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## Virginia Tech alumnus David Calhoun gives historic \$20 million



David Calhoun '79

In a powerful statement on the need to reimagine higher education for today's complex world, David Calhoun '79, senior managing director for Blackstone and former CEO of Nielsen, has made the largest-ever gift to Virginia Tech's Honors College.

Calhoun's \$20 million donation supports the launch of a pilot model of collaborative learning within the Honors College.

Calhoun, of Sunapee, New Hampshire, said his gift reflects gratitude for Virginia Tech's formative role in his life, and his desire to make higher education more accessible and effective.

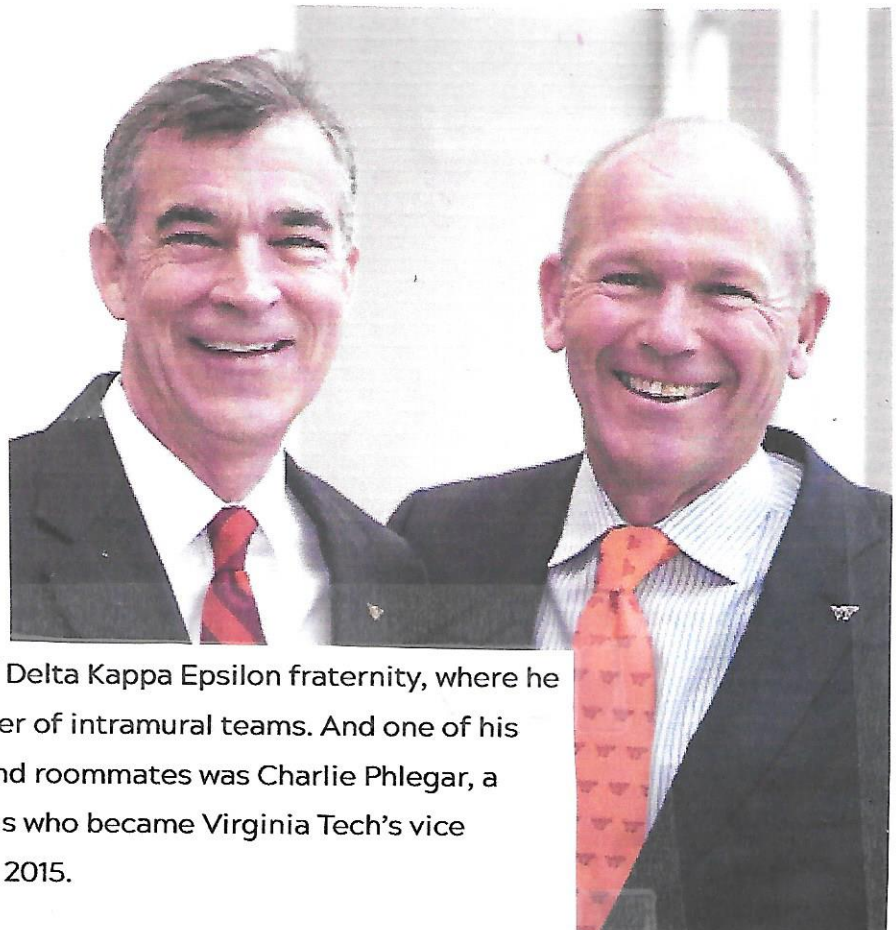
"The most significant thing that happened in my life in terms of developing the confidence to succeed was graduating from Tech," said Calhoun, who earned his bachelor's in accounting from what is now the Pamplin College of Business. "I always felt advantaged because of it. I'm lucky to often be asked how things can improve in our economy and lives, and I always come back to one thing: education. This gift is a combination of my love of the school and interest in doing something good on the education front."

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At Tech, Calhoun enjoyed a blend of academic, social, and intramural athletic

pursuits. He was a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity, where he played and starred on a number of intramural teams. And one of his fraternity brothers, friends, and roommates was Charlie Phlegar, a Blacksburg native and alumnus who became Virginia Tech's vice president for advancement in 2015.



"I laugh every time I see Charlie because it's hard for either one of us to imagine we would be doing what we're doing today," Calhoun said.