

UNIONITE

VIRGINIA UNION UNIVERSITY

SUMMER 2011 / UNIVERSITY NEWS

2011

RICHARDSON
NAMED
BOARD CHAIR

PAGE 2

COMMENCEMENT
2011

PAGE 4

JABER NAMED
HEAD COACH

PAGE 18



VUU - THE PROMISE
OF A LIMITLESS FUTURE®



Welcome to the Summer 2011 edition of *Unionite* magazine. The Spring semester was a busy one at VUU and one in which we witnessed the end of an era – as Dr. Frank S. Royal '61, who had brilliantly served as Chairman of Virginia Union's Board of Trustees for 30 years, passed the torch to Dr. W. Franklyn Richardson '79. You will read about Dr. Richardson's vision as the new Chairman, in the pages of this publication.

We would be remiss if we did not thank and applaud Dr. Royal for his years of dedicated service to his alma mater. He has been and continues to be an exemplary example of the best that Virginia Union produces. In fact, Virginia Union University's greatness is shown through the accomplishments of its graduates, like Drs. Royal and Richardson. 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 must be earned. We also celebrate in this edition, our students who achieved high academic honors, the revitalization of our Fine Arts major, and an honor society which rose from extinction.

In the pursuit of excellence, we expect no less of ourselves. We share a long and honorable tradition; and I believe it is our duty, our inherent responsibility to aid our students in acquiring the tools to become successful, productive, and powerful citizens of the world. And so, as we congratulate the class of 2011, I offer the following 20 tips to help ease their transition into the "real world."

VUU From The President

COMMENCEMENT 2011

TWENTY TIPS FROM THE PRESIDENT TO THE CLASS OF 2011

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
 MAY 2011



UNIONITE

VIRGINIA UNION UNIVERSITY

SUMMER 2011 / UNIVERSITY NEWS

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ABOVE: An emotional 2011 graduate reflects on her time at VUU.

LEFT: Members of the Golden Class of 1961 were honored at the 2011 Commencement ceremony.

An Unpayable Debt – W. Franklyn Richardson Named Chairman of VUU’s Board of Trustees

BY: SHENA L. CRITTENDON '92

Call it destiny, or perhaps, more appropriately, divine providence. Whatever the term, the journey that led Dr. W. Franklyn Richardson '79 to become the newly installed chairman of Virginia Union University's Board of Trustees was most certainly ordained.

It was Richardson's minister who led him to Virginia Union. "I came to VUU after having accepted the call to ministry on the advice of my Pastor. He was not an alumnus but he had a high regard for Virginia Union," Richardson recalls.

He also clearly remembers the struggles he encountered. "I came to VUU with a serious reading impairment. The University accepted me with the condition that I get that straightened out. They worked with me for an entire year. They worked with me... never gave up on me."

Virginia Union University's commitment to a young man struggling with reading forged the bond that has manifested into Richardson's life-long commitment to his alma mater. "I have a tremendous appreciation for what VUU had done for me and many others like me. I want it [VUU] to be here to do the same thing for others..." he says.



That desire concretized into action when the 9 year member of the Board of Trustees was elected as its chairman. Richardson replaces Dr. Frank S. Royal '61, who had served as Chairman for 30 years.

According to Richardson who was officially sworn in at the February 2011 board meeting, becoming chairman allows him an even greater opportunity to serve Virginia Union. "It is greater service," he says, "I can give direction. I can facilitate resources. It is my opportunity to help ensure that VUU is strong from generation to generation. We've had great chairmans in Virginia Union's history. I hope to meet that standard."

There is little doubt that W. Franklyn Richardson is a man who sets high standards – and meets them. He has served as Senior Pastor of the historic Grace Baptist Church in Mount Vernon, New York for over 35 years. Last year the church honored his 35th pastoral anniversary by installing eight stained glass windows in Coburn Hall on the VUU campus at a cost of about \$200,000. (See Summer 2010 Unionite for complete story.)

Richardson received his Divinity degree from Yale University Divinity School and his Doctorate of Ministry as a Wyatt Tee Walker Fellow from the United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio.

He served for 12 years as General Secretary of the eight million-member National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. He also served on the boards of the Congress of the National Black Churches, the National Urban League, and the Constituency for Africa. He is currently chairman of the Conference of National Black Churches.

In his role as Chairman of VUU's Board of Trustees, Richardson wants to bring Virginia Union to its next level of "competence and

breadth." According to long-time board member, Dr. Lucille Brown '50, he is well on his way. "Dr. Richardson has brought to Virginia Union University a sense of commitment and dedication that has enabled him to implement an aggressive and optimistic agenda," says Brown. "He brings to the position excellent leadership skills, administrative expertise and a love for Virginia Union. I feel he will continue to build on the legacy of this great university and he will be a leader who takes Virginia Union to a higher level."

Yet, while Virginia Union University works to maximize its potential, it exists in a climate that is becoming increasingly challenging for HBCUs. Everyday seems to bring new accounts of politicians and pundits questioning the relevance of these institutions. And while the story of historically black colleges is one that parallels the history of the African-American race – a story of doing more while receiving less, creating excellence in the face of extermination, and quiet dignity in the face of certain danger; in 2011, the conversation has shifted from what these institutions once did to what contributions they are currently making, if any.

Against that background, VUU's new chairman remains optimistic. "Virginia Union's future is bright," he says. "We have an excellent history, extremely competent faculty, an extremely dedicated Board of Trustees, a visionary, dynamic President and a blossoming student body. The greatest challenge we face is resources. We have to take all these wonderful things I just mentioned and coordinate them in a way that they help us make some resources. We need serious financial underwriting. We need serious benefactors. If VUU had resources there would be no institution in the country we could not compete with," he states emphatically.

He adds that it is imperative that Virginia Union reach out to all of its constituents, including the Black Church. To that end, he spearheaded, the first Pastors Summit held on the campus on April 14th. The summit was an initial step in bringing together pastors to talk about what Virginia Union can do to help them and what they and their congregations can in turn do to help Virginia Union. A second summit is being planned for September.

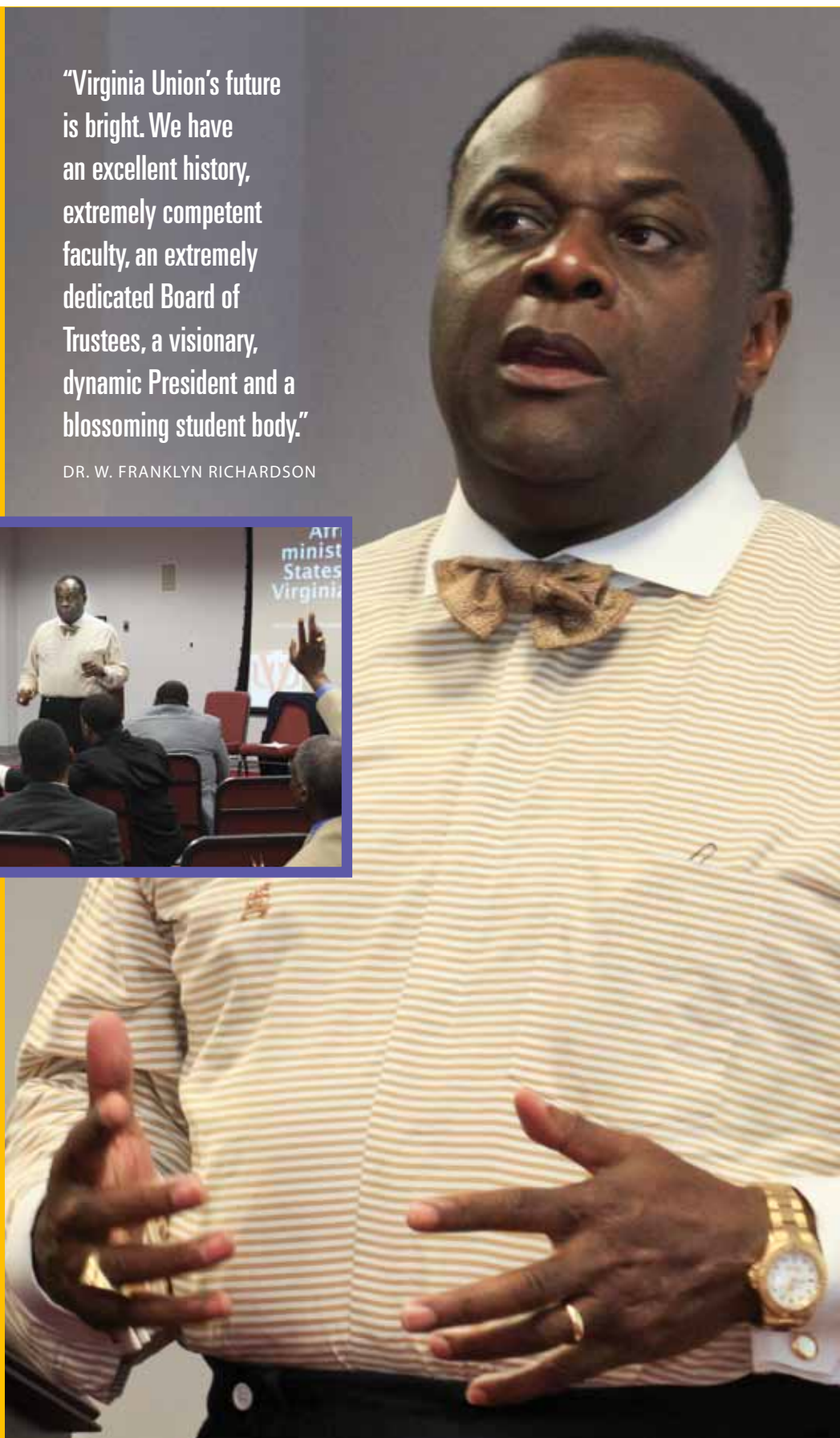
“VUU cannot run from what she is. She is grounded in the Black Church. We cannot be seen as an elitist institution, but rather as an institution of the people,” Richardson explains, adding, “Virginia Union specializes in taking those who have been marginalized and transforming them.”

“We want people to embrace this university. We must appeal to all our stakeholders, not just alumni – the African American community, foundations, corporations, the churches... we must affirm these stakeholders and invite them to help us build this university into what we all know that it can be... the place that took someone like me... a place that still has the capacity to take the most unpolished diamond, polish it and make it a jewel,” says Richardson.

That place, to Richardson, is more than just brick and mortar. Virginia Union is more than just curriculum and books. It is a living, breathing, viable experience that transformed the chairman of the board of trustees and thousands of others just like him. So, when he adds, “What I owe to Virginia Union University...it is an upayable debt,” there is little doubt that his fellow Unionites completely understand. Call it destiny or divine providence, however one terms it, W. Franklyn Richardson is right where he belongs.

“Virginia Union’s future is bright. We have an excellent history, extremely competent faculty, an extremely dedicated Board of Trustees, a visionary, dynamic President and a blossoming student body.”

DR. W. FRANKLYN RICHARDSON





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COMMENCEMENT 2011

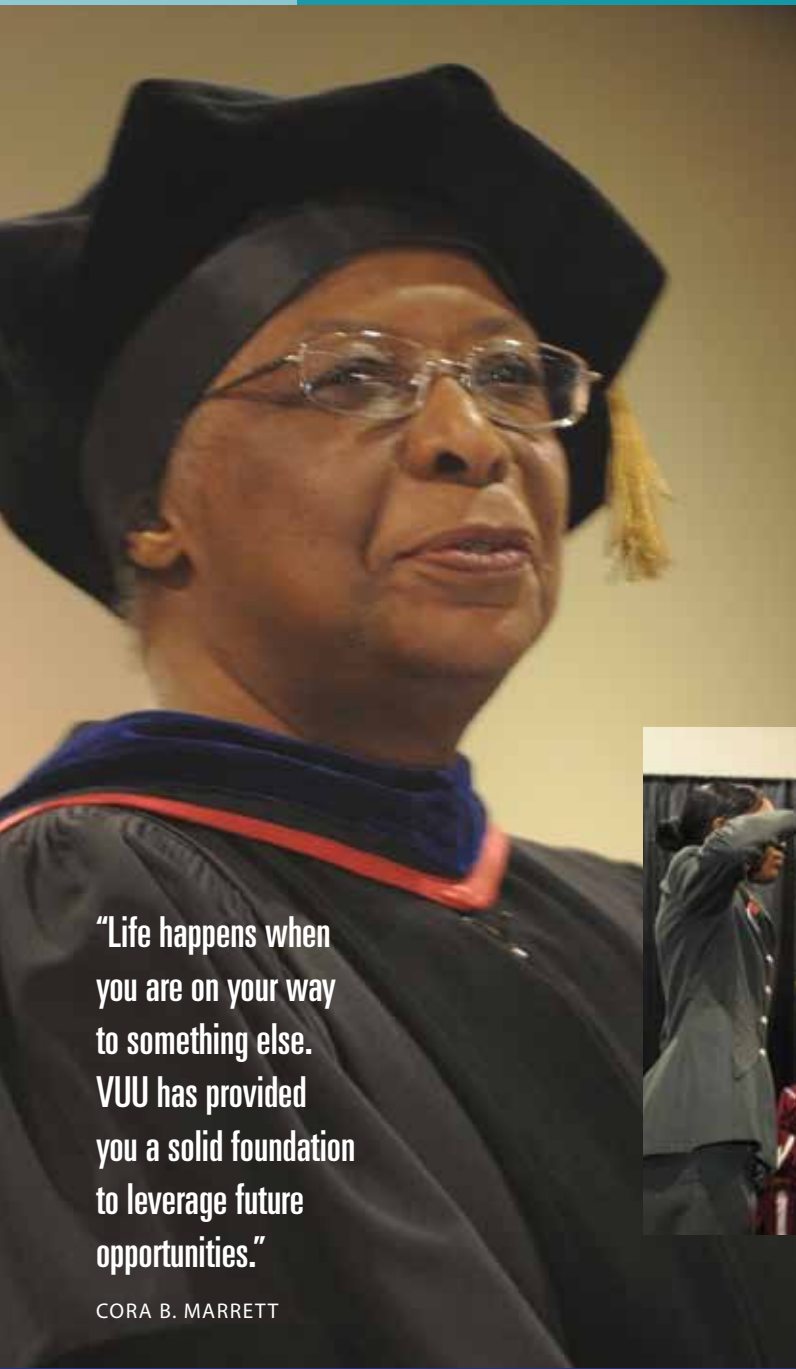
A child carried a handwritten poster, "Way to go, Dad!"
Ja'net Canty wore funky glasses that spelled out "grad."

Canty was among about 300 students who received undergraduate and graduate degrees from Virginia Union University at its 112th commencement ceremony held at the Greater Richmond Convention Center.

"I couldn't sleep last night," said Canty, 21, from Chesapeake, VA.

The cheerleader, sorority president (Delta Sigma Theta and vice president of the National Pan-Hellenic Council said, "It was quite an experience coming to VUU. I loved it. You get a lot of one on one. That is what I need."

Graduation also saw the commissioning ceremony of Jefferson Thondique, who graduates and becomes a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army. Thondique's oath of office was administered by his aunt, Lieutenant Colonel Tawanna Thondique, who is the first African American female oral and maxilla facial surgeon in the history of the Army Dental Corps.



"Life happens when you are on your way to something else. VUU has provided you a solid foundation to leverage future opportunities."

CORA B. MARRETT



Newly Commissioned 2nd Lt Jefferson Thondique exchanges his first officer's salute with his sister, PFC Cassandra Thondique.



Board Member Steve Bullock '59, greets Dr. Perkins and commencement speaker Cora Marrett '65.

The Future

Second Lieutenant Thondique was pinned by his mother Sandra and his father Jorge, and in the Army's tradition for newly commissioned officers – exchanged his first salute with and presented a silver dollar to his sister, Private First Class Cassandra Thondique.

The golden class of 1961 was recognized at the Commencement ceremony. Seated together in their gold robes, the class includes Dr. Frank Royal, former chairman of the VUU Board of Trustees, and his twin brother Dr. Harry Royal.

Guest speaker, Cora B. Marrett, who was recently confirmed by the U.S. Senate to become Deputy Director of the National Science Foundation, and who is also a 1965 graduate of Virginia Union University, stressed the importance of being flexible and adaptable to the graduates and audience of 4,000.

"Your diploma has prepared your mind and provided you a set of wings," she said. "You need to practice flapping your wings before you get anywhere."

She said some graduates may sail through seamlessly to wonderful and productive careers. But many won't have seamless transitions.

For most, "life happens when you are on your way to something else," she said.

"VUU has provided you a solid foundation to leverage future opportunities."

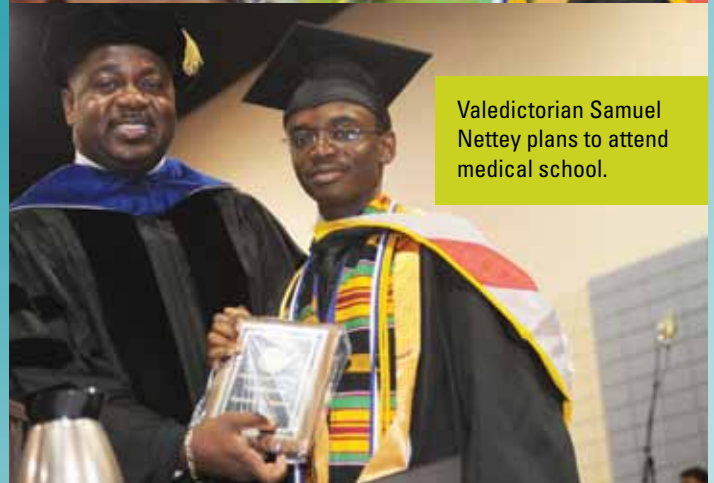
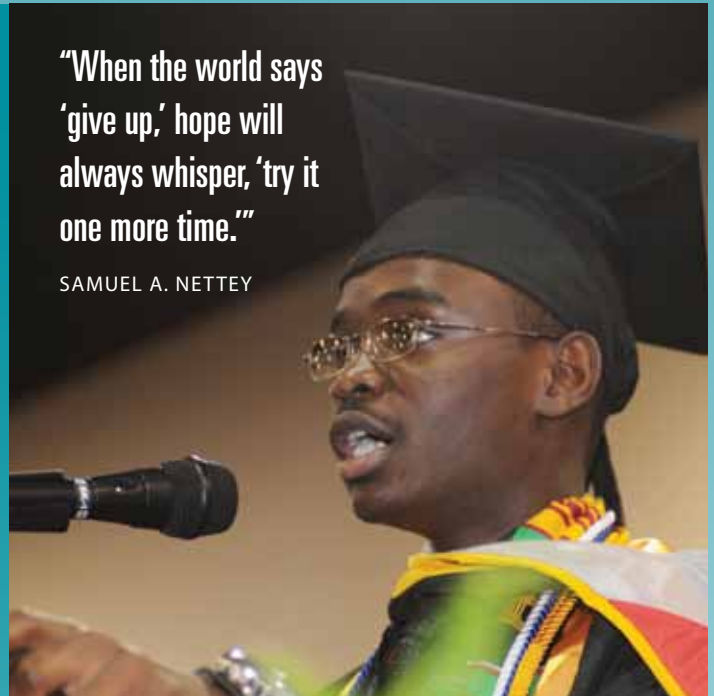
Being flexible and adaptable helps people prepare for whatever life delivers along the way, she said.

Valedictorian Samuel A. Nettey, who plans to pursue a medical career, encouraged his classmates to become the best at whatever they do. "And don't give up," he said. "When the world says 'give up,' hope will always whisper, 'try it one more time.'"

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"When the world says 'give up,' hope will always whisper, 'try it one more time.'"

SAMUEL A. NETTEY



Valedictorian Samuel Nettey plans to attend medical school.



COMMENCEMENT 2011 "Your diploma has prepared your mind and provided you a set of wings."



You need to practice flapping your wings before you get anywhere.”

CORA B. MARRETT '65, SENIOR ADVISER,
NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION



Academic Achievement Banquet



ABOVE: Dr. Perkins greets members of the University Choir.



BELOW: Faculty and staff attend the banquet to honor academic achievers.



LEFT: Dr. W. Franklin Evans, VP for Academic Affairs, enthusiastically acknowledges the students' successes.

Excerpts from the keynote address given by The Honorable Viola Baskerville (former member, Virginia House of Delegates) at the 2011 Academic Achievement Banquet

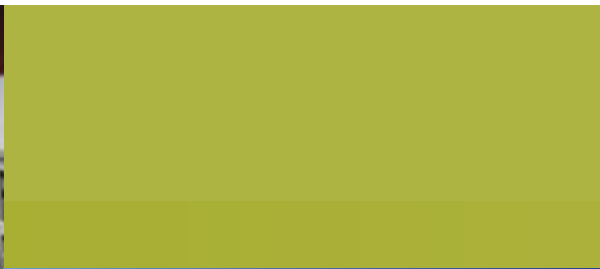
... As you continue through life, spend more time trying to find your own voice and less time trying to tune it to please others. How uninspiring a choir would be if everyone sang soprano. Altos give the melody rich contrast and harmony, and basses provide some "bottom" to the tenors' efforts. Find your own voice, and sing out loudly with confidence. This may be hard to do at times. It can even cost you; but, you must be grateful for every distinction that makes you "You." Think of all the products that advertise and boast of being unique or "the original." You are an original. Do "You" extremely well. However, in doing so, put passion into everything

that is your own personal production whether the task is difficult or whether it is easy. Passion is the magic ingredient of inspiration and success. Give back. Unselfish giving is the greatest gift you can give. And even as you are being honored here tonight for your individual achievements, remember that no person is truly honored for what he or she receives. They are honored for what they give. In the end you will be honored for your legacy... Your raw intellectual powers have been honed and groomed here at VUU, rich with its own unique legacy. You have a duty to put those developed talents to work and give back. At a minimum, I see four significant

challenges in our collective futures: (1) ending poverty, which I believe is the greatest threat to our domestic fabric; (2) cleaning and keeping our earth's environment clean and her people safe. We all have witnessed the recent massive oil spill in the Gulf Coast and the nuclear disaster in Japan. We have one earth; let's keep it safe for future generations; (3) decreasing the economic, educational and health disparities between minorities and the majority society, and (4) looking at the revolutions in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and elsewhere around the globe, I cannot help but note the greater obligation to build a safe and supportive world community. To me, building a



ABOVE: Dr. Lucille Brown '50, gives greetings on behalf of the Board of Trustees.



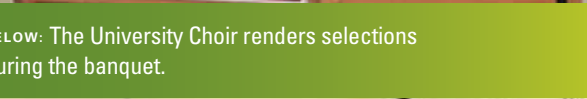
RIGHT: Antoinette Essa, local television and radio personality, serves as emcee for the event.



ABOVE: Dr. Perkins congratulates one of the student achievers.



ABOVE: Guest speaker Viola Baskerville encourages the student honorees to leave a legacy.



BELOW: The University Choir renders selections during the banquet.



true global community in a time of revolution, change and interdependence is one of our most serious challenges. You can use your talents to act or we can all witness the countdown to our own demise... We all need the "know how," the energy and the creativity of your generation. Consequently, you need to be the best you can be to help us... Do not be ruled by fear. It blinds you and blocks out all reason, rational thought and/or action. Do good to all the people you meet, or at least do them no harm. You never know when the very person you overlooked and discounted in the past will be the very person to come to your aid in your time of need.

Remember, we all reap what we sow, sooner or later. You are the only "you" you have; so as the package labeling warns: "Handle With Care." In closing, I tried to think of some special "gift" that I could leave with each of you today. I thought of the image of an acorn, and remembered that in a museum gift shop I had once seen this tiny acorn and was reminded of all the symbolism inherent in it. An American proverb states: "From little acorns, mighty oaks do grow." The acorn is the fruit of the oak tree, a tree of incredible strength and endurance, a strong building material resistant to pests. Like your sojourn at Virginia Union University, the oak tree symbolizes the

strong foundation gained from this nurturing environment. You are the fruit, the acorn. As you continue your life's journey, I hope each of you will sow the seeds of the lessons learned here, the "gifts" of your alma mater. "The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn," said Ralph Waldo Emerson. Leave your legacy. Go forth and create a thousand forests... May you use the special gifts you have gained from this place to create for yourselves and for your descendents a truly limitless future. And may the Great Spirit that watches over us all keep you safe and guide you through all of your tomorrows and through all of your life's journeys.

A Night at the Museum

On April 7, 2011 Virginia Union University hosted a viewing of its art galleries located in the L. Douglas Wilder Library and Learning Resource Center. The evening also featured a special presentation from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts – *Dynasty and Divinity: IFE Art in Ancient Nigeria*. The event was co-sponsored by James River Valley Chapter, The Links, Incorporated; Bon Secours Richmond Health System; and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.



Honda Campus All-Star National Challenge

Think fast! Protestors attacked it in London, briefly extinguished it in Paris, and chased it over its unannounced route through San Francisco in the Spring of 2008. For 10 points — name this ceremonial object on a world circling relay to Beijing.



The answer is the Olympic torch. And a brain teaser like this is an example of the type of challenging questions Virginia Union University's Honda Campus All-star team tackled in order to be selected to compete in the national tournament.

Quick recall, brain power and buzzer-skills were used to land the team among the "Great 48", universities and colleges selected to attend the 2011 Honda Campus All-Star Challenge National Tournament in Orlando, Florida. The tournament was held April 9 – 12, 2011.



The Honda Campus All-Star Challenge is a campus-wide activity. It brings together the entire campus community – students, faculty, administration and alumni. The Q & A game engages the best and brightest students during the competition between students at America's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). The game combines academic material, popular culture and sports in a format emphasizing quick recall. African American history and culture is prominently featured in the questions. VUU competed in the Buffalo Soldiers Division which included Morehouse, Xavier, North Carolina Central, Claflin and Alabama State.

Corey Barnett, (Junior, Religious Studies major) Jonathen Freeman (Senior, Mass Communications major), Bethel Kebede (Freshman, Biology major), and Jevin Kinard (Senior, History/Political Science major) made up the team. The alternates were Joseph Weaver (Senior Religious Studies major), Aaron Johnson (Junior, Religious Studies major), and Rejean Rodriguez (Freshman, Psychology major) Dr. Peter Sutton, an Assistant Professor of Philosophy coached the team weekly. "We were almost all rookies this year, including me, but 50% of our team will be coming back next year, Corey Barnett and Bethel Kebede. We all

learned a lot about what we need to do to be competitive on the national field, and hope to put it into practice next year," said Sutton.

VUU didn't capture the national title; however they did beat Xavier University in their final game. Students learned a great deal about history, geography, and African American culture. During the tournament, the team was able to network with students from other institutions. And now they look forward to next season which will kick off with an on-campus tournament in October.

VUU Reinstates its Bachelor of Fine Arts Major

Students interested in visual arts, theatre, and music will once again be able to fine tune their skills through Virginia Union University's revived Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) major. Students will have the opportunity to pursue a BFA degree beginning fall 2011.

The Board of Trustees gave its approval to reinstate the program at its May meeting.

Although VUU had a Fine Arts major in the past, the revitalized program differs in that

students will now select a primary area of concentration from three disciplines – visual arts, music, or theatre and they are also required to select a secondary area of concentration combining two of the three disciplines such as Theatre and Music.

“I’m thrilled that we’re returning to our roots and offering a viable educational opportunity for young musicians, thespians, and artists,”

DR. CLAUDE G. PERKINS

“As a liberal arts University, we’ve always been deeply rooted in the arts. We have a strong tradition and were at one time known throughout the United States for our University Choir. I’m thrilled that we’re returning to our roots and offering a viable educational opportunity for young musicians, thespians, and artists,” said Dr. Claude G. Perkins, president of Virginia Union University.

The Fine Arts faculty will soon begin working with the School of Education to add an endorsement to the BFA degree allowing students to teach in secondary schools.

“We plan to explore other interdisciplinary degree options such as Fine Arts and Mass Communications,” said Dr. Linda Schlichting, dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. There are currently four full-time faculty devoted to the program as well as several adjunct faculty.



National Scientific Honor Society Back on VUU Campus

On December 8, 2010, in front of students, faculty, alumni and guests, nine Virginia Union University students were initiated into the revitalized Zeta Chapter of Beta Kappa Chi National Scientific Honor Society.



Dr. Gerard McShepard, National Treasurer of Beta Kappa Chi and now advisor to the Zeta Chapter, discovered in his first year on campus, that VUU's chapter had dissolved. He quickly began the process of reactivating the chapter. With the support of Dr. Claude G. Perkins, VUU President and the help of Dr. Phillip W. Archer, Dean of the School of Mathematics, Science and Technology, the chapter was able to be brought back into existence.

Dr. Carleitta Page, a Zeta Chapter initiate during her time as a student at VUU, assisted in the induction ceremony where the following students became members: Monique Claggett (Psychology), Shannon Hargrove (Psychology), Brianna Hodge (Psychology), Maheteme Kebede (Chemistry), Samuel Nettey (Biology), Gregory Redford (Psychology), Jonicka Washington (Biology) and Lashira Williams (Biology).

The rejuvenation of this scholarly organization draws students from the Evelyn Reid Syphax School of Education, Psychology and



Dr. Claude G. Perkins with new initiates of the Zeta Chapter of Beta Kappa Chi National Scientific Honor Society.

Interdisciplinary Studies and the School of Mathematics, Science and Technology.

The newly reinstated chapter participated in Beta Kappa Chi's annual conference and as a result, Maheteme Kebede was elected as the Eastern Regional Student Vice President, the highest position that a student can hold in the honor society.

Beta Kappa Chi National Scientific Honor Society has a legacy "to encourage and advance scientific education through original investigation, the dissemination of scientific knowledge, and the stimulation of high scholarship in pure and applied science."

Undergraduate students are eligible for membership if they rank in the upper fifth of their class and have completed at least 64 semester hours of course work (with at least 17 semester hours in Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Psychology, Science Education, Math Education, Psychology Education, and Physics.)



Maheteme Kebede the newly elected Eastern Regional Student Vice President of Beta Kappa Chi.

STVU Makes an Impact on Kingston, Jamaica

Pristine beaches, cool breezes, good food, music, and not a care in the world... That is what most of us imagine when someone says they are going to Jamaica. But when ten students, alumni and friends of the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology (STVU) at Virginia Union University traveled to Jamaica in January of this year, they met with clergy and lay leaders of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church who were seeking to know God, to serve God, and to share God's goodness. Yet with all their fervor for God, the lay members and some clergy in Jamaica simply did not have access to theological training or training about the doctrine, discipline, and organization of the AME Church. That's when God, through VUU, stepped in.

A simple, friendly conversation between Bishop Sarah Frances Davis, Presiding Prelate of the 16th Episcopal District of the AME Church and Rev. Dr. Monica L. Spencer, STVU Coordinator of Graduate Student Services, turned into a three week intensive training institute available to the laity and clergy in Jamaica. Eight ministers of the gospel and one lay person volunteered to join Dr. Spencer at their own expense as she led the Ministry Empowerment Institute to Kingston, Jamaica. While Dr. Spencer stayed the entire three weeks, the other nine workers went for one week each to teach, assist, minister, and worship with their Jamaican brothers and sisters.

Classes such as Understanding the Old Testament; Understanding the New Testament; Spiritual Gifts; Spiritual Disciplines; Homiletics; Pastoral Counseling and Care; the History of Methodism and the A.M.E. Church; the Articles of Religion and the Catechism on Faith; A.M.E. Polity and Administration were

"Sometimes the love and caring that comes from listening is better than offering a solution to an unsolvable problem."

LINDA BANKS, STVU GRADUATE

taught. There were even special sessions on Sexual Misconduct in the Church, Ministering to Youth, and Ministering to Men as well as individual counseling sessions. Over 20 clergy and 80 lay leaders attended the training.

The VUU contingent was hosted by Presiding Elder Millard Davis, Ph.D. and his wife, Vinette Davis. Presiding Elder Davis befriended the group, cared, prayed, and fed them, and even drove them to revivals in the evenings.

On the final day of the Ministry Empowerment Institute a memorable graduation ceremony was held where each participant received a certificate and continuing education credits from the Evans-Smith Leadership Training Institute of Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology.

The unwavering support of Dean John Kinney and the entire School of Theology made the team's work easier. Through the gifts of many friends of the STVU a theological library was established in Jamaica. Over 250 books and documents were donated.

Linda Banks, a participant in the program, 2011 STVU graduate, and attorney with the Department of the Navy was amazed at how often the lessons she learned in class came to life while ministering in Jamaica.

Said Banks, "Sometimes the love and caring that comes from listening is better than offering a solution to an unsolvable problem... In one week in Jamaica, I used so many of the lessons I had learned in class that I'm not sure I would have been able to do it otherwise. I am grateful for my time at STVU and all of the lessons I've learned from the teachers, faculty, and other students. I am just as grateful for the opportunity to share what I have learned with my Jamaican brothers and sisters..."

SUBMITTED BY LINDA BANKS, CLASS OF 2011



Jamaica Ministry Empowerment Institute participants with Bishop Sarah Frances Davis, (center).



Linda Banks, 2011 graduate and JMEI Instructor.



Rev. Michael Moore, Class of 2012 and JMEI Instructor.



JMEI Instructors, Dr. Monica Spencer, (far right) and Rev. Heidi Stevens, in white assisting Dr. Millard Davis and others in baptism.

VUU Named to President Obama's Community Service Honor Roll for Second Straight Year

Virginia Union University, for the second consecutive year, has been named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. VUU is one of 11 universities in the state of Virginia to be recognized and the only Historically Black College and University (HBCU) in Virginia to be awarded. This is the highest federal recognition a college or university can receive for its commitment to community service.

VUU and its commitment of service to mankind, has ranked the university among the nation's top colleges for community service. Students engaged in several service projects within the Richmond Metro area for 32 non-profit agencies and schools, providing more than 7,500 hours of volunteer service.

"Being named to the President's Honor Roll for the second year in a row is a great accomplishment. Since our founding, Virginia Union University has been committed to being a positive force in our community. We have an obligation and a responsibility to serve; and those are the values that we attempt to instill in every student who matriculates at our University. Our students' involvement in community service strengthens their character and gives them skills that will serve them well throughout the course of their lives," said Dr. Claude G. Perkins, Virginia Union University President.

Honorees are chosen based on a series of selection factors, including scope and innovation of service projects, the extent to



which service-learning is embedded in the curriculum, the school's commitment to long-term campus community partnerships and measurable community outcomes as a result of the service.

"This designation from President Obama is very prestigious," said Claudia Wall, Director of Community Relations/Community and Student Services. "When you send your work off to be examined by a government agency



and they salute you, two years in a row, then you're definitely doing something positive. We are making a difference."

On campuses across the country, millions of college students are engaged in innovative projects to meet local needs often using skills learned in the classroom. According to the Corporation for National and Community Service, in 2009, 3.2 million college students dedicated more than 307 million hours of service to communities across the country, service valued at more than \$6.4 billion.

In July, VUU students will travel to New Orleans, LA to participate with the Baptist Home Mission Societies National Call to Service. The group will assist in the clean-up and rebuilding of homes in the Ninth Ward.



VUU TO BUILD LIVING & LEARNING CENTER

Mary Morton Parson Foundation Awards VUU \$500,000 Matching Grant

Virginia Union University's Board of Trustees and President, Dr. Claude G. Perkins are in the planning stages for the first new construction on the VUU campus in 15 years – a living and learning center.

The proposed Living and Learning Center will address the University's goals of invigorating the academic programs, improving the quality of life for students, and enhancing VUU's efforts to positively impact the adjoining community. The concept of the Living and Learning Center will focus on connecting the new living accommodations being planned at the university with a learning environment that will embrace a learning community concept.

The Learning Center will provide a flexible and high tech atmosphere where students can engage in extended learning opportunities in individual and group settings and have access to electronic resources in the library and other subscribed locations around the country.

The facility will also provide a venue for small and large group conferences that are curricular related, student leadership forums, and/or community based endeavors.

The Mary Morton Parsons Foundation has approved a 2:1 matching grant of \$500,000 to Virginia Union to assist in building the Living Learning Center. "This grant, which is one of the largest amounts this foundation has awarded, is a tremendous vote of confidence in Virginia Union University. It will take a concerted effort from our constituents to raise the matching funds, but I have no doubt we will meet and exceed the challenge," said Dr. Perkins.

A New Direction – Luqman Jaaber Named Head Coach



When Luqman Jaaber says, “I’m a winner...” one tends to believe him. After all, he’s got the credentials to back it up. VUU’s newly appointed head men’s basketball coach holds the school records for assists (446) and steals (276). He was a three-time MVP during his basketball career at Virginia Union and he and his teammates brought home the Division II National Championship in 2005. It’s hard to argue with that kind of success.

If that’s not impressive enough, Jaaber accomplished all those feats on the court, while maintaining a 3.5 grade point average. His love of the game led him to play several years of professional basketball in Germany and Saudi Arabia. Now, years after hanging up his VUU jersey, he holds the reins to lead the storied Panther program to many more championships.

At the age of 30 Jaaber is VUU’s youngest head basketball coach since Howie Jones, who was 27 when he coached the men’s team in 1957. The young coach is characterized by many as a “true leader.” He is well known for his leadership skills and his coach-like persona on the court. Jaaber’s parents were his role models, setting high standards and teaching him how to be a leader. “My parents taught me about working hard for everything you get and being a person of high character,” said Jaaber. “You don’t just wake up and say I’m going to be a leader today.”

Jaaber has had a love and appreciation for the game of basketball since he was seven years old. Growing up in a large family (six brothers and six sisters), he had plenty of competition. His mother and father also played the sport.

Jaaber played basketball through high school and spent a short time at Virginia State University before deciding to transfer to play for VUU under the tutelage of legendary coach Dave Robbins. “Luq is the kind of person who rises to the top of anything he does,” said Robbins. “We thought much alike.” Robbins remembers often asking Jaaber to pass along a certain instruction to the team, only to find that he had already done so.

That leadership along with technique and skills are not the only things Jaaber brings to his new position. He also has a deep

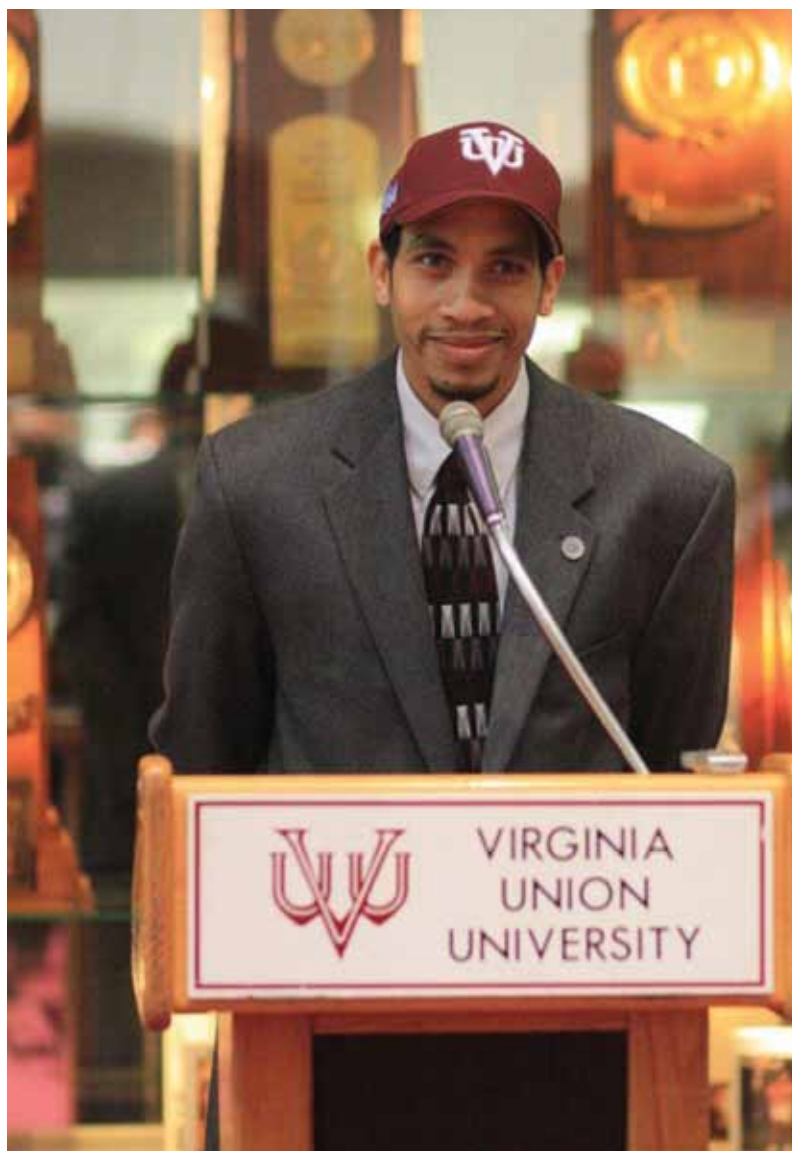
commitment to academics. “Academics are the most important part of being a student-athlete,” he said. “If you don’t focus on the academics than you won’t have the opportunity to perform.” Jaaber was named two-time CIAA Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year during his time at VUU. Winning the National Championship in 2005 against Bryant University was a major highlight in his basketball career, but he understands the importance of winning not only on the court but in the classroom.

“I’m looking forward to putting it all together. This is my first year and I’m going to do a lot of things different, strategy wise”, said Jaaber. He knows the kind of athletes he’s looking to recruit. “I’m looking for players like me; determined to be successful in everything,” he says. “Business professionals; blue collar guys who are hard-working and respectable-- that want to be at VUU and a part of the program.”

As he prepares for his first head coaching position Jaaber sees himself as a high energy, no excuse coach. He plans to revitalize VUU basketball, while remaining level-headed and practical about what is in store for him. With continued support from the university, VUU alumni and fans, Jaaber plans to take VUU basketball to another realm. “The greatest thing going forward is, I don’t have to change who I am to lead this team,” said Jaaber. “It was instilled in me to be a leader.”

Thinking about what lies ahead for him, Jaaber acknowledges that there will be ups and downs, but he is determined to remain focused; not getting too high on wins and not getting too low on losses. Jaaber recalls a time as a player hearing and adopting the philosophy of a coach who stated, “Two minutes to show you, two weeks to get comfortable with it and two months to actually use it.” It’s a philosophy that has served him well and one he plans to instill in his players.

To keep things balanced, Jaaber spends much of his free time with his wife, Deloris and their four children. “My family is always first. If it got to a point where it was all basketball I would probably go crazy,” said Jaaber. Being a father and coach has taught him balance. “My kids will be Union kids. They’ll be running around the gym like they have been for the past few years.” The clear difference this time will be that the person leading the VUU team to victory will be their Dad.



VUU Track Making Major Strides

Virginia Union University's Women's and Men's Track and Field team made major strides this season. The women's 4 x 100 relay team placed first at the 2011 Fred Gardy Invitation held at University of Richmond on March 25 and 26, 2011. With a time of 49.28 seconds, Shadiqua Hunt, G'Ana Robinson, Johniqua Porter and Tishana Dorn vanquished Shippensburg University and Wagner College. Also, the relay team finished fourth at the CIAA Championship held at Virginia State University on April 23, 2011.

Following the women's lead the Men's 4 x 100 relay team also won their event at the Fred Hardy Invitational. The VUU men's 4 x 100 relay team of Bryan Gurley, Michael Sayles, Dennis Thomas and Rashad Smith won the event with a time of 42.24 seconds. The team also place third in the men's 4 x 400 meter relay with a time of 3:28:38. The men's team placed second in the CIAA Championship at Virginia State University.

Coach Wilbert Johnson, Head Men and Women's Track and Field coach is leading the team to consecutive wins and record breaking performances.

Johnson has been with the team since September 2009. A graduate of Florida Memorial University, Johnson knows the difficulties at times for smaller schools. "What sets VUU apart from other schools is the fact that we are small in comparison to others but, we have big hearts and never quit", said Johnson.

The team has performed well in the areas of sprints but will be looking at improving in the distance events by recruiting more distance oriented runners. With graduation the women's team will be losing senior, Aluara Jones. The men's team will be losing Quinton Wright-McDuffie and Jefferson Thondique.

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME

Take me out to the ball game! If you didn't attend a Lady Panthers softball game, you missed a lot of excitement on the field. The women's softball team wrapped up their 2011 season on April 19, 2011 against Elizabeth City State University.

It was a tough season for the women's softball team, however their drive to compete kept them in the game. "VUU softball is distinct from other programs as we have the

history of having solid players who are competitive", said women's head softball coach and VUU alum, LeKeisha Henry '02. "The team has a wide range of versatility and hitting. We have two players that are leading the CIAA in batting percentage and slugging percentage", said Henry.

A major highlight of the season was when the VUU women's softball team played Fayetteville State University in the CIAA roundup. The game was in the sixth inning and the score was tied with two runners on base. Senior second baseman, Danielle Brown hit a three run home run to win the game for VUU. "This was a very exciting moment for us, beating a powerhouse team in the CIAA", said Henry.

Two Virginia Union freshmen were named to the 2011 All-CIAA Rookie Softball Team; third baseman, Shermana Fambro, social work major from Atlanta, Georgia and pitcher Renesha Chiles, chemistry major from Amherst County, Virginia.

The team will lose five seniors, however the bulk of their recruiting efforts have already been completed. They have already received a commitment from a pitcher/first baseman from Michigan and two offers are on the table for two

additional players. The team ended their season with a record of 9-23.

MEN'S TENNIS TEAM WINS CIAA GPA AWARD

Virginia Union University's men's tennis team earned the award for having the highest cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) among men's tennis teams of the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association, the CIAA announced at the 2011 Spring Awards on April 20 in Petersburg, Va.

VUU's men's tennis team recorded a 3.7 GPA for the year. VUU men's head tennis coach Guy Walton was on hand to accept the award.

MASON SIMPSON WINS CIAA CHAMPIONSHIP

Virginia Union University's Mason Simpson won the 2011 CIAA Golf Championship. Simpson overtook Mike Swope of Virginia State University by shooting a score of 71 on the second day of the tournament.

Simpson finished the tournament with an even-par score of 142. Swope, who had led at the end of day one with a score of 69, shot a 76 on the second day to finish with a three-over-par 145.

VUU, as a team, finished fifth with a team score of 665.





CIAA 2011

Amidst all the excitement of the CIAA Tournament, Dr. Claude G. Perkins hosted Virginia Union's first annual CIAA President's 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 \$12,000 in support of their alma mater.

CIAA 2012 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.

Quarante ans – the French translation for 40 years. Forty years is significant because it is the number of years Frank J. Thornton has served his alma mater as a professor of French in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

While his employment dates back to 1971, his heart belonged to VUU as a student. He has fond memories of VUU as an alumnus and credits professors like the late Drs. Mary Elisabeth Johnson and John E. Watson for influencing much of the way he views his responsibility to VUU today. “They influenced me greatly,” says Thornton. “They taught me the process of things and how to listen to other people. I admired them both so much.”

Thornton is one of only four professors left at VUU who have reached the forty year mark. When asked why he has stayed so long, Thornton very thoughtfully says, “VUU changed a piece of coal into a diamond. I feel like I owe them that back.”

Growing up in segregated Richmond where there were only four high schools, two black and two white, Thornton, who attended Armstrong, recounts how he became interested in foreign language. After Russia launched Sputnik, the first human-made object to orbit the earth, Thornton remembers the United States implementing the National Defense Education Act of 1958, which pumped a lot of money into education with a specific emphasis on foreign language. It was then that he became interested in French and decided to venture away from traditional fields like medicine and law.

Studying foreign languages has taken him abroad, which is something he encourages his students to explore. "If I had my way, the first thing I would do would be to carry all my students abroad for a month," he says. Thornton touts room 208C in Ellison Hall as the proud showcase for all the trips that have been taken by the foreign language department.

Thornton believes the introduction to other cultures adds enrichment to the lives of students. Because of this belief, he exposes students to the language by taking them to restaurants that have French cuisines, having them explore the culture by preparing French dishes that do not include french fries and inviting them to film festivals that offer screenings to movies in other languages.

While Thornton is dedicated to VUU, he has also made strides in other areas of the community. In January, he was selected as the first black chairman of the Henrico (VA) County Board of Supervisors. He hopes his leadership in this position will show the country that Richmond is open and decisions aren't made based on race, gender or ethnicity.

Thornton lives by and teaches his students by the motto, "You don't cry, you don't fuss, you get a plan." His plans continue to include being a professor at VUU. "I owe it to VUU to help other students," he says. "Something about VUU got in my blood. It's a love affair and it's an appreciation of all who influenced my life to be here."



Frank J. Thornton



Vernita

“We must stay current

with what’s going on

in the field. Employers

are demanding sharp

communication skills and

excellent writing skills.”

Veranita Elliot-Walton has always had the desire to help people, even as a child. So when she was told not once but twice by two different people that she should apply to become a professor of social work at Virginia Union University (VUU), she took it as direct confirmation of the path she was destined to follow. That was in 2002. Today, she serves as chair of the department.

In nine years, Elliot-Walton has seen a lot of changes. Since serving as chair the last two years, she has taken her observations and put them into concrete action plans that give students the tools they need to succeed. “I recognize there are a lot of student needs, but these things were nothing I could address in one year,” she says. Elliot-Walton credits the support from departmental faculty members who have worked tirelessly and cooperatively to make sure student needs were put first.

Because of the faculty’s vision and dedication to the more than 90 students enrolled as social work majors at VUU, the department has began putting together a strategic plan that will help prepare students for what lies ahead in their careers. “Students have a lot of development needs,” she says. “We have to meet [students] where they are. That’s part of being a social worker.”

Elliot-Walton is very quick to point out that the social work field is evolving and the needs of students are ever-changing as the field changes its demands. “We must stay current with what’s going on in the field,” she says. “Employers are demanding sharp communication skills and excellent writing skills. There’s a lot of writing involved in social work.”

With more than 30 community partners, Elliot-Walton is constantly in contact with employers who often provide internship opportunities to students. She understands that VUU students must do well in these areas in order to positively reflect the program.

It’s important for each student to have good experiences because they will carry those experiences into the work world. Elliot-Walton says, “It’s in the field that they grasp what area of social work in which they will concentrate.”

To ensure all students get hands-on experience, the department implemented 40 volunteer hours at an approved human services agency for its students. Once they complete the hours they must give a report of what they learned. Seniors are required to do 400 hours of service in the field. “The more exposure they have the better prepared they will be,” says Elliot-Walton.

The social work department chair, who has always had a desire to help people and proudly admits that she’s an aficionado of literature by women of color when she is not in the throes of her own dissertation, points out everyone is impacted by a social worker at some point in their life. That fact makes her work even harder to ensure that should one’s path cross a VUU social work major, that person is representing the University and the field well.

Elliot-Walton

Faculty and Staff Updates

Dr. Julie Molloy, Chair of the Criminology and Criminal Justice Department was recently appointed by Governor McDonnell to serve on the Domestic Violence Prevention and Response Advisory Board. As part of this initiative, she will serve as the Chairperson of the “Enhancing Campus Safety Subcommittee”.

Dr. Raymond Hylton, Chair of the History and Political Science Department recently published an article on “Al Capone” for the Salem Press publication *The 1920’s in America and Canada*; and spoke (along with Reverend Reginald Green) on VUU’s historical role to the Freedom Riders’ commemorative class on May 8.

Dr. Peter Sutton, Assistant Professor of Philosophy was elected Secretary of the Virginia Philosophical Association at its annual meeting in Vienna Virginia in October 2010. Second, and more recently, in March 2011, he presented a paper at the Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association. The Paper was called “Moore’s ‘New’ Open Question Argument.” In it, he presented a new version of an argument that G.E. Moore gave against Naturalistic approaches to defining ethical terms like ‘good’. This new argument is able to withstand many of the objections to Moore’s original argument.

Dr. H.P. Singh-Sandhu, Associate Professor of Economics in the Sydney Lewis School of Business and **Dr. Adelaja Odutola**, Dean of the School of Business, presented their paper – “Let’s Clear the Rare Earth Elements Dilemma: What are the Affects of Strategic Importance these Rare Earth Elements have on Myriads of Industries,” at the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond on March 24, 2011 during the 38th Annual Conference of the Virginia Association of Economists.

Mr. Robert H. Camp, Director of the Writing Success Center, and Assistant Professor of English recently presented and conducted a short workshop at the Mid-Atlantic College Reading and Learning Association meeting in April, held at Harford Community College in Bel Air, MD. The workshop’s focus was on functional techniques used to improve writing and introduce diverse authors and topics. Although the main point was to illustrate techniques which have proven effective in strengthening student writing in English, the idea that these skills can apply to any subject area of writing and research was conveyed.

Dr. Muriel Yeboah, Assistant Professor of Political Science, had a journal article published in the Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography, Vol. 32 (2011) pp 22-37. The title of the journal article is “Heavy burdens: Gendered Livelihood Strategies of Porters in Accra, Ghana”. She also presented a paper – “The Positive Side of Brain Drain: A Case Study of Ghanaian Immigrants Abroad” – at the national annual conference of the association of American Geographers, which was held in Seattle Washington from April 10th -17th 2011.

Dr. Shaheen Islam, Professor of Physics, was awarded the Scott & Stringfellow Outstanding Professor Award, at Virginia Union’s commencement exercises on May 14, 2011. She also received the “American Community Service Award”, given by Youth Assured Ministries International which is a church based organization in the city of Richmond. She was presented a certificate which reads: “In recognition of her valuable services rendered to humanity through her educational leadership to the city of Richmond, Virginia”.

Felecia Johnson, Associate Athletic Director, Senior Women’s Administrator and Assistant Women’s Softball Coach, was selected to attend the NCAA/NACWAA Institute for Administrative Advancement, held June 12-16 in Atlanta, Ga. Johnson, in her third year as Associate Athletic Director, is one of only 80 selected by the National Association of Collegiate Women Athletic Administrators from a field consisting of applications from NCAA Divisions I, II and III. The program will: provide education and information on the History of Women’s Athletics and Title IX; prepare female athletics administrators to manage issues currently facing intercollegiate athletics administrators; improve leadership skills; develop management skills; and enhance self-actualization and awareness.

Ulin Rigby, Assistant Director of Housing, was selected to serve as the Technology Chair for the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) Men & Masculinities Knowledge Community. He also published “From Mentee to Mentor: My Journey in Student Development” in the Winter 2010 edition of the Men & Masculinities Knowledge Community Newsletter.

Virginia Union University Calendar of Events

2011- 2012

EVENT	DATE
VUU Football @ Benedict College	September 3, 2011
VUU Football vs. Winston-Salem State University	September 10, 2011
VUU Football @ Lincoln University	September 17, 2011
VUU Football vs. Bowie State University	September 24, 2011
VUU Football vs. Chowan University	October 1, 2011
Fall Convocation	October 7, 2011
VUU vs. Elizabeth City State University Homecoming 2011 "Steel in Love with You"	October 8, 2011
VUU Football @ Johnson C. Smith University	October 15, 2011
VUU Football @ Virginia State University	October 29, 2011
VUU Football vs. Fayetteville State University	November 5, 2011
Winter Concert	December 1, 2011
Founders' Day	February 3, 2012
Human Services Internship Fair	March 27, 2012
University Career Fair	March 28, 2011
Honors' Convocation	April 16, 2012
Baccalaureate	May 18, 2012
Commencement	May 19, 2012

VUU Freedom Riders

The year was 1961 when Virginia Union University sophomore Reginald Greene, risked his future to boldly respond to a call from the Nashville group of Freedom Riders who were soliciting for more members.

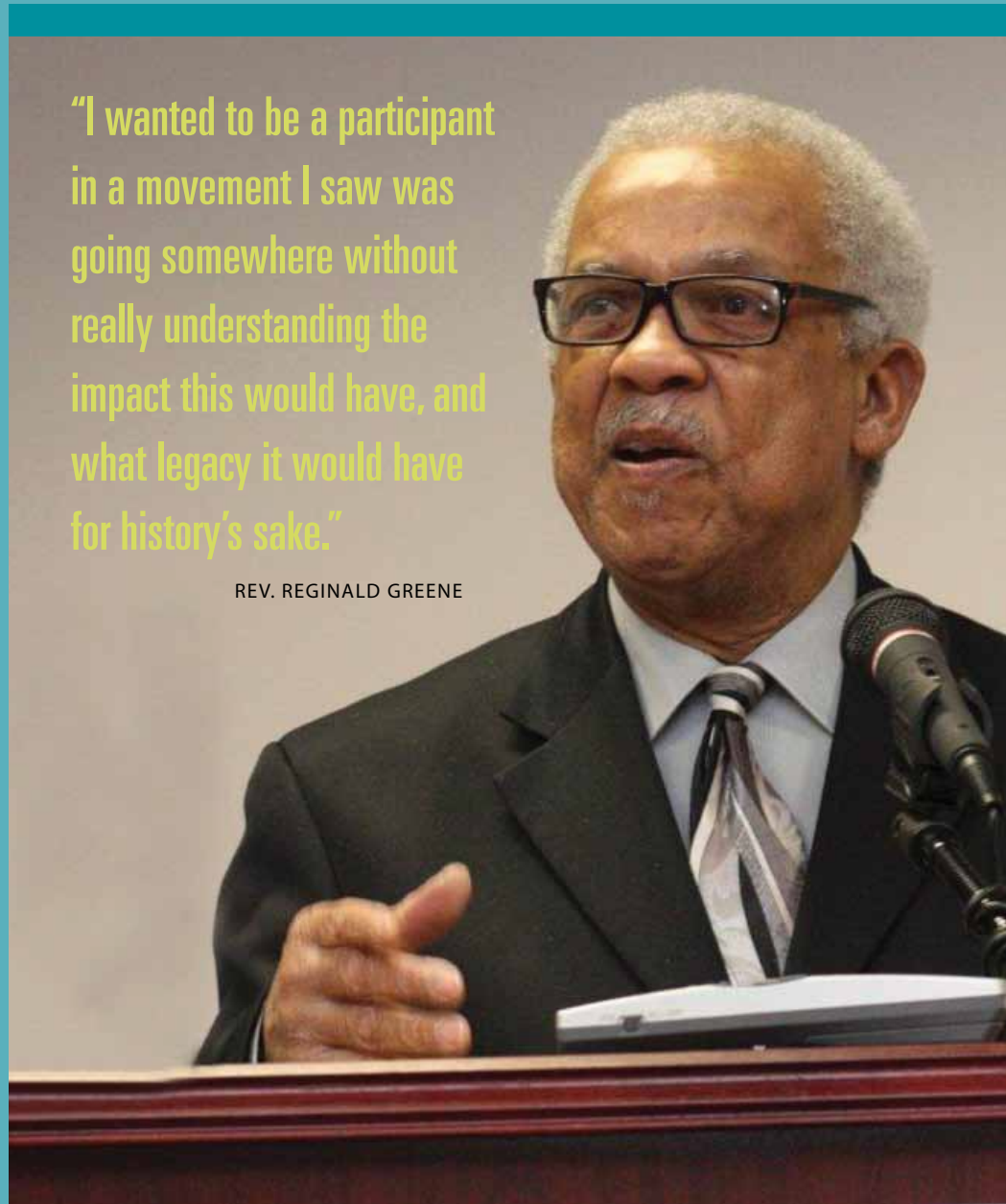
Rev. Reginald Greene '64, '67 was just one of many ambitious students to join the group of civil rights activists. Now, 50 years later Greene remembers June 7, 1961 vividly; the day he was arrested in Jackson, Mississippi. Greene selflessly made the decision to leave VUU, and without telling his parents, decided to be a catalyst for change. Testing the recent law of the land, Green and others rode on a train to Jackson, Mississippi. They were greeted at the terminal with police harassment, and Green was arrested. He recalls one guard hitting him in the head when he accidentally spilled some milk in his cell.

The first freedom ride took place May 4, 1961, when an integrated group left the United States capitol on public buses headed south to test the ruling in *Boynton v. Virginia* (1960). The case declared segregation in interstate buses and rail stations unconstitutional. Green, a sociology major at Virginia Union at the time, served 24 days in Haynes County jail. "I felt it was my call to duty", says Green. "I wanted to be a participant in a movement I saw was going somewhere without really understanding the impact this would have, and what legacy it would have for history's sake."

After being released from prison, Green received an overwhelming amount of support from the African American community in Washington, D.C. He was

"I wanted to be a participant in a movement I saw was going somewhere without really understanding the impact this would have, and what legacy it would have for history's sake."

REV. REGINALD GREENE



Rev. Reginald Green speaks to history classes at Virginia Union University during African-American History Month

asked to speak at several area churches. The churches also took a collection to assist Green with his tuition since his incarceration prevented him from earning funds. Green recalls his years at VUU and how the teachers made such an impact on his life. Thinking back to his days in class with Professors John Watson and E.D. McCreary, Green recognizes the importance of VUU in his journey of life. "VUU was the best thing that happened to me. It was a slower pace than D. C. and that's what I needed." Green went on to finish his Bachelor's degree at VUU and obtain his Master's degree from the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology in 1967. He also met the love of his life Olivia Harris Green '67 while in graduate school.

Bravery and courage in hope of change describes the selfless acts of Rev. Reginald Green. Change eventually came. By the fall of 1961, Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy required Southern states to enforce the federal law and to ensure the end of segregation at terminals. Green, who is a retired senior pastor, travels telling his story, speaking truth and wisdom to students and people all over the nation.

Raymond Randolph was a 21-year-old college student at Virginia Union University who was simply tired of being treated like a second-class citizen because his skin was dark.

He had grown up in a mostly white community in New Haven, Connecticut. He didn't experience racism until he went to college in Richmond in 1958.

There, for the first time, he saw signs that told him where he could and could not go and what he could and could not do.

"It made me feel less than what I was," says Randolph, a retired sales manager for Bristol-Myers Squibb, who settled in metro Detroit when the company transferred him there.

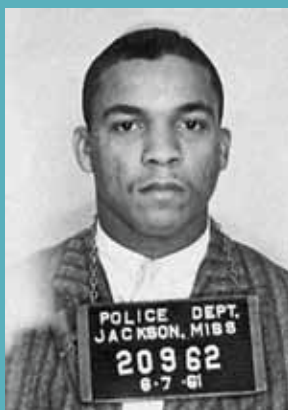
So, even though he knew he was risking his life by doing so, he got on a Trailways bus bound for Mississippi with two other black men and three whites, one a woman.

"Even though I knew it was dangerous I was more than willing to have that opportunity," says Randolph in a soft-spoken, gentlemanly manner. "I was afraid. But they (racists) would have won if they knew that all they had to do to stop us from coming down there was to beat us and throw us in jail. I knew we had to keep coming."

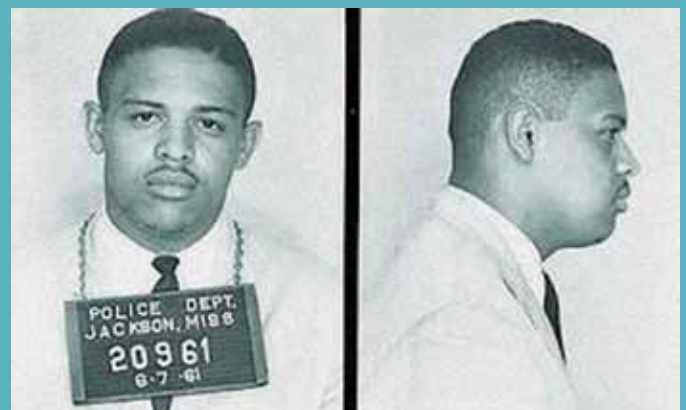
It wasn't Randolph's first time going to jail for challenging segregation laws. He was recognized last year by his alma mater as one of the Richmond 34 – the group of Virginia Union students who staged sit-ins in downtown Richmond.

"Getting on the bus just seemed like the natural thing to do after the sit-ins in Richmond," Randolph says.

"At the time, I didn't understand the magnitude of what we were doing," says Randolph who last year got an official apology from the state of Virginia for his arrest at the department store. "I think young people today need to know that the things they take for granted didn't just happen." *courtesy Detroit Free Press*



Mug Shots of Reginald Green (L) and Raymond Randolph Jr., (R) who were arrested in Mississippi in 1961 as they challenged segregation laws



G. Daniel Jones, '62 Receives Honorary Doctorate

Dr. G. Daniel Jones, '62 received an honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree, Honoris Causa, from

Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia during its 147th Commencement held May 20, 2011. His Alma Mater Virginia Union University conferred on him a similar honor in 2006.

Dr. Jones is a 46 year career pastor, and

has served his current pastorate, The Grace Baptist Church of Germantown, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for the past 29 years. He earned his Doctor of Ministry Degree (D.Min) from Howard University School of Divinity in 1978, Master of Divinity Degree from Andover Newton Theological Seminary 1966, and his undergraduate Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics from Virginia Union University.

Dr. Jones was the academic representative from Lutheran Seminary at the Inaugural Ceremony of Dr. Claude Perkins, as 12th President of Virginia Union University.



CHAPTER UPDATES



PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT: Levonne Johnson, Alisha Williams Scholarship Recipient, Carolyn Jacobs, Nakita Thomas, Scholarship Recipient and Delsenia Sammons.

John W. Barco Chapter Gives Book Awards

On April 12, 2011 the John W. Barco Chapter gave out three book awards to students who demonstrated academic excellence and financial need. The recipients were Alisha Williams, a sophomore from Philadelphia, Nakita Thomas, a senior from Richmond, VA and Chanel Wilshire, a sophomore from New Jersey.

Annual Tom Harris Alumni Chapter Fundraiser

The Tom Harris Alumni Chapter held its 5th Annual Outback Steakhouse Fundraiser on April 16, 2011. A donation to the University's scholarship fund will be presented at the National Alumni Association Convention in June.

At the May 2011 meeting, the following members of the National Alumni Association were elected to hold office for the 2011-2013 term:

- President*.....Michael McCrimmon '82
- Vice President*Pamela Johnson '86
- Corresponding Secretary* Delsenia Sammons '67
- Recording Secretary*.....Catherine Brackett '70
- Financial Secretary*Earlisa Roberts '82
- Treasurer*..... An'Jou Skipper Johnson '87
- Parliamentarian*Terri Weaver '87
- Chaplin*..... Rev. James McCall '65
- Necrologist*.....Wistar Withers '68

- Members at Large:*
- Anthony Burrell '83
 - Charles Greene '62
 - Carolyn Jacobs '64
 - Morris White '03
 - Pamela Wood '90

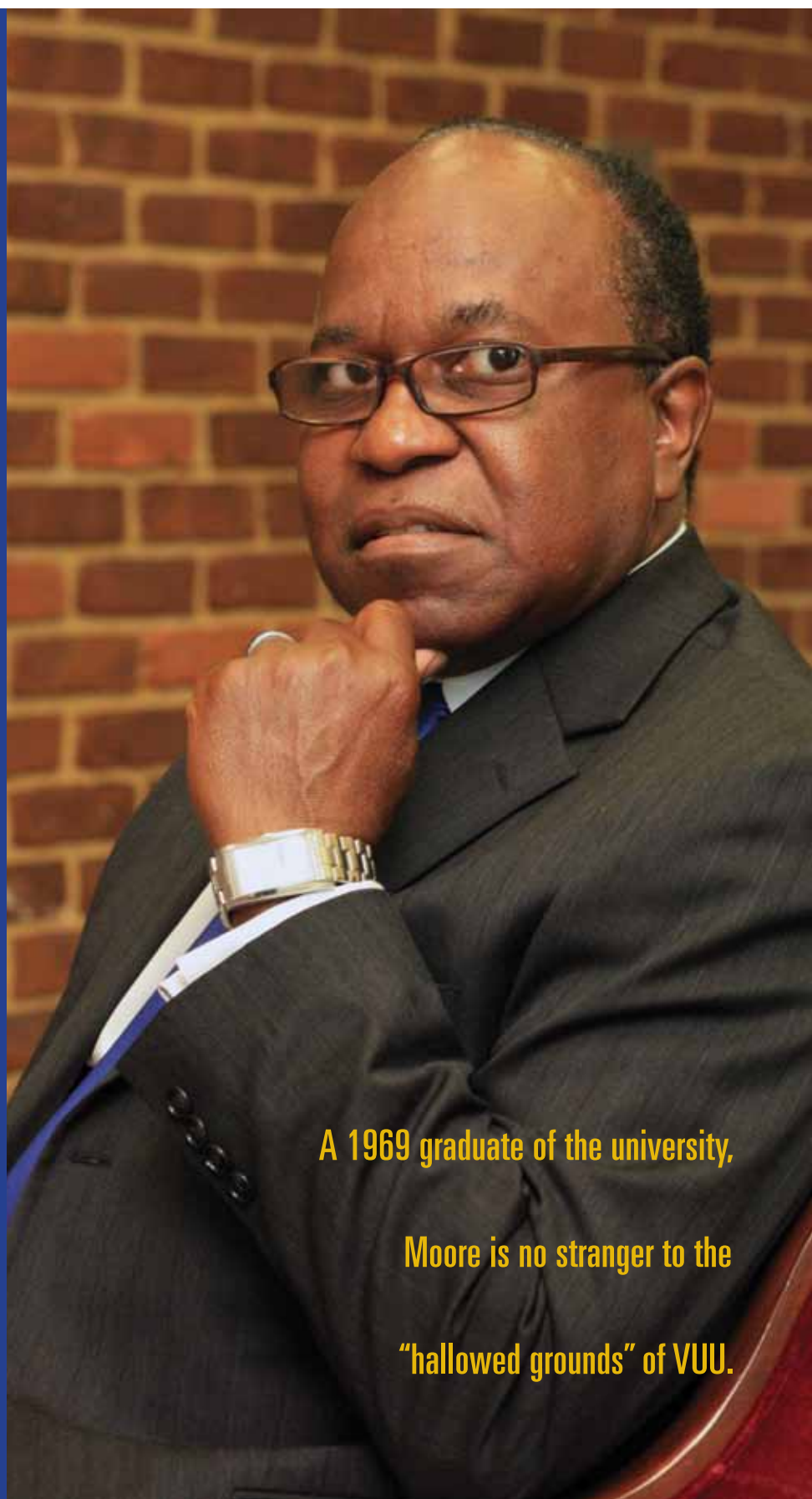
Roland E. Moore '69 Named to VUU Board of Trustees

"It feels great to be here!" said Roland E. Moore, Ed. D., Virginia Union University alum and newly appointed member to the University's Board of Trustees. The appointment was made official at the Board's May meeting. A 1969 graduate of the university, Moore is no stranger to the "hallowed grounds" of VUU. "I've been an avid supporter of the university," he said.

Moore dedicated 36 years to higher education administration before retiring from J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College as the Dean of the School of Mathematics and Science. His professional experience is deeply rooted in the education arena, where he worked in various positions such as Assistant Professor of Mathematics and Chairman of the Division of Arts and Science. Moore developed degree programs in Early Childhood Development, Music and Mathematics and Paraprofessional Education. He also established and served on several committees and successfully managed the JSRCC Childcare Center for 10 years, securing a building renovation grant and a grant to assist students with funding childcare services.

Even with a long list of awards, community and professional service, Moore continues to stay humble and focus on the needs of students both in and out of the classroom.

He is elated to be serving his alma mater in this manner and remains "honored and humbled to be given this opportunity". He plans to bring his many years of experience in higher education to the board and to assist in all areas with a great focus on academic affairs.



A 1969 graduate of the university,

Moore is no stranger to the

"hallowed grounds" of VUU.



New Giving Societies

Founders' Society	\$1 to \$249
Heritage League	\$250 to \$499
Chancellor's Fellows	\$500 to \$749
Dean's Society	\$750 to \$999
President's Circle	\$1,000 to \$2,499

Major Gift Levels

(President's Gold Circle Recognition)

Platinum	\$2,500 to \$4,999
Panther Society	\$5,000 to \$9,999
Renaissance Circle	\$10,000 to \$24,999
Benefactor's Circle	\$25,000 to \$49,999
Leadership Circle	\$50,000 to \$99,999
Diamond Circle	\$100,000 and above



in memoriam

- Mrs. P. Joan G. Berryman '52
- Mrs. Dorothy R. Chambers '45
- Mr. Melvin Clanton '55
- Mrs. Evelyn J. Clark '79
- Mrs. Helen S. Cooke '40
- Reverend Julian O. Grayson '47
- Reverend Dr. Bruce Earl Haliburton '95
- Mr. William H. Harris '57
- Mr. Kent B. Johnson '69
- Ms. Mary E. Jones '67
- Dr. Robert G. Lankford '68
- Ms. Lorraine Lumpkins '61
- Miss Christal Diane Millner '80
- Mrs. Lela S. Moore '43
- Dr. John O. Peterson, Sr. '56
- Dr. Milton A. Reid '55
- Reverend Jeffery F. Shaw '57
- Ms. Lorraine F. Taylor '62

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.

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VUU Homecoming 2011

October 3rd - 8th

Homecoming Game Saturday, Oct. 8th at 1pm
VUU vs. Elizabeth City State University



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with You!

