The Case for Preserving Tradition - Why VMI may NOT be changing for the good.

By Cadet Tristen Bray ’23

The Institute has maintained itself to be no ordinary place. The question is, what exactly makes VMI what it is. Why should we allow this threat to persist? Some say to change with the times, or to increase the appeal of the Institute to a broader demographic. And in some areas, we should change with the times. But this change should be discussed, debated, and determined by the Corps and not done for use by a group of individuals who cannot understand what it is like to be a part of our systems. The case for tradition is that these things do not align with the mission of the Institute. These objectives ought not to be achieved at the expense of the quality of the cadet through time. Most cadets chose the Institute understanding it promised to be the most difficult college experience available. Therefore, the Institute has attracted extraordinary individuals. With the continued limiting of the Corps’ full involvement in the ratline, the altering of sacred traditions, and cadet systems being changed without cadet input, what will separate the Institute from any other SMC or Service Academy? What will make VMI “No Ordinary College” if we allow that which makes us extraordinary to be taken away?

The Corps note to self: Stay off Jodel

Unless it is routine, basic stuff, remember that the adminstration, the media, parents, and probably the Russians are all monitoring.

Join The Cadet to have your voice heard.

More than a tradition, We’re an institution

The Cadet is your independent Cadet newspaper, and has been for over 115 years.

Keydets in Saint-Cyr

France’s military history has always been intertwined with America’s military history since the Revolutionary War. You may have seen our French friends around post during the fall semester last year. This semester, VMI has sent two cadets to the École Spéciale Militaire de Saint-Cyr to experience the prestigious officer training program of the French military started by Napoleon in 1802. The exchange program is not well known at the Institute, yet through the accounts of the experiences of cadets at Saint-Cyr, hopefully the interests of those seeking to commission and improve their French will be expanded to continue to maintain a strong relationship with our French ally.

Cadet Will Rich and I started our adventure the 24th of January, beginning a week of integration with other cadets from the Belgian, Finnish, Luxembourgish, and Lithuanian academies; later we will be joined by Austrian and Czech cadets as well. This week of integration included plenty of activities to introduce us to the huge camp, as well as the traditions and practices of the academy, all while Saint-Cyr cadets conducting their FTX of the month watched us with curious eyes. The French introduced each of us to horse riding, something which every French officer has learned since the time of Napoleon. For many of us it was the first time riding a horse. Cadets also conducted an introduction to the French FAMAS weapon system. The FAMAS is no longer the service rifle of the French army but will most likely be the one we will use during the two field trainings that foreign cadets will participate in this semester. Other activities included learning the history of the academy and French officer corps, and VMI and Lithuanian cadets visiting the city of Rennes for a weekend.

Now this week, classes and cadet parties have begun, one party being held at an old French cavalry officer club with French and foreign cadets both eager to enjoy each other’s company. Although, it may still take some time to convince the French that VMI cadets are not West Point cadets. Each class is in English, except the French class obviously. These classes are designed to improve the context of each conflict zone France and other partners engage in, enhance leadership attributes, and help American and French cadets create friendships that will follow them into their military careers. I hope that Cadet Rich and I will be able to provide the corps an insight to the culture of Saint-Cyr, as well as the differences we share with our French counterparts in updates to come.
NOTICE

Regarding recent statements published by The Virginia Military Institute about The Cadet Newspaper

The Cadet is aware of an email by VMI to the Corps, faculty and staff also published on its official website that contains false and misleading information about The Cadet and our staff.

The Cadet will respond fully after further consultations, BUT NOT IN THIS ISSUE.

Unlike some who participate in the production of derogatory messages on the eve of BREAKOUT, we choose another path.

This issue celebrates the Class of 2025 and the Corps, including their Dykes, Parents and the VMI Family who made this great day possible.

The Cadet Staff, still one of the oldest independent student newspapers in Virginia

ALUMNI RUNNING THE PAPER

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ALUMNI RUNNING THE PAPER

The Cadet is an independent student publication created by cadets and alumni independent of VMI in 1871. It transitioned to newspaper format in 1907. Articles contained in The Cadet are those of the authors and do not reflect the opinions of the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) nor any VMI Alumni Agency (VMAA). True to the founding principles of the cadets who created it, The Cadet, as a truly independent cadet controlled and edited publication, neither VMI nor VMAA may provide support to publishing The Cadet or has any editorial control over its contents. The Cadet is owned and published by cadets through The Cadet Foundation, an IRS approved 501(c) non-profit corporation run by a Board of Directors consisting of cadets and alumni for the specific purpose of ensuring funds received support The Cadet and activities benefiting VMI cadets. Funding for the operation and The Cadet comes from donations and sponsored spaces.

The Cadet has a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee consisting of cadets and alumni for the specific purpose of ensuring funds received support The Cadet and activities benefiting VMI cadets. Funding for the operation and The Cadet comes from donations and sponsored spaces.

See A6

Letter to the editor

Dear Editor,

As a member of the greatest class to ever march out Jackson Arch (can you still say that?) I want to compliment you and your staff on the recent editions of The Cadet. There is no better way to keep one’s finger on the real pulse of the Corps than to read through your paper.

I particularly enjoy the still independent voice of the editorial page and the Darts and Laurels. This week’s article speculating about Breakout could have been written 40 years ago. Humor is alive and well!

Keep up the good work!

Hugh Daughtry ’83
The Cadet Welcomes a NEW Staff member!

**The Cadet Editorial Staff**

The Cadet newspaper, one of the oldest independent college newspapers in Virginia is proud to welcome Kyle Dargis '24 as the newest member of staff as a cartoonist and writer.

Cadet Dargis is the son of Mark and Melissa Dargis. He is an English Major and Golf company corporal from Fauquier County, Virginia whose goal for participating in is to draw and write some great content, he joined Newspaper simply because he "loves to cartoon"!

Once Cadet Dargis '24 completes his initial work, he'll receive his Commonwealth of Virginia registration as a credentialed journalist and join the full staff as a member of the Virginia Press Association (VPA). is proud to welcome Cadet Dargis '24 to The Cadet, the independent voice of the corps and alumni in our 115th year of publication!

- By The Cadet Editorial Staff

**Mandatory Diversity Equity and Inclusion Training**

- Compiled by the VMI Cadet Staff

There have been a number of questions raised on the mandatory Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) training for cadets after it was briefed at the recent Board of Visitor’s meeting. One concerned parent requested information on the training covered in the presentation under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and provided a copy of the workbook received to . According to the document provided by VMI in response to that FOIA, “This workbook is a compilation of curated Diversity, Equity and Inclusion trainings designed for Virginia Military Institute. Trainings are intentional in an effort to deliver direct engagement that lets cadets achieve a better understanding of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.”

Topics covered, according to the workbook set out “Diversity of people, perspectives”; “Equity in policy, practice and position”; “Inclusion via power, voice & organizational culture”; and Justice with equal rights & equitable opportunities”.

Although the training and its content continues under DEI, Governor Glenn Youngkin issued Executive Order #10, designating Angela Sailor as a member of his cabinet as the Commonwealth Chief Diversity, Opportunity & Inclusion Officer. In changing “equity” to “Opportunity” Youngkin’s office stated its intent is for a stronger and more focused role on promoting ideas, policies, and economic opportunities for disadvantaged Virginians, including Virginians living with disabilities and bringing Virginians of different faiths together.

The full workbook as received is posted to The Cadet website at: https://cadetnewspaper.org/283-2/

- By Cadet James Mansfield ’22

Colonel John Brodie presents a Virginia flag flown over the Virginia State Capitol in honor of Mr. Tony Hamilton ’79 to his widow, Cassandra Hamilton during the graveside service on February 5, 2022. Col Brodie coordinated for a bagpiper to play Amazing Grace at the funeral as well as coordinated the VMI Color Guard and Honor Guard at the Service. Over 60 Members of VMI ’79 traveled from across the United States to Honor their BR at the service.

- Photo by VMI Class of ’79
Letter to the Editor: Stop Censoring Alumni and The Cadet!

- Peter McCrary ‘56

To the Editorial Staff of The Cadet Newspaper

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I do not know if The Cadet newspaper has published the “VMI Statement on The Cadet Newspaper” sent to the Corps of Cadets, faculty, and staff by MG MG Wins’ Office on February 3, 2022 – but if it hasn’t, it should. As a subscriber to The Cadet and having carefully read that official statement – I would observe …

Threading the needle that has officially recognized each cadet’s First Amendment right to participate through all venues [specifically including] “production, editing or contributing to any publication whether or not it is affiliated with, or supported by VMI.” Thank you MG Wins!

The second paragraph asserts that The Cadet uses “the VMI acronym” and that its “use of VMI’s trademarked logos and marks” is unauthorized. However, sequential use of the letters V-M-I is not a trademarked “acronym.” It is more accurately a “initialism” – a set of marks” is unauthorized. However, its “use of VMI’s trademarked logos and marks” is unauthorized. However, The Cadet newspaper has made full documentation available online under the documents section of The Cadet Foundation website at www.cadetnewspaper.org or readers can use this link for a direct download!

VMI Statement on The Cadet Newspaper

- Mr. Young, Virginia Military Institute Chief of Staff

As one of the top public liberal arts colleges in the country, the First Amendment of the Constitution and free speech are a vital part of Virginia Military Institute’s civic education and VMI wholly supports its cadet’s First Amendment rights to free speech. VMI in no way seeks to inhibit or restrict any cadet’s right to exercise free speech through any and all available venues to include producing, editing or contributing to any publication, whether or not it is affiliated with, or supported by VMI.

In May 2021, VMI and the VMI Alumni Agencies first became aware that a newspaper titled “The Cadet” was being circulated on the VMI post during commencement. A single alumnus was the driving force behind this publication. The newspaper has in its tagline, “The Independent Voice of the Corps of Cadets since 1871” and describes itself as “an independent student publication created by cadets and alumni independent of VMI.” Despite any such information, The Cadet uses the VMI acronym and unauthorized use of VMI’s trademarked logos and marks, The Cadet newspaper is in no way affiliated with or authorized by the Virginia Military Institute, the Corps of Cadets, or the VMI Alumni Agencies.

In addition, the paper has no affiliation with the previously published paragraph affirms and states precisely The Cadet newspaper’s proud assertion that it is INDEPENDENT of any influence from VMI and the VMI AA. Thank you MG Wins! However, MG Wins, if the overall intent of the “VMI Statement on The Cadet Newspaper” was to discourage its support and readership – again, sir, thank you for blowing it.

As the Chairman of the VMI Class of ’56’s Reunion Committee, my efforts were subject to similar censorship before and after our 65th reunion by VMI and VMI AA. I recently filed a request for an investigation with the Commonwealth of Virginia. I hope the Offices of the Governor fully investigate and hold those responsible accountable.

Peter K. McCrary ‘56
Editor’s note: Due to the length of McCrary’s Reunion investigation and accompanying documentation, The Cadet has made the full document available online under the documents section of The Cadet Foundation website at www.cadetnewspaper.org or readers can use this link for a direct download!

Return Alumni Support The Cadet!

- Contributed by reunion alumni

In welcoming back alumni for their reunions this week, The Cadet asked alumni to share their best memories of VMI. These included asking what they want to say about The Cadet during their cadetship and the newspaper being one of the oldest independent college newspapers in Virginia. We asked them what they would tell the staff today as we try to preserve The Cadet after restarting it in May 2021.

“Keep Going!” - Steve Tennant ‘81

“The Cadet newspaper was a way to keep your voice heard. I think VMI and how VMI was impacted by forces outside of the Institute. I still have copies of it from Mary Baldwin College radio, etc.” - Greg Wolven ‘81

“The Cadet was a mainstay of cadetship. Keep this historic paper and relevant. Thanks to the die-hard supporters of The Cadet!” - John Waring ‘81

Virginia Mourning Her Dead

His reputation during and after the war buttressed the reputation of VMI, and his legacy became an integral part of the Institute’s culture. A statue of Stonewall Jackson, which was erected in 1912, stood outside the newly renamed “Main Arch” until December of 2020. Moses Ezekiel is equally as complex. As reported in The Cadet’s December 15, 2022 edition, Sir Moses Ezekiel graduated from VMI with the Class of 1866 and was a member of the Corps of Cadets who fought ultimately for the Confederacy in the battle of New Market. Ezekiel was also a world famous sculptor, and the creator of several Civil War memorials, including the aforementioned statue of Stonewall Jackson, which is now on display at the New Market Battlefield. According to its website, “the United Daughters of the Confederacy is the outgrowth of many local memorial, monument, and Confederate home associations and auxiliaries to camps of United Confederate Veterans that were organized throughout the States. It is the oldest patriotic organization in our country because of its connection with two states that came into existence as early as 1890 — the Daughters of the Confederacy (DOC) in Missouri and the Ladies’ Auxiliary of the Confederate Soldiers Home in Tennessee.” Additionally noted: “The objects of the organization are historical, educational, benevolent, and patriotic.” Organizations like the UDC and the monuments they seek to preserve are becoming defined as elements of the Lost Cause. According to Encyclopedia
VMI to Cancel Awards Named for Jackson and Ezekiel

From A3

Britannica, the “Lost Cause, is an interpretation of the American Civil War viewed by most historians as a myth that attempts to preserve the honor of the South by casting the Confederate defeat in the best possible light.” Mrs. Linda Edwards published the UDC’s official position, stating, “The United Daughters of the Confederacy totally denounces any individual or group that promotes racial divisiveness or white supremacy. And we call on these people to cease using Confederate symbols for their abhorrent and reprehensible purposes.” The UDC statement continued, “We are saddened that some people find anything connected with the Confederacy to be offensive. Our Confederate ancestors were and are Americans and our organization do not sit in judgment of them nor do we impose the standards of the 19th century on Americans of the 21st century.”

The CMNRC’s decision is one of many similar decisions by VMI to distance itself from the Lost Cause. Other recent decisions include a cancellation this academic year by the Commandant’s Office of “The Civil War Round Table,” as it was traditionally called, and as its charter “to allow cadets the opportunity to take part in living history events and battle reenactments to obtain a better understanding of history perspective based on its association with the Civil War and the Confederacy.” Also recently removed was the stone inscription which bore Stonewall Jackson’s name above the Jackson Arch. Although talk was had to remove and preserve the stone, this was deemed infeasible, which resulted in the embossed name being chiseled off and destroyed.

These actions are in line with the Barnes & Thornburg, LLP report recommendation that “VMI should solicit input from current cadets and alumni when considering any action related to the Civil War or Confederate-era iconography, symbolism, and traditions. Although it is not contained in any details of who or how input from the Corps and alumni were obtained, VMI’s July 1, 2021 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Review: 30 Day Report stated, “The Commandant’s office has eliminated association between activities it sponsors and the Civil War and the Confederacy.”

The Cadet contacted UDC for comment on the BOV’s decision and was informed the UDC did not wish to receive their awards.

The CMNRC members are, Mr. Richard K. Hines V ’66, Chair, CAD Dane Hamilton ’22, Mr. Hugh M. Fain III ’80, COL Keith Gibson ’77, LTC Catharine Ingersoll, Mr. Lester Johnson ’95, Mr. Anthony Moore ’78, COL Kim C. Parker and Mr. Gene Scott ’80

Proud to have been assisting The Cadet to publish for over 50 years:

The News-Gazette

TheCadet, March 25, 2022, Page 11
VMI Pipe Band Attends the New York City Tartan Day Parade

By Cadet Emily Liska ‘22

The VMI Pipe Band attended the Tartan Day Parade in New York City on Saturday, April 9th. Under the field direction of Drum Major Luis Ramirez-Vale ‘22 and Pipe Major Emily Liska ‘22, more than 40 pipers and drummers from all four classes marched in the parade. The group was accompanied by Maj. Burt Mitchell, Director of the Pipe Band, and CSM Suzanne Rubenstein.

The VMI Pipe Band was seen by thousands of onlookers throughout the ten-block route. Their first time performing in this parade, it is the hope of all pipe band members that this becomes an annual event. Perhaps the most special part of the parade was the invitation to join two other pipe bands to play in a street performance, a rarity for the VMI Pipe Band, as they often do not have the opportunity to play with other pipe bands.

“A tartan” is the pattern found on kilts, and each pattern is unique to a family, clan, or organization. Tartan Day is predominantly a North American celebration commemorating the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath in 1320 during the first Scottish War of Independence. Many of Scottish descent also celebrate the repeal of the 1747 Act of Proscription following the Scottish loss against England in the 1747 War of Independence. This act banned the wearing of tartans, playing of the bagpipes, and speaking Gaelic, all of which were integral to Scottish culture. The tartan that VMI Pipe Band cadets wear is specific to VMI, and is called the “New Market Tartan”, which was designed by cadets that were founding members of the Pipe Band.

This is the last off-post performance for 1/C members of the Pipe Band.

Why I Recognize and Support The Cadet - Delegate Tara A. Durant, Virginia House of Delegates, 28th District

With great respect for VMI, its administration, the corps of cadets, and The Cadet, it was my pleasure to introduce a commending resolution recognizing the 115th Anniversary of one of the oldest independent student newspapers in the Commonwealth and the country. I look forward to my upcoming interview with The Cadet.

Delegate Tara A. Durant, Virginia House of Delegates, 28th District

Military Junior College Series: The Georgia Military College - By Cadet Kleton Dobson ’23

The final article in our series on Military Junior Colleges will cover the Georgia Military College, located in Milledgeville, Georgia. As with other M.J.C.’s, G.M.C. allows cadets to commission into the Army with the Early Commissioning Program, detailed in a previous article of the series.

Named Middle Georgia Military and Agricultural College at its founding in 1879, it assumed its current name in 1900. At the outset the college was only a college-preparatory school to prepare Georgians for acceptance into four-year institutions. It was based in the former Georgia capitol building, which had been burned by General Sherman on his March to the Sea in 1864. In 1930 a junior college was added to the program. As the school progressed it began to admit civilian students, who now number 1300, in comparison to the Corps of Cadets’ approximately 250.

In the present day the college has a considerably larger online presence, with an online program with over two dozen programs, and over 16,000 students. Interestingly, for a junior college, G.M.C. offers bachelor’s degrees in six fields. G.M.C. has a multitude of programs to benefit enlisted men in the armed services. Airmen are able to earn a bachelor’s degree as a continuation of an associate’s earned in the Community College of the Air Force. A program that one would think merited further expansion and other military colleges is the State Service Scholarship Program. With this a prominent nomination by a local state representative, would enter Georgia National Guard to National Guard, graduate basic training and follow-on schools, and in return receive a full ride in the G.M.C. Corps of Cadets. Commissioning is not required with this scholarship, but is possible through E.C.P. or R.O.T.C. at another college upon graduation. Cadets would serve in the Guard as a normal enlisted man, until either they commission, or are discharged.

The preparatory school has nearly 300 students in both the middle and high schools. Both schools are militarily structured, with the high school having a J.R.O.T.C. detachment. G.M.C. counts among its alumni George Busbee, former governor of Georgia; Congressman Carl Vinson; former Commanding Officer of U.S. Army Western Command Claude M. Kicklighter; nine former or current N.F.L. players; and Oliver Hardy, Laurel’s partner.

The Cadet Organizes Diversity Equity and Inclusion Public Debate

Editors Note: In response to the growing controversy over Virginia Military Institute’s mandatory Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) training, The Cadet newspaper plans to sponsor a public debate regarding the DEI understanding at VMI. This debate intends to foster complete and open understanding regarding such an important issue. The Cadet was, is, and always will be an advocate for productive expression and free speech. In this regard, The Cadet has contacted the Heritage Foundation with the intention of sending a representative for debate. They have already guaranteed a speaker to attend. We are still awaiting a response from the office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion. The following invitation was sent to the VMI Chief Diversity Officer, Dr. Jamica Love on March 30, 2022: If this is an event you would like to attend, please express your interest or send any questions to editor@cadetnewspaper.org.

Dear Dr. Love: Please accept this request to jointly host with us and the Heritage Foundation as well as provide a speaking representative for a debate before the academic year. An article on its impact at VMI will be featured in the next issue of The Cadet.

The VMI Pipe Band in front of Radio City Music Hall, New York Photo by Emily Liska ‘22
Statement by the VMI Alumni on the Recent Alumni Association Meeting

Published: April 12, 2022 by the VMI Alumni Agencies

Editors’ Note: The following statement was issued by the VMI Alumni agencies as their version of the event that occurred April 9, 2022. This will be paired with the article by Mr Staso ‘79 to depict the conflicting sides of the event.

The annual meeting of the members of the VMI Alumni Association was held Saturday, April 9, to elect a total of 10 directors at large and regional directors for terms that range from one year to three years, coinciding with the annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the VMI Alumni Association to elect its officers.

Serious issues were raised in the course of the members’ meeting, which ended without completing the intended elections. Here are the highlights of the meeting. We will provide additional information as we move through our election process.

An outline of events follows:

1. On Saturday, April 9, the members of the VMI Alumni Association held their annual meeting where all alumni in good standing who were present had the opportunity to vote for regional directors and directors at large to fill open positions on the board.

2. A group of approximately 67 alumni, non-board members and members of the VMI Alumni Agencies boards attended the meeting.

At the same time, the incoming Keydet Club Board of Governors and the VMI Foundation Board of Trustees were successfully voted in without incident (this vote is by the sitting members of the VMI Alumni Association Board of Directors).

The officers of the VMI Alumni Association were voted in without incident (this vote is by the sitting members of the VMI Alumni Association Board of Directors).

As part of the members’ meeting, an alumnus made a motion to replace the entire VMI Alumni Association Board of Directors and to elect a new slate of directors. This motion was ruled out of order by the VMI Alumni Association president based on the bylaws and advice from legal counsel.

Subsequently, a vote—supported by the president of the VMI Alumni Association and legal counsel—was taken for the slate of regional directors as presented through the Board of Directors Nominating Committee. The slate as presented was not approved on a hand count of those in attendance.

Despite efforts by the president to work out the election of the directors at large and given the failed regional directors vote, the president advised that he would call a special meeting according to the bylaws, and he adjourned the meeting.

The anticipated plan forward is a special meeting to readdress the open Board of Directors positions.

Information will be forthcoming regarding a nomination process and special meeting to elect the open seats.

DO YOU WANT YOUR OPINION HEARD?

Write for The Cadet Today!

Any article of any length anytime! Meetings will be held every Tuesday Night at 8:00 in the Cadet Center, 3rd Floor. Enter through the front doors. Join Jon Casper! Contact jcasper@virginia.military.edu and join us for some fun! Email jcasper@virginia.military.edu

Scan the QR code or follow the link. Your information will NOT be shared with the administration. We’ll report results in an upcoming issue of The Cadet!

SURVEY FOR CADETS Voice the Corps’ TRUE OPINIONS

Take The Cadet newspaper survey and let your voice be heard!

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/cadets

Questions see Cadet Mansfield ’22 in Room 107

Reminder to all Rats --- You still roll your Dyke's hays or they roll you!
Jackson’s Statue finds new context at New Market battlefield

By Cadet Kelton Dobson ’23 and The Cadet Staff

After a tumultuous year that saw the Statue of General Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson abruptly moved from in front of Jackson Arch at the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) on December 7, 2021 to an undisclosed location, it is now in pace at its new home in the roundabout at the New Market Battlefield State Historical Park. Jackson’s name was subsequently expunged from the arch in honor on the VMI barracks while the Corps was on Christmas break December 2021.

According to VMI historian, Col. William Gibson ’77, the new location provides important historical context to the statue.

“Though Jackson did not fight in the Battle of New Market, the Lunar Gap of the Massanutten Mountain, which can be seen from the battlefield, played a strategic role in concealing his army’s movements against Union troops,” Gibson said. “How fitting it is for the statue of Stonewall Jackson to look out over the Lunar Gap which played such an important part of his Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1862.”

Additional enlightening context comes from the original intent of the statue by its creator, world famous artist and New Market cadet, Sir Moses Ezekiel. As reprinted here from documents found in the VMI archives entitled Stonewall Jackson Statue for V. M. I., Sir Moses Ezekiel Contributes His Skill and Labor Free of All Charge to His Alma Mater by Thomas F. Ryan’s Generosity Makes the Offer Possible:

Through the combined generosity of Sir Moses Ezekiel of Rome, Italy, and of Thomas Fortune Ryan of New York, a bronze statue of General Stonewall Jackson will soon be erected on the parade ground. It will be a replica of the statue unveiled by Sir Moses for the Daughters of the Confederacy of West Virginia, and unveiled last September at Charleston.

Mr. Ryan became interested in the matter through the efforts of Colonel Joseph Button, who is a member of the board of visitors of the institute. Colonel Button visited Mr. Ryan at his home in New York Monday night, secured his promise to contribute the $6,000 necessary for the consummation of the plans, and returned to Richmond yesterday afternoon.

It was while Sir Moses was in Virginia last summer that the matter of placing a statue of the Confederate leader at the school where he was an instructor in philosophy for a decade preceding the war between the states, and which he loved so well, was first mentioned. Sir Moses Ezekiel, the noted sculptor and one of the institute cadets who marched out to do battle for their state and engaged in the encounter at New Market, then offered to have made a replica of the Charleston statue, then about to be erected. He is in possession of the original plaster cast, and offered to superintend the work and donate his time, if someone could be found to pay for the cost of labor and material, and of shipment from Rome to Lexington.

WILL COST $6,000.

This offer has now been repeated in a letter from Sir Moses to General E. W. Nichols, superintendent of the institute. This communication says that the actual cost outlay for the monument delivered at Lexington will be about $5000. Sir Moses will design a suitable pedestal in gray stone without making a charge for this work.

In addition to the $5,000 for the cost to Sir Moses, it is estimated that there will be an additional expense of about $1,000 for a base and for incidental work which must be done in putting the monument in place. Colonel Button took up recently the matter of raising the requisite $6,000, and communicated with Thomas Fortune Ryan, the Virginia and New York financier and philanthropist, who is his personal friend. Mr. Ryan, in spite of his long residence in the North, is intensely Southern in all his feelings, and is interested especially in Confederate history. In his home in Nelson county of this state he has a private collection of Confederate relics and to autograph letters from leaders on the Southern side of the struggle.

So in Mr. Ryan, Colonel Button secured a ready listener for the cause which he represented. A photograph of the Charleston monument was secured for his inspection, and he was at once interested. As stated, when Colonel Button called on him Monday night, he gave quick assent to the proposition that he should bear all the expenses of putting the monument in place.

It depicts the commander looking over a battlefield, his coat swinging in the wind, his form erect, his face intent, his field glasses in his right hand, and his left grasping his sword. It represents Jackson as he was at First Manassas.

QUESTION OF LOCATION

The location of the monument will be determined later. It had been suggested that it should be placed in front of the saliva port of Jackson Hall, replacing the Ezekiel statue, “Virginia Mourning Her Dead,” which now stand facing the parade ground. In that case the latter would be moved to some other part of the parade ground. It is Colonel Button’s individual idea that it might be well to place it on the southern edge of the ground, so that when the cadets drill daily they will face Jackson and he will face them.

Showing General Jackson’s love for the institute, a letter is in existence which he wrote from Centreville on October 22, 1861, to a committee of the board of visitors. In this he said:

“Your circular of the 9th instant has been received, and I beg leave to say that I only took the field from a sense of duty and that the obligation that brought me into the service will retain me in it, and will probably continue to do so as long as the war shall last. At the close of hostilities, I desire to resume the duties of my chair and accordingly respectfully request that, if consistent with the interest of the board of visitors may be such as to admit my return upon the restoration of peace.”

Torre di Belisario
28 Via Campania
Rome, Italy.

From Sir Moses Ezekiel to General E. W. Nichols, Sup’ V. M. I., Lexington, Va. Regarding the donation of the statue and movement of this previous statue, Virginia Mourning Her Dead, donated to VMI as well as the New Market cadet stones from front of barracks to its current location.

My Dear General:
I repeat my offer to you in writing at your request that I will make the heroic size statue of General Stonewall Jackson in bronze upon a suitable pedestal in gray stone, all complete, boxed and shipped and delivered at Lexington for the bare material cost of $5,000. I have no idea what it would cost you to place it on the ground in front of the Jackson Hall. The foundation is already there and consequently it could only cost a very small amount to place it; one or two hundred dollars. Of course the statue of Virginia Mourning Her Dead, with the pedestal would have to be moved and placed in position on the new site chosen before the Jackson could be placed.

. . . . .

Yours faithfully,
M. EZEKIEL

Colonel Button’s message expressing his appreciation for Mr. Ryan’s gift in funding the cost of the statue, March 15, 1911.

Mr. Thomas F. Ryan
858 Fifth Ave.
New York, N. Y.
My Dear Sir:
A telegram from Col. Joseph Button, a member of the board of visitors of this institution, subsequently confirmed by a
Jackson's statue finds new context at New Market battlefield

From A7

Phone communication, brings the gratifying intelligence that you have kindly consented to donate to this institution a replica of Ezekiel's Stonewall Jackson recently unveiled in Charleston, W.Va.

The board of visitors of the Institute will, at their first meeting make proper acknowledgment of this generous act on your part. In the meantime permit me to express the great appreciation felt by the authorities of the Institute by this act of generosity. The people of Virginia, as well as the alumni, will be greatly gratified. For 10 years General Jackson was a professor in this institution, and from our parade ground in April, 1861, he led the corps of cadets to Richmond, where they formed the drill masters of the recruits mustered there. General Jackson thus began the career which in two short years made his name and his fame.

A statue of the great Christian soldier located on our parade ground, made possible by your generosity, will not only serve as an inspiration to thousands of young men in the coming years, but will for all time connect your name with that of the equally generous sculptor, Sir Moses Ezekiel, who with equal generosity contributes his skill and labor free of all charge to his alma mater.

I have the honor to be, my dear sir, Yours very respectfully,
E. W. Nichols
Sup't.
The case for New Market

The Cadet Editorial Staff

People attend VMI for many different reasons. Some come here for athletics, others in order to commission into the Armed forces, and some for a springboard into a career in business or law. But no matter how you choose to view VMI, when every cadet marches into barracks for the first time, they find a challenging system that is different than anything they have experienced before. Now you must consider, how can strangers of different races, genders, and creeds, from various socio-economic classes and altogether different walks of life be expected to come together under one unifying principle, in just seven months?

The answer: the Ratline.

The purpose of the Ratline is to create these high school seniors from disparate origins into a cohesive class. It achieves this by wiping the slate clean for all and doing so in a purposeful way. How would you then expect the rest of the building into members of a single unit. All of our interactions and experiences at VMI are based on this purpose. It is that shared experience, the shared suffering, that not only unites us in the class system but unites us as one Corps. And there is no greater symbol, no greater example, and no greater standard of that shared suffering and uniting purpose than the Battle of New Market.

May 15, 1864, 257 cadets formed into 4 companies of infantry and one section of artillery and were ordered to join General John C. Breckenridge at New Market. The Union Army was making for the New Market Gap to gain control of the Shenandoah Valley. The two forces met and, after holding the line, these cadets, aged 15 to 25, charged the Union artillery and a brigade of veteran soldiers, capturing the guns and helping win the day. This act of extraordinary bravery cost them the lives of ten cadets in addition to the 47 who were wounded. Captain Frank Towne, a Union veteran of the battle describes the action in a letter to a VMI alumnus “as a military spectacle [that] was most beautiful,” and it was John Howard, a cadet who fought in the battle, who said of moving past the fence at the beginning of the cadets’ charge, that he: “was leaving all thought of individuality behind.” Is this not the epitome of a unified corps? We used to honor their bravery and instill that same sentiment that cadets have 100% matriculants and breaking them down from individuals and building them into members of a single unit. All of our interactions and experiences at VMI are based on this purpose. It is that shared experience, the shared suffering, that not only unites us in the class system but unites us as one Corps. And there is no greater symbol, no greater example, and no greater standard of that shared suffering and uniting purpose than the Battle of New Market.

But no more.

The question must be asked, why? Why did this tradition end? Two years ago, the Class of 2024 was told that it was due to Covid. But evidently that is not the case considering the current Covid climate. This tradition had to end because the brave cadets fought on the wrong side of history. They fought for the Confederacy.

The Ratline was a symbol of our uniting purpose. It is that shared suffering and uniting purpose that is a greater example, and no greater standard of that shared suffering and uniting purpose than the Battle of New Market.

The Union Army was making for the New Market Gap to gain control of the Shenandoah Valley. The two forces met and, after holding the line, these cadets, aged 15 to 25, charged the Union artillery and a brigade of veteran soldiers, capturing the guns and helping win the day. This act of extraordinary bravery cost them the lives of ten cadets in addition to the 47 who were wounded. Captain Frank Towne, a Union veteran of the battle describes the action in a letter to a VMI alumnus “as a military spectacle [that] was most beautiful,” and it was John Howard, a cadet who fought in the battle, who said of moving past the fence at the beginning of the cadets’ charge, that he: “was leaving all thought of individuality behind.” Is this not the epitome of a unified corps? We used to honor their bravery and instill that same sentiment that cadets have 100% matriculants and breaking them down from individuals and building them into members of a single unit. All of our interactions and experiences at VMI are based on this purpose. It is that shared experience, the shared suffering, that not only unites us in the class system but unites us as one Corps. And there is no greater symbol, no greater example, and no greater standard of that shared suffering and uniting purpose than the Battle of New Market.

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Free Consultations
Paul C. Balassa, VMI Class of 1998
congratulates The Cadet Newspaper on its fine work as of late and announces the availability of consultations on Honor Court charges and other matters.

Sometimes good people get caught in bad situations

You owe yourself the best defense possible
Greetings. Today marks the beginning of one of the most momentous times in the history of the Institute. You, Old Corps and Rats alike, will decide VMI’s success on this journey of integrating the nation’s women into the nation’s premier military school.

Many VMI alumnae have gone before you, giving themselves in allegiance to the Constitution that governs the United States. That same constitution and the laws derived from it have spoken. With that decision, the time for personal opinions on the issue of women at VMI passes into history. For all those that love VMI, there can be only one challenge now: make the change a success.

The entire nation will be looking at you in the days and months ahead. You have in your hands the opportunity for success.

That means upholding the traditions of integrity, discipline, and impartiality that always have been a part of VMI. That means that some of you, both men and women, will not be at VMI this time next year. But most of you, both men and women, will return, because you are the first women to ever enter the gates of VMI as Matriculants. Twenty-five years ago, they back down from a challenge, VMI is no stranger to hardship, nor do we doubt, being a woman at VMI is a more important than anyone else. From the words of the current 1st Battalion Sergeant Major, Madison Cappellano ’24, “no one is out to get you.” Without a doubt, a being woman at VMI is a different experience, but “it is entirely possible for every individual to be successful here at VMI.” For SGM Cappellano, her success “is driven by [her] desire to be the strongest woman [she] can be.” The most important aspect of VMI is that it allows you to overcome the obstacles placed before you and become the strongest versions of yourselves. And as the first women of the institute proved, women are just as capable of rising to the occasion, and putting forth the effort, as men are.

The prevalent preconceived notions are coming from people who haven’t lived this life, “but until you put your best foot forward and try to be with the men - with the other cadets - you cannot truly grasp the value that you can possess from these experiences.” That is what VMI has always offered. The opportunity to put in the effort to become your best self. And it maintains the perfect atmosphere to get the job done. Of course, “there will always be people who look at you differently or make comments about anything you do.” This was as true for the Class of 2001 as it is today. But as SGM Cappellano eloquently stated, “as long as you put the effort in - even if you’re dead last - you’ll gain the respect from those around you.” This aspect of VMI is still true today. As many current and past Cadets can attest, there were times where we put in our all and still thought we had failed. But our Brother Rats respected us more for never giving up than being first. The women of the Class of 2001 had the daunting task of being the first females to prove their resilience. Today, their strength is evident in the women who continue to refuse to give up. And it has resulted in a respect amongst the Corps of Cadets for each other.

The institute has undergone tremendous trials - some of which it is still facing - arising from both within itself and from external forces. However, as proven 25 years prior when women matriculated in the first co-ed class: VMI is more than prepared to uphold their standards and produce men and women of strong and honorable character. This is even evidenced by Mr. Michael Parish in his letter. It is the job of the Corps to decide the success of the future and VMI is always prepared for the challenge.

There are still many challenges that VMI must traverse, however, there are none that will overcome the Corps of Cadets. In the words of Mrs. Carole Green, a woman who worked tremendously hard for the fair introduction of women: “Some women want that challenge; some don’t. But the ones who go through VMI and complete that challenge are so impressive.” The same is true for every cadet that undergoes the rigorous of this Institute. Some people want the challenge that VMI offers; the challenge that the Institute will never cease to provide. It takes a special type of person to earn their diploma from VMI, and the first co-ed class proved it is not a physical attribute that characterizes these hardworking and courageous people who can.

A Legacy 25 Years in the Making

By Cadet Gabriele Woodward ’24 and Cadet Victoria Gurgos ’24

Proud VMI alumnae return to VMI for the 25th Anniversary of Women in the Corps

The Cadet, September 16, 2022, Page 3
Civil suit filed against VMI over DEI contract award

Cadets are all aware of Diversity, Excellence, and Inclusion (DEI) training at the Virginia Military Institute. It’s often viewed as simply something that periodically occurs throughout the semester and takes up valuable time that could be used for studying and other extracurricular activities. However, DEI training is purported by some of the faculty and all the VMI administration to be essential in building the modern citizen soldier by providing resources that enable students to perceive different aspects of diversity of people and skills. All while being successful” and that VMI’s scoring system and evaluation method of officers was arbitrary, and once again, in contradiction to the VPPA. So, what evidence does CAI put forth to support their claims? In VMI’s Request for Proposal, the needs stated directly are for offers to provide training for students and faculty. It required the hired consultants to understand the military underpinnings of VMI. Publicly available Court documents filed by CAI with its protest and complaint include CAI’s own evaluation sheet, produced by VMI’s evaluation team consisting of MAI Lynn W. Carmack (VMI Procurement), LTC Jamica Love (VMI DEI Director), Prof. Timmi Sen (Economics), Prof. Keith Kline (Political Science), and Mr. Ammad Sheikh (Career Services) in which the Virginia-based Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB), that has many VMI alumni and prominent military veterans on their team, was described as a team with potential bias for having VMI alumni and “too much military”. The other bidders, including notes from interviews with the contractor, show NewPoint received positive remarks, scores, and support from Dr. Love. During the interviews for a member of the New Point staff whose deceased father-in-law was in the VMI Class of 1933. CAI challenges that NewPoint did not pay its respects to their Brothers Rats and lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The day was a tiring and emotional one, but entirely worth it for the still strong Class of 1961. Years following their graduation, they continue to prove the brotherhood that lasts beyond their departure from the Institute and the honor that identifies them as VMI Cadets. As submitted by Sal Vitale ’61, the following briefs describe the event:

"Friday night the venue was at Doce Vita in a private room where we had wonderful food and a chance to visit more people witnessed old men, one with a walking stick, lay the red white and yellow wreath on the flower stand in front of the Tomb. Shortly after the morning we arrived at Joint Base Myer about 11 AM and 45 of us boarded the military bus for the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Three Brother John Sal, Jud McLester and I received a Rider Flying Cross, represented a verbal hundred or more than fifty who paid their respects. This was very moving to say the least. Stairs are a problem for many of us and it was a tricky trip down the flight that led to the presentation deck for Bill, but his Brother Rats were there to ensure he did not fall."

"Following a history lesson of the solemn place, performances and demonstrations were next on the agenda. So we boarded the bus and headed to The Old Guard HQ and parade field. We were seen as the VIPs to many of the only people present. It is not too often that old men get the VIP treatment and this was certainly VIP treatment. What even more special was the access to the soldiers after they performed. First up was the US Army Drill Team. Watching rifles being thrown, and many other routines and being up close (within 20 feet) made it very exciting. The marshing and playing presentation by the Fife and Drum Corps had several of our Band members, while its living alumni participating in the effort were viewed as potentially biased. It is only up to the courts to decide whether or not such an evaluation is arbitrary, however, How much military is "too much military”? Wouldn’t New Point strategies then be a cause for potential bias as well given they have a relative of a VMI alumni on their team?"

Another cause for CAI’s contention in the procurement process may be involved in the extreme one-sidedness that was provided to NewPoint strategies in the evaluation process. In the notes of VMI procurement team members embold NewPoint strategies with multiple points such as “clear answers, supporting CDO [Chief Diversity Officer], sound psychological science, energetic impression, and diversity of people and skills”. All while two other competing teams were met with little discussion with points concluding that they were “Polished, biased, staying neutral, or having no substance”. The lack of complete deliberation is a fair concern for CAI to have, especially when clear, unbiased deliberation and evaluation are required within the VPPA. Additionally, when confronted with the lawsuit VMI’s response did not dispute the allegations, but rather appears to attempt to dodge the case, unsuccessfully. VMI filed a motion to have the case dismissed, stating an exemption to the VPPA on the basis of "Understanding" with The Virginia Association of State College and University Purchasing Professionals (VASCPP). This exemption argument was denied by the court who stated that an MOU does not appear to bestow the status of a "covered institution," which would provide VMI an exemption to the requirements of the VPPA. VMI then responded by citing evidence from an amendment to the Va. Code § 23-38.90 that was repealed in 2016. Considering..."
Civil suit filed against VMI over DEI contract award

From A5

the specific MOU in which VMI certifies that “VMI is in full compliance with the requirements of the VPPA,” the mention of this exemption appears to have no basis of fact in the first place. Furthermore, VMI attempted to claim sovereign immunity from being subject to any civil court action. While in correct standing according to Va. Code § 2.2-4301, this plea was overruled.

The case is gathering attention from many groups, including the Spirit of VI Political Action Committee (SOVP) that issued a press release calling for a full inquiry, not only into the alleged contract irregularities, but into the funding of DEI at VMI itself. According to a September 4th Press Release by the SOVP, following the appropriation of additional funding to the Virginia Military Institute during the last General Assembly session, Governor Youngkin directed the Institute to avoid spending any of that allocation on DEI initiatives.

Other documents in the public Court filings are also raising questions as reported by the Roanoke Star and other regional media outlets.

In notes from the interviews and other evaluation committee actions one evaluation panel member from the VMI faculty is noted as stating, “We [VMI] really aren’t military. I have a bird on my shoulder [indicating Colonel rank] – doesn’t mean anything – just I am a field professor. So – compare us more to University of Maryland than a military academy.”

According to the complaint, records also allegedly show VMI developing a campaign to lobby or otherwise influence the Youngkin administration in Richmond, and a plan to respond to criticism and complaints. According to one VMI Professor on the evaluation Panel in a question posed to one of the offerors: “How to assist VMI with new government [i.e., then-new Youngkin administration]?”

“Control who talks to the press. Shared understanding of what information is shared with the press” Finally in an email from VMI’s Attorney-General appointed Legal Counsel, who wrote “We are getting a great deal of consternation on the subject of procurement. I expect that the probability is high that this procurement will be protested.”

From A5

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With Vision 2039 Reaching Its Final Goals, VMI Must Support Cadet Efforts

By a current Cadet (name withheld)

Vision 2039 was unveiled in 2003, soon after General J.H. Binford Peay was named Superintendent of VMI. General Peay had used this plan to drive his tenure as VMI Superintendent--and given his love for this plan and his position of oversight--it would not be a far stretch to say that General Peay would have probably reached the 2039 mark as Superintendent had he not been left to defend the Institute against external criticisms. Even with his departure, Vision 2039 has been supplemented by Major General Cedric T. Wins with the publication of the One Corps, One VMI plan in an effort to unify the Corps.

Since its inception, the Vision 2039 plan has seen great success by acting as the driving force behind physical improvements on Post, some of which include the construction of three barracks, the Corps Physical Training Facility, and numerous renovations across Post. As a matter of fact, there are only two additional major physical improvements expected to affect Post in the upcoming future. According to this plan, the construction of a 5-level parking structure meant to house approximately 425 vehicles and the new Aquatic Center, which is currently under construction, will be the last of the physical alterations made to Post. The Vision 2039 plan has also been the catalyst for major academic reform at the Institute. These improvements cover a few of the fourteen points that are also outlined in the Vision 2039 plan:

1. A Military Institute and a Military Environment... delivering a unique education
2. Academic Reputation – Premier Undergraduate College in America
3. Renowned Honor System – No. 1 in the nation
4. 25 Partnerships with the best Graduate Schools in America
5. Balance of Arts, Science, and Engineering, with greater than 50 percent in hard science and engineering
6. Corps of 1,500 (with a goal of 150-200) female cadets
7. Greater than 55 percent in-state Virginia Cadets
8. 70 percent of the Corps Commissioning With Growth in Guard and Reserve – “Citizen Soldiers”
9. Every Cadet an Athlete – Winning Sports Teams – the VMI way
10. Leader Development System – Program unsurpassed
11. Physical Plant – Historic, beautiful, modern, and technologically enhanced
12. Organizationally streamlined, efficient, and communicative
13. Proud, Disciplined, Civil Cadets... and Graduates
14. One Cohesive Team – Alumni, Agencies, Board of Visitors, the Institute, Parents and Friends

Since the abrupt dismissals of General Peay as Superintendent, the Institute has traveled far down the path of political correctness. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), the tenets of Critical Race Theory (CRT) ideology, have sunk their toxic roots into the fabric of VMI life. The recent recognition of Gen. Peay with the New Market medal is proof of VMI life. The recent recognition of Gen. Peay with the New Market medal is proof of VMI’s commitment to the intangibles woven into the VMI experience from which I have benefitted and which is the source of my pride. I am confident that many other alumni share this view. My convictions have become so strong since Maj. Gen. Wins and his administration took charge that recently I reluctantly took the step of amending my last will and testament to excise a bequest of $1,000,000 for the benefit of VMI through the Alumni Agencies.

In the brief span of just two years since the abrupt dismissal of General Peay as Superintendent, the Institute has traveled far down the path of political correctness. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), and the tenets of Critical Race Theory (CRT) ideology, have sunk their toxic roots into the fabric of VMI life. The recent recognition of Gen. Peay with the New Market medal is not a step forward but simply long overdue. Even that effort was besmirched by a crass appeal for donations by the Alumni Association immediately following the Board of Visitor’s (BOV) announcement of the award, an act that only demonstrated how VMI and the Alumni Association are trying to simply capitalize and profit from what they bravely avoided doing done long ago. Adding to this insult is the BOV’s recent approval of a $100,000 bonus for the Superintendent despite a 25% drop in enrollment and the administration’s direct defiance of the Governor and General Assembly’s directives not to use budgeted funds to resource VMI’s operations. The current budget is an essential component of VMI’s appeal for donations by the Alumni Association immediately following the Board of Visitor’s (BOV) announcement of the award, an act that only demonstrated how VMI and the Alumni Association are trying to simply capitalize and profit from what they bravely avoided doing done long ago. Adding to this insult is the BOV’s recent approval of a $100,000 bonus for the Superintendent despite a 25% drop in enrollment and the administration’s direct defiance of the Governor and General Assembly’s directives not to use budgeted funds to resource VMI’s operations.
Fortunately, we are beginning to see real Gov. Youngkin, hopefully sparked by VMI and we do not have them. The complex challenges VMI faces barracks; and splitting the VMI Family. authority from the Corps in running dismissing them as being misinformed or alumni who have contrary views, of Visitors and the VMI Alumni as well as public statements by the Board social media posting apparently from the program. Recently I was appalled to see a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) From A2

The fourteenth point

must be done through transparency and openness to all ideas, all essential elements the administration, BOV leadership and Alumni Association leadership represent. It is time for action. For my part, and for a start, I revealed above that I have rescinded the $1,000,000 bequest to the Institute from my Will and I am working to re-commit to It The Cadet Foundation or another charity separate from not under the thumb of the VMI administration and the administration must accept, unconditionally, that the First Amendment is non-negotiable. The Administration must immediately stop all actions to control and restrict The Cadet newspaper, The Cadet Foundation, and the newspaper’s staff. It must stop distorting the课本 that they deem sacred and valuable to what they have become: leaders. While VMI will continue to take credit for this system developing these proud men and women, it is by the Cadet’s dedication and ambition alone, as well as the teachings of their Dykes and the Ratline, that they succeed in the classroom, lead their peers, and create a better Institute for the classes to come.

It is time for VMI to make an official statement regarding the defense of our traditions, system, and the handing over of greater responsibility and authority to the Corps of Cadets. They have earned it. This is a call to action directed at Smith Hall and the office of the President, and for more information visit www.cadetnewspaper.org or email cadetnews@vmi.edu
A Professor's perception of DEI and its impact

- By a current VMI Professor

Editor's Note: The Cadet prefers all contributors are identified with their submissions. However, given some experiences by cadets that have happened after advancing alternate viewpoints on these issues, we understand the need to protect them while their voices are heard. We are particularly sensitive to the experiences of faculty and their concerns over losing their positions.

Since then-Governor Ralph Northam ('81) fell into disgrace over his own racist medical school yearbook picture and ordered an investigation of VMI’s alleged racist and sexist culture to save face, VMI leadership has implemented a radical new social activist program under the guise of increasing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). Unfortunately, this new pursuit is killing the school.

The dismally enrollment numbers from this fall furnish the most undeniable evidence of this. There are, of course, multiple reasons for the decline in enrollment numbers from overall decline in college enrollments nationwide, to serious issues with admissions and recruiting. It is encouraging that leadership is trying to address these issues; however, the administration reactically refuses to accept that its own policies and new social agenda are at least partially, if not significantly, to blame for the decline in not only enrollment but also applications. As a VMI faculty member, this causes me great concern since my job and livelihood are at stake, but also because part of being a professor means I seek truth:

true to the cadets and alumni who created it, cadets have 100% editorial control of all content independent of VMI or any other influence.

wokeness that masquerades under such titles as “Inclusive Excellence.” We are told to “open the window” widely and accept all notions of right and wrong, good and bad—or more accurately to deny the existence of such notions, except for that great sin of intolerance—in the name of inclusivity.

Yet, the very acts of the administration seek not to widen, but to narrow our view of ourselves and the Institute’s view of itself by advancing a content-neutral, rice-based system of “equity” (proportional representation based on these distinctions) through social engineering and re-education. Unfortunately, this approach fails some tricked-out tests of logic on several fronts and should be rejected in favor of neutral, merit-based systems of evaluation across the Institute.

First, assuming racism and sexism or any other kind of -ism explains any disparity begs the question because doing so entails assuming a conclusion without giving an argument. Even the rigged (I know because I participated) “audit” by Barnes & Thornburg produced no verifiable proof of systemic racism or sexism at VMI. Yet, the administration implemented it anyway.

Second, the approach fails some tricked-out tests of logic on several fronts and should be rejected in favor of neutral, merit-based systems of evaluation across the Institute. First, assuming racism and sexism or any other kind of -ism explains any disparity begs the question because doing so entails assuming a conclusion without giving an argument. Even the rigged (I know because I participated) “audit” by Barnes & Thornburg produced no verifiable proof of systemic racism or sexism at VMI. Yet, the administration implemented it anyway.

The training this year centers around systems of evaluation across the Institute.

The conflict surrounding the DEI office and the application of its program has become increasingly controversial yet remains of great importance. The following two articles were provided by two individuals, each written based on their own experiences with the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) program at VMI from their different positions within the Institute. The intent in publishing these two differing viewpoints is to allow a dialogue rather than refute DEI or agree with it. The inclusion of DEI at VMI has become increasingly complicated and by presenting various experiences with the same program, we hope to shine light onto the subject and the problems surrounding it which may or may not exist.

A Cadet facilitator's perception of DEI and its impact

- By a DEI Cadet Facilitator

I was approached by an editor at The Cadet to write a short article on how the DEI training impacts me as a cadet facilitator. It was so that the Corps can read a point of view different from most of those so far published. Before I continue forward, I want to commend all those who chose to write on this topic in The Cadet previously. It is important that people share their viewpoints and are participating members of our Institute, even if we disagree. At the end of the day, we are all BR’s and we need to treat each other as such.

I sought out the opportunity to be a cadet facilitator for the DEI program simply because it is where I think I can do good. I want to see that there is a fair meritocracy that continues at VMI. Where those who come into VMI are viewed as rats and nothing more. From that point on everyone should have the opportunity to choose their path at VMI based on the content of their character and the measure of their performance.

I think that at VMI and in most of the society people have been caught up with buzzwords and fear about what DEI is supposed to be doing. These concerns are completely valid. We as humans are afraid of the unknown especially when the direct outcomes of an action do not seem to benefit us. With this in mind, I think that we need to go forward with empathy and understanding, not condemnation and judgment. I think that both sides need to have more understanding of the concerns of the other. This is a hard ask. I struggle sometimes in taking a step out of the scenario and looking in. Both sides have valid concerns that should be discussed and talked about. My goal as a cadet facilitator is not and never will be to tell someone what to think or believe. My goal is to promote an atmosphere where these opinions can be spoken about in a respectful manner so that both sides can go away fully understanding where they agree and disagree. Changing these conversations you will find that people agree on 90% of the information. It is a few key distinctions that cause disagreements.

I [joined the staff and let your voice be heard! email: info@cadetnewspaper.org]

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The legacy of Jamison Clark '23

A Professors perception of DEI and its impact

A word from the Class of 2023: “We are blessed to know Jamison and are grateful to call him our friend and Brother Rat. God bless Jamison Clark and God bless VMI!” Rah '23!

Since from A3

Jamison Clark family. However, in true VMI fashion, cadets, and Rats, were expected to return to VMI to a regularly scheduled Ratline. However, this love, support, and camaraderie would not be lost as the Class of 2023 passed the traditions of VMI to future classes.

However, this love, support, and camaraderie would not be lost as the Class of 2023 passed the traditions of VMI to future classes.

As the Class of 2023's time in barracks comes to an end, the question must be asked: what will be the impact of Jamison Clark's time in the Corps of Cadets? Faculty and staff.