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## The Institute

The Virginia Military Institute is the nation's oldest state-supported military college, founded in 1839 in Lexington, Virginia, located at the southern end of the Shenandoah Valley. VMI offers qualified young men and women a demanding combination of academic study and rigorous military training that exists nowhere else, and grants B.A. and B.S. degrees in fourteen disciplines within the general fields of engineering, science, and liberal arts. The Institute's emphasis on qualities of honor, integrity, and responsibility contributes to its unique educational philosophy. Professional leadership training is provided to all cadets through the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) programs, maintained at VMI by the Department of Defense. Cadets are encouraged to pursue commissions in the U.S. Army, Air Force, Navy, or Marine Corps.

In every field of endeavor, whether it's leadership in business, industry, public service, education, the professions, or careers in the military, success comes early to a high number of VMI graduates. In an independent survey of college graduates seeking employment, armed forces commission, or admission to graduate or professional school following graduation, 95 percent of VMI graduates met their goal by the following October.

VMI's academic breadth is diverse, and curricula for the selected major begins the first year. About 30 percent of cadets major in civil, electrical, or mechanical engineering, about half the Corps majors in liberal arts fields, and the two most popular majors are economics/business and history.

For three consecutive years, U.S. News & World Report's "America's Best Colleges," has named VMI as the No. 1 public-supported liberal arts college in the nation, and ranked its engineering program in the top one-third of "Best Undergraduate" accredited programs at schools offering only bachelor's and master's degrees. In separate rankings for engineering specialties, VMI's civil engineering program ranks 12th and its electrical and computer engineering program is ranked 17th. For two consecutive years, VMI has been included in the Peterson's "Competitive Colleges," guide. The highly respected book includes information on, "top colleges for top students." In addition, Princeton Review has named VMI to its "Best Mid-Atlantic Colleges" list.

## Alumni

VMI's alumni support is unparalleled in many ways, especially in their financial support. In the most recent survey by the National Association of College and University Business Officers (2003), VMI's \$295 million endowment is the largest per student of any public institution. The VMI Foundation launched a five-year capital campaign for \$175 million in 2000 and exceeded its goal well ahead of schedule.

VMI alumni include Nobel Prize winner George C. Marshall; ten Rhodes Scholars; and 40 college presidents. VMI alumni have distinguished themselves in every American conflict since the Mexican War, among them 7 Medal of Honor recipients, and 265 general



and flag officers. Some 500 alumni served in Gulf War operations "Desert Storm" and "Desert Shield," and more than 500 VMI graduates are now or have been deployed in support of operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. General John P. Jumper, Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force, and Lieutenant General Carl A. Strock, Chief of Engineers for the U.S. Army, continue a long line of VMI graduates in the highest positions of military leadership.

## The VMI Corps of Cadets

Today 1,300 young men and women in the VMI Corps of Cadets represent 48 states and 15 foreign countries. Over 100 study abroad each year, one-third compete in intercollegiate athletics, and all have significant leadership opportunities.

All cadets reside in "Barracks," the centerpiece of the VMI "Post." The original structure was built in 1850 and is a National Historic Landmark. An additional wing was added in 1949. All cadet rooms are equipped for computer technology. Adjoining Barracks are offices and meeting areas for dozens of VMI clubs and organizations, the cadet visitors center and lounge, snack bar, and a Barnes & Noble-operated bookstore.

VMI cadets uphold an honor system as old as the Institute. An oath of honor is taken by each cadet, "not

to lie, cheat, or steal, nor tolerate those who do," and the oath is practiced in daily life. Because it is basic to cadet life, honor is ingrained, and builds strong character. Honor is the cornerstone of every cadet's lifelong commitment to integrity, duty, self-discipline, and self-reliance.

One of the oldest VMI traditions is the orientation and instruction provided to new cadets by old cadets. Regardless of background or prior training, every cadet in his/her first year at VMI is a "Rat," and each is a "Brother Rat" to the other. They live under the "Rat System" until "Break Out," and their bonds formed by this experience are lifelong.

## Faculty

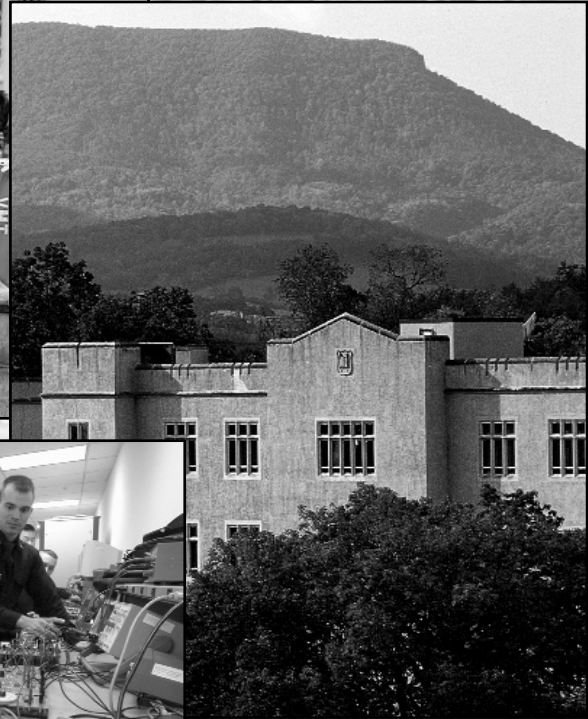
All VMI faculty members teach in the classroom, and 98 percent hold doctoral or terminal degrees in their disciplines. The cadet to faculty ratio is 12:1, permitting a close, "mentor" relationship between a cadet and instructor, and faculty research is frequently conducted in partnership with cadets. ROTC instructors are experienced military officers, and make an outstanding contribution to cadet leadership training.

## Academic Program

VMI's demanding academic program reflects established needs and emerging trends of an ever-

# MILITARY INSTITUTE

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changing, global society. A robust undergraduate research initiative extends through summer, affording cadets and faculty financial incentives and continuous support for a wide range of investigative projects. The Institute's international programs include faculty and student exchanges with more than a dozen international academies and universities, seven foreign internships, and numerous study-abroad programs each semester and during the summer. The Institute Honors Program offers highly motivated and high-achieving cadets the opportunity to enrich their academic experience, including through competition for prestigious external scholarships. The Institute Writing Program seeks to equip cadets for both academic success and participation in the full range of rhetorical occasions they will encounter in their lives as citizens and professionals.

VMI is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, is a member of American Council on Education, the Association of American Colleges, the College Entrance Examination Board, and the Association of Virginia Colleges. VMI's engineering programs are accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology; and the chemistry program is accredited by the American Chemical Society.

## Majors and Degrees

VMI offers the baccalaureate degree in fourteen curricula. The B.S. is awarded in chemistry, civil engineering, computer science, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, and physics. The B.A. is conferred in economics and business, English, history, international studies, modern languages, and psychology. The B.S. or B.A. can be earned in biology and mathematics. A course of study leading to the B.S. or B.A. is chosen upon entering VMI, but transfer from one major field of study to another is permitted.

## Facilities

The VMI Post is 134 acres. Twelve acres are designated a National Historic District. VMI's academic



## Alumni You Might Have Heard Of...

- Bobby Ross '59** - Former Head Coach of the Detroit Lions and San Diego Chargers, Current Head Coach at Army.
- Dabney Coleman '53** - Film and television actor.
- Gen. John Jumper '66** - Current Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force.
- George C. Marshall '01** - General of the United States Army, Secretary of State, and Nobel Peace Prize recipient for creating the Marshall Plan for the post-World War II reconstruction of Europe.
- George J. Collins '62** - Chairman of the Board, T. Rowe Price Associates, a leading investment firm.
- Lt. Gen. Robert B. Flowers '69** - Commanding General, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- Jonathan Daniels '61** - Declared a Modern Martyr of the Faith by the Episcopal Church for giving his life to save a black teenage girl during the Civil Rights Movement in Alabama in 1965.
- Dr. John Duke Anthony '62** - CEO, National Council on U.S. - Arab Relations...knighted by Moroccan King Muhammed VI (June 2000).
- William Cowart III '41** - Former Deputy Director/ Chief Curator, The Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington D.C.; Current Executive Director of the the Roy Liechtenstein Foundation.
- Fred Willard '55** - Actor-Comedian, Best in Show, A Mighty Wind, Waiting for Guffman.

facilities, Superintendent's quarters, library, alumni hall, and other administrative buildings, along with Barracks, encircle a 12-acre parade ground used for marching drills, weekly parades, training exercises, and social gatherings. The George C. Marshall Research Museum and the VMI Museum are located on Post.

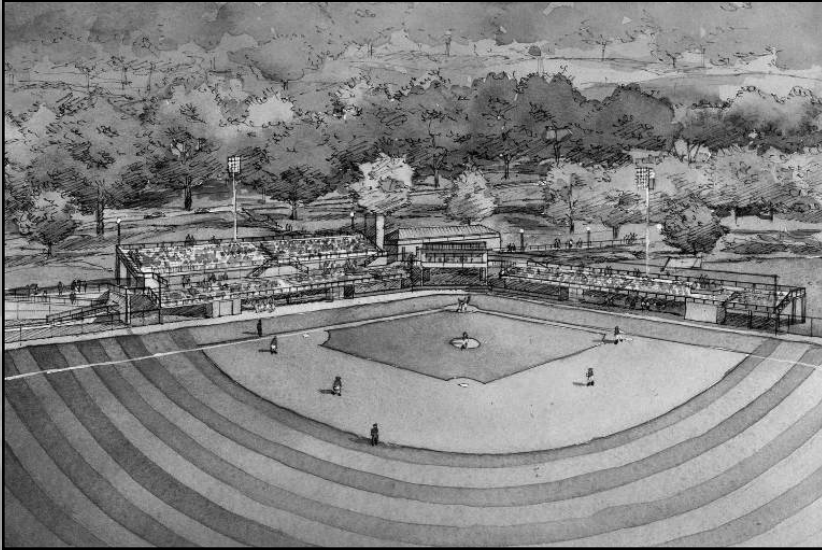
Athletic grounds and facilities are within easy access to the Post.

## Vision 2039

From the perspective of VMI's long history, the 200th anniversary of its founding is just around the corner. Superintendent J.H. Binford Peay III has set in motion the work of a number of study groups that are focusing on such areas as the Institute's physical and cultural environment; academics; athletics; and military component. These groups are looking at ways to ensure VMI will be vibrant and relevant when the Institute's 200th anniversary arrives in 2039.

# Patchin Field, Gray-Minor Stadium

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At left, the artwork for the proposed VMI Baseball stadium, with work completion scheduled for the start of the 2007 baseball season.

Beginning in August 2003, the Patchin Field clubhouse and locker rooms underwent a renovation and expansion project that was completed in early 2004.

The project entailed the expansion of the existing locker rooms along with the addition of one locker room for visiting teams and a trainers room. Along with the improvements and additional square footage, the new and improved locker rooms were fitted with audio and visual equipment. The funding for the project, estimated at \$1.1 million, was donated by Bill Paulette '69, Gil Minor '63, Senator Elmon Gray '46, and the Keydet Club. The Patchin Field Locker Complex was constructed by Paulette's general contracting company, KBS, and that building will carry his name when Gray-Minor Stadium is completed.

In a separate improvement project, VMI Baseball has recently made significant upgrades to its playing field. In 2001 the program added a completely new infield and in 2002 a new outfield surface (along with new fencing and bullpens) was added.

Furthermore, VMI has begun construction on the Gray-Minor Baseball Stadium, made possible by generous contributions from VMI alumni Gil Minor '63 and Senator Elmon T. Gray '46. The plans above show the proposed stadium, expected to be completed in time for the start of the 2007 season at an expected cost of \$4.2 million. Plans for the complex call for quality seating for over 1,300 spectators and will include box (chair back) seating on both the first base and third base sides, an upper deck for seating on the first base side, a concession and restroom building, a modern press box and field lighting for night contests.



Below, a trio of former VMI catchers, as Senator Elmon Gray '46 (left) and Gil Minor '63 (right) pose with VMI head coach Marlin Ikenberry '95. The new VMI baseball stadium will carry the names of both Gray and Minor.



At left and in the background are pictures of the VMI baseball clubhouse locker room, part of the Patchin Field Locker Room Complex that was completed in 2003.

# ium and Locker Room Complex

Many fans enjoy taking in a Keydet baseball game from high atop centerfield, where they can tune in to Wade Branner delivering the play-by-play while enjoying a breathtaking view of Patchin Field and the Blue Ridge Mountains.



Below, Patchin Field on Game Day.



At right, the Patchin Field Locker Room Complex, which houses locker rooms for the Keydets' baseball, lacrosse, women's soccer and men's soccer teams, as well as a visiting locker room, an officials' locker room, as well as an athletic training facility.



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# Opposing Stadiums

Over the past two seasons, the Keydets have traveled to several of the top collegiate baseball facilities in the nation, including Auburn University's Plainsman Park, voted the nation's No. 1 college baseball facility by Baseball America, and Florida State University's Dick Howser Stadium, the home to nine consecutive NCAA Regionals.

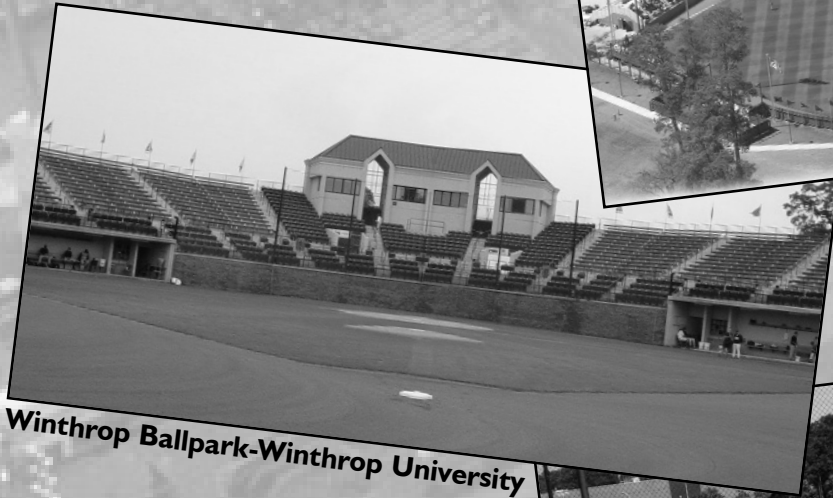
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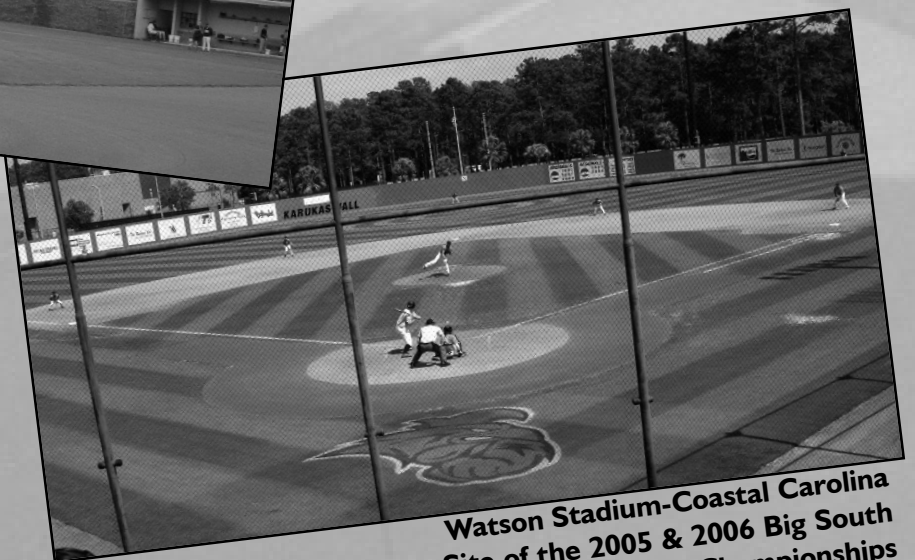
**Dick Howser Stadium-  
Florida State University  
Home of Nine Consecutive  
NCAA Regionals**



**Plainsman Park-Auburn University  
Voted #1 Collegiate Ballpark in the  
Nation**



**Winthrop Ballpark-Winthrop University**

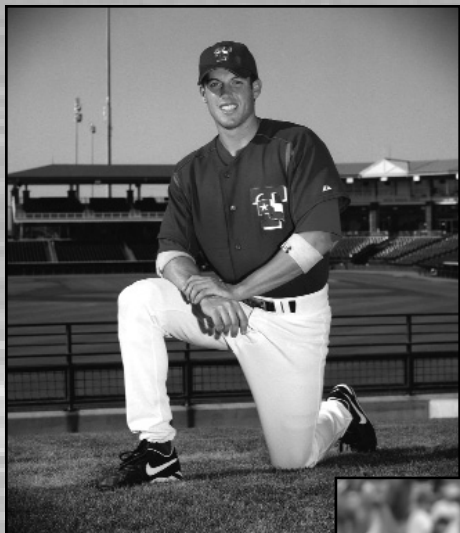


**Watson Stadium-Coastal Carolina  
Site of the 2005 & 2006 Big South  
Championships**

In the background: The Diamond, Richmond, Va.- Home of the VCU Rams and the ABA Richmond Braves

# Keydets In The Pros

Following a season that saw the Keydets break the school record for wins for the second time in three seasons, seniors Duke Acors and Matt Smith became the newest members of the fraternity of Keydets to play professional baseball. Featured below are six recent grads to do so.



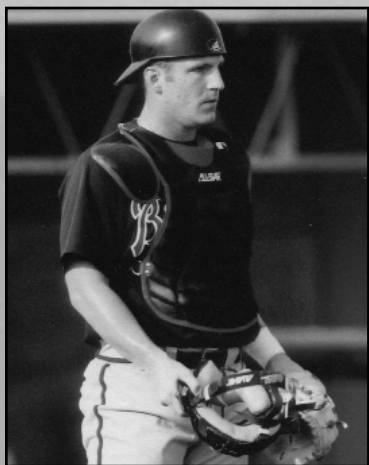
Shortstop Matt Smith '05 broke several school records before signing with the Texas Rangers last June.



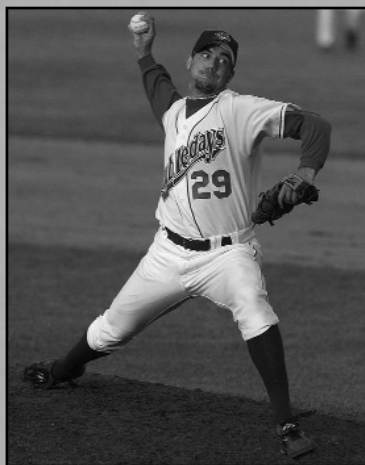
Right-handed pitcher Duke Acors '05 left the Institute as the career leader in strikeouts and innings pitched. He was drafted in the 32nd round by the Pittsburgh Pirates.



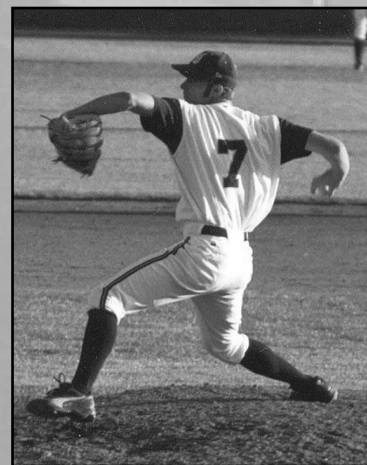
The lone Keydet to play in the Major Leagues, Ryan Glynn '95 joined the Oakland Athletics last season following a trade from the Toronto Blue Jays. Glynn has also pitched in the majors with the Texas Rangers, and reached Triple A in the Braves, Marlins and Brewers organizations.



Catcher Andy Barden '03 was drafted in the 19th round by the Atlanta Braves, spending time in the Braves and Royals organizations.



Right-handed pitcher Jeremy Harper '03 went to the Toronto Blue Jays in the 14th round of the 2003 draft. In 2005, he earned four saves for the Single A Lansing Lugnuts.



Right-handed pitcher Phil Hendrix '03 was selected in the 35th round of the 2003 draft by the Milwaukee Brewers. Went 2-1 for Helena in 2003 before joining the Gateway Grizzlies in 2004.

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# Lexington, Virginia and Rockbridge County

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**R**ockbridge County is located toward the south end of the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. The county takes its name from Natural Bridge, the massive stone formation that spans Cedar Creek in the southern part of the county.

For centuries, this area has been a natural thoroughfare from the northeast to the richness of the lands west of the Appalachians. The Cherokee and Monacan Indian tribes lived in the area prior to its settlement by European colonists, which began in the 1730's.

Most of the settlers were Scotch-Irish and Germans, who migrated south from Pennsylvania in search of more land. Several large land grants, notably one to Benjamin Borden, stimulated settlement in the 1740's. Grantees were required to induce a certain number of families to settle on the granted land. The Borden Grant, originally 100,000 acres, included most of present-day Rockbridge County.

In 1777, Rockbridge County was established, and the town of Lexington was founded as the county seat.

A defining event occurred in 1782, when Liberty Hall Academy was moved from Augusta County to a site just west of Lexington. The school's future was assured in 1796, when George Washington gave it \$50,000 worth of James River Canal stock, at that time the largest such bequest to a college in the history of the new nation. The school was renamed Washington College in the general's honor, and soon moved to its present location after the Liberty Hall building burned. The ruins of Liberty Hall can still be seen just north of Rt. 60 at the western edge of town.

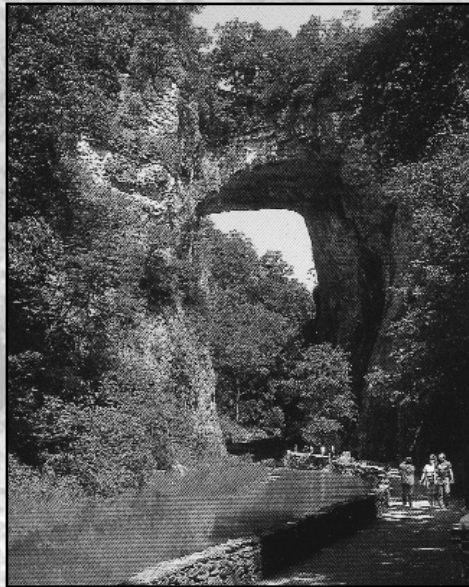
In 1839, the Virginia legislature established Virginia Military Institute at Lexington, in what had previously been a state arsenal. VMI has educated thousands of citizen-soldiers in its more than 150-year existence, including Gen. George C. Marshall, Gen. George S. Patton, and Adm. Richard E. Byrd.

The Civil War had a devastating effect on Lexington and its people. Raiding Federal troops burned VMI in 1864. Graduates of VMI and Washington College served with distinction in many campaigns of the war, and the VMI Corps of Cadets fought as a unit at the Battle of New Market. Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson, a professor at VMI until the war, is remembered as one of the history's greatest military strategists. Jackson is buried in Jackson Memorial Cemetery, along with many other Civil War veterans.

After the war, Gen. Robert E. Lee was persuaded to come to Lexington to serve as president of Washington College. Lee revitalized the school, modernized the curriculum, and encour-



*The city of Lexington, Va. is nationally renowned for its beauty and charm.*



**Natural Bridge**

aged reconciliation between the North and South. After his death in 1870, the school's trustees renamed it Washington and Lee University.

Around 1890, a speculative boom hit western Virginia. Numerous towns were established by development companies, with a grand hotel as a centerpiece. Streets were laid out and lots sold, and resold, at ever inflating prices. Buena Vista and the towns of Glasgow and Goshen were all founded as a result of the boom. When the bubble burst, many of these boom towns stagnated.

Buena Vista weathered the crash and



**Goshen Pass in Rockbridge County**

became the industrial center of the county. The boom-era hotel is now Main Hall at Southern Virginia University.

We invite you to visit our museums - the Marshall Museum, the VMI Museum, and the Stonewall Jackson House; walk the campuses of our towns, take a drive on the Blue Ridge Parkway, see a horse show at the Virginia Horse Center, enjoy a cool swim in Goshen Pass, take in a play in the natural setting of Lime Kiln Theater, or browse in our many distinctive shops.