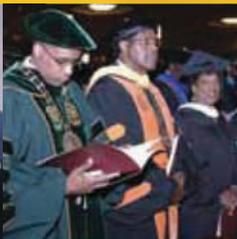
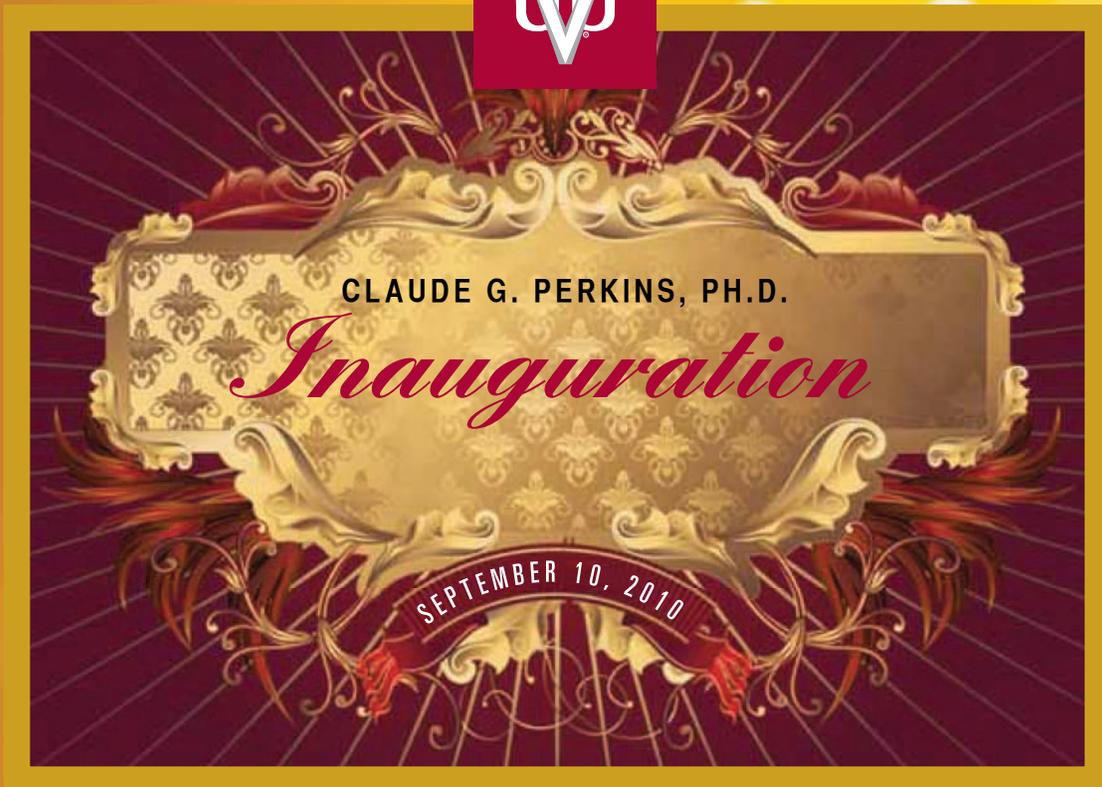


UNIONITE

VIRGINIA UNION UNIVERSITY

WINTER 2011 / UNIVERSITY NEWS



**HOMECOMING
CELEBRATION!**

PAGE 4

**DESTROYER NAMED
FOR VUU ALUM**

PAGE 6

**DR. PERKINS
INAUGURATION**

PAGE 10

From The President



Dear Alumni and Friends of Virginia Union University:

2010 was a year of great achievement for Virginia Union University. At the December 2010 meeting of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the University was reaffirmed for re-accreditation for the next 10 years, with no stipulations.

The reaffirmation process is a rigorous, intensive program designed to ensure that schools are adhering to a set of well-defined educational standards and that they are committed to institutional improvement. The overall reaffirmation process requires an institution to demonstrate its compliance with core requirements, comprehensive standards and federal regulations. What that means is that Virginia Union University has successfully lived up to our mission of providing quality academic programs, while maintaining the university's financial viability. Further, it is a guarantee to our students that the education they are receiving here is a sound and worthy investment.

This accomplishment would not have been possible without the disciplined work of our faculty and staff; and the dedicated support of our alumni and friends. However, as we celebrate this success, we cannot be content to rest on our laurels. Virginia Union must continue to recruit and retain quality students and faculty. We must continue to engage alumni, corporate, and foundation support. We must continue to build a "student-centered" environment, where we all understand and embrace the notion that the success of our students is directly connected and interrelated to those measures that serve as indicators to judge our own accomplishments within the academy.

Virginia Union's path is well-lit. The future is promising. Our faith strengthens our actions. We focus on possibility thinking, not restrictive analysis. We choose to invest our very best in planting seeds of greatness in the lives of our students.

The pages of this magazine will give you a brief glimpse into the life and work of this institution. Enjoy the articles. Come to visit. Tell the VUU story. We are more than what we have been, but not yet all that we will be!

Sincerely,

Claude G. Perkins, Ph.D.

President



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VIRGINIA UNION UNIVERSITY

WINTER 2011 / UNIVERSITY NEWS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CAMPUS NEWS

VUU Receives Grants	2
Alpha Kappa Mu Revitalized	3
Homecoming	4
VUU Goes To Austria	7
Campus Activities	8

COVER STORY

Inauguration	10
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ATHLETICS

The Forgotten Champion	16
Athletic Schedules	19

FACULTY/STAFF NEWS

Faculty Profiles	20
Dr. Gerard McShepard	21
Margaret Duckworth	22
Ronald A. Shelton	23
Dr. Carleitta Paige	24
Faculty and Staff Updates	25

ALUMNI NEWS

Samuel Gravely Dedication	6
Why I Give	26
In Memoriam	28
Alumni Updates	29



COVER: Richmond Center Stage was the venue for the inauguration of Dr. Claude G. Perkins on September 10, 2010

PHOTOS THIS PAGE: Beautiful table arrangements at the President's Inauguration dinner.

VUU Awarded Grants

The Dominion Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Dominion Resources (NYSE: D), has awarded Virginia Union University a \$40,000 grant.

The grant will be used to teach juniors and seniors the Six Sigma business management strategy to enhance their business training and to improve the likelihood of becoming credentialed. The course will include an introduction to Six Sigma levels, a Green Belt credential, and team projects to define problems, collect and analyze data and submit solutions.

Dominion is one of the nation's largest producers and transporters of energy, with a portfolio of approximately 27,600 megawatts of generation. Dominion operates the nation's largest natural gas storage system and serves retail energy customers in 12 states.



From left, Dr. Adelaja Odutola, Dean Sydney Lewis School of Business; Linda Jackson, Director of Sponsored Programs; Ken Barker, a Dominion vice president; and Penni Sweetenburg-Lee, Director of Career Services

The Mead Westvaco (MWV) Foundation Board of Directors approved a \$200,000 gift to Virginia Union to support STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) initiatives.

The grant will be used to cover the cost of the STEM Summer Institute, led by Dr. Phillip Archer, Dean of the School of Mathematics, Science and Technology, and will also provide financial assistance to STEM students.

According to Dr. Archer, "With corporate and other external support, VUU can further assist in reducing the shortage of under-represented students in STEM professions by attracting more students to VUU science and technology-related programs with corporate based internship opportunities and academic scholarships earmarked for top performing undergraduate STEM majors."

The Mead Westvaco foundation strives to strengthen and enrich the communities where MWV has major operations, and where MWV employees and their families live and work.

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.

ALPHA KAPPA MU Back on Campus

ON OCTOBER 28, 2010, IN FRONT OF STUDENTS, FACULTY, ALUMNI AND GUESTS, 24 VIRGINIA UNION UNIVERSITY STUDENTS WERE INDUCTED INTO THE REVITALIZED, KAPPA ETA CHAPTER OF ALPHA KAPPA MU.



Alpha Kappa Mu is a general scholarship honor society open to junior and senior men and women in all academic areas. It has been inactive at Virginia Union University for more than five years, but has recently reactivated its status as a registered organization on campus. Its purpose will be to promote high scholarship, encourage sincere and zealous endeavors in all fields of knowledge and service; to cultivate a high order of personal living; and develop an appreciation for scholarly work and scholarly endeavor in others.

The revitalization of this scholastic organization brings excitement to academics. Students are charged to continue their pursuit of knowledge. "They are excited about this, being recognized for their academic achievement", says Dr. Linda Schlichting, Dean of Humanities and Social Science. "They see themselves as leaders for other students."

The history of Alpha Kappa Mu dates back to 1937 at Tennessee State University in Nashville. Inductees must be in their junior year with at least a 3.3 grade point average on the 4.0 scale. They should be ranked in the upper 10 percent of the class and exemplify good character, the potential for leadership, and service. There are a total of 64 active chapters and more than 91,000 members nationally.



Rejuvenated, Reinvigorated, ReUNIONited

...and it feels so good!



VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVELY GRADUATED FROM VIRGINIA UNION UNIVERSITY IN 1948.

Destroyer Named for Pioneer Gravelly Joins Fleet

BY SAM FELLMAN

WILMINGTON, N.C. — The Navy's newest destroyer was commissioned in a ceremony that recalled the extraordinary career of the ship's namesake, an officer who shattered the Navy's color barrier more than six decades ago.

The 57th Arleigh Burke-class destroyer is named for Vice Adm. Samuel Gravelly, who overcame entrenched discrimination to achieve a string of firsts in a 38-year naval career spanning three wars. He was the first African-American to be commissioned through the Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps, to captain a warship, to reach flag rank, and to command a fleet.

"His success was hard-earned, well-deserved and yes, sometimes painful, but for his sacrifices, high standards, and achievements we will be forever grateful," Vice Adm. D.C. Curtis, the Naval Surface Force commander, told the crowd of thousands. Curtis, who is black, asked all the black captains and admirals, both retired and active, in attendance to



Reprinted with permission of Navy Times. Editor's Note - Vice Admiral Samuel Gravelly graduated from Virginia Union University in 1948. He was a former president of the National Alumni Association and the Samuel L. Gravelly Capital Beltway Alumni Chapter is named in his honor.



Vice Adm. Samuel L. Gravelly, Jr., center, Vice Adm. Robert P. Coogan, right, and an unidentified commander, left, salute during 3rd Fleet change of command ceremonies on board the cruiser Reeves at the Naval Supply Center, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on September 10, 1976.

stand. Dozens rose. "Here stands Admiral Gravelly's legacy. I think he would be proud," Curtis added.

In the keynote address, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead extolled Gravelly along with the operational versatility and cost effectiveness of the ship that now bears his name.

"She will also return the nation's investment in ways that few other systems can, because even though we have a very proud commanding officer who will take command of this ship today, the last commanding officer of USS

Gravelly is seventy years old," Roughead said. "That is a good investment."

Gravelly attended Virginia Union University and enlisted in the reserves in 1942. He entered an officer program and received his commission Dec. 14, 1944. Discrimination was ever-present. While he was on liberty from his first ship, PC-1264, Gravelly was arrested for impersonating an officer. "You're not an officer. I've never seen a Negro Navy officer," an Army military policeman told him, according to his autobiography, "Trailblazer: The U.S. Navy's First Black Admiral."

He returned to the reserves after the war, but was recalled to active service in 1949, when President Truman desegregated the armed forces. Gravelly rose through the surface fleet to command the destroyer escort Falgout, the destroyer Taussig, and the frigate Jouett. He went on to command 3rd Fleet.

By the time of his retirement in 1980, Gravelly had served in three wars: World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. He died in 2004. He was 82.

His wife Alma Gravelly served as the ship's sponsor and ordered Cmdr. Douglas Kunzman and his crew of 275 to "man our ship and bring her to life." They sprang into action.

ABOVE: Alma Gravelly, left, widow of late Vice Adm. Samuel L. Gravelly, speaks on Nov. 20 with Vice Adm. D.C. Curtis, center, and Rear Adm. D.H. Lewis during the commissioning of the destroyer Gravelly. The ship was named after Alma Gravelly's husband, who was the first black man to command a Navy ship.

LEFT: The officers and crew of the USS Gravelly run onto the ship during the commissioning at the North Carolina State Port in Wilmington on Saturday, Nov. 20, 2010.



VUU Goes to Austria



Sixty-eight degree weather, snow capped mountains, and a beautiful radiant sunset is how Patricia Murray, Assistant Professor in the Sydney Lewis School of Business at Virginia Union University, remembers the

sights of Salzburg, Austria. Ms. Murray, Dr. W. Franklin Evans, Vice President of Academic Affairs, and Dr. David Adewuyi, Director of the Center for International Studies, traveled from Richmond, Virginia to fellowship with leaders from near and far as they focused on the benefits and the implementation of globalization among their campuses during the Salzburg Global Seminar, held October 30, 2010 through November 6, 2010. After taking four planes, a train, a bus and a taxi, Evans, Murray and Adewuyi finally made it to Salzburg, the fourth largest city in Austria. There they took part in several sessions, and enjoyed the Salzburg scenery, in a village of 120,000 people. They also were able to see a part of history. Many of the week's sessions were held in the Schloss Leopoldskron, a palace and historic landmark. The Schloss Leopoldskron is world famous for being the original film location of the 1965 film "The Sound of Music" and has been home to the Salzburg Global Seminar since 1947.

The Salzburg Global Seminar is a leading global institution that challenges current and future leaders to develop creative ideas for solving global problems. The organization gathers thinkers from different cultures and professions to develop strategies for change. For sixty years the program has been addressing global issues. Virginia Union University applied to become part of the globalization effort and was one of six HBCU's selected to attend.

"We want to make sure our students have a better understanding of the world around us," said Evans. Three representatives from each school traveled to explore, share and gain knowledge regarding globalization within their area of study.

Preparation for the trip included pulling together a proposal regarding globalization. Virginia Union's proposed action plan is to

"Internationalize the General Education Curriculum." The implementation of this proposal will include exposing VUU students to the fundamentals of global citizenship which is defined as the functioning

awareness of culture, economic and socio-political characteristics of other countries outside of one's own domestic frame of reference. This process commences with the freshman year and continues through the student's graduation. With the timeline in place and the seven member committee at work, the plan will be implemented by August 2011. Now that VUU is a part of the fellowship, Virginia Union students will soon have a broader perspective on life. "Becoming a part of this fellowship will allow us to network," said Evans.

Under the direction of Adewuyi, the Center for International Studies will serve as the streamline and the nucleus of the plan of action. "This proposal will help us join the community of globalized institutions," said Adewuyi.

Though the numbers are improving, minority students, in general, comprise less than 10 percent of all American students studying abroad, according to the Institute for International Education. Some students have only experienced what lies at their front and back door, with a lack of exposure to global issues. As Murray explains, "Everything is not grey and shades of grey. Students should see other options."

Keeping in line with the university's mission to develop scholars, leaders, and lifelong learners of a global society, Virginia Union will continue to expand its globalization efforts from changes in the curriculum to studying abroad. As Evans, Murray, and Adewuyi continue with the implementation of the proposal, students will obtain opportunities to study abroad.

Adewuyi believes that, "We will prepare students globally to advance in their future and not limit them to the U.S. but have experiences in other countries."

Fall 2010 was an exciting time on the campus of Virginia Union University.

From **career fairs**, to

guest lecturers, to

fabulous concerts

by the VUU Choir, to

etiquette dinners, to

VUU **going green**,

students had many

engaging activities and

our campus was never

quiet. Take a look at

some of the many

happenings at your VUU!

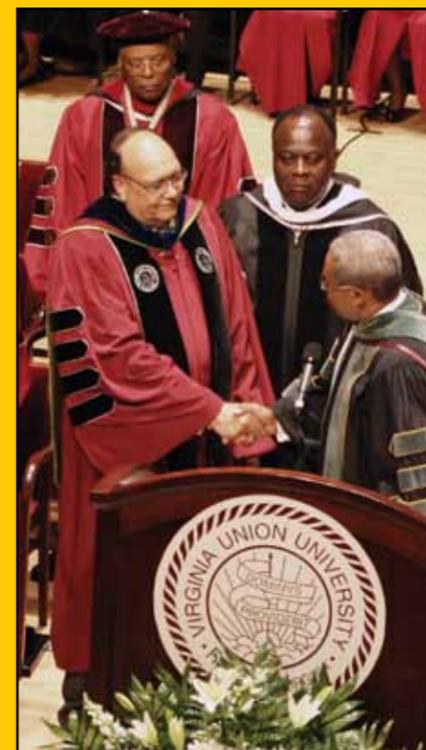




Claude G. Perkins, Ph.D.

Dr. Claude G. Perkins officially became the 12th President of Virginia Union University on September 10, 2010, following a week of celebratory events including a Grand Cantata and an Alumni Forum. Upon his investiture, Perkins said the “manifestation of Virginia Union’s greatness is evidenced by its many graduates . . . A full transcript of the President’s inaugural address follows:

This is a special day for Virginia Union University, and I am honored in becoming the 12th president of this historic university.



VUU

a shining star in the crown of what is good, decent and moral in the realm of justice and humanity.

Virginia Union is a remarkable institution with an intriguing story to tell – the result of the “union” of a theological institute, a seminary, a women’s college and a men’s college, all of which were very unique. One hundred and forty-five years later we are a testament to that union, a product of the determination, struggle, luck and foresight of our founders and the will of God. We stand now, in 2010, poised to move this institution into its next period of growth and achievement in the midst of uncertainty and a broad array of challenges. But if we look back far enough, we can predict the inevitable and that of a proud tomorrow. So our context is now new and our resolve is steadfast.

In the second Chapter of Corinthians, Paul writes, “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him...”

Virginia Union was founded 145 years ago to educate those who had no access and no opportunity to education... to give hope to the hopeless, a future to those who thought themselves futureless. One hundred and forty-five years later, while our mission has evolved, it has not fundamentally changed. We still exist to provide opportunity and access to a new generation of young men and women from different circumstances. We still exist to help students find their place, and we give them the promise of a limitless future. No mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him.

Virginia Union is a living, breathing example of God’s goodness. There were those who believed that we shouldn’t even be here. There were those who didn’t see the importance and the significance of being founded at Lumpkin’s Jail. There were those who could not hear any of our amazing accomplishments as we grew from the merger of four institutions into a fantastic UNION. And there are those who cannot conceive all that we have become and are yet to be.

But I say look around and what do you see now? The manifestation of Union’s greatness is shown through the accomplishments of its graduates, and they are many. I know for sure that there is something much greater than me at work here. Conversions have been made and transformations have been realized even from the most despicable situations, and not a greater example can be seen of that phenomenon than VUU – a shining star in the crown of what is good, decent and moral in the realm of justice and humanity – a shining star for all to see.

My life has been devoted to helping young people find their place in this world, just as my role model who helped me.

Our core value is to provide access to an intellectual and creative space where academically talented, highly motivated and prepared students can achieve excellence, regardless of their status or station in life. We offer access, and thus create a community that recognizes that excellence comes from hard work – that it must be earned. In the pursuit of excellence, we expect no less of ourselves. We share a long and honorable tradition. And together, every day, we create something that did not exist before. We do not mind the heavy lifting as that only builds our strength and makes us more determined.

My life has been devoted to helping young people find their place in this world, just as my role model who helped me. My decision to come to Virginia Union and back to Richmond was reached in large part because I believe in Virginia Union's long honored pledge to provide access and opportunity.

My decision was also greatly influenced by the amazing alumni that I met over the years, who all gave the same testimony when they said, "I would not be what I am today had it not been for Virginia Union." This University has provided opportunity to thousands of dedicated students to build a better life and they are everywhere. Many of the students who enter Virginia Union may still be the first members of their families to go to college. Some may be the fourth generation. Regardless, I believe it is our duty, our inherent responsibility to aid them in acquiring the tools needed to become successful, productive, and powerful citizens of the world.

We embrace those priorities along with our core values of service, excellence, integrity, justice, stewardship and a strong Christian heritage for if we lose our core values we lose our way. And by embracing these

values, we transform this institution into the "student-centered" university that it must be, where the success of our students is connected to and a reflection of the work of our faculty and staff and our VUU family. That is my vision for Virginia Union University. I will use all my energy and effort, and call upon you to do the same, to ensure that the values, traditions, and culture of this great university we treasure today remains as we move towards a new and exciting future together. Changing to remain the same! Going back to the future. That is my vision, and it must be ours collectively for we are all beneficiaries and deserving of something this special.

If there is one forum where we can hope to overcome our common cognitive limitations, it is a university. Where else but a university do intelligent people come together for the sheer love of exploring ideas and each other; where else but a college can people from varying backgrounds and experiences, mix and

learn from each other so freely; where else do people have the luxury of structured and unstructured time to search for commonality and find humanity?

I realize that some of our students want to stay too long with their engagement, but we do want them to graduate.

As Plato's allegory of the cave implores man to move from an unenlightened, uninformed state into true enlightenment, so must we also instill in our students that one cannot be ignorant and be truly free. Let me repeat that. You cannot be ignorant and be free. True freedom comes from knowledge. It is our responsibility, our duty, to enlighten our students. We were told years ago knowledge could not be taken from us. Universities exist to pave the way to tomorrow. We prepare young minds to be life-long learners. And we know that it is up to us to take our students

where they have never been and unshackle them from the boundaries of cognitive and affective limitations.

We should provide our students the kind of knowledge and inquiry skills that will never become obsolete. There are, I believe, certain skills that once mastered, will serve our students well over the course of their lives... the ability to read with insight and reflection, to use language clearly and effectively, to embrace the scientific method and to think analytically, and to appreciate artistic expression. So, as a liberal arts university, we must actively engage our students to become a community of scholars with extended learning opportunities. This is the logical way to master the key competencies necessary in a rapidly changing, increasingly interdependent world. We want students who are problem-solvers within the context of community and interrelationships.

I have every confidence in Virginia Union and our ability to clearly achieve our objectives. Look at what we have accomplished in the last 20 months. I've witnessed firsthand the magnanimous devotion to this University by the Board, faculty and students. The immediate challenges we had to address as I began my tenure were associated with the re-affirmation of the University's accreditation, the declining enrollment, the quality of academic programs and facility needs. We immediately identified a course that would lead to the resolution of our most pressing concerns. Working with a very tight deadline and using our own resources, including our Board of Trustees, our faculty, our staff, our alumni and our students, we successfully addressed some of the short term issues with long term implications. We therefore anticipate being fully re-affirmed by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in December of this year which will put us in good stead for the next 10 years.



Rooted in excellence, fortified by faith and advanced by intellect, Virginia Union University will fulfill the promise our founders made 145 years ago.

We also put strategies in place to effectively address our declining enrollment, resulting in a 16 percent increase in our 2008-2009 undergraduate enrollment and a 10 percent increase in our graduate enrollment. We were fortunate, through the generosity of our benefactors to provide every student with a 3.0 or better with a scholarship totaling 1.4 million dollars. While many state and private universities have cut staff programs and scholarships, we were able to avoid that situation.

With the help of our Board of Trustees, our alumni and friends of the University, we have made significant campus upgrades to improve the quality of life for our students and to enhance our facilities. We understand that the “look” of the campus is reflective of our pride and belief in it. We have made our campus more secure and greatly improved the physical image

of the university, expending over 4 million dollars over the past 18 months to do so. We invite you to come and see for yourself. Something good is happening at Virginia Union University. You never leave a beautiful portrait unfinished and that element is being added to our campus.

In order to help insure the future, we are focusing intently on sound financial management which is fundamental to our long term viability. As a private HBCU we have not been afforded the privilege of a large endowment income, nor have we had the good fortune to annually receive major long-term gifts from benefactors. But, we are now seeing more of a willingness to give. This giving reflects a vote of confidence in Virginia Union and that is a key ingredient to the future success of the university. We are connecting with our alumni, our friends, our corporate partners and churches to help build the endowment that will sustain the legacy of Virginia Union University. We also must continue to manufacture creative ways of helping our students finance their education. I am extremely proud to announce this

morning the creation of the Limitless Future Fund. This quarter of a million dollar fund will assist students from the metro Richmond area with resources to complete their college education at Virginia Union University. This will symbolically seal our relationship with the community and foster our steadfast commitment.

We are in the process of strengthening our academic programs, and offering new degree programs are being planned, like the re-introduction of our Fine Arts degree, which will be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval in the next few months. We will also critically examine other possible academic offerings as we prepare our strategic plan for the next 5 years.

We realize that these changing times require us to be flexible and agile as we address the needs of this institution. We

realize that we must also be accountable, transparent and willing to take moderate risks necessary to move the University forward. This will allow us to grow in excellence, reach and influence. Circumstances around us may change. The city that we live in is changing. But, our fundamental values that guide this University will not change. We are respectful of the past, and we stand ready to meet the future with a sense of courage, determination and strong leadership. Please remember that we have completed everything that we told you that we were going to do.

Even though we are a regional University and our students come from 23 states throughout the nation, our roots are still grounded in the city of Richmond. We are the oldest, continuously operating African American educational enterprise

in this community employing over 300 full and part time employees from metro Richmond. Our economic impact in the Richmond area is almost \$90 million yearly. Our students last year logged nearly 4,000 hours of community service to Richmond-area organizations, agencies, schools and businesses. We have produced leaders of education, all levels of government, churches and business. Our alumni continue to provide irrefutable evidence of the success of their education from Virginia Union University. I am tempted to do a roll call this morning, but I shall not.

We know that we are an enduring symbol of what true effort, determination and faith can create. We need all of you and those you influence to help us along the way. Almost 50 years ago Samuel DeWitt Proctor, the fifth President of Virginia Union and one of our most well-known alumni, said upon being named President of North Carolina A&T State University, “We can never become so involved in applied science that we forget applied faith.”

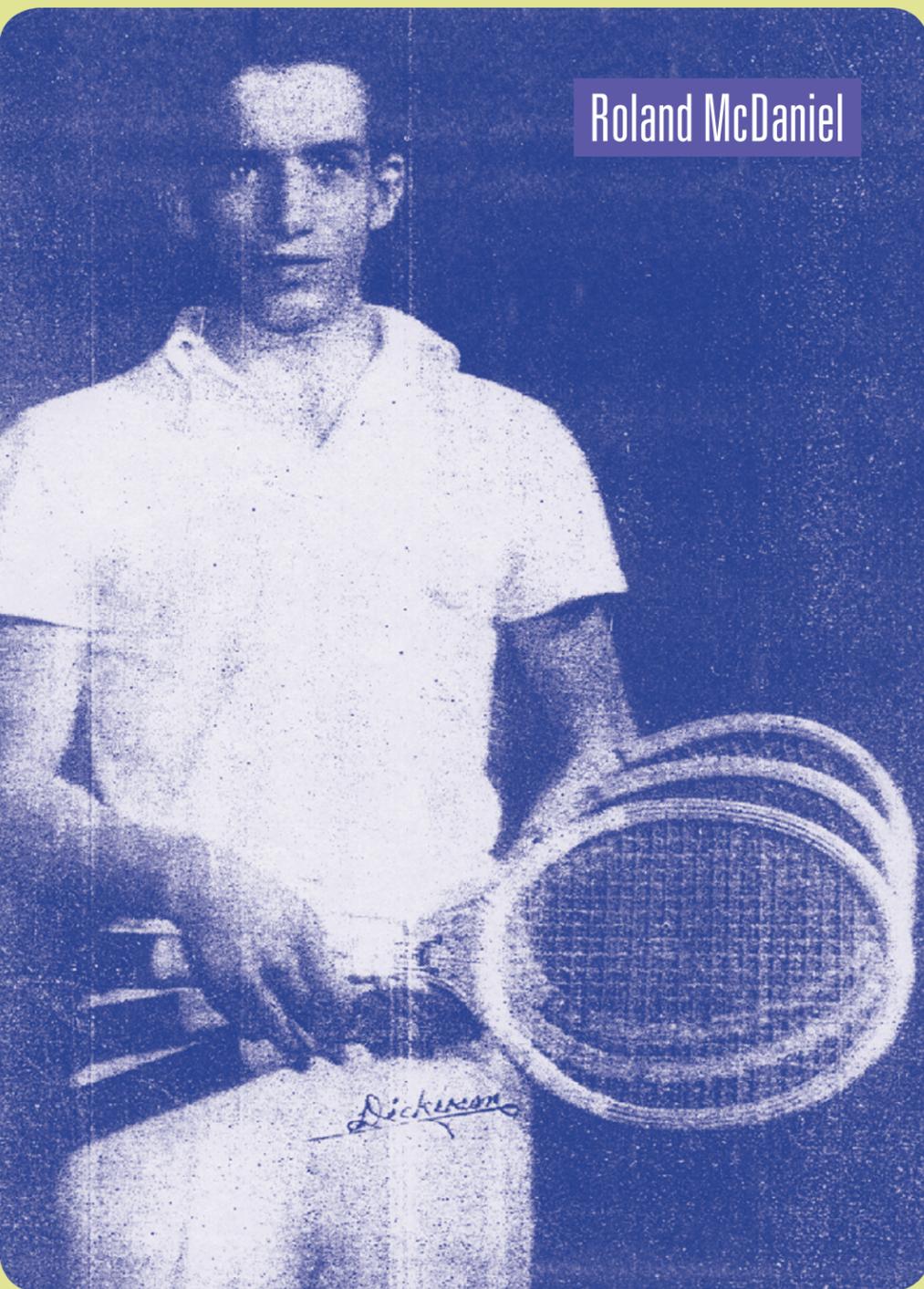
Faith is what has sustained Virginia Union University for 145 years. We have come this far by faith, and faith is what will keep us for the next 145 years. It is what our founders believed, what they envisioned when they etched our motto into the University seal – Dominus Providebit – God will provide.

Rooted in excellence, fortified by faith and advanced by intellect, Virginia Union University will fulfill the promise our founders made 145 years ago; the promise that still serves as our beacon and our guide to the students who enter our hallowed grounds in search of opportunity. That is the promise that will never change – the promise of a limitless future. May God bless us all.



The Forgotten Champion

BY JIM JUNOT
Virginia Union University Sports Information Director



Roland McDaniel

The old man sits in the Belgian Building on the Virginia Union University campus, alone in his eloquence.

His cane rests to his right, his eyes peer out through round glasses above a white moustache.

Modern-day student-athletes walk past the elderly gentleman, hardly giving him a second glance, unaware of the piece of living history they are passing by.

Once in a while, his eyes follow them, as if sizing up the athletes of 2010.

I approach him. "Excuse me, sir" I say, "Aren't you Roland McDaniel?"

A slight smile crosses the old man's face. His eyes suddenly twinkle.

"Yes, yes I am," he answers.

For the next 30 minutes, he tells me his story.

"I'm 89 years old, and I'm the only CIAA tennis champion ever to go to Virginia Union," he begins.

But there is more to the story than that.

Much more.

Although many people are familiar with VUU's basketball success in the last 30 years under the guidance of legendary coach Dave Robbins, an equal number are totally unaware that Union basketball was equally as successful more than 70 years ago.

The 1938-39 Panther squad was known as "The Dream Team," and VUU had won the first of

A Basketball Game, A Controversy and a Student-Athlete Who Paid the Ultimate Price

its many CIAA conference titles that season.

McDaniel is the last surviving member of that team.

"We were really good," he said. "We won two straight CIAA titles and should have won three."

This dynasty was built during a time when VUU's student population numbered around 300.

VUU's coach and athletic director, Henry Hucles, had built the basketball team into a powerhouse.

Too powerful for a college team, some said.

Vicious rumors and whispers started about the Panthers. Some couldn't believe that a small private university could field such a great team without the lure of payment to the players.

In the meantime, McDaniel was playing tennis for Union, and in 1940, he became the first and only VUU tennis player to win the individual tennis championship of the CIAA.

"We played tennis in the fall back then," he remembered. "We played the championships at Lincoln University in Pennsylvania in November, and it was really cold."

McDaniel advanced to the championship after downing his opponent from Johnson C. Smith University 15-13, 6-0 in the quarter-finals and then upset the number-one seed, Maurice "Flip" Jackson from Howard University, 2-6, 6-2, 7-5.

The quarter-final match is still the longest CIAA title match ever played.

"We didn't have tie-breakers back then," he said. "I played the

longest match in the history of the CIAA, and won in one of the shortest matches ever played."

McDaniel had a secret weapon, though. His clothing.

"I was the only player to have a pair of long white tennis pants, the others had to play in shorts in the cold," he said, smiling.

In the championship match, McDaniels downed Eugene Harrington of Shaw University 6-1, 3-6, 6-3.

I showed him the file I had accumulated on him. In one picture in the 1940 CIAA Bulletin, McDaniel is standing in the back row next to another Union player.

"He was my doubles partner, and we were really close," he said, tapping the photo. "He got called up when World War II broke out."

He grows silent.

"He's passed on now," he said.

After the 1940 tennis season, McDaniel returned to playing basketball.

The Panthers' success on the hardwood continued, with VUU winning 25 of 27 games.

But so did the rumors, mostly among the other schools in the CIAA and the CIAA office.

Things came to a head between VUU and the CIAA on March 7, 1941.

The Belgian Building wasn't originally built on the Union campus. It was built in New York, N.Y., for the 1939 World's Fair. Union had been awarded the building by the United States government after Nazi Germany had invaded Belgium.

VUU planned on using the building as a home basketball court, since at the time the

Panthers had none. VUU played their home games either at the old Municipal Recreational Center or on the stage at The Mosque (now The Landmark Theatre in Richmond, Va.).

But Union had to pay for the transportation of the building from New York to Richmond, and the best way to do that was to play an exhibition basketball game against a well-known opponent.

The most well-known professional basketball team at the time was the Harlem Globetrotters. The National Basketball Association didn't exist yet, and the Globetrotters were the World Professional Champions.

It would be like VUU playing the NBA champion Los Angeles Lakers today.

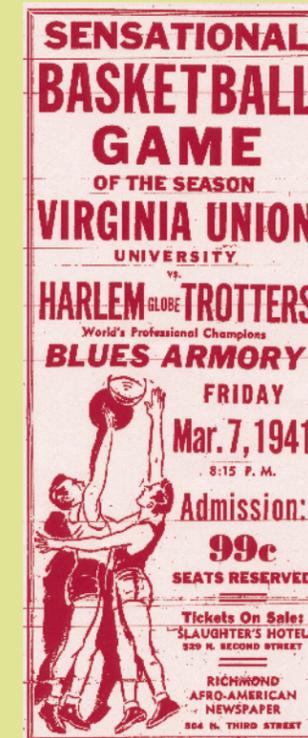
The game, since it was to be played against professional players, had to receive special permission from the AAU and the CIAA.

The game was to be played at the Blues Armory on Sixth Street in Richmond, Va. Tickets were 99 cents (equivalent to \$15 in today's money).

A sell-out crowd of 2,000 people packed the Blues Armory on March 7, 1941 as the Globetrotters and the Panthers took to the court.

But behind the scenes, trouble was brewing.

Less than an hour before the game, the CIAA ruled that the Globetrotters were an "outlaw" team, and that VUU faced severe penalties if they went through with the game.



The Globetrotters were already on the court, and there were over 2,000 people packed in the stands expecting a game.

If Union backed out now, not only would they have to pay the Trotters for their appearance, but they would have to refund the money to an angry crowd, and the hopes of VUU having their own basketball court would most likely be gone forever.

Hucles made the only decision he could, to go through with the game.

"We couldn't cancel the game," McDaniel said. "We just couldn't."

The game itself would go down in VUU history as one of the most memorable ever played. The contest was tied eight times and wasn't decided until the Globetrotters' Bernie Price hit a basket in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

The Forgotten Champion CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17



Also, the Panthers used Wiley "Soup" Campbell in the game because the team was decimated by the flu. Again, nothing was said at the time.

Playing teams in another conference was done all of the time, even in 1940-41, but the charges were, in fact, true.

The unsportsmanlike conduct charge stemmed from the fact that the officials had to be escorted by security off the court during the VUU-Morgan State game held in Richmond. The size and layout of the gym made it necessary for officials to be given an escort.

This time, however, the CIAA said the crowd was booing and whistling at the referees.

Booing a ref? Shocking.

Most fans and sports reporters agreed that five of the six charges were bogus, and the true penalty was because VUU defied the CIAA by playing the Globetrotters.

"First of all, let's not brand the Virginia Union basketball players as 'pros,'" wrote Lem Graves, Jr., in the Norfolk Journal & Guide. "They are not 'professionals' in any sense of the word. They are simply a bunch of nice college kids who happen to be better-than-average basketball players."

The CIAA leveled six charges at the Panthers: Playing a game against Brooklyn College (the previous November) without permission from the CIAA; using an ineligible player against Brooklyn College; playing teams in another conference without CIAA permission; using an ineligible player against a team in another conference; unsportsmanlike conduct in the Union-Morgan State game; playing a professional team without AAU sanction.

Four of the six charges stemmed from VUU's game against Brooklyn College. The Panthers beat Brooklyn in November, 1940, with nothing being said at the time.

Hucles, as athletic director, could not allow his student-athletes to lose their scholarships, and backed

into a corner, he accepted whatever sanctions the conference chose to apply.

By an 8-0 vote, the CIAA voted to force Union to suspend all athletic activity for six months.

Today, it would be called an across-the-board "death penalty" for VUU athletics.

"Union's athletes in three sports: basketball, track and tennis are not responsible," wrote Graves in the Norfolk Journal & Guide.

Sam Lacy, the legendary sports writer, wrote in a special column to the Afro-American newspaper that the CIAA was being "inconsistent" in their rulings.

"Union officials contend that if the CIAA plans to enforce the rules impartially, (then) something should be said about [Howard, Lincoln, Morgan State and Virginia State] playing the D.C. Recs," Lacy wrote.

The D.C. Recs were the Recreational Collegiates, a group of professional players from the Washington, D.C. area who were patterned after the Trotters, the New York Renaissance and the Washington Brewers.

As a result, VUU cancelled its game against Howard, but the Panthers played VSU in a game classified as an exhibition the following week. VUU downed the Trojans 56-24 in the Blues Armory.

The game raised the necessary funds to transport the Belgian Building from New York to Richmond. On June 9, 1941, the cornerstone was laid on the corner of Brook and Lombardy streets.

VUU, on the other hand, was prohibited from defending its CIAA basketball title.

"They brought the building down on huge trucks on Route 1," McDaniel said.

The Panthers still play in the Belgian Building, now known as Barco-Stevens Hall, to this day, and they have won three national championships in men's basketball and one in women's basketball.

But for McDaniel, it was the end of the road. He would be a senior in the 1941-42 school year, and he was prohibited from competing in the 1941 CIAA Tennis Championships.

"I still think I could have won the championship again," he said, ruefully. "But I wasn't allowed to compete."

The result is an unfinished ending to McDaniel's legacy. Even though more than seven decades have passed since the controversial basketball game, McDaniel still hasn't gained admission to either the CIAA or VUU Athletic Halls of Fame.

As McDaniel turns to leave, he peers out of the huge plate glass windows which adorn the Belgian Building. Without his and his teammates' sacrifice 70 years ago, the building might not stand where it does today.

Two more student-athletes of 2010 pass him as he leaves. One holds the door for him as he slowly exits the building.

He looks at the players and, just for a moment, a smile appears again.

Then, as the door closes, he himself disappears.

ATHLETIC SCHEDULES



2011 WOMEN'S SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
Sunday, February 27th	Washington Adventist University	Home	12pm & 2pm
Fri., Mar. 4th & Sat. Mar. 5th	Virginia Beach Blast Tournament	Away	TBA
Wednesday, March 9th	Elizabeth City State University	Home	2pm & 4pm
Fri.-Mon., Mar. 11th-14th	CIAA Round Up Tournament	TBA	
Wednesday March 16th	Rappahannock Community College	Away	3pm & 5pm
Saturday, March 19th	Slippery Rock University	Home	2pm & 4pm
Tuesday, March 22nd	Bowie University	Home	2pm & 4pm
Friday, March 25th	St. Paul's College	Away	2pm & 4pm
Sunday, March 27th	Washington Adventist University	Away	12pm & 2pm
Tuesday, March 29th	Chowan University	Home	2pm & 4pm
Tuesday, April 1st	Virginia State University	Home	2pm & 4pm
Monday, April 5th	St. Paul's College	Home	2pm & 4pm
Saturday April 9th	Lincoln University	Home	2pm & 4pm
Tuesday, April 12th	Virginia State University	Away	3pm & 5pm
Thurs.-Sat., Apr. 20th-23rd	CIAA Championship	TBA	

2010-11 WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
1/22-23/11	University of Maryland	College Park, MD	TBA
1/29/11	Carolina Classic	Chapel Hill, NC	TBA
2/5/11	CNU Vince Brown Invitational	Newport News, VA	TBA
2/11-12/11	CIAA Indoor Championship	Hampton, VA	TBA
2/18-19/11	Virginia Tech "Last Chance"	Blacksburg, VA	TBA
3/11-12/11	NCAA Div. II Indoor Natl. Championship	Albuquerque, NM	TBA

2010-11 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
Jan. 20	at Fayetteville State University*	Fayetteville, NC	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 24	at Saint Paul's College*	Lawrenceville, VA	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 29	at Chowan University*	Murfreesboro, NC	5:30 p.m.
JAN. 31	LINCOLN UNIVERSITY*	BARCO-STEVEN'S HALL	5:30 P.M.
FEB. 3	BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY*	BARCO-STEVEN'S HALL	5:30 P.M.
Feb. 5	at Elizabeth City State University*	Elizabeth City, NC	1:00 p.m.
FEB. 10	SAINT PAUL'S COLLEGE*	BARCO-STEVEN'S HALL	5:30 P.M.
Feb. 12	at Virginia State University*	Petersburg, VA	5:30 p.m.
FEB. 14	CHOWAN UNIVERSITY*	BARCO-STEVEN'S HALL	5:30 P.M.
Feb. 16	at Livingstone College*	Salisbury, NC	5:30 p.m.
FEB. 17	VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY*	BARCO-STEVEN'S HALL	5:30 P.M.
Feb. 19	at Lincoln University*	Lincoln University, PA	5:30 p.m.
Feb. 21	at Bowie State University*	Bowie, MD	5:30 p.m.
FEB. 23	ELIZABETH CITY STATE UNIVERSITY*	BARCO-STEVEN'S HALL	5:30 P.M.
Feb. 28-Mar. 5	at CIAA Tournament	Charlotte, NC	TBA

2010-11 MEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME/RESULT
1/20/2011	*Fayetteville State	Fayetteville, NC	7:30 p.m.
1/24/2011	*Saint Paul's	Lawrenceville, VA	7:30 p.m.
1/31/2011	*Lincoln (Pa.)	Richmond, VA	7:30 p.m.
2/3/2011	*Bowie State	Richmond, VA	7:30 p.m.
2/5/2011	Elizabeth City State	Elizabeth City, NC	5:05 PM
2/10/2011	*Saint Paul's	Richmond, VA	7:30 p.m.
2/14/2011	*Chowan	Richmond, VA	7:30 p.m.
2/16/2011	*Livingstone	Salisbury, NC	7:30 p.m.
2/19/2011	*Lincoln (Pa.)	Lincoln University, PA	7:30 p.m.
2/21/2011	*Bowie State	Bowie, MD	7:30 p.m.
2/23/2011	*Elizabeth City State	Richmond, VA	7:30 p.m.
2/28-3/5/2011	CIAA Tournament	Charlotte, NC	

* denotes a Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association contest

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.

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.

Excellence
Dedication
Talent

Dr. Gerard McShepard has grown up around science all his life. His father earned a triple masters in Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics and taught Biology for 30 years in Brentwood, Tennessee. His mother also earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology and became a teacher as well. McShepard has early childhood memories of his father bringing high school biology experiments home and testing them out with him, his sister and his brother at the kitchen table. "I didn't realize it then, but we were doing high school projects at the age of seven and eight years old. It just kind of stuck with me," he says.

McShepard says he always knew he would major in biology, and his love for the subject comes to life in his conversations about his time as an Assistant Professor of Biology in the School of Mathematics, Science and Technology Department of Natural & Physical Sciences at Virginia Union University (VUU). Though he has only been at Union since August 2009, he has already taken ownership of programs and activities that he feels will engage his students and make them young scholars.

Typically, McShepard interacts with freshmen on a daily basis. He teaches freshman biology for majors and non-majors and he is gearing up in the spring to teach Microbiology, which is usually not favored among students. When asked about the difficulty students face in this particular class he seems upbeat and

comments with a laugh that students are looking forward to taking his class. McShepard goes on to explain that he uses a lot of technology which makes the learning fun and interactive. In fact, the new iPad is a regular feature in his lectures. "With all this technology – texting, cell phone, social media and the Internet – I have to find ways to keep [learning] relevant," he says.

He is so adamant about making technology a permanent part of his lectures that he applied for a Mobile Learning Grant and was awarded \$3500 to use technology as an interactive learning tool in the classroom. "Students don't like traditional learning, but when we incorporate technology it exposes them to more. The more they are exposed to the information, the more they learn."

Since coming to VUU, McShepard has re-activated Beta Kappa Chi National Scientific Honor Society and the National Institute of Science with the support of Dr. Claude Perkins and the administration. "It gives students different goals and allows them to take ownership of their learning," says McShepard.

McShepard considers each student to be a young scholar and addresses them in a way that promotes them to think "I will act as if I am." He also put in place other popular educational incentives such as seminars like the Swagger of a Science Scholar...

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28



Dr. Gerard McShepard



“I couldn’t imagine waking up one day and not coming to Virginia Union University...”

Margaret Duckworth, Professor of English, has been waking up and coming to Virginia Union University every day for the last 43 years. She is currently the longest tenured professor at the University with no plans to retire. “Recently a student came to see me when I was juggling the idea to retire and said, ‘You can’t retire, you have to teach my children’”, laughs Duckworth.

She admits that her coming to VUU may have been pre-ordained. “My husband was teaching at the University of Richmond and someone mentioned that Virginia Union was hiring...” After hearing the news, Duckworth applied for the position and was personally interviewed by then President Thomas Henderson. She recalls him telling a member of the staff, “She’s what I’ve been praying to the Lord for...”

According to Duckworth, she began working at the university the next day and has not looked back. Teaching is her passion. She believes that students attend colleges not only to gain knowledge in their chosen career field but to become productive men and women when they leave. “College teaches you to do research, read and comprehend research and articulate research written and oral. It also introduces you to new ideas and concepts and helps you discover yourself and your own capabilities,” says Duckworth.

Active learning and student participation are the standards for Duckworth’s classes. Teaching students and developing their writing abilities brings her tremendous joy. “I love to see my students grow in their writing talent. I love to introduce them to new ideas and stories.” One must be actively involved to successfully complete one of Duckworth’s courses. “Students have to be involved in their own education.” Over the years Duckworth has taught freshman composition, humanities, British literature, linguistics and drama.

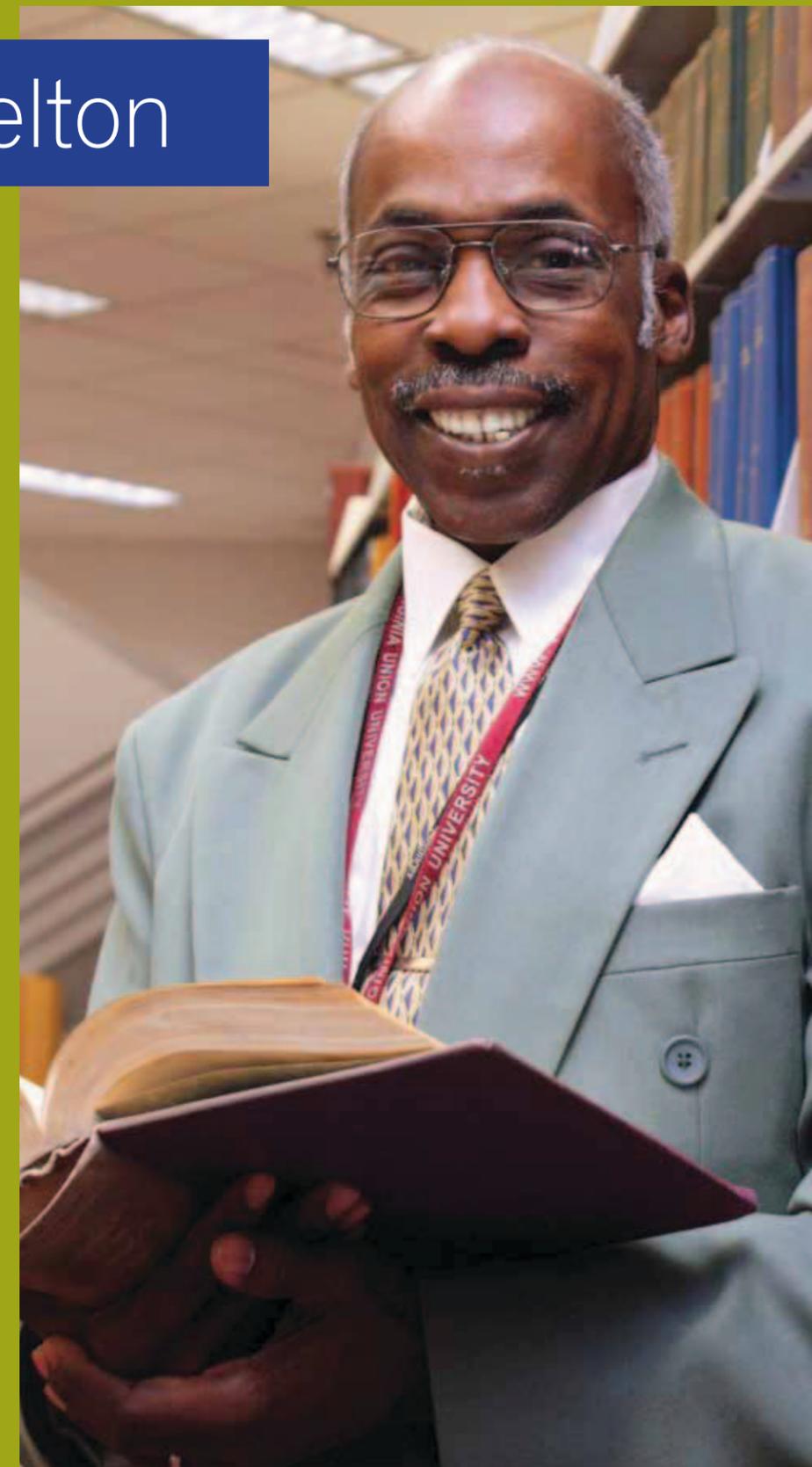
She received her undergraduate degree from Springfield College and obtained her Master’s from University of Kentucky. She also performed some graduate work at Purdue’s summer seminar and the University of Richmond.

It is Virginia Union, however, which holds a special place in her heart. She is proud of VUU. She believes the university has helped a lot of students realize their potential and sent them into the world to be productive and successful citizens. The students are what Duckworth enjoys most.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

Margaret Duckworth

Ronald A. Shelton



In the fourth grade Ronald Shelton had already made up in his mind that he was going to pursue higher education and attend college, but becoming a professor was not what he had in mind. Growing up in Richmond’s Church Hill community, Shelton was one of five children. He was very good in math and science but had a passion for reading. With his parents both being college graduates, he knew that he too would travel that road.

“Growing up in Church Hill, Virginia Union was considered the black Harvard”, says Shelton. At a young age Shelton was extremely impressed by the graduates of Virginia Union. “You would think VUU was a big school.” As the John F. Kennedy High School senior prepared for graduation, he worked hard on completing his essays and applications to Virginia State University, University of Virginia, and Norfolk State University. Surprisingly, he did not apply to Virginia Union. “Oddly enough I didn’t think I was good enough to attend Virginia Union.” Because of his profound knowledge in science and math, Shelton considered majoring in engineering.

Shelton decided to attend Virginia State University providing him the comfort of being only 30 minutes from home yet far enough away that relatives wouldn’t just make surprise appearances. Graduating with a Bachelor’s degree in history he shifted his career focus. A friend, who happened to be a librarian, had spoken to him regarding his future endeavors and mentioned the many possibilities of his history degree. He also recognized Shelton’s love of reading. Enlightened by the conversation, Shelton made the decision to enroll in librarian school. He attended The Atlanta University, now known as Clark-Atlanta University, in Atlanta, Georgia to pursue his Masters of Science in Library Science.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28



Dr. Carleitta Paige

How do you approach a problem you can't see? While most people shy away from the unknown Dr. Carleitta Paige gravitates toward it. The unknown is what drives her research in biochemistry and what ultimately helped her decide to be a first-year professor at her alma mater.

Paige is no stranger to the legacy of which she is now a part. Not only has she followed in the footsteps of many Virginia Union University (VUU) alumni who started their career as students and now serve as faculty, but she has also found through researching her family history that she joins family members that attended VUU when it was Hartshorn Memorial College and Storer College of Harper Valley, which merged its assets with Union in 1964. "I wasn't really sure if I wanted to come back to teach at Union since I just recently graduated," says Paige. "But after doing the research and finding out my strong family ties to Union, my decision was made for me."

Paige's decision to teach at VUU gives her students a glimpse at the promise of a limitless future beyond the brick and mortar of Union's walls. "I got a lot of confidence while I was at VUU," comments Paige. "I learned how to excel with the resources I had which allowed me to go on and do well in other environments." She credits faculty like Anthony Madu, Associate Professor in the Department of Natural Sciences and former advisor over the Minority Access for Research Career program (MARC), for motivating her to get involved in

activities and providing guidance and confidence to pursue summer programs. While the MARC program is no longer in existence, the programs that Paige participated in helped her focus her attention on biochemistry and how research in that area benefits people in their everyday lives.

As Paige navigates being a professor, motivator, tutor and anything else her students require, she also tries to prepare them for the tough road ahead. With many students turning their back on science because of the difficult course work they encounter, Paige offers her advice: "Start acting today as if you are in the profession you want to be. This course is difficult but your profession will be difficult too." She does not allow the challenge of the work ahead to deter the dreams of her students. Instead, Paige offers her support by meeting with students after their exams and helping them identify their learning styles.

Since transitioning from student to professor, Paige has become interested in developing educational policies. She is convinced that there should be a different approach to teaching minorities science. She also feels that research should be introduced much earlier in the curriculum to give students different options in the field of biology.

Paige sees the effects of a limited introduction to science as students enter Union as freshmen. They are constantly trying to figure out the unknowns of their future. They question if they have what they need to be successful. Paige, however, doesn't need to do any research to answer that question for them. "Of course," she tells them. "I am an example and I am here. My being [at Union] gives them hope."

Faculty and Staff Updates

Dr. Angela Chamblee, Assistant Professor of English, recently published a book entitled *An Ancient African Wisdom Book: Commentary on the Instruction of Ptahhotep*. *THE INSTRUCTION OF PTAHHOTEP* is the oldest book found in the world. It is a book of proverbs, advice given from a very old man to a young man in line to become the Pharaoh. It gives advice about marriage, child-rearing, conflict resolution, how to have good interpersonal relations with people, etc.

Dr. Sunita Sharma, Associate Professor of Teacher Education and Special Education, presented a research based presentation at Virginia Council of Exceptional Children (CEC) at the VA/CEC 2010 Annual Conference at Regent University at Virginia Beach on November 6, 2010. The presentation was entitled *No Teacher Left Behind, "Preparing all Teachers for 21st Century Global Classroom"*.

Dr. Phillip W. Archer, Interim Dean of the School of Math, Science and Technology, in collaboration with a professor from VCU recently (18 Oct 2010) received notice of a scientific manuscript accepted for publication in *Maternal and Child Health Journal* entitled *Does Maternal Birth Outcome Differentially Influence the Occurrence of Infant Death among African Americans and European Americans?*

Dr. Carleita Page, '03, Assistant Professor of Biochemistry, recently co-authored an article published in the journal *Biochemistry*, as a result of an on-going collaboration with Wake Forest University. The article is entitled "Characterization of the N-Acetyl-alpha-D-glucosaminyl L-Malate Synthase and Deacetylase Functions for Bacillithiol Biosynthesis in *Bacillus anthracis*." In brief, the research findings presented in this article describe biochemical pathways that are present in the bacterium that causes anthrax disease. It is thought that the outcome of this research may lead to the development of new therapeutic treatments against this bacterium, as well as other disease-causing bacteria containing similar biochemical processes.

Vanessa Moody Coombs, Associate Professor in the Department of Mass Communications, recently completed production of *Virginia Union University: A Bridge to Intellectual Freedom & Equality, The Promise of a Limitless Future*. The 30-minute video presentation chronicles Virginia Union's history from its founding in 1865 to present day. Research assistance was provided by Dr. Raymond P. Hylton, professor of history, and Ms. Selicia G. Allen, university archivist.

Dr. Adriane Leche, Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Compliance, was elected to serve on the board of the Virginia Assessment Group at their annual conference held on Nov. 15-17, 2010 in Lynchburg. The Virginia Assessment Group (VAG) promotes quality higher education through assessment and institutional effectiveness practices in all Commonwealth, post-secondary institutions. VAG serves as a network for communication and collaboration among institutions of higher education, state and federal agencies, and accreditation bodies.

Dr. Mohammad Al Qudah, Mathematics Department, presented a talk at the Mathematical Association of America, MD-DC-VA Section, November 5-6, 2010 at George Mason University. The title of the talk was "Best Approximation and Lipschitz Constant in Generalized Haar Spaces of Tensor Product Type of the Same Dimension". In addition, Dr Al Qudah is engaged in The APEX Linear Algebra Project. In this project, he is planning to prepare a linear algebra book that can be accessible to all students for free (almost free) of charge.

Dr. Shyamal Premaratne, Assistant Professor in Anatomy and Physiology, had her manuscript "AMELIORATION OF ISCHEMIA-REPERFUSION INJURY IN AN ISOLATED RABBIT LUNG MODEL USING OXANOH" accepted for publication in the *Journal for Vascular and Endovascular Surgery*.

MARY LEE DEPILLARS '74

Why I Give

Someone recently asked me why I support Virginia Union University. The question stopped me in my tracks because, for me, supporting Virginia Union is a “no brainer.” I guess I feel so much a part of the University that giving back is part of “my normal.” Along with my parents, Virginia Union set me on a path that allows me to enjoy the life I am blessed to live now.

Forty some years ago, a city born and country raised kid was brought by the hand of her high school principal to Virginia Union and turned over to the elders of the day. The principal simply said, “We got her through high school, now I want to get her through college. She’s smart but hard headed.” And so began my now 46-year history with my beloved Alma Mater.

There’s a nurturing that takes place at Virginia Union... the development of a strong sense of family, and it crosses all lines...from fellow students to professors to staff to administrators and trustees. There is a caring that encouraged me and made me want to succeed at whatever I chose to do after I left Virginia Union.

I am blessed to have several “best” friends, but the woman who is at the top of the list is one I met the first day I moved onto the campus. She was not my roommate, but we lived on the same floor and something clicked with us that has survived and flourished through the years. I am an only child, but she was one of 13. Her family became my family, and when my own mother passed away a month ago, it was her mother who had the “motherly” talk with me the morning of my mother’s funeral. She offered strong encouragement and unbridled love.

As a student, when an administrator learned that I was interested in pledging a sorority (not her own, by the way) she stopped me on the sidewalk and asked when I planned to pledge. I told her as soon as I had enough credits. She told me I had already earned more than the required amount and encouraged me to go ahead and pursue the pledge opportunity... that week. I did and earned my twenty



ALONG WITH MY PARENTS,
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pearls shortly thereafter. And I have to acknowledge a special Big Sister who taught me to sew my outfits for Greek Week... she had already graduated and was teaching in the public school system. So, she worked every day, came home, fed her family, prepared for the next day at school, then helped me learn a skill that I still use... and so greatly appreciate.

Both my high school sweetheart and I entered Virginia Union as Freshmen in 1964. We married a year later... I dropped out of school... and two years later, we welcomed our son. But the Vietnam War was raging and the military required [my husband’s] service, taking him out of school in his senior year. I was working on campus; the pay wasn’t much, but I was happy. I felt protected and cared about. I was surrounded by my Union family. My child grew up on and around the campus, and there was no shortage of babysitters when absolutely needed.

One day, after the Richmond Public School system began transporting youngsters all over the city in an attempt to achieve an integrated student body and more consistent learning opportunities, the president of the local alumni association who was also our family physician, saw my son walking along Overbrook Road alone. He had been let off the bus a few stops too early! This blessed Unionite went to the nearest phone (there were no cell phones back then) and called me at my campus office. He told me what he believed had happened and that he had tried to get my son to let him bring him (my son) to me, but of course we had taught him not to ride with anyone but his parents and grandparents. (I had to revise that list to include the family physician!) So he watched my son continue his walk toward home until I could catch up with him. I was ever so grateful that he cared enough to watch and protect until I arrived.

I was blessed to spend ten years on the campus... from entering as a Freshman in 1964 until finally graduating in 1974. During that time, there was no shortage of nurturers and encouragers. And the flip side was that I did not stand

a snowball’s chance of doing anything wrong or attempting to get away with anything that was not acceptable. The “village” was on alert.

Mrs. Ruby Bryant knew I was avoiding the English Essay exam, but she stayed on my case until I took (and passed) it. Dr. Ruth Harris whetted my interest in business and made sure I was aware of opportunities available that would serve me well in the industry in which I said I wanted to work. Coach Tom Harris tried to teach me golf since “As many business decisions are made on the golf course as are made downtown.” Much to his dismay, I never really learned even though I did try (for awhile)... but L.D. Smith did succeed in teaching me (and several others who were brave enough to sign up for his class at his church) how to play bridge.

There are so many stories that warm my heart as I revisit my life at Virginia Union. And so many wonderful people like Dr. Walter Bradley who hired me to work part-time when I went back to school and needed a job, and Mrs. Verdelle Bradley who was quick to praise, slow to criticize and always encouraging. And Dr. Frank Gayles, who allowed me to take a heavier load than was normally approved because I was out of time and out of money and had mapped a plan to graduate in 1974. I promised him I would not let him down, and I did not. There was nothing special about my situation. So many alumni have similar stories and experiences that guided them to and through successful careers.

So, when I am asked why I give back, I guess it is because I am an extension of VUU, so I am really only giving to myself... the city born kid from the country who came from a humble but proud background... from a hard working father and a stay-at-home-making-ends-meet-mother. I was only the second in my family to graduate from college... and I remember how proud my parents were when I led the Business School class into the auditorium at the old Mosque, now called the Richmond Landmark Theater.

Too many of the young people who come here come from non-affluent backgrounds... many come with dreams, a little money, or none – encouraged by a preacher back home who believes in them, or a teacher at their high school who graduated from Virginia Union, or a principal who believes it is a part of his job to ensure that a promising student gets an opportunity! I give back because almost 50 years ago, I was that young person. I give back because I truly believe that to whom much is given, much is expected. I give back because of all those wonderful nurturers who touched my life. I give back because for me it is the right thing to do.

I believe it is the right thing to do. Virginia Union has given me far more than I can ever give back!

And I know that giving back is not limited to a few dollars here and there. It is also a well-placed word or two that will influence a decision that can ultimately benefit the University. It is a recommendation when the University is in competition (formal or not) for a renowned lecturer, a grant, a program, or whatever. It is challenging those who are similarly situated, but who choose to discount the value of what they received at Virginia Union or those who choose to use decades-old grudges as excuses for their inactivity. It is redirecting resources to benefit the University, whether through estate planning or gifts given to honor a Unionite.

It is finding and employing ways to ensure the health and future of this great institution... an institution that gives far more to the kid on the street, who has the smarts, but maybe not the wherewithal to get a good college education and an education on life itself, than the larger, colder more impersonal institutions can give. It is doing whatever one can, in whatever way, to ensure that there continues to be a Virginia Union, founded 145 years ago to educate the children of freed slaves in 1865. Why do I give back? Because I believe it is the right thing to do. Virginia Union has given me far more than I can ever give back!

Dr. Gerard McShepard

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

...which gives students helpful tips on time management, and interactive learning communities called Increasing Science Swagger in Secondary Education that combine General Biology lectures with Organic Chemistry.

More than anything McShepard wants Union students to be successful. He is known for saying, "Your feet can not take you where your thoughts do not direct you," and he is making every effort to ensure they construct a solid future that will aid in their transition to become productive members of society.

Margaret Duckworth

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

"Virginia Union University students are warm, caring, welcoming and interested in learning." Former students of Duckworth remember the times in her class and credit her for much success both in their careers and lives.

"Mrs. Duckworth is absolutely one of a kind. What I remember most about her is that she took a genuine interest in her students. She was warm and caring, but she demanded excellence, and you wanted to be excellent for her. She instilled in me a love for writing and a confidence that has stayed with me throughout the years," says Shena Crittendon, '92, now Assistant to the President and Director of Public Relations at VUU.



Impacting lives is just one of the many reasons Duckworth has enjoyed such longevity at VUU. "You have to do something to make your little corner of the world better," she says with a smile, "I've always known I wanted to teach. I was born to teach."

Ronald A. Shelton

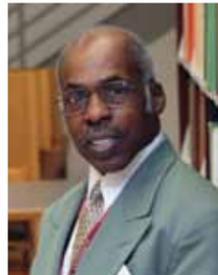
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

After graduating from Clark Atlanta, Shelton decided to no longer pursue law school but seminary. "I asked God was He sure and He said yes," said Shelton.

In the pursuit to be obedient to the will of God, he applied to Virginia Union's Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology. Shelton was accepted and, while there, grew spiritually and graduated with his Master's in Divinity in 1985. A few years later Shelton began working at Virginia Union University currently serving as the Interim Theological Librarian, enabling him to use both of his master's degrees.

Shelton says he enjoys interacting with his students through research or the freshman general studies class he teaches. "My biggest accomplishment is seeing them (students) walk across the stage. I feel I had a little to do with them getting there." Some students may view him as demanding, but he insists he is always fair. "I push them because they have great potential."

Looking back Ronald Shelton is proud of his accomplishments. He tries to instill the love of continuous learning into his students both academically and personally. "We need to look at higher education in terms of where we are and where we want to go, because education is a critical



junction," he said. He wants to continue to make an impact on every student that passes his way and to instill in them the same motto that his mother grounded within him; "Whatever you start you finish."

"I believe in giving back," said Shelton. "Virginia Union helped mold me and I enjoy being a part of this place... which is something great."

in memoriam

- Ms. Essie Armstead, '62
- Reverend George Bell, Jr.
- Mrs. Thelma M. Booker, '50
- Mrs. Uvelia S. Adkins Bowen, '45
- Mrs. Sandra E. Burno-DeBerry, '72
- Mrs. Teresa Ann B. Calvin, '53
- Mr. Calvin A. Childs
- Ms. Athalyn Cook-Young
- Mr. Ronald H. Fleming, '68
- Mrs. Marthelia B. Hargrove, '63
- Ms. Inez O. Henderson
- Mrs. Alyce J. Hicks, '55
- Reverend Robert B. Hooper, Jr., '49
- Mrs. Mamie L. Hughes, '45
- Dr. Alexander Lincoln James, Sr., '45
- Mrs. Joan C. Johnson, '63
- Ms. Lillian M. Jones, '46
- Mr. Herbert H. Jones, '60
- Mrs. Dorothy K. Joyner, '44
- Mrs. Ella O. Lewis, '45
- Mr. Carvie M. Mason, Jr., '50
- Mr. Neal C. McCall, '76
- Mrs. Margaret W. Murphy
- Reverend Mary M. Murphy
- Mrs. Christine A. Patterson, '49
- Mrs. Claudine G. Penick-Jones, '68
- Mr. Ronald C. Perkins, '72
- Mr. Ronald X. Peterson, '74
- Mrs. Ernestine D. Phillips, '59
- Dr. Harry C. Press, '52
- Mr. Sammie L. Ragin, '72
- Mr. Alfred R. Rozier, '60
- Mr. Kenneth W. Saffold, '74
- Mr. Jube B. Shiver, Sr., '54
- Dr. James L. Singleton, Jr., '67
- Mrs. Carolyn A. Randolph Smith, '43
- Mr. Martin A. Strother, '77
- Mr. Irvin Sugg
- Mr. James H. Taylor, Jr., '60
- Ms. Iris D. Turner, '74
- Mr. George S. Walker, Jr., '57
- Mr. Charles L. Williams, '40

Virginia Union University Calendar of Events

SPRING 2011

EVENT	DATE
Classes Begin (Spring Semester)	January 10, 2011
Founders' Day <i>Coburn Hall</i>	February 4, 2011 11:00am
University Career Fair	March 24, 2011 10:00am-3:00pm
Spring Concert <i>Coburn Hall</i>	April 10, 2011 TBA
Panther Fest 2011	April 10-17, 2011
Mr. and Miss Virginia Union University Pageant	April 12, 2011
Honors' Convocation <i>Coburn Hall</i>	April 21, 2011 11:00am
Baccalaureate <i>Coburn Hall</i>	May 13, 2011 6:00pm
Commencement <i>Hovey Field</i>	May 14, 2011 10:00am
Panther Preview	June 24, 25, 27, 2011



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ALUMNI UPDATES

Kachena Calbert Boyd, '05 received her Masters of Public Administration from Devry University in 2008 and currently works for the United States General Services Administration as a Leasing Specialist.

Glen Cunningham, '84 recently opened The Oasis Laser Skin Center in Richmond, VA. www.theoasislaser.com

Dr. W. Franklyn Richardson, '79 was unanimously elected Chairman of Virginia Union University's Board of Trustees on December 15, 2010. He also has become the Chairman of a new organization called the Conference of National Black Churches. The leaders of the nation's nine largest historically black denominations have united to form the new organization. The potentially powerful group's goal: To fill "the void for a unified voice of faith advocating on behalf of African-Americans and other underserved populations on health, education, social justice and economic empowerment issues." The new group represents more than 30 million people and 50,000 congregations.

Dr. John W. Kinney, '72, Dean of the Samuel Dewitt Proctor School of Theology received the Jeffery B Spence Award for Interfaith Understanding during the 48th Annual Humanitarian Awards.

Lois Brooks Johnson '55 published her sixth book, entitled "Behind The Dark Curtain."

Sarah E. Morris '05 serves as the Assistant Principal of Ratcliff Elementary in Richmond, Virginia.

Wendy Pace Lewis '97 was promoted to partner at KPMG LLP.

Dr. Morris W. Lee '58 celebrated his 50th Pastoral Anniversary at Third Baptist Church

Kristie White, '98 received her Master's degree in Business Administration from Averett University December, 2010.

Morris White III, '03 received his Master's degree in Education from Virginia Tech December, 2010.

Adam Taylor, '09 is the Senior Political Director at Sojourners. He is responsible for leading the organization's advocacy, coalition building, and constituency outreach. He formerly served as the Executive Director of Global Justice, an organization that educates and mobilizes students around global human rights and economic justice. Before co-founding Global Justice, he worked as an Associate at the Harvard University Carr Center for Human Rights and as an Urban Fellow in the Department of Housing Preservation and Development in New York City. He also serves as an Associate Minister at Shiloh Baptist Church in Washington, D.C. Adam graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Master's in Divinity from the Samuel Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University in 2009. He received a Master's in Public Policy from the JFK School of Government, Harvard University and Cum Laude with a BA in international studies from Emory University in 1998.

VIRGINIA UNION UNIVERSITY

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