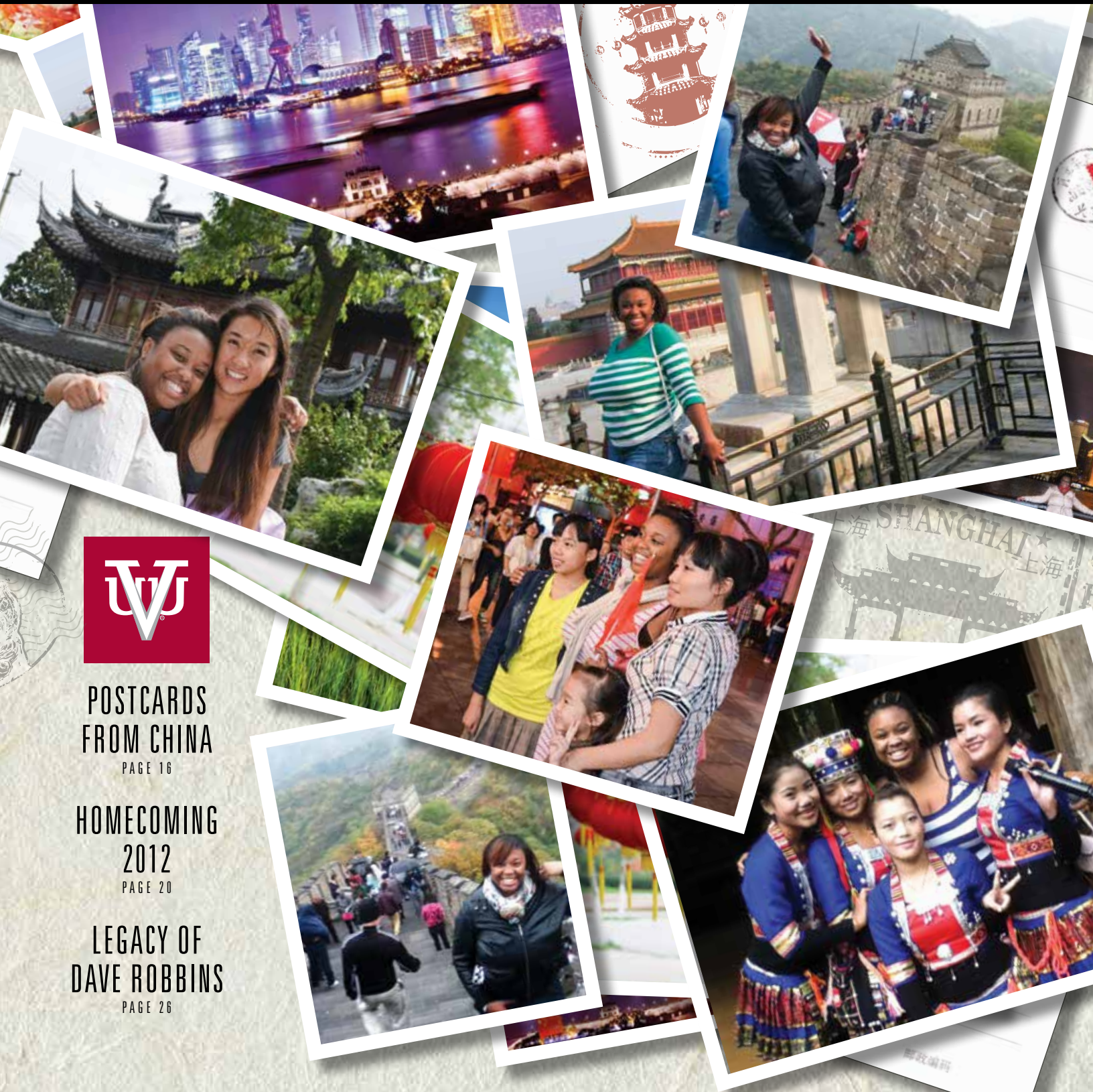


SPRING 2013 / UNIVERSITY NEWS

UNIONITE

VIRGINIA UNION UNIVERSITY



POSTCARDS
FROM CHINA

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HOMECOMING
2012

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LEGACY OF
DAVE ROBBINS

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VUU From The President

It is with great pride and appreciation that I commend to you this wonderful edition of the *Unionite* alumni magazine. This edition highlights the continuous improvements that we are achieving at Virginia Union. We are now fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, which provides testament and prominence to the strength of Virginia Union and the University's building blocks for the future.

We have experienced four solid years of enrollment growth, spent over five million dollars in classroom and campus improvements and now breaking ground for our first new building on our campus in 15 years. And thanks to you and many of our donors and the Board of Trustees, we have awarded more than \$3.4 million in scholarships, with an average award of \$5,000.

For the first time in Virginia Union's history, we now have an on-site women's softball field, which is just an indication of our student-centered environment and focus toward a healthier, wiser, and more energetic campus.

Much of our energy is focused on planning for Virginia Union's upcoming 150th anniversary. As we approach this momentous occasion, we invite you to join us for a very special event which will provide much needed scholarship assistance to our students – The VUU Scholarship Gala and Masquerade Ball Hosted by Richmond Mayor Dwight C. Jones. This event is an opportunity to raise funds for deserving students, but it is also an opportunity to increase the institutional prominence of our beloved University. It is a way for the City of Richmond to recognize the many contributions of Virginia Union graduates during our illustrious history. It is a way for you to share your pride in your alma mater and to ensure the continuation of the VUU legacy.

So, please join me on April 12, 2013 at the Richmond Marriott Hotel. I promise you a night to remember. We will dine and dance with a host of Greater Richmond dignitaries and celebrities. Most of all, we will salute the legacy of Virginia Union University. Additional information is provided in the back of this magazine and on our website at www.vuu.edu. I look forward to seeing you there and I appreciate your continued support.



As you enjoy the highlights provided in this issue of the *Unionite*, please take a moment to return the envelope provided in the magazine to show your support for your alma mater. Thank you and God bless you.

Claude G. Perkins

Claude G. Perkins, Ph.D.
President and CEO



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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.

Music in the Air

“I am just so excited,” said Fayesha Cousins, when asked about her new position as VUU’s new band director. As a graduate of Norfolk State University’s music education program and a former member of the Spartan Legion Marching Band, Cousins comes to VUU with expertise and knowledge of a solid marching band program. Ironically, Cousins is no stranger to Virginia Union. Her roots date back to 1976, where her mother, a former majorette in VUU’s marching band, and father, a former member of the VUU basketball team, met and fell in love.

Surrounded by music at a young age, Cousins has become quite the musician. She began learning to play the flute in the sixth grade, and recalls the excitement when opening her new instrument. “I was the last one to get my instrument. My mom couldn’t afford to get it. I never put it down after I got it,” said Cousins.

Cousins has taught music and directed several bands, including her previous job as band director at Thomas Jefferson High School, in Richmond, Virginia. At Thomas Jefferson, she led the band to



Fayesha Cousins, VUU Band Director with VUU Student, Ernesto Gibson.

national ranking in band competitions and was able to positively change the morale of students and supporters. “We were known as the little band that could,” said Cousins.

Arriving at VUU in August 2012, Cousins has hit the ground running, creating a majestic sound as she begins to build the foundation for VUU’s Ambassadors of Soul Marching Band. “I know that

Cousins has fallen in love with Union, not just because she is fulfilling her dream of being a college professor and band director, but because of the warm embrace on campus.

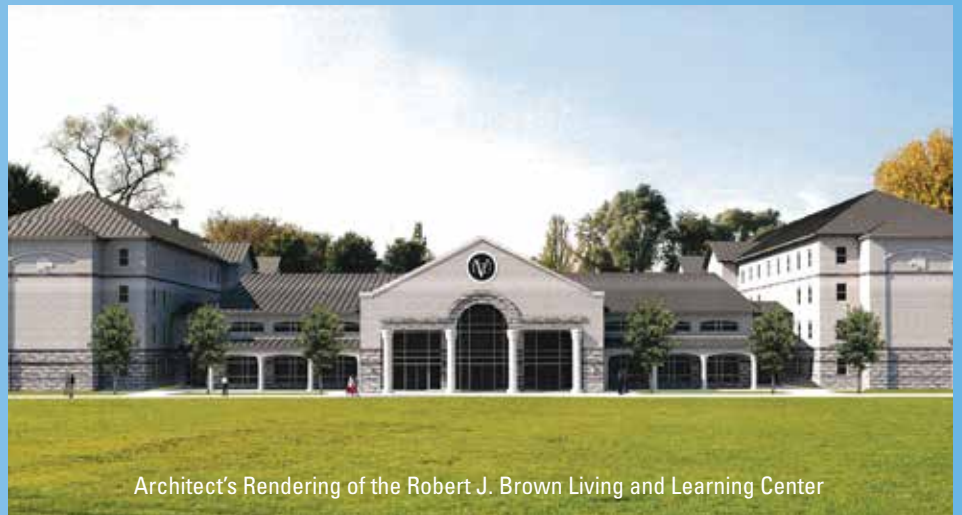
they [students] are happy that they have a program,” said Cousins. “They appreciate it. I’m not having to beg them to do anything.” In the future, Cousins plans on increasing the number of band members and structuring the auxiliaries, such as majorettes and flag girls.

In a little over six months, Cousins has fallen in love with Union, not just because she is fulfilling her dream of being a college professor and band director, but because of the warm embrace on campus. “I love the spirit of Union,” said Cousins. “Everyone is so supportive; I know every college is not like that.”



Groundbreaking

On Thursday, December 6, 2012, Virginia Union University broke ground on the new **Robert J. Brown Living and Learning Center**. The \$15 million complex, named after Trustee and alumnus Robert J. Brown, will house a conference and seminar facility as well as residential suites supporting 240 beds. Trustee Brown pledged \$2 million to the University in support of building the new Living and Learning Center on campus. The building will sit adjacent to MacVicar Hall. This is the first new building since the construction of the L. Douglas Wilder Library and Learning Resource Center in 1997 and the first new residence hall since 1966.



Architect's Rendering of the Robert J. Brown Living and Learning Center



A Lasting Legacy: Ellison-Jones Convocation

For 64 years Virginia Union's Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology has hosted the Ellison Convocation, recently changed to the Ellison-Jones Convocation. This year's event, held November 12-15, 2012, featured outstanding speakers including guest lecturer Dr. Marsha Foster Boyd, President of Ecumenical Theological Seminary. Addressing this year's theme, "Preaching in Context: Interpreting the Gospel", Dr. Boyd shared her experiences in ministry and offered insight to assist ministers with the challenges of the 21st century.

Through the years, the School of Theology has recognized the contribution of John Malcus Ellison during its annual convocation. This year's Convocation honored the life and legacy of not only Dr. John Malcus Ellison, but Dr. Miles Jerome Jones, as well. Dr. Ellison was the first African American president

of Virginia Union University and also a preaching professor at VUU. He played a vital role in the life of Dr. Jones, not only as a professor, but as a mentor. Dr.

Jones studied under Dr. Ellison and after distinguishing himself, returned to his alma mater as a professor and dean.

Even now, the legacy continues within the School of Theology. "The school prepares and develops her own," explained Dr. James Henry Harris, Preaching and Practical Theology professor at Virginia Union University. Dr. Harris was a former student of Dr. Jones and now teaches in the School of Theology. STVU Faculty and staff hope to engage and involve as many alumni as possible to take part in what Dr. Harris describes as an "unmatched educational and inspirational event."

Center for the Study of the Urban Child

Virginia Union University's Center for the Study of the Urban Child held its first symposium entitled "It Does Take a Village..." on March 1, 2013. The Center is designed to serve as a resource hub and informational clearinghouse for researchers, practitioners, and community stakeholders.

The new Center will host the Urban Child Symposium each year, as well as conduct professional workshops, community group development, and host an Urban Teacher Development Institute. "We are attempting to pull the community and all stakeholders together to improve the development of youth in our urban areas," said Dr. Lisa Moon, Associate Professor and Director of the Center.





Charly Palmer Exhibit

The Virginia Union University Museum Galleries opened a new Charly Palmer exhibit on February 21, 2013. Charly Palmer is an award winning artist whose works chronicle slavery, the Jim Crow era, the Civil Rights era, and the Negro Sports League.

Palmer studied at the School of Art Institute and the American Academy of Art, both located in Chicago, Illinois. He

was the winner in the “Gallery of Greats” contest with Miller Brewing Company in 1990, after which he was commissioned to create posters for the 1996 Olympics and the 1998 Winter Olympics.

The Charly Palmer Exhibit will be featured in the VUU Museum Galleries through May 21, 2013. The Galleries are located on the first floor of the L. Douglas Wilder Library and Learning Resource Center.

Fostering a Love for the Arts

Daphne Maxwell Reid is best known for playing the role of Aunt Viv on “Fresh Prince of Bel Air”, but she is also an accomplished photographer and author. On February 2, 2013, she shared her new book *Doors* with students, faculty and staff at Virginia Union University. Ms. Reid’s appearance was a collaboration between VUU’s Evelyn R. Syphax School of Education, Psychology and Interdisciplinary Studies and Teachers 4 Teachers.

“I have always been fascinated by doors,” said Reid, as she shared highlights from her book and her love of travel and the arts. Reid, who studied interior design and architecture in college, explained how educators can stimulate creativity, travel and love for the arts among students. Although her career never led her to the classroom, she admired and expressed gratitude to those who have committed themselves to the profession. “My lifelong career has been to teach somebody something through my life experiences.” said Reid.

Teachers 4 Teachers is a non-profit organization of professional educators



and parents united together to provide mentoring, support, empowerment and resources to educators. The organization was founded by Barbara E. Winston, a 2012 retired teacher of Chesterfield County Public Schools.

“My lifelong career has been to teach somebody something through my life experiences.”

— Daphne Maxwell Reid

Business to Business Mentoring Program

Virginia Union University, Capital One and The City of Richmond have launched a Building Better Businesses – Steps to Success Mentorship Program. A December 11, 2012 press conference in Main Street Station in downtown Richmond officially kicked off the new partnership. Under the program, 10 small business owners will complete a 12-month program which includes one-on-one coaching in the areas of finance, technical expertise, marketing and business operations. The selected participants are all community-based minority and women-owned businesses.

Through the Sydney Lewis School of Business Center for Small Business Development, Virginia Union University will provide support to the program by promoting entrepreneurship education to all students, and placing interns with the selected businesses. “By combining entrepreneurship education and internship training with the mentorship program, our students will not only be prepared for a future in entrepreneurship, but for success in corporate America as well,” said Dr. Adelaja Odutola, Dean of the Sydney Lewis School of Business. “We are very delighted and excited about the opportunity and we look forward to helping build a better Richmond.”

“By combining entrepreneurship education and internship training with the mentorship program, our students will not only be prepared for a future in entrepreneurship, but for success in corporate America as well.”

– Dr. Adelaja Odutola



Ms. Reid signs copies of her new book, *Doors*.



Photo left to right: Dr. Adelaja Odutola, Dean School of Business, Richmond Mayor Dwight C. Jones, Ed Maino, Vice President Global Purchasing - Capital One

VUU is on the *MOVE!*

Virginia Union students are excited about their new activity bus. A gift from the Greater Richmond Transit Company (GRTC), the 36-passenger vehicle will be used to transport students to activities and events in the Greater Richmond area. VUU's new wheels hit the pavement in January of 2013 when members of the choir traveled to The Richmond Marriot Hotel to perform at the 35th Annual Community Leaders Breakfast, hosted by the University.

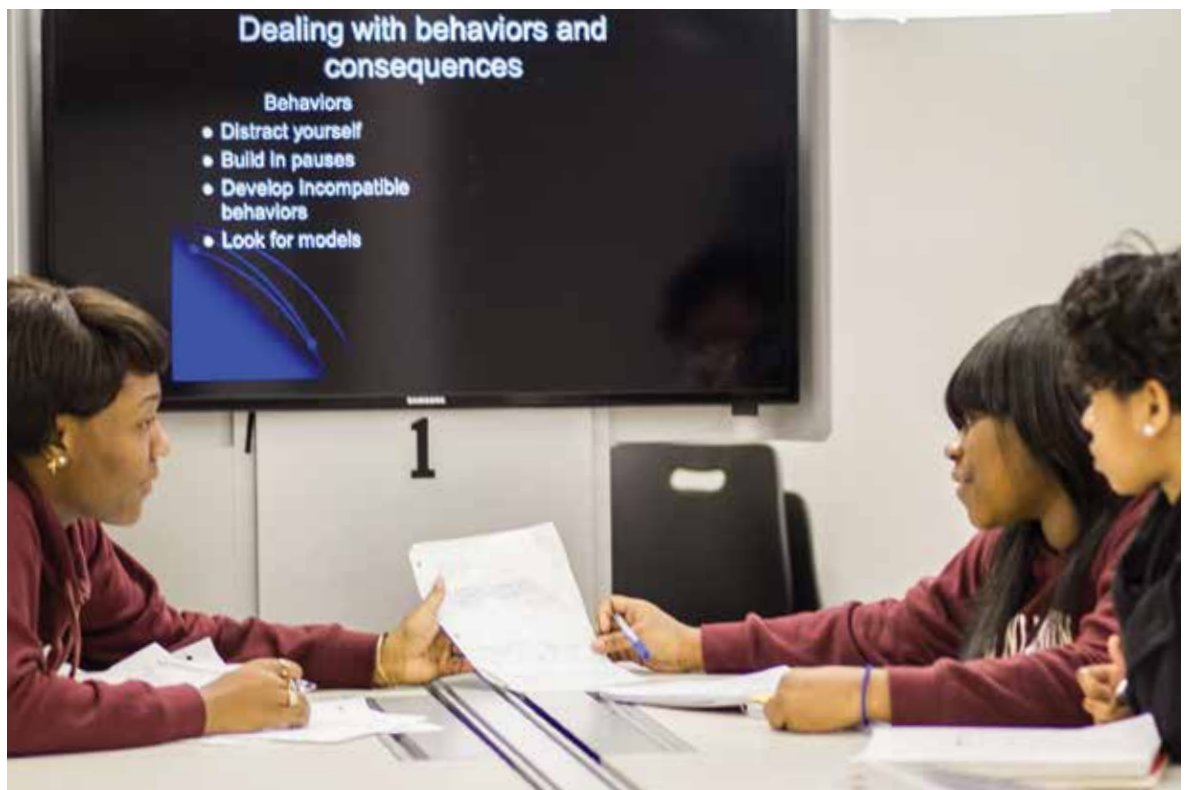


New Interactive Smart Classrooms

Virginia Union University students now have access to 33 interactive smart classrooms throughout campus. The classrooms are equipped with a variety of state-of-the-art media, including white boards, built-in speakers, ceiling or wall-mounted projectors, and short throw projectors capable of projecting a 90-inch display. The latest addition, pictured here, is found in Martin E. Gray Hall. There are six mobile interactive

tablets, one for each table, including the instructor. These tablets allow students at each table to make notes on the main

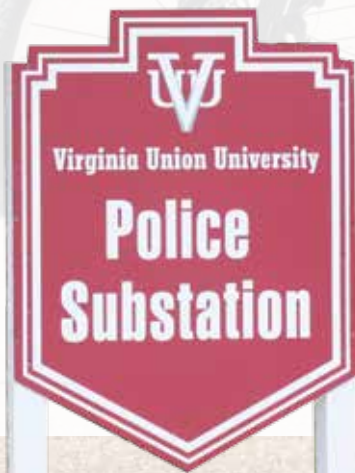
display's content, ensuring students' interactive participation without leaving their seats.



VUU Police Increase Visibility

The fall semester brought several changes to the Virginia Union Police Department, most notably bike patrol officers. Jermell Chatman, Michael Decambre, and Bradford Comer actively patrol the campus on bicycles. "The bikes provide an added dimension to our patrol capabilities and give our officers the opportunity to make observations and interact with our community from a vantage point which is unique and different from that of a mobile or foot patrol perspective," stated Major Travis Christian, Deputy Chief of Police.

Virginia Union Police will also open a substation in the Birches Apartments located behind MacVicar Hall in the spring. "The idea behind it is to add a sense of comfort and increase visibility in the area where we house some of our male population," said Major Christian.



VUU Fine Arts Department Explores New Genre

Virginia Union's Fine Arts Department explored a new genre of theatre when students performed the opera *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, by Gian Carlo Menotti. "We had explored just about all other genres except opera," said Charmaine

McGilvary, Director of Vocal Studies. "Many students had never performed in an opera or a musical production." The production was a collaborative effort of all facets of the Fine Arts Department and opened the possibility for future opera performances. "While working

with the choir, I heard so many natural beautiful voices that could successfully perform any style music," said McGilvary. Since being reinstated in 2011, the Fine Arts department has performed a number of theatre productions and plans to have a production later this spring.



VUU Students Herbert Jackson, David L. Wilson, Jr. and Jackson Hall performing in *Amahl and the Night Visitors*.



Jerome Lienhard



John H. Bocoock

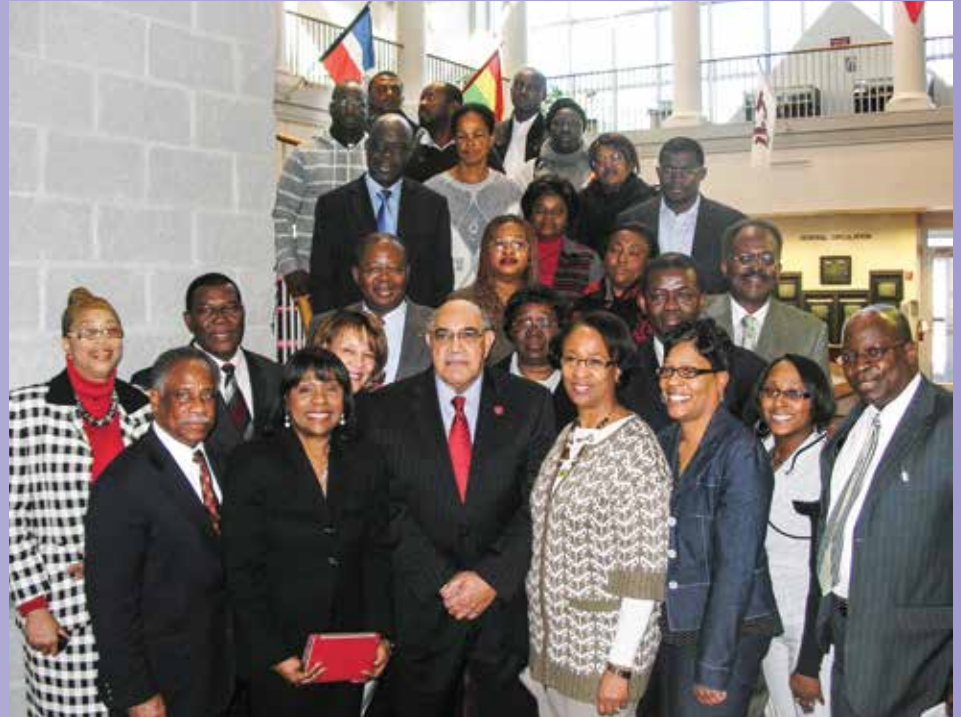
VUU Welcomes New Board Members

Trustee Jerome Lienhard currently serves as the President and Chief Executive Officer of SunTrust Mortgage, Inc. Since accepting this role in March 2011, he is responsible for SunTrust's Mortgage production, servicing, operations, and secondary marketing and technology areas.

Mr. Lienhard received his bachelor's degree in accounting and his master's degree in international finance from the University of Southern California.

Trustee John H. Bocoock is the founder and portfolio manager of Dynamis Advisors, LLC, and general partner of the Dynamis Energy Funds. He is also a founding partner and portfolio manager at Investment Management of Virginia, LLC. Since 1997, Mr. Bocoock has managed energy-specific and diversified investment portfolios.

Mr. Bocoock received his bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College and an M.B.A. from the Darden School at the University of Virginia.



VUU and Republic of Gabon Partnership

The Gabonese Minister of Education, Seraphin Moundounga, led a delegation of 16 people from the Republic of Gabon to Virginia Union University on Friday, February 1, 2013 to officially sign a Memorandum of Understanding between his country and Virginia Union University.

The Center for International Studies and Office of Sponsored Programs/Research had submitted a proposal – A BRIDGE TO AFRICA THROUGH EDUCATION – to the government of Gabon in which it was proposed that the Gabonese Government send students from Gabon to VUU for training in various majors.

Among the delegation was the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Gabonese Republic to the United States of America, the Republic of Mexico and the Republic of Haiti, His Excellency Michael Moussa-Adamo, who will be the liaison between Gabon and VUU.

By the end of March 2013, The Gabonese government will notify Virginia Union as to the number of students who will begin their studies on campus in the fall.

Clothing Closet Community Donation Day is a Huge Success

On Wednesday, October 3, 2012, the Office of Career Services sponsored Professional Clothing Closet Community Donation Day. The event was held in partnership with The James River Valley Chapter of the Links, Inc. and the nine Greek letter organizations on the Virginia Union campus, along with their graduate chapters.

This was the first time that donations were solicited from the community. "I was overwhelmed at the generosity of the community," said Dr. Penni Sweetenburg-Lee, Director of the Office of Career Services. "It exceeded our expectations."

More than 1,400 items were donated and 90 percent of the items were suits, which are so critical to students as they pursue internship and job interviews. "In addition to receiving all of those donations, we had a shopping spree," Sweetenburg-Lee stated. "It was great to see students shop and leave with bags of clothing that they could use." Due to the massive quantities of donated items, the shopping spree was extended for an additional day.



School of Business Boot Camp

The Sydney Lewis School of Business held its first Boot Camp in October. The three-day seminar was designed for business school students to learn the attributes required to become successful business owners in corporate America. Fourteen speakers from the business community and the public sector were invited to share their insights on entrepreneurship education. Faculty members from the Sydney Lewis School of Business and other VUU staff members also participated.



From Backpack to Briefcase

WRIC-TV 8 news anchor Amie McLain helps Virginia Union students prepare for the business world with tips on how to dress during an interview, office do's and don'ts, and how to maintain professionalism in the workforce. The program titled "From Backpack to Briefcase", held February 6, 2013, also provided students with resume tips and a demonstration of what not to wear in the work place. The event was hosted by the Center for Undergraduate Studies.



Insights on entrepreneurship were offered by business leaders at the first School of Business Boot Camp held in October.



So I would have to say meeting people has been the best part of my experience. It is truly rewarding being able to say that I know someone from every continent, except Antarctica. A lot of younger locals are also very curious about America and learning English; so it is very fun interacting with them and learning about them as well. I'm a huge sponge and I love absorbing as much as I can!

Describe a typical day for you.

A typical day for me in Shanghai consists of waking up every day, involuntarily around 7 a.m. to one of the local students practicing opera. I will then go

POSTCARDS FROM CHINA: VUU STUDENT SPENDS YEAR IN SHANGHAI

In September of 2012, Virginia Union University student Caethia Christmas boarded a plane to Shanghai, China. She wanted to learn how to speak Mandarin and felt that the best way to do so was to immerse herself in the culture. With the help of VUU's Center for International Studies and the Department of History/Political Science, Christmas enrolled in Shanghai University. We checked in with her to find out how things were going half way through her adventure. Our questions and her answers are below:

What led you to take the courageous step of moving so far away from your family and friends to a place so different from what you were accustomed to?

I'm actually still asking myself the same question! It was simple, God said move and I moved. I also attended a conference for minorities through the State Department where Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was a guest speaker. She kept expressing how much the U.S. wanted and needed not only Americans, but minorities to take on the challenge and study abroad and learn these critical needs languages. This interested me and throughout the whole conference, I kept thinking of all the doors that would open if I studied abroad. So now here I am!

What has been the most fun part of your experience?

Shanghai is one big melting pot! Not only do I interact with the locals but I am also exposed to different cultures from around the world.

to the canteen to pick up breakfast which is usually some type of noodles or popular dish called "baozao," which is meat/vegetables in a steamed bun. I then go to class till 12 noon, which is everyone's lunchtime! Then back to class till 4 p.m. On the weekdays, homework would come after but on the weekends, I have 2 language partners. A lot of the time, I explore the new things around me!

What is the most significant contrast between living in communist China versus democratic America?

A huge reminder that I'm under communist rule and not America is their huge media ban. The government regulates everything the people watch. For example, most social networks like Facebook and YouTube are blocked. Even when you search certain topics

about the Chinese government, it is blocked. I was over here for the “election” of their new ruler and that day I could not go on Google! Google was blocked and banned for that day!

How does one take classes in another country without knowing the language?

The university I attend offers an array of different classes. The campus I attend is English speaking and friendly. So, it actually is not that hard. They just have very long classes.

When do you return to the U.S. and do you think you will be fluent in Mandarin by then?

I will return to the United States around July 2013 because I want to take the opportunity to visit some other countries while I am so close! My Mandarin speaking competence will be at an intermediate level. At the moment, I am able to hold conversations and I have confidence in speaking it. Writing is another thing! It is very hard, but the teachers are very helpful and having to see it every day helps. It is very convenient to learn a new language in the country of origin because you are forced to know at

least the basics. Upon my return, I plan on continuing learning Mandarin by self-teaching. So hopefully, I will be completely fluent.

Would you recommend this experience to others?

Absolutely! I think everyone young and old should take the time to learn another culture. Experiences like studying abroad will definitely humble a person. You're forced out of your comfort zone. You get to meet new people, learn new things, and be in a different place! It also looks excellent on your resume!

How do you plan to use this experience upon your return to the U.S.?

I now have a broader global perspective to carry me forward. I will be able to use the acquired Chinese language skills for the rest of my life, which will be useful with the globalization of China and America in the



future. I really want to reach out and express the importance of more minorities studying abroad.

Christmas will graduate from Virginia Union in 2014. She has plans to attend law school to become an international attorney. “She is an excellent student; one of those students that we dream of,” said Dr. Raymond Hylton, Department of History/Political Science Chair. Dr. David Adewuyi and the Center for International Studies, assisted Christmas in obtaining an \$8,000 Gilman Scholarship. “An internationally exposed graduate has an edge over others who do not in this interconnected world,” added Center Director Adewuyi. There are eight different international programs offered at the Center this year – one for faculty and staff in Ghana and another in London; six programs for students are available in different parts of the world. For more information, visit www.vuu.edu and click on “Academics.”



VUU FEATURES: Community Leaders Breakfast

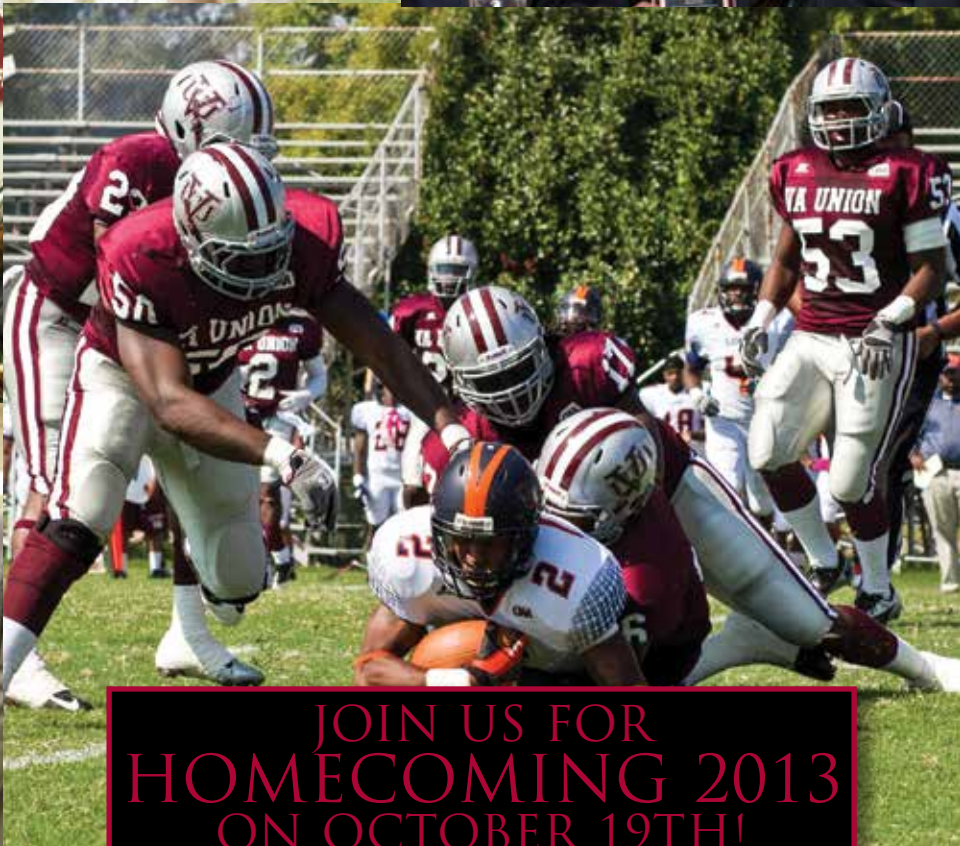


VUU FEATURES: Founders' Day



VUU FEATURES: Homecoming 2012





JOIN US FOR
HOMECOMING 2013
ON OCTOBER 19TH!

VUU FEATURES: Winter Concert



Commonwealth Links Chapter Gift

President Marie Moore (pictured on the left) and Financial Manager for Special Projects Margie Booker (pictured on the right) present a \$10,000 check from the Commonwealth Chapter of The Links, Inc. to Dr. Claude G. Perkins for the Commonwealth Chapter's endowed scholarship at Virginia Union University. The check was presented during the Chapter's Annual Green and White Luncheon.



First row left to right: President Kelly Harris-Braxton, Dr. Perkins, Dr. Jill Bussey-Harris

Second row: Evelyn Brooks, Joyce Melton, Jasmine McKay (scholarship recipient), Lois Townes, Carolyn Lambert

Third Row: Linda Melton, Marian Parker, Doris Moseley, Frances Hayes, Joy Goodrich, Yvonne Simmons, Jacqueline McClenney-Wallace, Stephanie Rochon-Moten

Richmond Links Chapter Gift

The Richmond Chapter of The Links, Inc. presented Dr. Perkins with a gift in the amount of \$7,000 for the Chapter's endowed scholarship fund, on November 19, 2012. The Links, Inc. is one of the nation's oldest and largest volunteer service organizations. The organization is committed to enriching, sustaining and ensuring the culture and economic survival of African Americans and other persons of African ancestry.

McGuireWoods Gift

Dr. Perkins with George Martin and Bud Schill of the law firm of McGuireWoods, on the occasion of the firm's \$250,000 donation for the Living and Learning Center. Martin is the managing partner of the firm's Richmond office, and Schill heads the firm's education law practice.



Dr. Perkins with George Martin (pictured on the right) and Bud Schill (pictured on the left).



Photo left to right: Melvin Robertson, James Hunt, Vernon Wildy, Roland Moore, Dr. Perkins, John Bullock, James White, Daniel Battle, T. Harding Lacy, Jr. Contributing members not pictured include Jerome Johnson, Carlton Stevens, Dr. James McCain, Dr. Johnnie Cameron, Frank Thornton, and Frank Smith.

First Thursday Club Completes Pledge of \$50,000 to VUU

On January 24, 2013, the First Thursday Club completed its pledge of \$50,000 to Virginia Union University for the new Robert J. Brown Living and Learning Center.

The social group, comprised of VUU alumni, friends, and men of the Lambda Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, meets every first Thursday of the month to fellowship and reconnect. The group has committed to supporting the University and challenges other alumni, fraternities and sororities to follow their lead in ensuring the continuation of the Virginia Union University legacy.

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.

Burning Sands Gift

Cavalier Union Investments of Midlothian, Virginia has donated \$50,000 to the Burning Sands Football Alumni Club of Virginia Union University.

The donation, given by Merrill Robertson and Dr. Carl Vaughan of Cavalier Union, was presented to VUU Athletic Director Michael Bailey on Monday, January 14, 2013 in the Douglas L. Wilder Library and Learning Resource Center on the Virginia Union University campus.

Also present for the ceremony were Burning Sands Football Alumni Club members (front row): Mark Wilson (President), Merrill Robertson, Agries Scott, Michael Bailey, Dr. Carl Vaughan and (rear row): Lamont Clayton, Danny Thomas, Thomas Chase, Nathan Fairly and Ed Gates.

“Dr. Carl Vaughan and Merrill Robertson have shown a very serious commitment to VUU and the football program,” said VUU Athletic Director Michael Bailey. “This is a major step in kicking off the 2013 season and continuing the financial support of The Burning Sands Football Club. Our football alumni have really caught fire with the idea of ‘total support’ of Virginia Union football and its future!”



“Our program consists of a great group of young men and sewing a seed will allow us to continue to grow as a

program,” added Bailey. “We also have a realistic chance of competing at a high level. Go Panthers!”

Willie Lanier Speaks to VUU Football Team

“You have the full ability to take yourself to the places that are fascinating,” said National Football League Hall of Famer Willie Lanier during his address to the Virginia Union University football team on Friday, August 10, 2012.

As a former player of the Kansas City Chiefs, Lanier discussed his experience in the NFL as a second round draft pick coming from a Historically Black College and University, Morgan State University. “The journey is one that is exciting and mindboggling at times,” explained Lanier. Lanier is the first African American to play middle linebacker in the NFL and was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1986.



The Legacy of Dave Robbins

When Dave Robbins was growing up in Gastonia, North Carolina, his father wanted him to take over the family automotive parts business after college. Robbins recalls his father's exact words when he told him he wanted to be a coach. "Son, how are you going to make a living," Charles "CV" Robbins said. "You can't make any money coaching."

Coach Dave Robbins has not only made money, he's made history. During his 30 years as head basketball coach at Virginia Union University, Robbins won 713 games, three national championships, 14 CIAA championships, and made 21 NCAA tournament appearances. On Sunday, November 18, 2012, that record earned Coach Dave Robbins a coveted spot in the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame. "It was beautiful," said Robbins. "They really rolled out the red carpet." But Robbins is quick to share the praise with others. "How can you divide a trophy up to go to all the people who deserve it?" Robbins asked. "You've got to have great players, loyal staff, and a supportive administration that lets you do the things you need to do."

Robbins came to Virginia Union in 1978, hired by legendary Coach Thomas "Tricky Tom" Harris. Coach Harris first noticed the young Robbins coach Thomas Jefferson High School to a Capital District Championship over Maggie Walker in 1971. "This young

boy might be a pretty good coach," Harris told friends. "He was a wise gentleman," Robbins remembered. "We talked every single day until his death in 1982. He was a dear friend and a mentor."

Initially, Robbins did not realize he was the first white coach hired in the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA). With criticism swirling around him, he went about building a winning program, leading the Panthers to their first NCAA Division II championship in 1980. As Robbins continued his winning ways at Virginia Union, he saw five of his players succeed in the NBA – Ben Wallace, Charles Oakley, Terry Davis, A.J. English, and Jamie Waller. "People say you put so and so in the NBA," Robbins joked. "I say, no, their mother and father gave them the genes. We just didn't mess them up."

Robbins retired from coaching in April 2008. He says he never really felt the stress of



coaching until he stopped doing it and then he realized that a heavy load had been lifted. "I felt like if I wasn't here every minute, something would go wrong," he remembered. "The stress was more are your players going to class and being good citizens, helping them get a job after graduation." Robbins was so concerned about his players that

“How can you divide a trophy up to go to all the people who deserve it? You’ve got to have great players, loyal staff, and a supportive administration that lets you do the things you need to do.”

— Dave Robbins

while he was coaching he had a toll free number set up at home so team members could reach him anytime. “Charles Oakley called collect for two years after he was in the NBA,” said Robbins.

Today, Dave Robbins is Virginia Union’s Assistant Athletics Director, Head of Basketball Operations, and Director of Athletic Development. He says he misses the smell of the gym – the sweat, the working, the teaching. But, he is still teaching, sharing his wisdom with young school children every chance he gets. And he has lots of advice for young coaches: “It’s not about you. It’s about the players. There’s an old saying – a donkey never won the Kentucky Derby. If you don’t get outstanding players, you’re not going to win.”

The 70-year-old says this will be his last year at Virginia Union. He says he promised his wife, Bunny, that they would do some traveling. Does he have any regrets? “People always ask if I’m sorry I never coached at a Division I school,” said Robbins. “No, not at all. Union’s been good to me and I’m honored to have coached here 30 years. If you can lay your head on the pillow at night and say I did the best I can, then I think that’s real success.”



Ribbon Cutting for New Softball Field

A ribbon cutting ceremony for Virginia Union University’s new softball field was held on February 11, 2013. Located on the corner of Admiral and Lombardy streets, the new field has a new scoreboard, benches for home and visiting teams, bleachers, and a scorer’s table. The new softball field marks the first new athletic competition site on the campus since the Belgian Building opened for basketball in 1947. Lady Panthers no longer have to play home games at Parker Field, an off-site location. To see the complete schedule for the Lady Panthers’ softball season, visit www.vuu.edu and click on “Athletics.”



Top: VUU Softball team members Kristina Caldwell, Chantey Mack, Shaquandra Brown, Renesha Chiles, Kierris Doyle, Danielle McEarchern, Mahogany Mack, Quincy Lewis, Shermanda Fambro, Tyanna Daniels, and Brianna White pose with VUU President Dr. Claude G. Perkins.

Left: Dr. Perkins shows his appreciation to Dr. Leroy Vaughn, president of the Tom “Tricky Tom” Harris Alumni Chapter.

Growing up in Zimbabwe on the African continent, Robert Wafawanaka, Th.D, was routinely taught the value of education by his father and uncle, both of whom were teachers. Despite the dire circumstances faced by his parents and their eight children, Wafawanaka was determined to reach his goal to become educated and someday teach others.

It wasn't unusual for Wafawanaka, now an assistant professor of Biblical Studies and Old Testament at the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology of Virginia Union University (STVU), to study by firelight or moonlight as he hungrily devoured any book within sight.

Since his parents had no car, he ran 5 miles to school each day and another 5 miles back home, all without shoes until the age of 15. "We were poor but didn't consider ourselves poor," Wafawanaka recalls. "It was always relative. I knew knowledge was power."

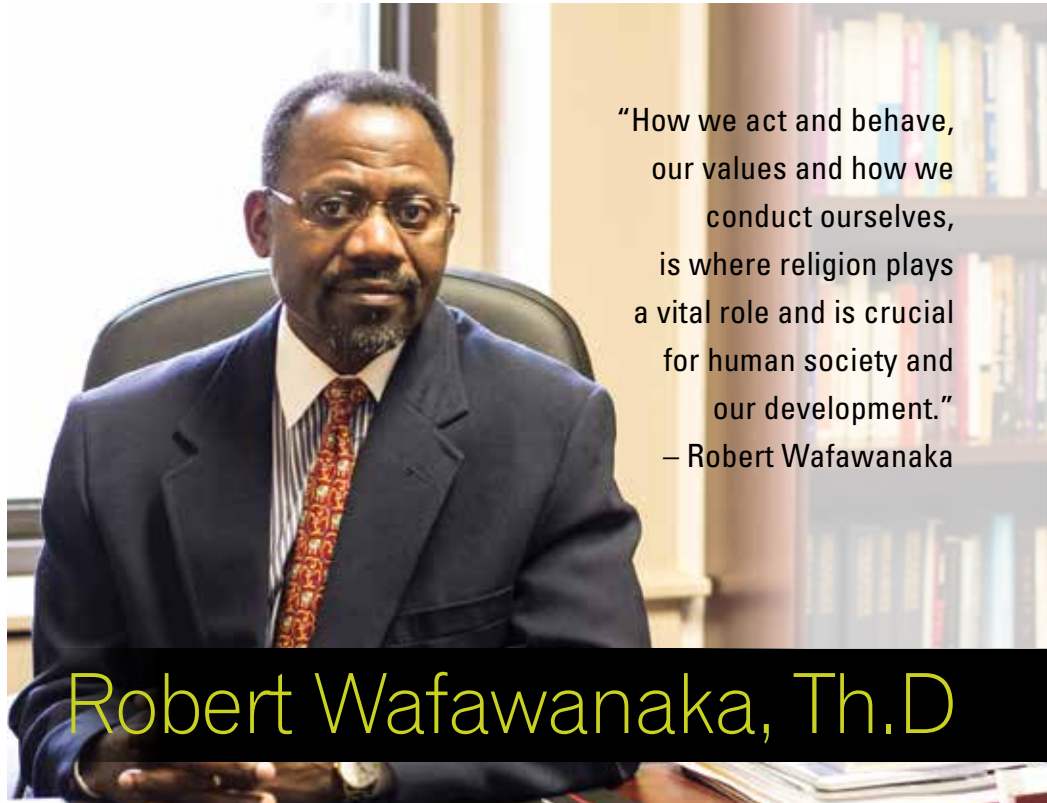
After completing undergraduate studies at the University of Zimbabwe, Wafawanaka came to America to seek advanced degrees at Boston and Harvard Universities. In Zimbabwe, college was free. When accepted to Harvard, he received scholarships, but had to borrow money from a relative and get a part-time job to survive. Looking back, he values the opportunity.

"At Harvard, it was a wonderful experience," he said. "I had to adjust to the system of education and the culture shock was rough. I rolled up my sleeves and at the end of the program I was excited and grateful."

Today, Wafawanaka has settled into Richmond, where, when not teaching at VUU, he diligently serves the local community as a guest lecturer or panelist for schools and other organizations.

"This is my second home – it is very expensive to go to Zimbabwe," said Wafawanaka.

Technology and social media enables him to stay in touch with family in Africa.



**"How we act and behave, our values and how we conduct ourselves, is where religion plays a vital role and is crucial for human society and our development."
– Robert Wafawanaka**

Robert Wafawanaka, Th.D

Wafawanaka said that teaching at VUU allows him to interact with students from various backgrounds who come to seminary school seeking "something bigger than life." Once they graduate, whether they go directly into ministry or work with the homeless, "they are able to transform their knowledge into real life."

Rev. Gloria Lucas, who received her M.Div degree from VUU's School of Theology, currently is a student in Wafawanaka's Hebrew language course at Second Baptist Church. Wafawanaka is an associate minister at the church, which is led by Dr. James H. Harris, another VUU theology professor.

"He is such a patient teacher and is really having an impact on the lives of others," said Lucas. "In Hebrew, we learn to write it and speak it. He takes his time to make sure that we have a grasp of what he is teaching. If we were in a seminary class, it would move much faster."

Lucas described the enthusiasm that one of her classmates, who is visually impaired, has

for Wafawanaka's Hebrew course. "She is very studious and has made many strides each week," said Lucas. "She is so eager to be there and it is the God in him (Wafawanaka) that enables him to reach all of us at individual levels."

Regarding his own philosophy about religion, Wafawanaka believes it is "an important element in human life. How we act and behave, our values and how we conduct ourselves, is where religion plays a vital role and is crucial for human society and our development."

In addition to teaching, Wafawanaka's research interests include poverty and wealth in the Bible and in contemporary society, ethics and justice. His recent publications include the book, *Am I Still My Brother's Keeper? Biblical Perspectives on Poverty* and two essays: "The Land is Mine! Biblical and Postcolonial Reflections on Land with Particular Reference to the Land Issue in Zimbabwe," and "In Quest of Survival: The Implications of the Reconstruction Theology of Ezra-Nehemiah."

Heidi Freese Villanueva

Heidi Freese Villanueva's proactive approach to teaching is designed to produce lasting impressions for her students at Virginia Union University.

"Anyone can walk in, disseminate information and walk out," she said. "But to create ways to make it stick in their heads" is her overall objective.

Thus, it isn't unusual for Villanueva, an associate professor and chair of the Psychology Department at VUU, to use an assortment of tools, even food, to stimulate students during her psychology classes. Jello and cookies made to resemble the brain are just some examples.

Villanueva's interactive approach to teaching psychology is essential for a field of study which sometimes draws a blank stare from parents when their offspring declare it as a major. She counters such thinking, informing students and parents that a degree in psychology is preparation for many areas, including counseling, education and law.

"Anyone can walk in, disseminate information and walk out. But to create ways to make it stick in their heads is my overall objective."

– Heidi Freese Villanueva

As an undergraduate student at the University of Virginia (UVA) who was majoring in biology, Villanueva had little interest in psychology. Her quest for a class that would assure her an "A" turned out to be a course in psychology. Villanueva not only obtained the grade she sought, but found someone who inspired her to teach.

"He (psychology professor) was able to engage students, often with things that he built," Villanueva recalled. "I was fascinated with this. The impact of what he did, I still remember."

After graduating from UVA, Villanueva continued her studies at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). Although still interested in biology, she was more intrigued with psychology in which she earned her master's and doctorate degrees. Her doctoral thesis focused on the effect of clozapine and pimozide in rats. After VCU, Villanueva worked as a statistical analyst for the Virginia Department of Health, and later as the state health department's assistant director of statistics and serosurveillance for sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS.

Because of her background and work in life-changing disease and illness, Villanueva believes that it is important to help her students "understand how psychology affects them and everyone," she said. "We all have to work with people who are different from us, who have different personalities."

Indeed, as a white woman working at a predominantly and historically black university, Villanueva acknowledged that coming to VUU was a "culture shock" and that she initially was not comfortable. That feeling soon passed as her colleagues and students got to know her and she got to know them.

"I hold Dr. Villanueva in high regards as a teacher and a professor," said Alisha N. Williams, one of Villanueva's students. "She doesn't just recite information. Her unique teaching style makes learning an experience, allowing her students to grasp even the most complex information. In addition to that, Dr.

Villanueva creates an environment where I feel encouraged to express my thoughts and opinions about the topic at hand. I feel supported in my future endeavors as she is always trying to provide any type of assistance to students who may need it."

Last year, Villanueva received VUU's Presidential Citation for Outstanding Teaching award after serving as interim dean from 2011-2012 of VUU's Syphax School of Education, Psychology & Interdisciplinary Studies. Also, from 2007 to 2008, she was VUU's interim dean in the School of Basic, Applied Sciences and Technology.

Upon receiving the presidential award, Villanueva again felt uncomfortable, but for different reasons. "I just believe that what I am doing is what I should do," she said. "I am just doing my job."



Faculty and Staff Updates

Dr. Beverly Aurand, Associate Professor and Advising Coordinator for the Department of Social Work, received the Volunteer of the Year Award from Homeward. Homeward is the planning and coordinating organization for homeless services in the Greater Richmond region. For the last five years, Dr. Aurand has helped to recruit and train volunteers for two of Homeward's largest projects – Project Homeless Connect and Winter Point in Time Count.

Ms. Sukenya Best, Art Instructor, Fine Arts Department, has artwork on display at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago. Her work was accepted into a juried art exhibition entitled *Black Creativity*. It is one of the country's oldest African American art shows.

Dr. Luminita Dragulescu had the following articles accepted for publication:

“Sacred Ontology and Desacralized World: Race Trauma in J. E. Wideman's *The Cattle Killing*.” *Literature and Theology*. Oxford University Press;

“Race Trauma at the End of the Millennium: (Narrative) Passing in Philip Roth's *The Human Stain*.” *Philip Roth Studies*. Purdue University Press and Philip Roth Society;

“Bearing Witness?: The Problem with the White Cross-Racial (Mis)Portrayals of History.” *Still Maids? Still Toms?: Perspectives on The Help and Other White-Authored Narratives of Black Life in the “Post-Racial” Era*. Eds. Claire Garcia and Vershawn Young. Palgrave Macmillian;

“Race and Trauma at the Rise of the Millennium: Reading American Culture in the ‘Post-Racial’ Era.” *[Inter]sections* 16 (Volume 4), fall/winter 2012. <http://www.americanstudies.ro>.

Dr. Thomas Fensch's books *Essential Elements of Steinbeck* (2009) and *Behind Islands in the Stream: Hemingway, Cuba, the FBI and the Crook Factory* (2009) are now available in e-book editions.

Mr. David Gordon, Director of Facilities Management, has received a \$150,000 grant from Dominion Resources to improve campus sustainability and energy efficiency. The grant will allow the collection of energy and resource consumption data in existing facilities. This data will then be compared and analyzed with similar data from the new Living and Learning Center in order to allow Virginia Union to more effectively design and implement future renovation and construction projects.

Dr. Marsha T. Horton, Dean of the Evelyn Syphax School of Education, Psychology and Interdisciplinary Studies, attended a roundtable dialogue with Joel Klein on key education issues facing both the U.S. and the greater Richmond region. Mr. Klein is the former Chancellor of the New York City Department of Education and Co-Chair of the Council on Foreign Relations Independent Task Force on U.S. Education Reform and National Security. Dr. Horton also participated in the HBCU Education Dean's Think Tank, sponsored by the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Chair in Education at Rutgers University. The goal of the activity was to establish key partnerships in an effort to advance dialogue concerning the status of P-20 education among the nation's black population, with a specific focus on the HBCU context.

Dr. Raymond Pierre Hylton wrote three book reviews for the *Magill Literary Annual, 2012* (EBSCO Press) in December 2012: *There Was a Country: a Personal History of Biafra* by Chinua Achebe; *The Color of Christ* by Paul Harvey; and *The Twilight War: The Secret History of America's Thirty Year Conflict with Iran* by David Crist. Dr. Hylton was also interviewed and quoted in the RVANEWS.COM

November 27, 2012 article “VUU, Segregation, and the Story of the Richmond 34”; and in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* February 3, 2013 article “Civil Rights Participants Remember Danville's Night of Infamy.” In addition, Dr. Hylton was interviewed for a WTVR-TV story on Richmond's role in the slave trade, and Lumpkin's Jail.

Ms. Ida L. Jones, Administrative Assistant, and **Mr. Pierce Williams**, Program Assistant for Student Activities and Leadership, escorted 13 VUU students to the 57th Presidential Inauguration held on the National Mall on Monday, January 21, 2013. Representatives from the VUU Student Government Association, VUU Honors Program, and candidates for the White House Internship comprised the group of students who traveled to Washington, D.C.

Dr. Yung Suk Kim, Assistant Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity at the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology, has published *Biblical Interpretation: Theory, Process, and Criteria* (Pickwick Publications, 2013).

Ms. Melody Pannell, University Counselor, has been awarded the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Award for her work in clinical counseling, spiritual mentorship, and leadership development. The award was sponsored by The Shenandoah Valley Hit Newspaper.

Detective Theo Reynolds completed coursework for the Master's degree in Education – Adult Education and Development at Strayer University.

Mr. Ullin K. Rigby, Director of Residence Life & Housing, received the 2012 Outstanding Professional award from the Virginia Association of College & University Housing Officers (VACUHO) at the recent Virginia Student Services Conference held in November 2012.

Dr. Penni Sweetenburg-Lee was one of only seven HBCU Career Service Directors invited to attend an information session on the White House Internship Program on December 19, 2012. Dr. Sweetenburg-Lee received a proclamation from President Obama for her work in Higher Education, Career Services, and with the White House Internship Program.

Dr. Phil Umansky, CPA, published an op/ed article entitled “The Long Term Fiscal Cliff: The Federal Deficit” in the January 2013 edition of *Virginia Business*. He also co-published an article entitled “Ethics Class Act: Ethics in Accounting Education 10 Years After Sarbanes Oxley Act” in the Virginia Society of CPAs Journal. Dr. Umansky has also been interviewed on money management topics on WTVR-TV and WRIC-TV.

Ms. Courtney L. Walker, Assistant Director of Residence Life & Housing, received a service award from the Virginia Association of College & University Housing Officers (VACUHO) at the recent Virginia Student Services Conference held in November 2012.

Dr. Vernita Elliott Walton, Department of Social Work Chair and Assistant Professor, completed her doctoral studies in education, with a concentration in higher education leadership, at Nova Southeastern University in December 2012. The title of her dissertation is “A Systems Approach of Communication Skills Development for Undergraduate Social Work Students.” Graduation is scheduled for June 2013 in Sunrise, Florida.

Dr. Mary Young, Associate Dean of the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology, has been awarded a \$250,000 Lilly Endowment Grant for the Theological School Initiative to Address Economic Challenges Facing Future Ministers. The School will conduct research into its financial assumptions and practices that result in student debt and implement new strategies for lessening the financial burdens of students attending seminary.

Cheryl Whitney Valentine, '81

Perhaps the best means of measuring a teacher's ability to transform young minds can be found by studying his or her former students. Antoine Griggs, a senior music major at Morehouse College, is one such student who is unabashed in his appreciation and love for Cheryl Whitney Valentine's role in his life.

Valentine, a 1981 graduate of Virginia Union University, has coached, mentored and taught hundreds of students such as Griggs during her 30 years as a music teacher for Detroit Public Schools.

"I just finished a recital here at Morehouse and she guided me through the process," said Griggs, 23. "She was hoping that I would attend college and encourages all of her students to attend HBCUs."

In addition to her role as music and choral director at the Detroit School of Arts, Valentine often acts as a mother and father figure for her students. Many of the school's students grow up in single-family homes or without the presence of their fathers, said Griggs, who adds that Valentine's modesty and patience also are keys to her success.

"She can be tough, too, but she is always patient," he said. "She does not let other things take her focus. If we don't do our best, she's not worried and that helps us when she doesn't show her frustration."

A Detroit television spotlight on Valentine reveals the woman Griggs describes. Soft-spoken and cheerful, she lets her students' work speak for her. The young men perform in perfect pitch, unison and polish.

Valentine's track record since leaving VUU also speaks for itself. After working with the Michigan School Vocal Music Association for more than 10 years as co-district manager and adjudicator, she helped establish 4 Men Only, a musical group consisting of young men in secondary school vocal music programs. Valentine's musical groups have received ratings of "superior" and "excellent" at district and state festivals. Vision, one of her current ensembles at the Detroit School of Arts, routinely performs with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, the Michigan Youth Arts Festival, and other national and international festivals and competitions.

Valentine says her passion for music began at age 6 when she started playing the piano. Plans to become a veterinarian ultimately were replaced by music. Although her VUU classes provided her requisite lessons in music history and theory, Valentine's teaching skills were honed at the sides of Odell Hobbs, a legendary VUU music professor, and Undine Smith Moore.

Valentine recalls how Hobbs informed her that she was to accompany him on weekends to music programs he was charged with in Virginia's rural communities. "I learned a lot from Dr. Hobbs, and it was then that I decided to teach." Her teaching style is similar to Dr. Hobbs', who sometimes spent entire sessions "explaining the meaning behind different songs...getting the feeling of the spirituals," said Valentine.

In addition to her bachelor's degree from VUU, Valentine earned a master's degree in teaching from Marygrove College in Detroit, and has



In addition to her role as music and choral director at the Detroit School of Arts, Valentine often acts as a mother and father figure for her students.

completed additional courses at The University of Michigan, Western Michigan University, and Columbia College in Chicago.

Valentine has been a test developer and was a validator for the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, and on curriculum development committees for the Detroit Public Schools Music Department, as well as textbook selection committees. She is a member and director of music at the Sanctuary Fellowship Baptist Church in Detroit, and on staff at Ashland Theological Seminary.

For nearly five decades, the Rev. Joe B. Fleming has combined his ministry with civic activism and service in Oklahoma, Texas and various parts of Virginia. For Fleming, dictating the separation of church and state bear little meaning.

Recalling an incident once in Richmond when a group of black politicians informed him that the church should stay out of politics, Fleming was unswayed.

“You are strong because of the black church,” he told the gathering of prominent leaders, who wanted their hand-picked candidate in a Richmond City Council seat rather than the winning candidate who Fleming believed was more aligned with the community. “You don’t have any means of communication other than the black church.”

Such words – and determination – have guided Fleming since his childhood in Holdenville, Oklahoma, where his grandfather was active in the NAACP. With the aid of a student defense loan, Fleming left home to attend Bishop College in Marshall, Texas. It was there that his activism was rooted, channeling the civil rights movement occurring at other historically black colleges.

In 1961, Fleming and four of his classmates launched a sit-in to protest Marshall’s segregated environment.

“I called it the ‘capital of the confederacy,’” Fleming said. “Black people were more onlookers than participants.” Taking a stand wasn’t without some trepidation. Bishop’s president wanted to move the college to Dallas and any disturbance could squash the plans. Yet, Bishop’s then president, Dr. M.K. Curry, Jr. eventually gave the students his blessing.”

“You can’t teach American history to people and not expect them to taste it,” Fleming recalled Curry saying.

As the sit-in proceeded, it was described by a local newspaper as one of the most organized movements of its time. Fleming said fear never greeted him, even after he and fellow students were arrested for trespassing. Sixteen men shared one jail cell which had two bunk beds and one mattress. Meals consisted of beans, coffee, cornbread and water.

“We were never frightened; I guess it was because of the support of the students,” said Fleming. After the Dallas branch NAACP paid bond to

release the students, they were free until a trial that was scheduled for the next summer. The trial ended when one of the defendant’s lawyers was killed by a train.

After graduating from Bishop, Fleming came to Mathews County, Va. where he served as minister. It wasn’t long before Dr. John Malcus Ellison, a former president of Virginia Union, persuaded him to enroll in Virginia Union University.

“I am grateful to Virginia Union for being an anchor for me down through the years,” said Fleming. “First, Virginia Union, for the most part, provided more than 80 percent of my educational cost. Virginia Union provided me the opportunity to be heard at each of the churches I have served as pastor. Many doors have been opened for me because of my Virginia Union connection.”

Today Fleming pastors Third Baptist Church in Portsmouth, where his work is seldom confined to delivering Sunday sermons. One of his first acts in Portsmouth was to establish a committee to commemorate Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Unrelenting rain prevented strong participation during that first year, Fleming said. Yet the planning meetings continued and evolved into strategy sessions to gain more political power in the Virginia General Assembly.

Fleming has held leadership positions in many prestigious organizations and traveled throughout the United States and abroad, but he has always remembered his alma mater. “We are blessed today to save our schools,” Fleming stressed. “We receive better wages and salaries than our forefathers could ever have imagined. Dr. John Ellison, the first African American president of Virginia Union, traveled this commonwealth in his car, asking rural churches to contribute to the school. For me, I am indebted to Virginia Union because of what she has done and meant to me, my son Joseph A. Fleming, who shares ministry with me here at Third Baptist, and countless others across the country.”



Reverend Joe B. Fleming, '67

Class Notes

Dr. Lashawn D. Harris '97 has been offered a tenure track position as a member of the history faculty at Michigan State University. She specializes in 20th century African American history.

Rochester Institute Technology professor **André Hudson '00** and colleague published the whole genome sequence of bacteria associated with Jamaican sugarcane and Riesling grapevines in the September and November issues of the *Journal of Bacteriology*, a publication of the American Society for Microbiology.

The Honorable **Ricardo C. Jackson '62** received The Martin Luther King., Jr. Award for Outstanding Service to the Community from The Barristers' Association of Philadelphia, Inc., an affiliate of the National Bar Association.

James Jones '07, Career Development Specialist for the Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority, was awarded a \$20,000 grant from State Farm for his Young Gardeners program. The small garden, located in Calvert Square in Norfolk, Virginia, helps provide fresh and inexpensive produce for residents in low-income areas.

Rev. Joshua King '11 of Union Baptist Church in Hopewell did the opening prayer in the Virginia House of Delegates on January 18, 2013.

Wendy Renae McSweeney '94 has been recognized by The Network Journal as one of its annual 40 Under 40 Honorees award winners.

Dr. Rosalyn R. Nichols '04 was selected by the Memphis Theological Seminary (MTS) as the new Starks Advancement Director. Nichols is a summa cum laude graduate of MTS and pastor of Freedom's Chapel Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Rev. Michael Norris '95 celebrated his one-year anniversary on September 9, 2012 at Destiny Baptist Church in Martinsburg, West Virginia.

Dr. Quinita Ogletree '96 completed her doctoral work at Texas A&M University, College Station and graduated on August, 10, 2012. Her dissertation title was "The Relationship Between Elementary Teachers' Beliefs About Diversity and Their Selections of Multicultural Materials for Instructional Practices in One Urban School District"

Tonya Pulliam '02 was appointed to the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Development Services Statewide Cultural and Linguistic Competence Committee in July of 2012.

Blair Sawyer '96 was recently promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Army. LTC Sawyer has 17 years of military experience as an Infantry Airborne Ranger, having been stationed in Georgia, Louisiana, Virginia, Kuwait, Republic of Korea, and Iraq. He is married to **Sandra Annette Haynes '94**, Virginia Union University Class of 1994 valedictorian. Sandra received her Juris Doctorate degree from Louisiana State University and is currently a Louisiana licensed attorney and entrepreneur.

Rev. Michael T. Scott, Sr. '98 was elected president of the Northside Ministerial Alliance in Kalamazoo, Michigan. He is senior pastor of Galilee Baptist Church.

Mr. Glen Starnes '07 was promoted to Assistant Principal at John Marshall High School in Fall 2012.

Dr. Jesse Turner '93 was appointed by the Albemarle School Board on July 1, 2012 as the new Principal of Monticello High School. Turner was previously the Monticello Associate Principal and previously served as the Assistant Principal at Albemarle High School and Sutherland Middle School.

Barvenia Wooten-Cherry '83, the head coach of the Virginia Union University women's basketball team, and a member of the VUU & CIAA Halls of Fame, has been named to the NCAA Division II 40th Anniversary Team. In celebration of the 40th Anniversary of NCAA Division II, 48 former student-athletes are set to be honored by the NCAA throughout 2013. Each member of the Division II 40th Anniversary Tribute Team will receive a commemorative 40th Anniversary gift and is slated to have his/her accomplishments profiled through Division II media channels.

in memoriam

Mrs. Doretta J. Bass, '44

Mrs. Edith D. Booker, '31

Ms. Gladys Mealy Dandridge, '52

Mr. Carlton A. Funn, Sr., '53

Mrs. Josephine E. Furman, '50

Mr. Leon Ferguson, '48

Rudolph A. Hickman, Esq., '74

Ms. Selma N. Hill

Mr. Donald K. Hunter

Mrs. Edith R. Jackson, '41

Mrs. Sarah E. Jenkins, '42

Mamie Beale Johnson, '47

Bishop Leontine Turpeau
Current Kelly, '60

Mr. Kenneth S. Lawrence

Miss Lucille M. Lucas, '50

Ms. Eleanor Parker, '42

Mr. Osborne A. Payne, '50

Miss Elsie Estelle Robinson, '59

Mr. Eugene W. Skinner, '57

Mr. Paul E. Smith, '64

Rev. Dr. J. Rayfield
Vines, Jr., '90

Dr. Leo C. Wagner, '79

Major Clarence N.
Watkins, USAF, '60

Mrs. Annie Williams, '45

Mrs. Sarah H. Williams, '41

Miss Marva Genell Wright, '00

Two New Alumni Chapters Chartered

Alumni United! Virginia Union University National Alumni Association, Incorporated welcomes two recently chartered alumni chapters, Hampton Roads and North Carolina. Alumni in those areas now have the opportunity to engage with Virginia Union University through the newly chartered chapters. On August 3, 2012, the Hampton Roads Alumni Chapter was chartered with Rev. Jonathan Pemberton '07, '10 serving as president. The North Carolina Alumni Chapter was chartered on December 16, 2012 and Linda G. Williams '72 serves as president.

"We are excited about the alumni engaging with their alma mater," said Kristie White '98, Director of Alumni Relations. "Each alumni chapter is charged with assisting in recruiting students, raising scholarship money, and promoting fellowship."

Virginia Union University already has 12 chartered alumni chapters ranging from Detroit, Michigan to Atlanta, Georgia. Joining a local chapter will provide alumni an exciting mix of cultural, athletic, recreational, and academic-related activities within the respective area. "The chartering of these alumni chapters allows the alumni to reconnect with their university and have a local liaison representing their area," said White.



Photo left to right front row: Claudia Stith, Jean Walton, Gloria Myrick, Dr. Bessie Stanback. Left to right back row: Michael McCrimmon, Marsha Carter, Rev. Joseph Lee, Rev. Jonathan Pemberton, Paul Wilson, Dr. Paula Boone, Melvin Boone, Carolyn Jacobs

Alumni who are looking to reconnect with the university can contact Kristie White at 804.342.3938 or visit

http://www.vuu.edu/alumni_relations.aspx to locate a local chapter.



SAVE THE DATE

The Virginia Union University National Alumni Association Convention will take place on June 21-23, 2013. The convention will take place at the Hampton Inn and Suites located at 1101 Technology Park Drive, Glen Allen, Virginia 23059. Attendee room rate is \$84.00 per night. Come and be informed by university staff, guest speakers, and be a part of the installation of the 2013-2015 VUUNAA Executive Board.



Dr. Claude G. Perkins
President and CEO, Virginia Union University

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For more information about being a sponsor, please contact Thomas Millisor
at 804.342.3938 or at tpmillisor@vuu.edu.

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