



The Rake & Ramblin' 4

(L. to r.): Bill McAllister '65, Rod Smith '66, Dave Thomas '63, and Sandy Seay '66

We were honored at this year's Corps Homecoming to welcome four H Company alumni as the featured entertainment at the Friday night Cadet Leadership Reception prior to dinner.

The Rake and Ramblin' 4—Dave Thomas '63, Bill McAllister '65, Sandy Seay '66, and Rod Smith '66—first performed together in 1964. For the next several years, the group played their brand of folk music and bluegrass at fraternity houses, YMCA hootenannies, civic clubs, and parties throughout the New River Valley, including memorable shows at the Christiansburg Armory, Radford High School, and Radford Women's Club.

Although The Rake & Ramblin' 4 disbanded when its members took disparate paths upon graduation, each continued to play music. In October 2001, when the group reunited, the men sat down, picked up their instruments,

and began to play and sing as if only 35 minutes had passed, not 35 years. The joy of their music and the keenness of their friendships have motivated the men to gather several times a year to play a range of music, including country, bluegrass, western, and '60s folk songs.

The bond among these men, which was forged in H Company in the fall of 1962 and continues today, is founded on their camaraderie, their families, and their music, along with their love and gratitude for and loyalty to the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets—a bond like no other.

The Rake & Ramblin' 4 is comprised of these Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets alumni:

Dave Thomas '63 (vocals, lead guitar, banjo) resides in Christiansburg, Va., where he retired in 2000 as the technical director of a U.S. Army information systems agency.

Bill McAllister '65 (vocals, guitar), who lives in Richmond, Va., and North Palm Beach, Fla., retired as founder and CEO of his business, which he sold to a Fortune 500 company.

Sandy Seay '66 (vocals, guitar, dobro), president of Seay Management Consultants Inc. in Orlando, Fla., is a published author and professor of humanities at Rollins and Valencia colleges.

Rod Smith '66 (vocals, bass) lives in Blacksburg and retired as a professional engineer and president of his own engineering firm. Several of his golf course designs are implemented throughout the South.

For the record, Dave was the first commander of the newly formed H Company, Bill voluntarily transferred into the new unit, and Sandy and Rod were members of the company's first freshman class.