

SUMMER 2012 / UNIVERSITY NEWS

UNIONITE

VIRGINIA UNION UNIVERSITY

THORNTON DIAL
EXHIBIT

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VUU — THE PROMISE
OF A LIMITLESS FUTURE®

Welcome to the Summer 2012 edition of the Unionite magazine. I would like to express my thanks on behalf of our students, faculty and staff at Virginia Union University for all you do in sharing your time, bounty and influence to make our university a better and stronger institution for now and the future.

Our goal is to provide entry to an intellectual and creative space where academically talented, highly motivated and prepared students can achieve excellence, regardless of their status or station in life. We offer access, and thus create a community that recognizes that excellence comes from hard work – that it must be earned.

So as you read this edition of the Unionite, please take as much pride in one of our centers of excellence, the VUU Museum Galleries, as we do. If you have not, plan on visiting the Thornton Dial Collection, which will be featured through October 31, 2012.

Also, join us in congratulating the newest additions to our alumni family – the Class of 2012. Their significant transition from students to alumni is straightforward, yet profound. They now follow generations of Unionites who preceded them, including a governor, judges, scholars, teachers, business leaders, entrepreneurs, research scientists, writers, artists, lawyers, journalists, humanitarians, philanthropists, military leaders, religious leaders, elected officials and quite a few college presidents.

It is our fervent hope that our alumni are always mindful that while they are making their marks beyond these “hallowed grounds and dear old walls”, they also remember this place that nurtured, prepared, educated and groomed them.

As they leave here physically, as educated men and women, it is important to remember that they are always emotionally connected to their alma mater. They should leave with a willingness to follow their passions and a desire to do what is meaningful; what helps others, what makes a difference in this world. But most importantly, leave here with a never-ending commitment to their alma mater – Virginia Union University.

And so, as we congratulate the Class of 2012, in what is becoming VUU tradition, I would like to offer the following 20 tips as they transition into the “real world.”



VUU From The President

TWENTY TIPS FROM THE PRESIDENT TO THE CLASS OF 2012

1. Your capacity to learn far exceeds what you know; embrace new knowledge and your mind will have a greater capacity to understand.
2. Always remember your faith in God and your courage to take a risk will bring you many rewards and elevate your self-worth.
3. Always show appreciation to those who helped you along the way.
4. Remember the good things and they will brighten your outlook for the future and remember the bad things are to be avoided.
5. Be very careful in selecting your friends and associates – you will be known by the company you keep.
6. Think critically, and you will be able to live well during changing times.
7. Engage in the political process if you want your views known and your needs expressed.
8. Try to look at the larger picture and your work and career will be more meaningful to you.
9. Give back to others and your life will be enriched ten-fold.
10. Live below your means and you will not be surprised and saddened by unanticipated challenges.
11. Pay off your student loans, so you can retire later without that financial burden.
12. Support your family in ways that will inspire them to improve their lot.
13. Avoid compulsive buying and deliberately refrain from debt if there is no lasting return or redeeming value.
14. Pay yourself first and you will not find yourself broke.
15. Remember an investment in your continuing education is an appreciating asset that will grow your wealth and the quality of your life for generations to come.
16. Expand your world through travel – it will foster your appreciation of others’ cultures and broaden your understanding of the interrelationship of nations of the world.
17. Do not put off things that should be done today for tomorrow, because tomorrow is not promised nor are the circumstances.
18. Take care of your body – it cannot be traded in for a new model.
19. Look before you leap; the grass is not always greener on the other side.
20. Remember the first commandment and your life will be balanced and filled with grace, joy and fulfillment.

Dr. Claude G. Perkins
President, Virginia Union University



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UNIONITE

VIRGINIA UNION UNIVERSITY

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VUU needs your commitment and support. To make an ongoing difference in the lives of our students, contact the Division of Institutional Advancement at 804.342.3938 or use the envelope enclosed in this issue for your convenience.

Preparing the Church for Changes in the 21st Century

For 55 years, the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology of Virginia Union University (STVU) has held its Annual Church Leadership Conference and provided a platform for growth to help positively influence the church. Seeking to explore how changes can enhance ministry and service, “HELP! My Church is Changing: Tradition, Transition and Transformation,” was designated as this year’s conference theme.

More than 625 participants registered for the conference, traveling from states as far as North Carolina and Maryland. Reverend Jacqueline Anderson, Executive Assistant for Continuing Education, has watched the conference grow and change over the last 17 years. In keeping with the theme, she wanted to explore hosting the conference in a difference capacity.

The conference, which is normally held over a two-day period, was scaled back to one day of thought-provoking conversation on Saturday, March 10. Dean of the School of Theology, Dr. John Kinney suggested that seminars be taught by faculty members. “We wanted the participants to have the experience of coming to our campus and getting material from our professors,” said Anderson. Instead of professors teaching their normal Saturday classes, they were asked to teach a seminar class and teach it in a way that would give participants a unique perspective. “We wanted to step outside the box,” Anderson added. Though some came to the conference looking for what was familiar, this year’s conference encouraged participants to embrace change. There were new classes and new material.

The conference kicked off with Dr. Kinney delivering the morning message. Then, participants

“We hope to reach out to new community clergy and congressional leaders by offering workshops that will assist them in the development and enhancement of various church ministries.”

– REVEREND JACQUELINE ANDERSON.



got the opportunity to choose from topics during the morning session such as: *Developing a Growing Faith in Changing Times*; *Keeping It Real: The New Face of 21st Century Christian Education*; *The Same God! Alive In A New Season*; *A Fresh Word: The Message of the New Testament for*

Contemporary Times; *Navigating the Technology Landscape: Youth and Social Media*; and *Principles for Effective Church Management*. The afternoon session broached subjects such as: *Leadership Styles*; *Helping the Hurting or Compassionate Assistance*; *Fantastic Finances*; *Help! It's Time to*



Pass the Mantle; Is this What You Call Worship; and Preaching With Transformation in Mind.

Using STVU professors to teach the conference sessions gives the School of Theology another tool to promote the strengths of its programs.

“We got positive feedback from conference participants, so we will try the one-day conference again next year,” said Anderson. She even has a comprehensive system that will allow her to correspond with each participant from this year’s conference and invite them out again next year.

“We hope to reach out to new community clergy and congressional leaders by offering workshops that will assist them in the development and enhancement of various church ministries,” explained Anderson. As the conference continues to evolve, STVU will continue addressing the changes of the church and community by tackling issues head on, with hopes to stay relevant and continue being a useful resource in the future.



Guest Lecturer Explores Servant Leadership During Forum

When it comes to staying relevant and providing students with different perspectives of the world, the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University (STVU) keeps students and faculty at the edge of their seats. The Forum for Religion and the Contemporary World, which kicked off Black History Month, certainly lived up to expectations with guest lecturer Karen Jackson-Weaver.

During her lecture, “Reconciling the Vestiges of Privilege,” Jackson-Weaver challenged the audience to be cognizant of mainstream ideas and practices that uphold racist structures and encourage the continuation of socioeconomic disadvantages. Specializing in American religious history, with a focus on black women’s leadership roles in sacred contexts, Jackson-Weaver invoked the names of women civil rights leaders Ella Baker, Septima Clark and Fannie Lou Hamer, who risked their lives and worked tirelessly, demanding a social revolution, but were often overlooked.

She argued there is enough evidence in Black History for “servant leadership” and lauded the women for the ways in which they changed the world without the pomp and circumstance that many civil rights leaders are remembered for today. “They engaged the struggle through faith, seeking to nurture leadership in the masses,” commented Jackson-Weaver. That’s what STVU hopes to do for churches in the twenty-first century.

As one of the more progressive voices on matters of preaching and church leadership, STVU chose Jackson-Weaver to enlighten students, faculty and staff on matters concerning race, women and the roles we all play in today’s society. Her contributions to education as the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Diversity at Princeton University’s Graduate School and faculty member at the Institute of Youth Ministry at Princeton Theological Seminary bring a fresh perspective in helping all persons realize their role in acknowledging the past and creating awareness in the future.

EveryBody MOVE!

Through the vision of VUU First Lady Cheryl Perkins, the entire campus came out in January to move for physical fitness. The EveryBody Move initiative, patterned after First Lady Michelle Obama's Get Fit Initiative, brought students, faculty, staff and the community together in Barco-Stevens Gymnasium to dance for fitness. Mrs. Perkins' desire was to raise awareness at VUU about the need to be physically active and physically fit. The event was co-sponsored by 106.5 The Beat and featured Richmond Squirrels Mascot "Nutzy" as a special guest. Students and staff also participated in the City of Richmond's Get Fit event in April.



Shining a Light on Academic Competition

When people speak of national competitions usually sports come to mind – March Madness, the CIAA Tournament, and Bowl Games. For the last two years, Virginia Union University's Honda Campus All-Star Challenge (HCASC) team has brought new meaning to the phrase “national competition” and has proven to be competitors in the world of academic sports.

Out of 105 Historically Black Colleges and Universities, 48 are chosen annually to compete in the HCASC. This year is the second consecutive year VUU found its name among the Great 48. The team was notified on January 31, 2012 that they would be traveling to Los Angeles to compete in the four-day competition beginning March 30.

VUU has supported the HCASC for 22 years, but has recently had success that has given the team notoriety. Under the tutelage of Dr. Peter Sutton, the HCASC team has become more equipped to take on the challenge of becoming national champions. “It’s a big commitment,” said Sutton. “We practice three times a week and train by going over a number of topics that range from math to music.” Sutton also prepared the team by taking part in a regional tournament at Morgan State University, and hosting two competitions on campus which had more than 50 students to participate. The on-campus games determined the four members of the national team: Corey Barnett (senior, religious studies major), DeJamine Bryson (sophomore, psychology major), Andy



Julein (senior, mathematics major) and Maheteme Kebede (senior, chemistry major). “All of that practice was very helpful in preparing the students for what to expect,” Sutton said.

Reaching the national tournament required more than just practice among peers. Each school had to meet specific criteria, which scrutinized level of student participation, quality of promotional efforts, the institution’s historical record when attending the National Championship Tournament (NCT), results from the campus tournament in the current season, personnel changes materially affecting an institution’s potential preparedness and other factors. Outside of meeting Honda’s qualifications,

Sutton credits Kristyn Miller, HCASC Coordinator, for playing a crucial role in organizing the team and doing mountains of paperwork to make the trip to Los Angeles possible.

VUU’s Team wound up being in the toughest of the eight round-robin divisions where students met familiar opponent, national champion Morgan State University. VUU President Dr. Claude G. Perkins and his wife, First Lady Cheryl Perkins, came out to support the students as they competed in the only division in which every team broke 400 points per game. “Our record was 1-4, but the students played very well, and the competition was close,” recalled Sutton. “Three of the games were decided by only one question and could have easily gone the other way.”

The team admits the tournament was stressful, but Honda sent the Great 48 to Disneyland for a day and also provided VUU with a \$3,000 grant that will allow the University to compete for the title again next year.



VUU: Making the World a Classroom

Virginia Union University is making it possible for students to see the world through a broader lens. The Center for International Studies (CFIS) is making these opportunities readily available with programs like Study Abroad and Semester at Sea, where students from various disciplines are able to travel to more than 14 countries in a six month period and still stay on top of their studies. Dr. David Adewuyi, Director of the CFIS, believes opportunities to travel abroad provide exposure to students that paint a more accurate picture of the world.

Several scholarships have been made available for students to pursue this very unique educational journey.

- **The Boren Scholarship** provides funding to undergraduate and graduate students who are interested in adding an international and language component to their education. Boren scholars are given the opportunity to study in Africa, Asia, Central & Eastern Europe, Eurasia, Latin America or the Middle East. Students can be awarded up to \$10,000 per semester, \$20,000 for a full academic school year and \$8,000 for summer.
- **The Gilman Program** encourages students to apply who are from diverse backgrounds, attending a two or four- year institution and receive the Federal Pell Grant at the time of application or during the study abroad experience. This scholarship awards up to \$5,000.
- **The Fulbright Scholarship** chooses students for their academic merit and leadership potential – with the opportunity to study, teach and conduct research, exchange ideas and contribute to finding solutions to shared international concerns. The Fulbright Program awards approximately 8,000 grants annually.

VUU student Caletia Christmas will take advantage of the Study Abroad program and spend her senior year studying Mandarin in Shanghai, China. Christmas will attend Shanghai University and use the experience to learn the language and culture of the people. “I anticipate increased scholastic productivity and heightened global awareness,” Christmas said.

Global awareness really strikes a chord with Adewuyi, especially since his vision is for all VUU courses to have an international focus within the next five years. Adewuyi knows this will not be possible without a collaborative effort with various departments and schools on campus. He has held training sessions for faculty members during the summer to explore new ways of infusing international flavor into the core curriculum on campus. Courses such as: Ecology, Economics, Psychology and World Literature have been the subject of more international research, projects and assignments.

The goal for the Center is to be an academic and service resource that will develop scholars, leaders and lifelong learners of a global society. In June 2012, the Center moved a little closer to that goal when students, faculty and staff took an eight-day tour of Italy and France. During the trip, they visited several tourist sites including Vatican City and Notre Dame Cathedral.

As faculty, staff and students return from traveling abroad, Adewuyi hopes stories, photos and experiences will encourage more students to participate. Virginia Union is offering its students the world, in hopes that they will be better prepared for it in the future.



Alexandria Burns, 2012 VUU graduate (left) and Faustina Ayamga, VUU senior (right) in front of the Louvre Museum in Paris.

The goal for the Center is to be an academic and service resource that will develop scholars, leaders and lifelong learners of a global society.

VUU Social Work Majors Making a Difference

During their junior year, students in the social work major learn to do research, learn about the impact of the social environment on people of different ages and abilities and learn how to be both ethical and effective in working with a wide variety of people. The social work juniors at VUU were recently able to apply their learning in very practical ways.

Partnering with Homeward, an organization committed to prevent and end homelessness in the Greater Richmond area, the Social Work Department participates each year in two major activities: Project Homeless Connect in November and the Point-In-Time Count in January. Project Homeless Connect is held the Thursday before Thanksgiving and functions as a “one stop shop” for hundreds of homeless people as it brings service providers together in the Convention Center. Volunteers, including VUU students, help to guide people who are homeless to the various agencies that are represented at the event. Participants can receive dental care, get a flu shot, a haircut, learn about veteran’s benefits, get a copy of a Virginia birth certificate, talk to housing providers, attend an AA meeting and get a hot lunch, among other options.



The Point-In-Time Count was held on January 26 as a way to gather data about people who are homeless in order to promote better program planning. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires all communities using HUD funds for homeless programs to conduct an annual survey of the number of people

who are homeless within the last ten days of January each year. Homeward has coordinated Richmond’s Point-In-Time Count since 1999 and in 2007. Homeward added a summer count in July in an effort to understand the changing nature of homelessness over time. Research from their data can be found at <http://homewardva.org/pitcount>.

Seventeen students, with Associate Professor Dr. Beverly Aurand, were involved in two locations for the count this year. Some students worked at the Freedom House Conrad Center on Oliver Hill Way, and others worked at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church on East Grace Street. St Paul’s serves a free hot lunch on Thursdays for anyone who wishes to eat there, and the Conrad Center is a day shelter during cold weather as well as the point of entrance into programs for people who are homeless.

On February 17, this same group of students worked with Dr. Aurand at Christ Lutheran Church in Lakeside as it hosted Caritas, a housing program for the homeless provided weekly by various churches in the Richmond area. They made lunches in class that morning for 35 men who are homeless and then helped to serve them a hot supper, visited with the men, whom the program considers its guests, and talked with the middle school students who were sponsoring the supper that night. That included the topic of homelessness as well as talking about college plans with the 7th and 8th graders.

When the students debriefed afterwards, they talked about some of the factors that might contribute to homelessness, such as a felony record, time spent in foster care, drug and alcohol addictions, and a poor economy with low paying jobs. They also talked about how some of these people are currently working full time, but can’t afford rent. The social work faculty include these kinds of events in their courses because they help students to integrate and apply what they learn in the classroom with the kinds of work they will be doing as professional social workers in the field.



Virginia Union Announces Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program: First in Virginia

Virginia Union University has begun offering the first **Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program** in Virginia. The program began in the spring semester of 2012 and is being held at the City of Richmond Jail, bringing traditional college students and incarcerated men and women together to learn as peers in the same classroom.

The Inside-Out model is a national program founded at Temple University in 1997. It is currently offered at 121 universities across the country, making higher education more available to people who are or have been incarcerated. Participants will explore profound social issues together, building a classroom community based on collaborative learning and sharing. Within the course, students will develop class projects that have the potential to make a difference in the real world.

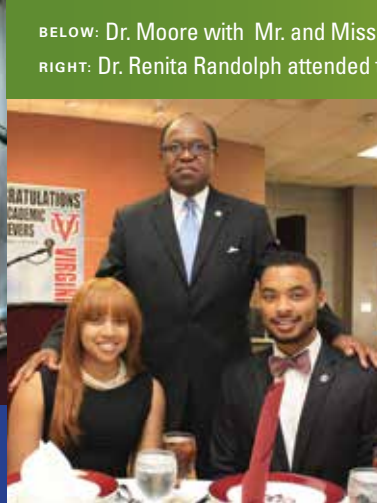
The 15-week class was taught by Dr. Julie Molloy, chair of the Criminology and Criminal Justice Department. “We are very excited about it,” said Molloy. “The course was titled ‘Exploring Issues of Crime and Justice’ and students read books such as *No Matter How Loud I Shout*, *Mother California*, and *Life on the Outside*, along with reports published by groups such as The Sentencing Project and the PEW Center on the States.”

Molloy attended certification training in June 2010. The program is open to all criminology and criminal justice majors at the University.

Academic Achievement Banquet



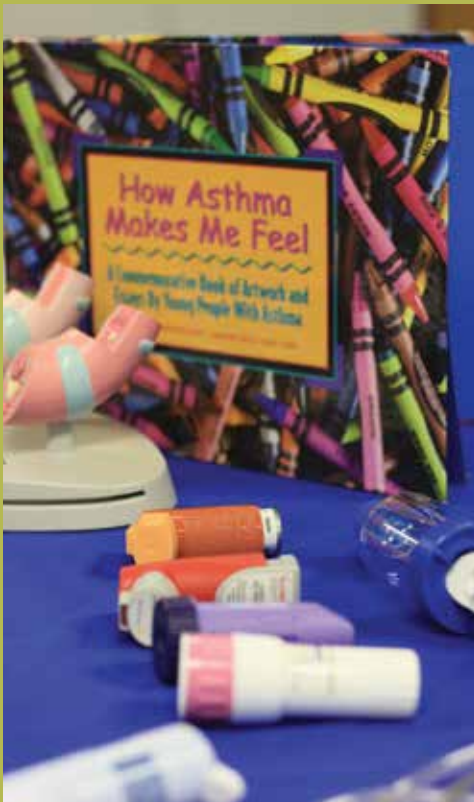
ABOVE: Dr. Perkins and Board member, Dr. Roland Moore.
RIGHT: Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. W. Franklin Evans.



BELOW: Dr. Moore with Mr. and Miss VUU.
RIGHT: Dr. Renita Randolph attended the banquet to honor academic achievers.



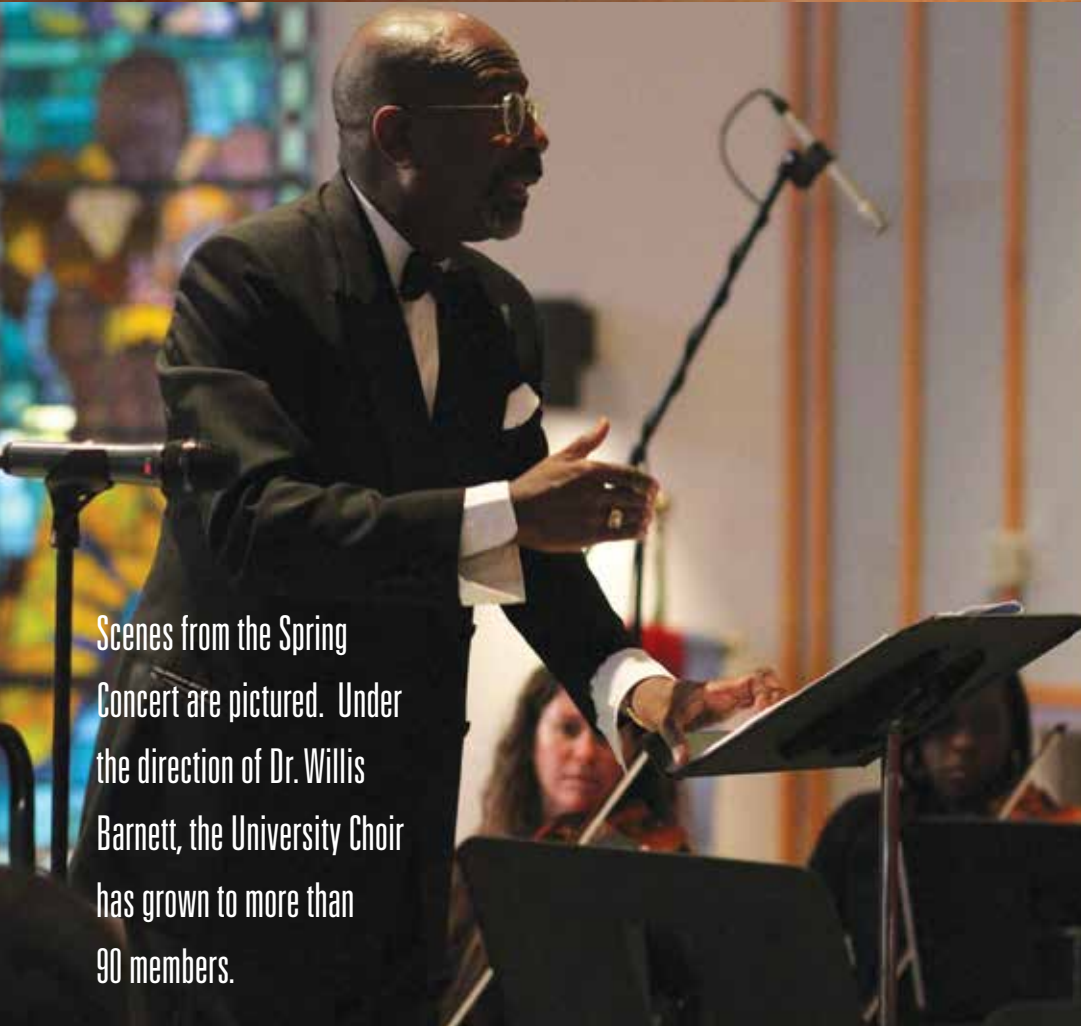
Approximately 150 undergraduate and graduate students were recognized as academic achievers at the annual Academic Achievement Banquet in April. Members of student honor societies were also recognized. Guest speaker at the event was board member and VUU alumnus, Dr. Roland Moore '62.



NIH & AKA Kick off National Asthma Initiative Program at VUU

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. (AKA) in partnership with the *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) will mobilize thousands of members in 958 chapters nationwide to educate and enlighten the community about how to properly manage and treat childhood asthma. The objective of the unified effort is to educate parents and caregivers of children with asthma and raise their awareness of the medical treatment and management of asthma. The kick-off for the initiative was held in Coburn Hall at Virginia Union University on April 25, 2012. Dr. Yvonne Maddox '65, an alumna of VUU and former Miss Virginia Union University, who serves as Deputy Director of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development stated her commitment to addressing this serious public health problem through outreach to the community.





Scenes from the Spring Concert are pictured. Under the direction of Dr. Willis Barnett, the University Choir has grown to more than 90 members.



Founders' Day

Virginia Union University celebrated 147 years of existence at its annual Founders' Day Convocation on February 3, 2012. VUU alumnus, Dr. Theron D. Williams '83, served as the speaker for the event and implored the audience to understand the value of recognizing and maximizing potential.

"When potential is recognized wise people have the tendency to invest in that potential because they are aware of the possible benefits that they may enjoy when that potential finally reaches its maximum," stated Williams. He further ensured the audience that Virginia Union University celebrates its students' potential. "Your parents planted you at a place that they knew was consistent with who you are on the inside," said Williams to the students sitting in the congregation.

Dr. W. Franklyn Richardson, chairman of the VUU Board of Trustees, and VUU President Dr. Claude G. Perkins recognized Chairman Emeritus Dr. Frank Royal '61 during the program; announcing that the Board of Trustees conference room in the L. Douglas Wilder Library had been named the Frank S. Royal, Sr. Board Room. An oil painting of Dr. Royal was also unveiled and now hangs in the Board room.

Virginia Union University was founded in 1865 by the American Baptist Home Mission Society and formed by the merger of four institutions: Richmond Theological Seminary, Wayland Seminary, Hartshorn Memorial College for Women, and Storer College. Each of these institutions was established to educate and advance the former slave population.

"When potential is recognized wise people have the tendency to invest in that potential because they are aware of the possible benefits that they may enjoy when that potential finally reaches its maximum."

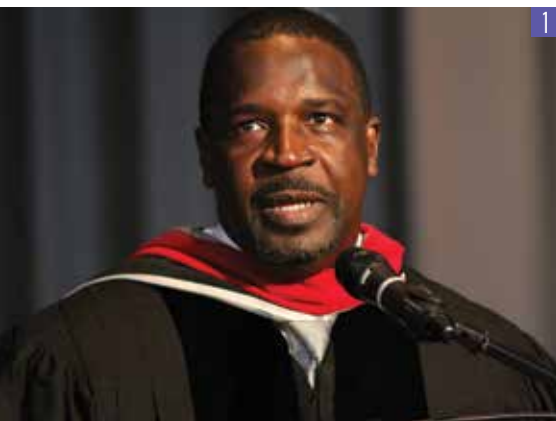
— Dr. Theron D. Williams '83

From modest beginnings, established on the site of Lumpkin's Jail, a holding cell for runaway slaves, Virginia Union University today has the distinction of being one of the oldest historically black institutions in the country and one of the oldest continuously operating businesses in the city of Richmond.

Opposite Page:

1. Dr. Theron Williams, '83 giving the Founders' Day message
2. Dr. Allix B. James, VUU's seventh president
3. Dr. Sylvester Smith and Dr. Penni Sweetenburg-Lee
4. Dr. Frank S. Royal, Sr. and family in front of portrait of Dr. Royal that now hangs in the Frank S. Royal, Sr. Board Room
5. Rev. Dr. Derik E. Jones '98 and Richmond Mayor Dwight C. Jones '70
6. Dr. Perkins addresses Founders' Day crowd
7. VUU Board of Trustees Chairman, Rev. Dr. W. Franklyn Richardson
8. Students react to Founders' Day Message

VUU NEEDS YOUR COMMITMENT AND SUPPORT. TO MAKE AN ONGOING DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF OUR STUDENTS, CONTACT THE DIVISION OF INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT AT 804.342.3938 OR USE THE ENVELOPE ENCLOSED IN THIS ISSUE FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE.



Thornton Dial Exhibit at VUU
L. Douglas Wilder Library through October 31, 2012



Thornton Dial Exhibit on Display at VUU

“**T**hornton Dial,” a landmark exhibition of works by acclaimed contemporary American artist Thornton Dial, opened on April 26, 2012 at the VUU Museum Galleries located in the L. Douglas Wilder Library.

Virginia Union University's permanent collection of paintings, drawings and sculpture by Dial has now become one of the most important repositories of his work in America. Visitors will be able to see highlights from Dial's remarkable artistic evolution as his art progressed from the early intensely colored abstractions to the simpler but equally vigorous expressionistic late style.

Thornton Dial, an African-American, self-taught artist from Alabama, is still actively creating significant works of art. He paints, sculpts and draws from his own life experience and in the traditions of African-American culture, addressing important political, social, and environmental issues reflected through the titles of his works of art.

Dial, whom New York Times critic Michael Kimmelman once described as “preternaturally gifted, married in 1951, fathered five children and worked in the Bessemer Pullman factory for thirty years. By the late 1980s his art began to be noticed by important collectors. Today his work is found in numerous private and public collections, including the permanent collections of the Whitney Museum of Art, New York, NY; Museum of Fine Art, Houston, TX; the High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA; the

Philadelphia Museum of Art; the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.; the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C.; the Indianapolis Museum of Art; the Birmingham Museum of Art; and the Milwaukee Art Museum. Dial's work was also included in the 2000 Whitney Biennial.

The Thornton Dial Collection at Virginia Union University was donated by Barbara and James Sellman in the early 1990s. The Sellmans donated the collection to share their knowledge and enthusiasm of Dial's work with the University. They also recognized the importance of housing African American folk art at the City of Richmond's only historically black university.

Virginia Union University created gallery space in the L. Douglas Wilder Library in 2006 to suitably display both its African and Dial collections. Under the leadership of Co-Directors Barbara Grey and Judy Little, the galleries in the Wilder Library became home to all the University's collections.

“Thornton Dial” runs through October 31, 2012. The exhibition also includes significant loans from the Sellman family's LLC Collection.



16 February, 1956

Dear Rev. King:

I telephoned your home shortly after the news report. I was sorry to hear what happened, but I am glad that there is a person of your calibre in town who cannot be intimidated and whose character is so unassailable that they have to attack your porch. Your mother expressed some anxiety about this when I talked with her. . .

Preserving History

Virginia Union University Archives and Special Collections Department

In 1956, Virginia Union University's president Dr. Samuel DeWitt Proctor wrote to Martin Luther King Jr., expressing his concern and solidarity after King's home was bombed in the midst of the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Evidence of the relationship between numerous Civil Rights leaders and Virginia Union University can be found throughout the collections at the Archives and Special Collections department, as well as countless other priceless treasures. A quick walk through the rows of neatly labeled boxes cared for by the University's two archivists would yield sheet music from just after the Civil War, letters from students and alumni around the world, issues of the Union-Hartshorn Journal from World War I, and registrar's ledgers from the 1870s, 1880s, and 1890s that include the heart-rending lines written by students declaring "I was born a slave. . ." Among the shelves in the storage space used by the Archives and Special Collections, the history of Virginia Union University since its earliest days still lives and tells its story to anyone who will listen.

Although librarians on campus collected pieces of interest for decades, the Archives Department was founded in 1997 with the completion of the L. Douglas Wilder Library. Other HBCUs have had Archives Departments since the 1970s, and so the first archivists at Virginia Union University worked hard to secure as many records as they could at that time, sometimes even rescuing valuable historical pieces from dumpsters as a measure of last resort. Nearly 15 years later, the archivists are still building on some of the collections

acquired from across the campus, especially departmental records and records from the President's Office.

In addition to the great foundations already present in the Archives and Special Collections, VUU's archivists are always looking for new collections. The department focuses on records pertaining to Virginia Union University and its history, as well as materials relating to student experience, alumni success, and Richmond's African-American community. Senators and preachers, educators and artists have all donated collections to the VUU Archives, where the experienced archivists inventory, process, and preserve the items for generations to come. The Archives and Special Collections Department is currently working to digitize some of the more historically valuable pieces and make them available to a larger, online audience.

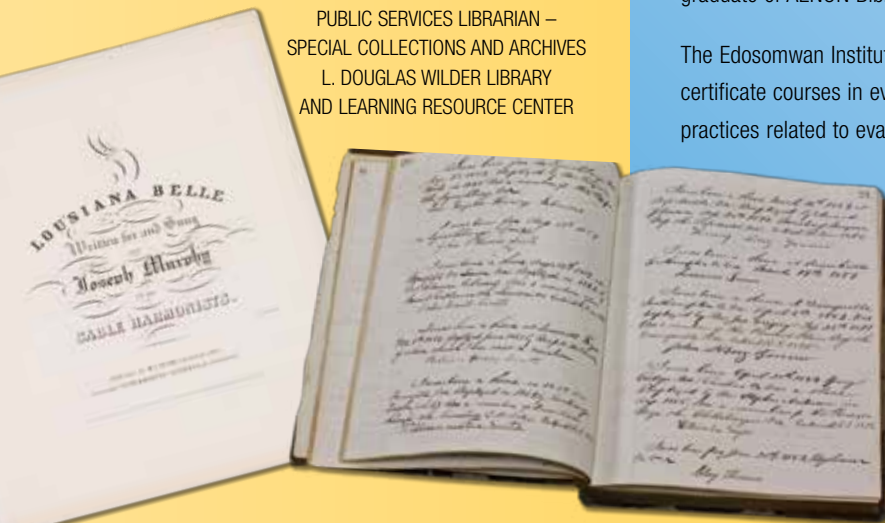
However, Virginia Union's archivists and the more than 100 researchers who visited the Archives during the 2011-2012 school year alone can only tell the stories that they find in the letters, reports, and books that are on the shelves. The richness and depth of Virginia Union University's legacy is dependent on the donations of alumni, and there are many still



gaps in the tale of this historic campus. Many of the records from Wayland Seminary and from the Richmond Theological Institute, the first two schools to merge and form Virginia Union University in 1899, are considered lost. The history of Hartshorn Memorial College, that illustrious institution that stood across the bridge from VUU's campus, echoes faintly from a small collection of reports, correspondence, and a handful of photographs. And many of the thousands of alumni who have crossed our historic campus have yet to have their stories of Virginia Union University told.

If you or someone you know has memorabilia, letters, old yearbooks, student projects, or any other items from Virginia Union University's past, please contact either Selicia Allen or Adam Zimmerli at the L. Douglas Wilder Library, 804-257-5822. Research requests are also welcomed, and the knowledgeable archivists would be glad to set up an appointment for you. It is only through the generosity of donors and the diligence of scholars that Virginia Union University's legacy will echo through the ages.

BY: ADAM M. ZIMMERLI
PUBLIC SERVICES LIBRARIAN –
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES
L. DOUGLAS WILDER LIBRARY
AND LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER



The Johnson A. Edosomwan Institute for Evangelism, Mission & Global Christianity

AT VIRGINIA UNION UNIVERSITY

Dr. Johnson A. Edosomwan, chairman of The Johnson A. Edosomwan Foundation gifted Virginia Union University with \$200,000 for the establishment of a global Christianity Institute.

The Johnson A. Edosomwan Evangelism, Mission and Global Christianity Institute is now housed in Virginia Union University's Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology and serves as a multi-denominational, international resource center and clearing house for the development of emerging knowledge, research, practices, and talent in evangelism, inter- and intra-faith dialogue, and multi-faith investment in social justice and personal and communal transformation.

In addition to serving as chair of his foundation, Edosomwan is the chairman and senior executive consultant/coach for JJA Consultants Inc., the chairman and general manager for Johnson A. Edosomwan LLC and the group chairman for Continuous Improvement Company. He is a pioneer in continuous performance improvement and the author of more than 325 papers and 66 books. The recipient of 175 awards, honors, citations, fellowships and commendations, as well as the holder of more than 16 certifications in several academic disciplines, Edosomwan received his Doctor of Science in Engineering Management and Economics from The George Washington University, his Professional Degree in Engineering from Columbia University, and his Master's and Bachelor's of Science Degrees in Industrial Engineering from the University of Miami. He is also a graduate of AENON Bible College Minister's Continuing Education Program.



Dean John Kinney, Dr. Johnson A. Edosomwan and Dr. Perkins

The Edosomwan Institute includes a multi-denominational advisory board, graduate and certificate courses in evangelism, an annual conference and workshops addressing best practices related to evangelism. For more information email: eiemerge@vuu.edu

COMMENCEMENT 2012



VUU – THE PROMISE OF A LIMITLESS FUTURE®

VUU grads face dual challenge, Al Sharpton says

With 21 alumni from the Class of 1962 bearing witness, the Rev. Al Sharpton urged Virginia Union University graduates to overcome the dual challenges confronting their generation rather than “be the weak link in a long, strong chain of progress.”

The graduates of 50 years ago fought a segregated America “that still was grappling with whether or not we would even have the right to vote,” Sharpton said.

“That generation fought, stood up, challenged and won many of those battles,” he told about 270 graduates on VUU’s football field and several thousand relatives and friends in the stands.

But the Class of 2012 faces dual problems that are different “yet the fundamentals are the same,” he said. They graduate with a nation “torn between classes and continued racism,” yet also face “internal conflict” resulting from those who have “decided to reverse our journey” and betray history.

Speaking at a university that was founded in an old slave jail after the Civil War, Sharpton said that the battle “to break the shackle of illiteracy” had been fought by generations “because you cannot enslave educated people.”

“For your generation, somewhere along the line there was a meeting that we missed that decided that education wasn’t important,” he said.

“Somewhere along the line ... blackness became synonymous with being uneducated, inarticulate, and acting like thugs and hoodlums,” he said. “Someone told us the more streetlike we acted, the blacker we were.”

Sharpton decried “the celebration and glorification of what is low and distasteful,” and a culture that finds “commercial value out of degrading our women and degrading our race.”

“This is the challenge of your generation,” Sharpton said.



The civil-rights activist, who ran for president in 2004, told of debating a hip-hop artist over the use of “the n-word.” Some call it free speech, he said, but for any other group, that sort of language would be labeled as hate speech.

“My point is, how you define yourself is how you confine yourself,” he said to enthusiastic applause – the only “no” response came when he said, “As I conclude.”

He advised the graduates, who included master’s and doctoral students from the School of Theology, to pay attention to where they’re going, not where they’ve been and the struggles they had to overcome.

“No one knows the journey you took to sit here today with your cap and your gown,” he said. “But somehow you made it. Even if no one believed you’d be here, here you are.”

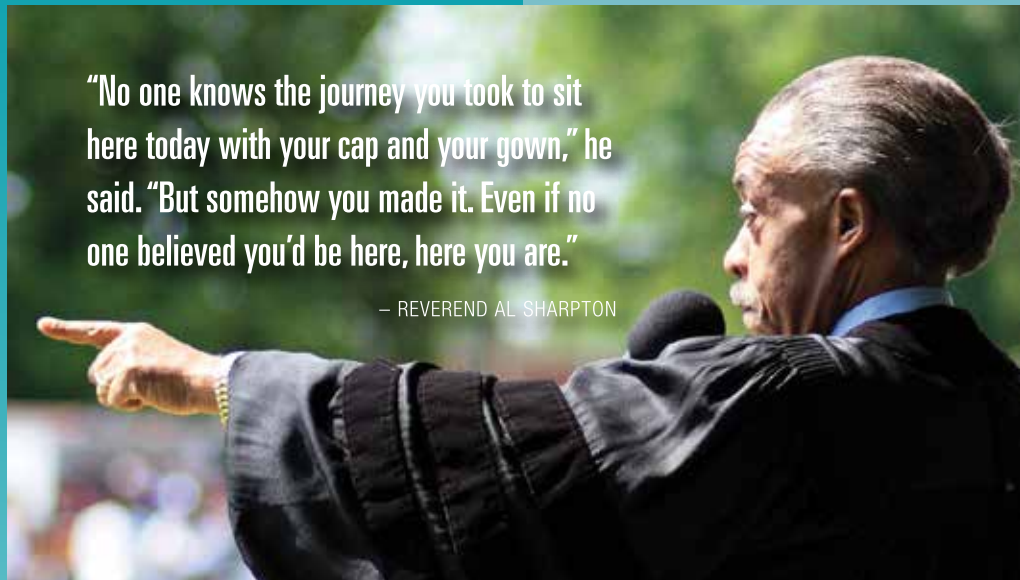
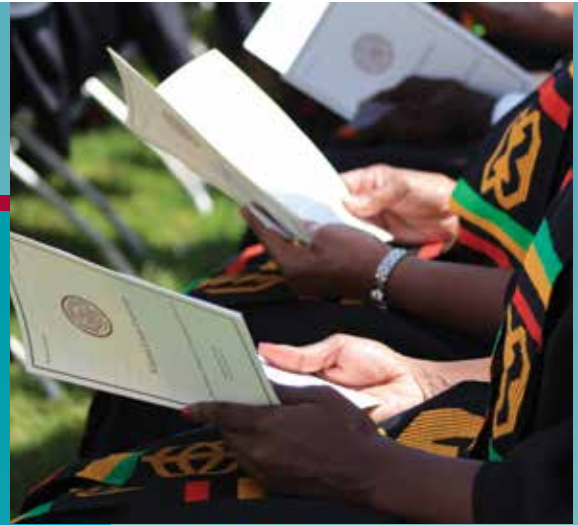
He told them “God takes unlikely people and takes rejects... and makes them something anyhow... You sit here equal to everybody else.”

Sharpton’s message was on point, said the Rev. G. Daniel Jones of Philadelphia and retired educator Russell M. Busch of Richmond, two of the 1962 alumni who returned for Commencement.

Both were veterans of the sit-ins that led to the desegregation of downtown Richmond restaurants, but “the struggle continues” for graduates 50 years later, Jones said.

“We’re depending on them to take it to the next level of barrier breaking and liberation for oppressed people,” he said.

KARIN KAPSIDELIS - RICHMOND TIMES DISPATCH
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 THE RICHMOND TIMES DISPATCH



“No one knows the journey you took to sit here today with your cap and your gown,” he said. “But somehow you made it. Even if no one believed you’d be here, here you are.”

– REVEREND AL SHARPTON



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VUU Feature Story

COMMENCEMENT 2012



Thornton Dial Exhibit at VUU
L. Douglas Wilder Library through October 31, 2012





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Baccalaureate Service, May 11, 2012

Virginia Union's Commencement activities began with the Baccalaureate Service held on Friday, May 11, 2012. Keynote speaker was Rear Admiral Barry C. Black (Ret), the current chaplain of the United States Senate. Black is the 62nd chaplain of the Senate, beginning his work on July 7, 2003. In this role, he opens each Senate session with a prayer, and provides and coordinates religious programs and pastoral care support for Senators, their staffs and their families. He is the first African-American to hold the position.

Prior to Capitol Hill, Chaplain Black served in the U.S. Navy for more than 27 years, ending his distinguished career as the Chief of Navy Chaplains. As Rear Admiral, his personal decorations included the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medals, Meritorious Service Medals, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, and numerous unit awards, campaign, and service medals.

At the Commencement ceremony, Virginia Union graduate Cheston Hickman, a native of South Carolina received his commissioning from the United States Army to become a 2nd Lieutenant. Hickman is no stranger to military life. The finance and banking major, quarterback for the football team and member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., grew up in a military family. His mother retired from the Army in 2007 and was on hand at Commencement to receive his first salute as a military officer.



CIAA 2012

Amidst all the excitement of the CIAA Tournament, Dr. Claude G. Perkins hosted Virginia Union's annual CIAA President's Alumni Brunch. The Brunch was instituted to give alumni chapters in attendance at the tournament, the opportunity to mingle with each other and the President at a University-sponsored event. Music was provided by the University's jazz ensemble and the chapters in attendance donated \$18,000 in support of their alma mater.

Virginia Union also celebrated with Head Women's Basketball Coach Barvenia Wooten-Cherry '83, as she was named CIAA Women's Coach of the Year for 2011-2012.

CIAA 2013 promises to be even bigger and better! Don't miss the excitement and stay tuned for details on the President's Brunch!



Excellence Dedication Talent

Virginia Union University has a diverse and well-learned faculty. They are leaders in their disciplines, recipients of many distinctions and awards and research savvy. In each issue of the *Unionite*, we will highlight a few of our faculty members who are the heartbeat of the institution.

Fueled by curiosity and inspired by the drama of family circumstances, Dr. Lisa Moon found herself questioning human behavior. *Why do people respond the way they do?* What makes them react that way? These questions and her desire to help others ultimately steered her to a career in psychology.

While education runs deep in her family, Moon swore she would not be involved in teaching. So it came as a surprise to her when she found her niche teaching in graduate school. “My mother is a teacher. My grandmother was a teacher and I even think my grandfather taught at Union at some point,” said Moon. “Since I try to have insight into my own behavior, I was very surprised that I became interested in teaching at the college level.”

When Moon reflects on her path, she realizes that not only did her family’s involvement in education impact her, but she was also impressed by her professors at Spelman College, where she attended undergraduate school. “I saw what my professors did for me, and they inspired me to pay it forward in my own community.” It is this revelation that has drawn her to positively impacting urban youth.

As a professor and the Director for the Center for the Study of the Urban Child, Moon has become enthralled with making sure urban children have what they need to be successful. While the Center is still in its infancy stages, her commitment has been there since the Center’s inception. It’s an idea that started in the School of Education with Dr. Wilbert L. Jenkins and Dr. Weena I. Gaulin. They said there were children in education that weren’t getting what they needed. Moon supported the idea and worked with others to solve the problem. “We work with individuals from 0-18, but we want to expand that to college students as well,” she said. “They are influenced uniquely by their environment and people perceive them differently.” Moon acknowledges the negative factors that are associated with the urban community, but she knows the potential is there for

the academic and community based environment to come together to create better opportunities for the urban child.

Moon has dedicated the first two years to laying the foundation for the Center, which consists of defining its mission, vision and goals. She has also established the Community Taskforce Council which has become an integral part of the process. Moon describes the taskforce as the extra arm to the Center which is made up of parents, community leaders and students from various disciplines such as: social work, political science, psychology and education. "It could very easily become this academic Center, but we want to connect to the community." She insists, "We must keep a pulse on the community."

Having the support of the administration and the community allowed Moon to bring in New York Times Best Seller and Law Professor Michelle Alexander to talk about her new book, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. This was the Center's first of many events and Moon is already looking ahead to hold a conference in early fall that will involve the community.

As she moves forward with establishing the Center's identity, it is clear she intends to focus on the strengths of the urban child not their weaknesses. Her goal is to see the statistics get better, improve their graduation rates, increase their reading levels, improve their health, and decrease their incarceration numbers. "In the worse circumstances they keep pushing," she said. "The strength is there. The Center is not intended to highlight the negative, but build on strengths they already have."



Dr. Lisa Moon

VUU Faculty & Staff

Dr. Peter Sutton's teaching philosophy is teaching Philosophy. He often finds himself in the middle of interesting debates with students that are thought-provoking, emotional and engaging. "Most students have never taken a philosophy course (neither did Socrates or Aristotle), so students get very excited [particularly] in Ancient Philosophy," commented Sutton. "I try not to quiet that [passion] because I love that they are engaged."

Student engagement definitely peaked Sutton's interest in coaching the Honda All-Star Challenge team on campus. The team, which was successfully coached by VUU Professor Patricia Murray for 17 years, was in a transitional period and needed someone who could help Virginia Union carry on the spirit of competition. Sutton admits he likes writing quiz questions and thought it would be a great way to get involved on campus, so he took on the coaching job three years ago.

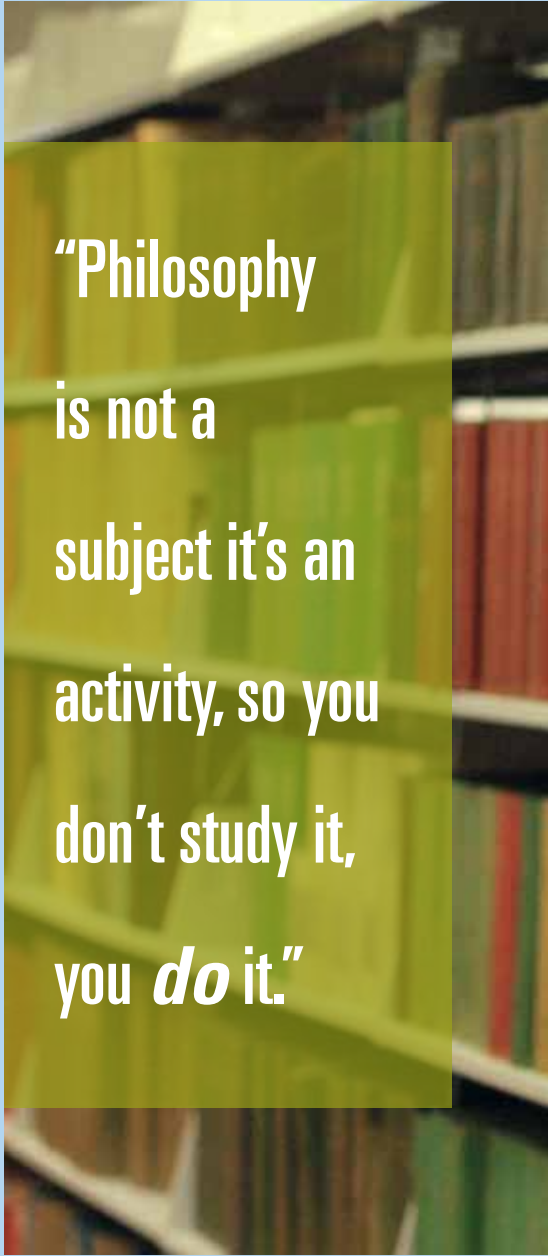
Having an expert philosopher as a coach definitely gives the team an edge and helps them think clearly on whatever subject they are presented with. "Honda broadens my knowledge and connection of the disciples," commented Sutton. The last two years the team has been selected to participate in the National Honda All-Star tournament where hundreds of students from 48 different HBCUs travel to various hosting states in April to compete,

network, and have some fun. Though VUU's team did not win in previous years, Sutton is confident by the time this article is released they will be champions.

He admits he is pretty well versed in every subject except sports. While questions run the gamut, he says the game has changed and there are now more questions in math and science. "I'm always impressed when students know something I don't know," he said. He has a student on the team who knows virtually every genre of music and can spit out facts no matter what questions are asked. "I'll know maybe two answers and he'll know 10."

He also has a student who took it upon himself to memorize every capital in the world. It goes without saying, Sutton was impressed.

Being the coach entails as much work as being a student on the team. Sutton is charged with arranging, setting up and moderating a three-day campus tournament in the fall. Usually, more than 50 students participate and from their performance Sutton selects varsity team members and invites 12 students to participate on the team. They practice three times a week, studying questions from previous years and making up new ones on their own. As the coach, he can prepare them for the battle, but ultimately, he can't make them learn the information. "There are wrong answers, and you have to know a lot of stuff," he said. "It's a big commitment for students." Students earn one credit course for the team, but they ultimately do three hours of work.



"Philosophy is not a subject it's an activity, so you don't study it, you *do* it."

Sutton acknowledges that there are students interested every year but many don't know the team exists. This year alone three seniors will graduate which will definitely leave a void that needs to be filled.

There is a lot of encouragement from the administration to garner interest for the team which was demonstrated in February



Dr. Peter Sutton

2012 when the student team took on VUU Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. W. Franklin Evans and the President's Cabinet in a two-game competition. Sutton was proud of the performance that was given from both students and staff, but he politely pointed out the major victory went to the "A Team" which is comprised of students from the varsity team he coaches.

While the Honda team is a big part of what Sutton does, he wears many hats on campus and continues to research and publish articles largely based in philosophy. He knows the unwritten rules of the game which state that you take no prisoners, the job of the audience is to try to present the flaws and you are to attack what they said and present

what's wrong with their argument. That's how Sutton tries to prepare his students for Honda and for life. It's his belief, "Philosophy is not a subject it's an activity, so you don't study it, you *do* it," and every day he encourages his students to do it bigger and better than him.

Faculty and Staff Updates

Dr. Dorothy Eseonu, Associate Professor of Chemistry, recently presented the following papers: Abdulmalik, O., Ghatge, M. S., Musayev, F. N., Parikh, A., Chen, Q., Yang, J., Nnamani, I., Danso-Danquah R., Eseonu D. N., Asakura T., Abraham D. J., Venitz J., & Safo, M. K. (2011). Crystallographic analysis of human hemoglobin elucidates the structural basis of the potent and dual antisickling activity of pyridyl derivatives of vanillin. *Acta Crystallographica. Section D, Biological Crystallography*, 67, 920-928. Ghatge M. S., Salvo M. L., Contestabile R., Eseonu D. N., Karve S., Schirch V., & Safo M. K. (2012). Molecular Defects of Vitamin B6 Metabolism Associated with Neonatal Epileptic Encephalopathy, *Miscellanea on Encephalopathies - A Second Look*, ISBN: 978-953-51-0558-9.

Faculty in the Samuel Dewitt Proctor School of Theology are recent authors: **Dr. Patricia Gould-Champ**, *Pamela Goes To Church*; **Dr. Yung Suk Kim**, *Theological Introduction to Paul's Letters*, **Dr. Robert Wafawanaka**, *Am I Still My Brother's Keeper*

Dr. Monique Akassi, Assistant Professor of English, presented "Examining The Rhetoric of Literary Foremother and Womanist in Black Mother Daughter Relationships in Katherine Stockett's *The Help*." College Language Association. Spelman College. Atlanta, Georgia. March 29, 2012. She also chaired a panel from her book, *Postcolonial Composition Pedagogy: Using The Culture of Marginalized Students To Teach Writing* at the College Language Association at Spelman College

in Atlanta, Georgia on March 29, 2012. Dr. Akassi also just resurrected Sigma Tau Delta's Rho Nu Chapter at Virginia Union University after it was inactive for 33 years. Sigma Tau Delta is an international English honor society.

Dr. Randy Fitzgerald, Associate Professor of English, delivered two speeches on column writing this spring, one in March to the Ginter Park Woman's Club, and one in April to St. Giles Presbyterian Church. Dr. Fitzgerald, who teaches rhetorical criticism and British literature at VUU, writes a regular column for Boomer magazine and for 18 years was a columnist for *The Richmond Times-Dispatch*. In 2009, the Virginia Press Association named him best magazine columnist in Virginia.

Dr. Eve Davis, Chair of the Languages and Literature Department presented at the College Language Association Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, March 29, 2012. Her paper was titled "The Deconstruction of Domesticity and Docility in Kathryn Stockett's work, *The Help*." The paper examined the myths and the lack of accurate representation in the text; how a noble kind of work was trivialized and the destruction inaccurate portrayals can cause a community. Eight students from Dr. Davis' American Literature 323 course participated in the Richmond Public School Foundation project, "Living Legacies." During the fall semester, they interviewed the individuals who were selected for the honor.

Dr. Emmanuel U. Onyedike, Professor, Department of Mass Communications, published a chapter, "Epilogue: Is There

a Common Thread in International Advertising?" in a book titled, *Advertising in Developing and Emerging Countries: The Economic, Political and Social Contexts*. Dr. Onyedike has more than 25 years experience teaching journalism and mass communications at the college level. He has been at Virginia Union University since 2005.

Dr. Hasan Ziaie, Associate Professor of Psychology, attended the Fifth Annual Virginia IRB Consortium Conference, held at Virginia Union University. He also presented a paper on "Social Psychology of Rewards" at the Teacher 2 Teacher Conference on December 3, 2011. In this presentation, he discussed how to use reward as an educational device. He reviewed research that indicated offering rewards for pleasant activities may decrease the intrinsic attractiveness of that activity. Dr. Ziaie attended the Virginia Psychological Association Spring Convention in April and served as a judge for papers presented by students.

Dr. Thomas Fensch, Chair of the Mass Communications Department has two books that are now available for e-readers – *Essential Elements of Steinbeck* (2009) and *Behind Islands in the Stream: Hemingway, Cuba, the FBI and the Crook Factory* (2010)

Dr. Mahmoud Abu-Joudeh, Associate Professor of Mathematics, attended the American Math Society Meeting in Boston, MA. He was accompanied by VUU mathematics students Trent Miller '12, and Andy Julein.

Felecia Johnson, Associate Athletic Director and Senior Women's Administrator,

VUU NEEDS YOUR COMMITMENT AND SUPPORT. TO MAKE AN ONGOING DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF OUR STUDENTS, CONTACT THE DIVISION OF INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT AT 804.342.3938 OR USE THE ENVELOPE ENCLOSED IN THIS ISSUE FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE.

was selected to participate in the NCAA's Women and Minorities Mentoring Program. The NCAA & Division II Athletics Directors Association Women & Minorities Mentoring Program provides women and minority athletics administrators in Division II the opportunity to enhance career development through a mentoring relationship that fosters personal and professional growth. The program seeks to build a foundation that encourages participants to pursue a long range career in athletics administration with an ultimate career goal of serving as a Division II Director of Athletics.

Dr. Beverly Aurand, Associate Professor of Social Work, was recognized by the non-profit organization Homeward, as their Volunteer of the Year for her work with the organization in engaging VUU student volunteers at their events.

Dr. David Adewuyi, Associate Professor in the Syphax School of Education and Director of the Center for International Studies, recently published two articles in American online journals: "Empirical Analysis by an Editor." *International Journal of Scientific Research in Education*, 4(2), 65-73. Available at <http://www.ij sre.com>; and Adewuyi, D.A. (2012). "Terminological Exactitude: Understanding Key Educational Concepts for Effective Teaching and Learning." In Ololube, N.P & Kpolovie, P.J. *Educational Management in Developing Economies: Cases'n' School Effectiveness and Quality Improvement*. Verlag, Germany: LAP Lambert Academic Publishing. pp. 137-145. (Chapter 10).



IN MEMORIAM

On June 25, 2012, Virginia Union University said goodbye to its oldest active alumnus, Dr. Wesley Theodore Carter. Dr. Carter, who recently turned 104, was an integral part of the Virginia Union family, present at every major athletic and academic event on campus. He will be sorely missed, but his spirit will forever remain in our hearts.

Dr. Carter received his undergraduate degree in Chemistry from Virginia Union University in 1929. He began his professional career as a teacher in North Carolina, but in 1933 he returned to his former high school Armstrong High, where he taught for more than 38 years.

In 1947, Dr. Carter earned the Master of Arts Degree in School Administration from Teachers College, Columbia University. In recognition of his outstanding service to his community and his alma mater, Virginia Union awarded Dr. Carter the Doctor of Humane Letters.

The Virginia Union University National Alumni Association named Dr. Carter Alumnus of the Year in 1995.



Thornton Dial Exhibit at VUU
L. Douglas Wilder Library through October 31, 2012

Marie-Ange Eyoum, Ph.D., '01

Dr. Marie-Ange Eyoum's passion for education led her on a journey across the North Atlantic Ocean, approximately 5,999.91 miles away from her homeland of Cameroon, Central Africa. She traveled more than 45 hours to Virginia Union University, a place that was unfamiliar and far from the close knit family she cherished. She could not even rely on the comfort of language because the only language she knew was French, but she was determined to be a college educated woman like her parents who pursued medical degrees and instilled excellence within her. "I had to learn to be quickly independent as I was far away from friends and family," said Eyoum. "I had to learn American culture, including the food, the way things worked and how people think." Though she was young, she wasted no time immersing herself in her new environment.

Her love for problem-solving immediately drew her to the study of mathematics, which would become her major, while making computer science her minor. "I love numbers and the challenging problems that make use of my analytical thinking," said Eyoum. The adjustment to western culture did not stifle her ability to maintain a 4.0 grade point average or keep her from being active socially on campus. Eyoum's biology professor, Dr. Anthony Madu, fondly remembers her drive and motivation to excel in her studies and describes her as exceptional. "Her academic record confirms this," he said. Because of her academic record, Eyoum was able to secure several internships during her collegiate career doing research in physics, mathematics and engineering at IBM Watson Research Lab in New York, Princeton University in New Jersey and University of California San Diego in La Jolla, California.

All of her hard work and discipline paid off in 2001. Eyoum graduated at the top of her class,

"My mentors at VUU provided me with the necessary guidance that was indispensable for me to get accepted and compete in top graduate engineering programs of the world."

— Marie-Ange Eyoum

securing an offer to attend University of California Berkley, where she later obtained her Master and PhD degrees. Eyoum credits her professors with preparing her beyond Union. "My mentors at VUU provided me with the necessary guidance that was indispensable for me to get accepted and compete in top graduate engineering programs of the world." Though more than 11 years have passed since her time at Union and she has gone on to join the Intel Corporation as the Senior Product Manager where she manages the Intel Atom Platform Netbook devices from definition to launch, Eyoum still keeps in contact with her professors. "My faculty advisors at VUU are precious."

Her success and experiences keep her indebted to Union and encourage her to return at least once a year to share her story and impart wisdom to students that may find themselves traveling the same road she traveled when she first arrived at Union. Maybe

it's a smile they need or a bit of encouragement. Whatever the problem, Eyoum is sure VUU can provide the remedy, the same remedy that has helped develop her into the superstar she is today.



S. Dallas Dance, Ph.D., '01

Dance Named Next Superintendent of Baltimore County Public Schools

At age 30, Dr. S. Dallas Dance, has been named successor to current Baltimore County Public Schools Superintendent, Dr. Joe Hairston.

"No field impacts a young person's life like education does," said newly named Superintendent of Baltimore County Public Schools, S. Dallas Dance, Ph.D., on why learning is so important to him.

Currently chief officer of over 200,000 students in Houston Public Middle Schools, Dance will officially take over as superintendent July 1, an amazing feat for a man only 30 years old.

"I've always been one that believed in service for young people. There were so many people who went out on a limb for me and the opportunity to give back to young people is really what my drive is," Dance said.

He will succeed Joe Hairston, Ph.D., who has held the position for 12 years. Under Hairston's leadership, schools in Baltimore County have seen significant growth.

"It is my hope that a foundation has been laid that will enable him to move the agenda forward," said Hairston, who is retiring after 48 years in education with a legacy he says gives him "a lot to be proud of."

More than 50 percent of Baltimore County Public High Schools now rank in the top seventh percentile of high schools in the nation, with the third highest graduation rate of African-American males in large urban school systems, Hairston said. The Virtual Learning Environment program at Chesapeake High School has been a shining example of the state's technology investments in education and the Chinese Culture Exchange has allowed high school students to do eight week stints abroad for seven years now.

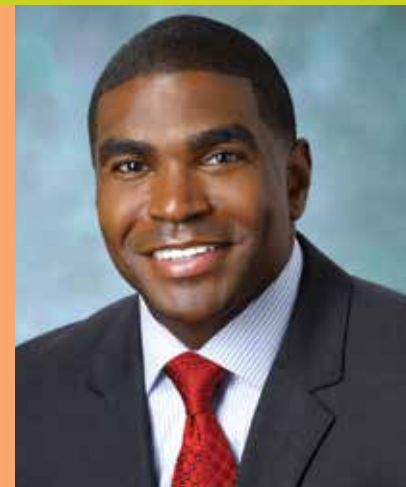
"Our children are responsive to the quality of instruction our teachers are providing. Leadership provided by the principles and support from our parents has been essential. We've had 12 consecutive years of performance growth and that is unprecedented in this country for a large, urban school system," Hairston said.

Dance says top challenges currently facing the future of education today include increasing science, technology and math skills, and showing students how to apply what they are learning in real life, not just regurgitating information. Also at the forefront of his list of challenges, Dance said, is figuring out how to engage kids to the point where they take ownership for their learning.

"When we start thinking about the role we play as educators, we have to make sure that we engage them to the point they understand that here and now matters so much if you're really going to impact what the future looks like."

As an English major, Dance earned his bachelor's degree from Virginia Union University shortly before moving on to Virginia Commonwealth University where he earned a master's degree in educational administration and a Ph.D. in educational leadership.

With a love for all things dealing with the law, Dance says as a younger man he thought he would make his impact in the courtroom— not the classroom. However, after discovering his gift tutoring students while still in college, Dance said the decision to go into education was an easy one. Though he only has two years of classroom experience as an English teacher, Dance has knowledge of all levels within the educational system.



"I'm really driven by faith. I believe that your faith is one of those things you look to in moments of light and in moments of darkness."

— S. Dallas Dance

Over the years he has worked in the Henrico County Public Schools of Richmond, Va. as an administrative aide, an assistant principal and a principal. Prior to serving the Houston Independent School District, Dance was also executive director of School Improvement in Chesterfield County Public Schools in Virginia and assistant superintendent for Louisa County Public Schools in the same state.

Dance has also taught on the university level as an adjunct professor for Averett University, the University of Richmond, and Virginia Commonwealth University. Aside from getting to know the students, faculty, and staff he will be serving, Dance says the first thing he has to do is find a church home.

"I'm really driven by faith. I believe that your faith is one of those things you look to in moments of light and in moments of darkness," Dance said. "I'm looking forward to getting there and getting to know as many people as possible and setting down roots in the community because I look to be there for a very, very long time."

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Alumni Updates

The Honorable **Ricardo C. Jackson '62**, Senior Judge, Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, as a member of a five person panel, received the prestigious Justice Sonia Sotomayor Diversity Award from the Philadelphia Bar Association.

Jesse J. Turner Jr. ' 93, has been named the new principal of Monticello High School. Turner's appointment will be effective July 1. Turner is the school's current associate principal and served as the assistant principal at Albemarle High School from 2005 to 2011. Turner, a Charlottesville native, earned his bachelor's degree from Virginia Union University, a master's in education in administration and supervision from University of Virginia in 1998 and a doctorate of education in administration from Virginia State University in 2010.

Mellonie Boyd '90, was voted Teacher of the Year at Westbury High School, Houston, TX (2011-2012)

Monica Johnson '97 received her Masters of Science degree in Administration of Justice and Security (MS/AJS) from University of Phoenix graduating with a 3.96 GPA. She has been accepted and enrolled in Capella University's Doctoral program in Public Safety with a concentration in Criminal Justice.

Dr. Edith Jerry Patterson '68 was appointed by Gov. Martin O'Malley to serve on the Maryland Higher Education Commission. The twelve member board's responsibilities include establishing statewide policies for Maryland public and private colleges and universities and for non-profit career schools, along with administering financial aid statewide, helping plan, supervise and coordinate the state post-secondary education system. Dr. Patterson made history in Charles County Maryland when she was the first minority appointed and later elected to the county's Board of Commissioners (County Council) from 2005-2010.

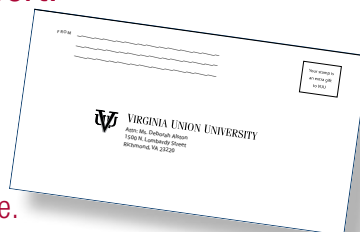


A graduate of Virginia Union University in the state's capital, documentarian **Brian Bullock '91** knows a wealth of stories exist on campus. For his film *Bringing Home the Bacon: The Roland McDaniel Story*, Bullock chose a subject who lost everything he rightfully won. "There's a lot of folks who have come out of Virginia Union, a lot of stories haven't been documented on film. So that film was really targeting the Richmond, Virginia, area and actually has been and is being broadcast on PBS," Bullock said. "It's still a great story that I think anyone can relate to. It's a sports story. It's a historical piece. There are so many stories in the Richmond area."



VUU needs your commitment and support!

To make an ongoing difference in the lives of our students, contact the Division of Institutional Advancement at 804.342.3938 or use the envelope enclosed in this issue for your convenience.



in memoriam

- Mrs. Herma G. Adams, '50
- Mrs. Gloria T. Adams, '45
- Mrs. Frances C. Andrews, '44
- Mr. Joseph Hilton Banks, '45
- Mrs. Fannie Alice Beale, '62
- Mrs. P. Joan G. Berryman, '52
- Mrs. Beulah T. Branch, '47
- Mrs. Jeanette B. Branch-Burgess, '58
- Ms. Delores Jane Brunson, '73
- Mrs. Ersalyn M. Carter, '56
- Dr. Matthew G. Carter, '39
- Dr. Wesley Theodore Carter, '29
- Mrs. Dorothy R. Chambers, '45
- Attorney Robert H. Cooley Jr., '32
- Mr. Jerry Collins Crews Jr., '88
- Rev. Risdan P. Deberry, '47
- Ms. Rosa Mary Gibson, '66
- Mrs. Vernice S. Glennon, '68
- Mr. J. Shelby Guss, '49
- Mr. William H. Harris, '57
- Dr. Joseph B. Harris DDS, '49
- Mrs. Martha L. Hodge, '67
- Mrs. Sue Nickens James, '39
- Ms. Mary E. Jones, '67
- Mrs. Marian Page Jones, '36
- Ms. Paulette Kelley, '71
- Dr. Robert G. Lankford, '68
- Mr. Harry O. Lewis, '69
- Mr. Toussaint A. L. Liverpool, '53
- Mrs. A. Frances Logan, '47
- Mrs. Frances W. Lucas, '54
- Ms. Lorraine Lumpkins, '61
- Mr. Christopher C. Melvin, '38
- Miss Christal Diane Millner, '80
- Rev. Dr. T. Wright Morris, '61
- Mrs. Julia E. Parker, '51
- Dr. John O. Peterson, Sr., '56
- Mrs. Louise R. Pryor, '47
- Reverend Bobby L. Robinson, '56
- Mrs. Gwendolyn E. Adams Scott, '62
- Reverend Jeffery F. Shaw, '57
- Attorney William A. Smith, '55
- Mrs. Winnie P. Sugg, '39
- Ms. Olivia C. Swinton, '65
- Reverend Robert L. Taylor, '45
- Mr. Jaye Walker

Dr. W. Franklyn Richardson, center, chair of Virginia Union University's Board of Trustees, accepts a \$100,000 gift from Edward B. Titmus, immediate right, president of the 66-year-old Titmus Foundation of Dinwiddie County. The donation is for an endowed scholarship in honor of Dr. Andrew J. White Sr., left, pastor of Zion Baptist Church in Petersburg, and his wife, Gracie J. White, to his right, a retired social worker for Petersburg schools. Joining in the ceremony are, from left: VUU board members Dr. Roland E. Moore and Dr. Lucille M. Brown; Mr. Titmus' wife, Carol Titmus; his son and foundation executive, Edward B. Titmus III; and his daughter and foundation secretary, Kimberly T. Przybyl. The foundation grew out of an optical glass company the Titmus family once owned.



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The James River Valley Chapter of The Links, Inc. presents a \$15,000 check to Virginia Union President Dr. Claude G. Perkins. Chapter members pictured from left to right are Rita Henderson, Carolyn Mosby, Marguerite Steele, Joyce Lanier, Audra Jones, Geraldine Ellison, and Judith Anderson.

Founded in 1946, The Links, Incorporated is one of the oldest and largest volunteer service organizations of women committed to enriching the culture and economic survival of African Americans.

National Epicureans, Inc. President Beverly A. Holsey (pictured on the right) and Richmond Chapter President Indy Brunson-Griffin (pictured on the left) present a check for \$13,806 to Virginia Union President Dr. Claude G. Perkins. The National Epicureans, Incorporated, formerly known as the Epicurians, was organized in Richmond, Virginia in 1944 to inspire its members to a high moral, intellectual, social, and civic standing.



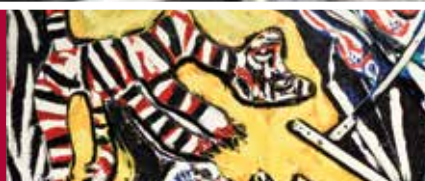


Virginia Union University Upcoming Events

EVENT	DATE
New Student Welcome Week	August 14-19, 2012
Returning Students Check-In	August 20-21, 2012
Classes Begin	August 23, 2012
Fall Convocation	October 5, 2012
Homecoming Week "Let's Stay Together"	October 1-6, 2012
Homecoming Football Game, (1:00 p.m.) (VUU vs. Lincoln University)	October 6, 2012
Graduate School and University Career Fair	October 11, 2012
Fall Break	October 25-26, 2012
STVU John Malcus Ellison-Miles Jerome Jones Convocation	November 12-15, 2012
University Choir's Holiday Concert	December 6, 2012
Founders' Day Celebration	February 1, 2013
Annual Church Leadership Conference	March 16, 2013
Human Services Internship Fair	March 27, 2013
University Career Fair	March 28, 2013
University Choir's Spring Concert	April 14, 2013
Honors and Academic Achievement Recognition Banquet	April 18, 2013
Baccalaureate	May 10, 2013
Commencement	May 11, 2013

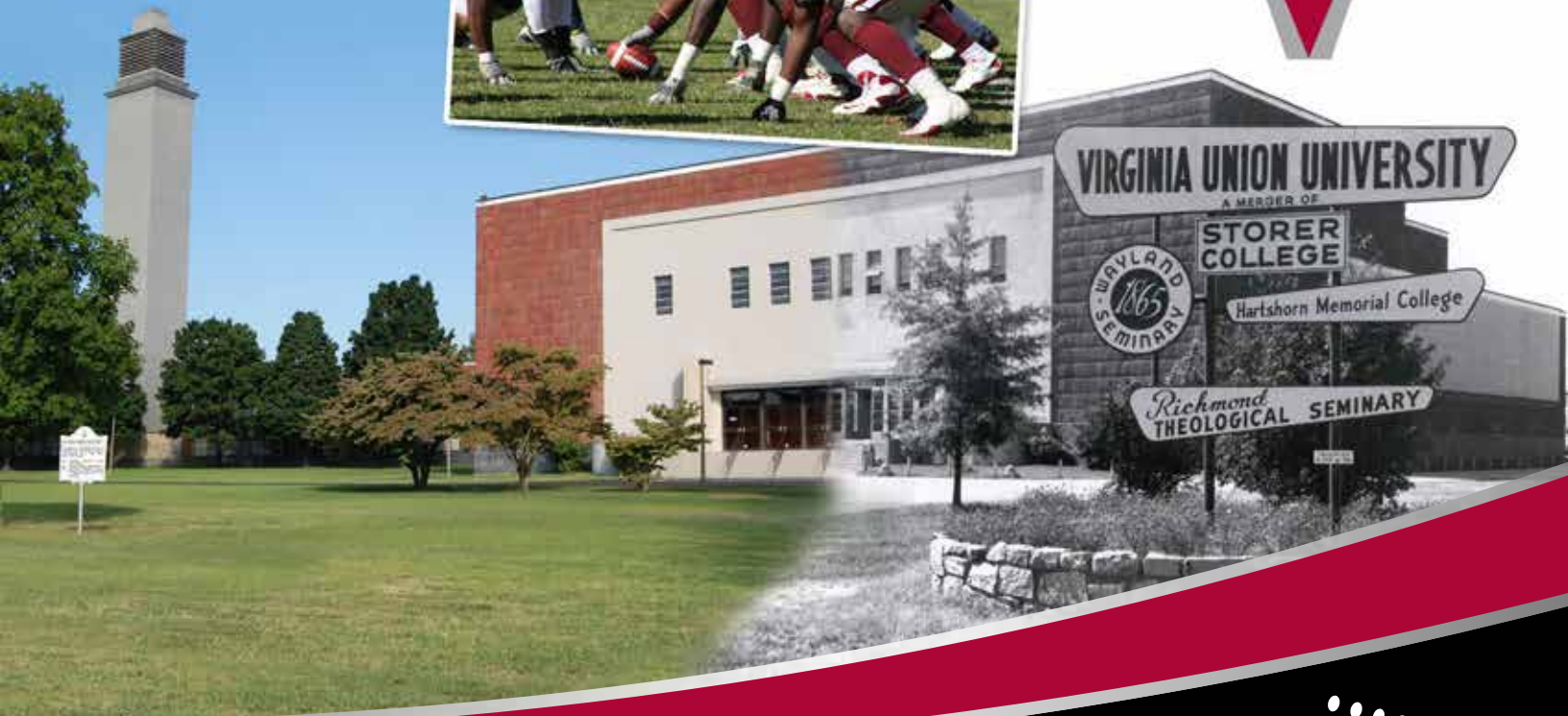
For a complete list of VUU events, including athletic schedules visit our website: www.vuu.edu

Thornton Dial Exhibit at VUU
L. Douglas Wilder Library through October 31, 2012



VIRGINIA UNION UNIVERSITY 2012 **HOMECOMING** **LET'S STAY TOGETHER**

OCT. 6TH
2012



VUU PANTHERS
vs.
LINCOLN UNIVERSITY LIONS

Game Starts
at 1pm

Virginia Union University

1500 North Lombardy Street / Richmond, VA 23220

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Thornton Dial Exhibit at VUU
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