harold B. “Buzzy” Snyder ’56, commandant; and Charlie Schmaus ’66 and Marty Fletcher, basketball coaches during the 1980s.

Also in attendance were current and former members of the VMI Board of Visitors, leadership from colleges and universities from across the commonwealth, and representatives of local and state government. ❁



The Corps of Cadets lines the Parade Ground during the inaugural parade of Maj. Gen. Cedric T. Wins ’85.—VMI Photo by H. Lockwood McLaughlin.

Arsenal Key Symbol of Stewardship

At the parade that marked his inauguration as VMI’s 15th superintendent on Friday, Sept. 10, Maj. Gen. Cedric T. Wins ’85 received an unusual item: a large iron key to the main door of the 1816 state arsenal that preceded VMI, now ceremonially adorned with a red, white, and yellow ribbon.

While the key has been around since the early 19th century, the tradition of presenting it to an incoming superintendent didn’t begin until then-Maj. Gen. John W. Knapp ’54 was inaugurated in 1989. Former superintendents Lt. Gen. Josiah Bunting III ’63 and Gen. J.H. Binford Peay III ’62 likewise received the key at their inaugural ceremonies.

“[The key is] symbolic of receiving the responsibility of stewardship of the Institute,” said Col. Keith Gibson ’77, director of the VMI Museum System. “In 1839, the key represented the stewardship of guarding the



Cole Cathcart ’24 holds the key to the arsenal before presenting it to Maj. Gen. Cedric T. Wins ’85 during the inaugural parade.—VMI Photo by Eric Moore.

30,000 arms in the arsenal. Today, the key represents accepting stewardship of guarding the education of citizen-soldiers who, in turn, guard the state and nation itself.”

And while Wins is the fourth superintendent to have received the key, Gibson pointed out that the Institute’s first superintendent, Gen. Francis H. Smith, would not only have had the key but would have used it in the early years of his superintendency to unlock the main door of the arsenal, as that building, which was burned in Hunter’s raid in 1864, was the Institute’s main building until Old

Barracks was constructed in 1851.

The key to the arsenal’s main door is usually kept in a shadow box in the superintendent’s office. “It’s a real conversation piece,” said Gibson.

Eight additional, smaller arsenal keys are on display in the VMI Museum, along with a piece of one of the arsenal locks.

— Mary Price



Baur Lab *continued from page 4*

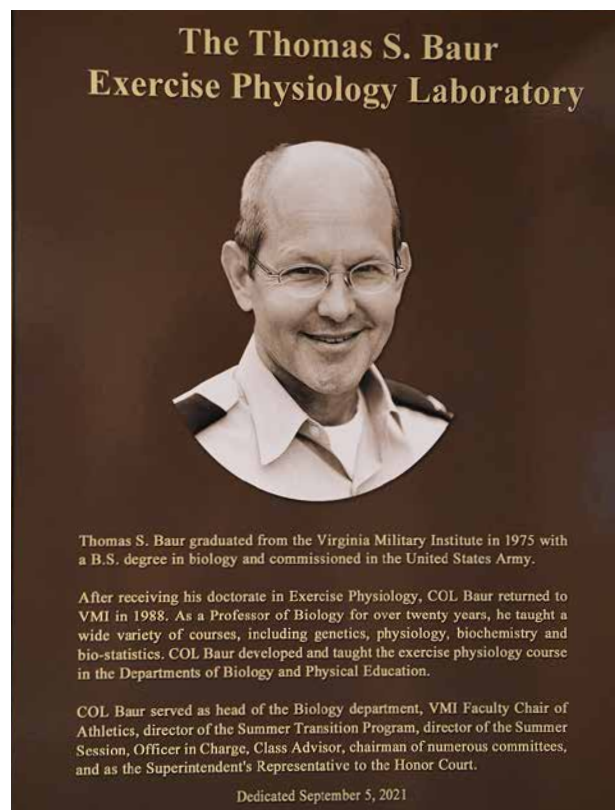
graduate program Dan completed at JMU.

“Working in the lab changed my life a lot while I was here,” said Bordonie. “I never got to meet Col. Baur, but I know he would have treated me the same way as each of his family members who I’ve been fortunate enough to meet.”

Physical education department head Col. Jimmy Coale knew Tom well and spoke of his quiet strength.

“I would be enlightened. I would feel much better and I knew I would leave with a smile on my face after having a conversation with Tom,” said Coale.

Coale worked closely with Tom because Tom always maintained his connection to physical education. He assisted with Rat Challenge, a ten-week training program led by the physical education department for cadets during



A marker outside of the Thomas S. Baur Exercise Physiology Laboratory in Cormack Hall now hangs in his honor.—VMI Photo by Kelly Nye.

their first semester at VMI. And he helped develop the Summer Transition Program, which offers accepted students a chance to familiarize themselves with VMI, take a course, and get in shape before the Rat Line begins in the fall.

But one of Tom’s most important roles at VMI was as the superintendent’s representative to the Honor Court.

“His most famous saying was ‘honor is a lifestyle,’” explained Dan. “I believe what he meant by this is honor is not something you achieve. It’s something you pursue with effort and dedication.”

By this measure, Tom served not only as a teacher to cadets but also as a mentor. He was a model of physical excellence who balanced his work life with his family life, including by sharing that work with them.

As Dan surmised, “I think for all of us, Dad’s legacy can be summed up in three ways. He was a bridge, a teacher, and an example.” 🌿

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