

SUMMER 2016 / UNIVERSITY NEWS

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MAGAZINE IS
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UNIVERSITY

VUU From The President



Dear Alumni, Friends, and Supporters:

It has been my great pleasure and distinct honor to have effectively served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Virginia Union University for over seven years. Since that time, we have seen an overall improvement to the campus with over \$30 million invested in new facilities and rehabilitation to others. Our endowment has also increased in excess of 35 percent since my arrival and our enrollment has soared to the highest level in the 151-year history of the university. Through your support and generosity, we have been able to award over \$25 million in scholarships and improved the academic environment for our faculty and students. Also, with your support and engagement, we have seen the overall vitality of the campus significantly improved. The concert choir and marching band are among the very best in the CIAA, and the athletic programs are among the top tier in the conference, with the recent performance of our women's basketball team having won the CIAA Championship and the Atlantic Regional Championship, along with the men's track and football teams' national ranking in Division II sports. In addition, our recent economic impact study indicates that Virginia Union University contributed more than \$140 million to the Richmond area economy in 2014-2015.

Our graduating class of 2016 was outstanding with several students going on to medical school, other graduate schools and a number of those students offered highly responsible positions in the technology industry and other fields of their particular preparation. The students coming after are keeping the momentum going in various fields of study, the most pronounced in our premier pre-med program where 22 students are attending the summer program at Meharry Medical College, the most of any of the ten colleges in the pre-med consortium. This fall we will add to our academic offerings, more add-on certifications in education and technology, with other blended minors like accounting for non-accounting majors, plus a new degree in Cyber Security. We are also planning to offer a new 3+2 program in physics and engineering after we complete an articulation agreement with university collaborators with a suitable engineering program. The new state of the art physics lab has been completed and we will hire our third physics professor this fall. These curricular changes have been in development for the past two years. They were designed to better prepare many of our students for careers that will address present and future needs. We call the efforts VUU's example of "getting ahead of the curve" in preparing for the future.

My work for the past seven-plus years at VUU has been the most consuming of all the major positions that I have held over the past 35 years, but it has also been the most fulfilling as well. So, as I prepare to engage in my sabbatical leave for the year, I would like to thank you all for what you have done to support Virginia Union University and I pray that you will continue to do so. Cheryl and I will always have Union in our budget and our prayers. I also want to express my appreciation to members of our Board of Trustees for their support and undying commitment to Virginia Union University. They are the best.

May God forever bless and keep you. Go Panthers!

Sincerely yours,

Claude G. Perkins

Claude Grandford Perkins, Ph.D.

President and CEO, Virginia Union University

Virginia Union University's Board of Trustees has approved a one year sabbatical requested by Virginia Union President Dr. Claude Grandford Perkins. Board Chairman Dr. W. Franklyn Richardson announced the sabbatical, effective July 1, 2016, following the Board's May 6, 2016 meeting. Dr. Perkins' current contract with Virginia Union ends in July of 2017.

"Dr. Perkins' work at Virginia Union has been truly transformative," Dr. Richardson said. "We welcome this period to establish transition for the University while we have the benefit of Dr. Perkins' experience and input."

Dr. Perkins has made more than \$30 million in campus improvements during his tenure as president, including construction of the first new residential facility on the campus in the last 45 years. Under his leadership, the University has added new faculty and new academic programs, including Cyber Security, and Physics, as well as a new graduate program in Curriculum and Instruction, a new Fine Arts program, the Center for the Study of the Urban Child, the Center for International Studies, and the Center for Small Business Development. The University has provided more than \$25 million in scholarships during Dr. Perkins' tenure and last fall's enrollment was the highest in the University's history.

Dr. Perkins created the Virginia Union University Scholarship Gala and Masquerade Ball Hosted by Richmond Mayor Dwight C. Jones. In 2015, the gala and the promotion of a major comprehensive 150th Anniversary campaign highlighting Virginia Union to the commonwealth and the nation resulted in annual donations exceeding \$6 million. This amount exceeded annual giving for the last 18 years. Also, in June of 2015, Virginia Union completed a seven-year Comprehensive Campaign which exceeded its \$30 million goal.

Dr. Perkins' commitment to serving the community has led to record breaking hours of student volunteer service in the Richmond metro area. Virginia Union has been honored by President Barack

Obama with placement on the Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll four times during Dr. Perkins' presidency. Dr. Perkins has expanded his leadership role throughout the Greater Richmond community and beyond, serving as a past member of the Board of Directors of the Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce, and Richmond's Future,

as well as past chairperson of the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association's (CIAA) Board of Directors. Currently, Dr. Perkins serves on the Executive Committee of Venture Richmond, and the Steering Committee of Future of Richmond's Past. He is a member of the SunTrust Bank Mid-Atlantic Advisory Board, Richmond Management RoundTable, and Bridging Richmond. In addition, Dr. Perkins serves on the Board of Trustees of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and the Corporate Board of the United Negro College Fund (UNCF). Virginia Union's most recent community partnership with the SunTrust Foundation will establish a financial literacy program on campus for VUU students, parents, and Richmond area residents.

The Richmond Times-Dispatch named Dr. Perkins among the top ten finalists in its Inaugural Person of the Year awards program in 2015. Dominion also recently included him among its Strong Men award recipients. Dr. Perkins earned the Doctor of Philosophy Degree from The Ohio University, the Master of Arts Degree from Purdue University, and the Bachelor of Science Degree from Mississippi Valley State University. Richmond Mayor Dwight C. Jones also presented Dr. Perkins a "Key to the City" during the president's fifth anniversary celebration.

Board Chairman Dr. Richardson stated that processes are being put in place to cover operations of the University during Dr. Perkins' sabbatical.



VUU Offers New Majors in Cyber Security and Physics

3 Plus 2 Engineering Program is Planned

Students and faculty in the School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology are excited about new Physics and Cyber Security majors to be offered during the upcoming fall semester. “The Cyber Security industry is growing faster than the average for all occupations in any field,” according to Dean LaTrelle Green. “It’s a crucial need for our world economy.” Projected to grow 37 percent through 2020, Dr. Green says VUU graduates with this degree will be able to assist corporations with computer threats by identifying potential problems. Cyber Security majors will be able to choose from four concentrations, including Accounting, Digital Forensics, Finance and Banking, and Mathematics.

Virginia Union’s new Physics major was created, in part, from a National Science

Foundation \$100,000 planning grant awarded to Dr. Shaheen Islam.

“Physics is actually the foundation of all sciences,” explained Dr. Islam. “Many more career opportunities will be available to our students as a result of this program, including jobs in high-tech industries, national labs, sales and marketing, medical facilities, and teaching.” A new Physics lab will be available to students in the fall and a new Computer Science lab will be ready next year.

Negotiations are currently underway to offer a “3 Plus 2” Engineering program, whereby students will be able to study three years at Virginia Union, plus an additional two years at a partner

“The Cyber Security industry is growing faster than the average for all occupations in any field. It’s a crucial need for our world economy.”

— Dean LaTrelle Green

university and receive bachelor’s degrees in both Physics and Engineering.

Virginia Union students are encouraged to create blended majors with the new concentrations approved for the new Cyber Security degree, as well

as minors already in existence. For example, a mass communications major with a concentration in Marketing or Computer Information Systems is a lot more attractive to employers than a communications major alone.

Add-On Certifications are also available in Elementary Education, Exceptional Education, and Secondary Education. The Department of Computer Information Systems also offers certifications in Microsoft Office, Windows Operating Systems Fundamentals, Networking Fundamentals, Software Development Fundamentals, Database Fundamentals, and HTML5 Application Development Fundamentals.

“While Virginia Union is grounded in the liberal arts, we are always working on ways to engage students in future trends,” said VUU President Dr. Claude Perkins. He added that VUU has been upgrading its science and technology programs for the past four years, including new biology and chemistry labs.





Dean LaTrelle Green, Dr. Gerard McShepard, Dr. Francis Mensah and Dr. Shaheen Islam inspect new physics lab.

“Physics is actually the foundation of all sciences. Many more career opportunities will be available to our students as a result of this program, including jobs in high-tech industries, national labs, sales and marketing, medical facilities, and teaching.”

— Dr. Shaheen Islam



Panther Preparatory Society of Future Scholars

Congratulations to the more than 90 students invited to participate in the Panther Preparatory Society of Future Scholars (PPSFS). Founded in 2014, the program is designed to assist new students with the transition to college by providing mentoring, opportunities for leadership training

and development, enrichment activities, and assistance with identifying academic and financial resources. Students with a grade point of average of 3.0 and above who received scholarships of \$4,000 or more received invitations to take part in the program.

COMMENCEMENT 2016

Despite heavy rain for many days prior to the big event, spirits soared on Commencement Weekend 2016. Dr. Ralph Douglas West, founder of the Church Without Walls in Houston, Texas inspired a large crowd during Baccalaureate Services on Friday, May 6, 2016.

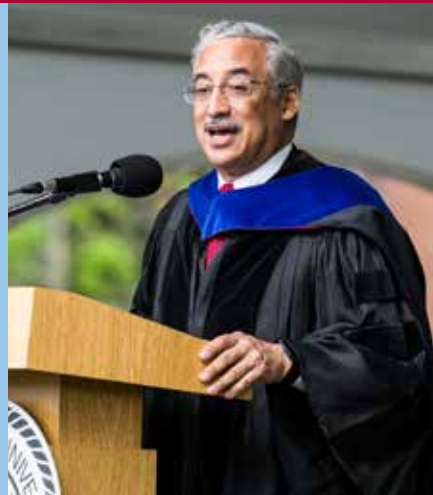
Sunshine welcomed one of Virginia Union's largest Commencement crowds on Hovey Field on Saturday, May 7, 2016. More than 200 undergraduates and 145 graduate students were awarded degrees as Congressman Robert C. "Bobby" Scott reminded the graduates of the importance of a college degree. "Every day, technology and the global marketplace are changing the world," Scott said. "These changes will present you with both new challenges and new opportunities. But believe me the challenges you face will be easier and the opportunities you have will be greater because of the milestone you are achieving today."

Scott challenged the graduates to be leaders because they are needed as the engineers, computer programmers, medical professionals, and politically and civically engaged citizens of tomorrow.

"This campus is a special place," emphasized Scott. "Through Reconstruction, Jim Crow, World Wars, the movement for Civil Rights, up until today, Virginia Union has stood by its mission to nurture the mind and the spirit of students for 151 years. This campus is dedicated to preparing them to make their world better, a place where peace, justice, and equality thrive."

Honorary degrees were presented to retired physician Dr. Walton Belle, Friendship-West Baptist Church Pastor Dr. Frederick Haynes, III and Founder and former Chairman of Royall & Company Mr. William A. Royall, Jr.

Valedictorian Veronica Pegram urged her fellow graduates to live up to their potential. "As a student of VUU, I do know that there are people here who really believe in us, have invested time and effort in us, and have prepared us for life beyond this point," Pegram said.





VUU Gala is Richmond's Premier Event



The Fourth Annual Virginia Union University Scholarship Gala and Masquerade Ball Hosted by Richmond Mayor Dwight C. Jones was held at the Richmond Marriott Hotel on April 15, 2016. Seven hundred guests joined Mayor Jones and Virginia Union President Dr. Claude G. Perkins as they welcomed Virginia Union alumnus and nationally acclaimed R&B artist Will Downing. Attorneys Gilbert Schill, Jr. and Jacquelyn E. Stone accepted the Presenting Sponsor Award for McGuireWoods, LLP. Supporting sponsors included Dominion, Altria, WestRock, SunTrust, Investment Management of Virginia, the Henrico County Board of Supervisors, and Media Sponsor NBC 12. Since its inception four years ago, the Gala has grossed more than one million dollars for student scholarships.



Founders Day 2016

Excerpts from remarks of
Guest Speaker Bishop Rudolph
McKissick, Jr.

“By faith, Moses when he was born was hidden for three months by his parents because they saw he was a beautiful child and they were not scared of the King’s commands.”

“It needs to be remembered that she (Moses’ mother) hid Moses because she was to raise her son in a society that killed all male children through government sanctioned murder.”

“Moses’ mother refused to let the system of oppression be an excuse to let her son fail. She made a choice to protect him from what was trying to kill him. Moses’ mother is VUU.”

“VUU is a place that hid to protect, grow, and to mature me until I could be everything God could make me to be.”

“VUU made a hiding process in Lumpkin’s Jail in a culture that believed we were nothing because of the color of our skin. Union is a hiding place but we hide in plain sight. Hiding while it produced mayors and former governors, while producing prophets, doctors, and educators.”



2016 Community Leaders Breakfast Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Excerpts from Guest Speaker Dr. Robert M. Franklin, Jr.

“A widely separated family inherits a house in which they have to live in together... This is the great new problem of humankind, we have a large house where we have to live together, black and white, eastern and westerner, and we must learn somehow to live with each other in peace since we can never again live apart.”

“All people are interdependent, whether we realize it or not, we live eternally in the red. We are everlasting debtors to unknown women and men. When we arise we go to the bathroom and we reach for a sponge from a Pacific Islander, and we drink coffee from a Southern American. Before we leave for our jobs, we are beholden to half the world. All life

is interrelated and whatever affects one directly affects others indirectly.”

“We need to teach our young children the right thing as they go through the challenges of life. They need to become well balanced, which is an on-going challenge that everyone is going through, and it's up to the elders to provide the guidance. Do better, do more and ascend in your life, and challenge those who do not. As we nurture and mentor the next generation, we need to systematically transform our institutions in American society so that we move beyond a segregated past, to an American society where inclusion and equity gives us an opportunity to share the wealth and the benefits.”



VUU President Among Top 10 Finalists in Person of the Year Program

Also Honored with “Strong Men & Women in Virginia History” Award

The Richmond Times-Dispatch named Virginia Union President Dr. Claude G. Perkins among the top ten finalists in its Inaugural Person of the Year awards program. Dr. Perkins joined 39 other honorees for an awards luncheon at the John Marshall Ballrooms on Wednesday, December 9, 2015. He was recognized for overseeing the resurgence of Virginia Union University during his six years as president, as well as his work to improve the entire Richmond community.

Richmond Times-Dispatch readers were asked to nominate persons for the awards program during the summer of 2015. Several hundred names were submitted and a committee of newspaper employees selected the final list of honorees. The December issue of Discover Richmond magazine includes additional information on all 40 of the honorees.

Dominion Resources and The Library of Virginia also recognized Dr. Perkins’



leadership with a “Strong Men & Women in Virginia History” Award presented at the Richmond Marriott Hotel on February 3, 2016. Each year during Black History Month, the program honors African Americans who have made significant contributions to Virginia.

Dr. Howard-John Wesley Joins Virginia Union Board of Trustees



Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley, Pastor of Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia, was unanimously elected to the Virginia Union University Board of Trustees at the Board’s November 6, 2015 meeting. Dr. Wesley is only the eighth pastor to be installed in the 212-year history of the historic Alfred Street Baptist Church. The oldest and largest church in Northern Virginia, Alfred Street Baptist has more than 7,000 members with nearly 80 active ministries.

Dr. Wesley represents the fourth generation of Baptist preachers in his family. He is a 1994 graduate of Duke University and he attended the Boston University School of

Theology, where he was a Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholar and a 1997 summa cum laude graduate. He received his Doctor of Ministry degree from the Northern Baptist Theological Seminary in 2003.

Earlier this year, Dr. Wesley was inducted into the 2015 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Board of Preachers of Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. He was one of seven to receive the 2014 James Floyd Jenkins Pillar of Faith Award presented by Howard University School of Divinity, in collaboration with the United Church of Christ. Dr. Wesley was also one of the 2013 recipients of The Root 100: A Who’s Who of Black America Award.

Center for Undergraduate Research Hosts Research and Creative Inquiry Expo

Virginia Union University's Center for Undergraduate Research (CUR) hosted its inaugural Research and Creative Inquiry Expo on April 12, 2016. The event, titled "Inquiring Minds Want to Know," highlighted scholarly endeavors pursued by VUU undergraduate students throughout the 2015-2016 academic year.

More than 40 students representing the School of Business; the School of Education, Psychology and Interdisciplinary Studies; the School of Science, Mathematics and Technology; and the School of Humanities and Social Sciences were competitively selected to present the outcome of their efforts through oral and poster presentations. Topics included musical annotation, women's empowerment, environmental quality sampling, philosophical arguments, and entrepreneurial business plans.



Dr. Paige-Anderson, CUR Director

Each student presenter received discipline-specific mentorship as a component of a classroom exercise or through the new CUR academic program, PantherQuest. Course-based

undergraduate research experiences foster critical and analytical thinking capacities of students, and this year the CUR has been actively involved in faculty professional development to facilitate the integration of research, according to Dr. Carleitta Paige-



Anderson, CUR Director. "Further, the CUR PantherQuest program is an extended learning opportunity whereby faculty, staff, alumni and industry partners volunteer their expertise to mentor undergraduate students in inquiry-based initiatives," said Dr. Paige-Anderson. This academic year the project mentors included Ms. Renesha Chiles (VUU '14), Dr. Karl Jackson, Dr. Vernon Ruffin, Dr. Heidi Villanueva, Dr. Francis Mensah, Dr. Delta Bowers, Ms. Kristyn Miller, Harrison 'Jon Hope' Grigby, Ms. Kiara Miller (VUU '15), Dr. Peter Sutton and Ms. Kimberly Johnson.

In collaboration with the Office of Alumni Relations, VUU faculty and staff and nearly 20 alumni served as judges to assess the oral and poster competition. All students were evaluated on their ability to clearly articulate the significance of their project

and how it directly impacted the University and greater Richmond community.

"I realize that I have grown from this experience," said Dionna Corbin, a Junior Psychology major. "When I first started this project I had no faith in myself and my abilities, but I had faith in God. This project has helped me to not only have faith in God, but myself as well. I finally realize that I am powerful, I am creative, but most importantly, I am capable of anything I put my mind to."

"Creative inquiry allows students to develop a passion in a project," stated Terri George, a Sophomore Biology major. "While I plan to attend medical school, I also have a love for music. It is my plan to study the effect of music on fetal development. Therefore, instead of focusing solely on the science, I analyzed music."

VUU Students Participate In National Model United Nations Conference

Virginia Union University made its sixth appearance as the only historically black college in the National Model United Nations conference in New York City this past March, representing Haiti and presenting hypothetical solutions to problems in that country. The National Model UN Conference is a nonprofit organization that brings together students from colleges and universities all over the world to prepare them to be better global citizens and explore the human relations side of politics. Starting in December, junior Mizpa Ananizodlo, Accounting major, and senior William Fortune, Political Science major, spent three months researching Haiti with Dr. David Adewuyi and Dr. Muriel Yeboah in order to be well prepared for the process before traveling to the conference.

The experiential learning program encourages participants to discuss issues facing the world as model diplomats in the United Nations. Students are assigned a country and must represent that country's position in committees. With more than 5,000 students from countries all over the world, Fortune and Ananizodlo met with students from Canada, Switzerland, and South Africa and were placed in specific committees to negotiate resolutions on how ambassadors from other countries could help as well.

"As an accounting major, being on the finance committee opened my eyes and showed me that I can take this degree and possibly turn it into a career in global economics," Ananizodlo said. While



Pictured from left to right: William Fortune, Mizpa Ananizodlo, Dr. David Adewuyi and Dr. Muriel Yeboah.

Ananizodlo has a little extra time to think about the career possibilities, Fortune is already considering the next step he wants to take following graduation.

"I've realized that this conference and having a degree in political science can take my career further than just United States politics. It's shown me that I can be a United States ambassador doing something similar to this, making resolutions that will help countries on a global scale."

Dr. Adewuyi and Dr. Yeboah praised the Model UN conference for giving students an opportunity to help their careers in a variety of ways, and for giving students a well-rounded experience that will help them become better citizens. "It is a great way to mold and shape our students," Dr. Yeboah said. "You have to do public

speaking, work with people from different backgrounds, and involve critical thinking skills to your solutions, some of which might go to real UN Ambassadors to discuss." Some resolutions were sent to current United Nations ambassadors, including a project to take moisture from the atmosphere and transfer it to clean water for the residents of Haiti.

"We're very thankful that Dr. Perkins helps us further our mission to send our students all over the world to further their education, and we're glad that it gets the name of Virginia Union University out to other parts of the world." said Dr. Adewuyi. "That's what we love about sending students to the conference, opening them up to new global perspectives, and seeing how they can apply it to their lives, no matter what major they're in."

VUU Science Majors Spending Summer Studying Throughout the Country

Virginia Union President Dr. Claude G. Perkins held a luncheon to congratulate science faculty and students on their outstanding summer internship placements. Dr. Shyamal Premaratne, Dr. Carleitta Paige-Anderson, Dr. Anthony Madu, Dr. LaTrelle Green, and Dr. Gerard McShephard (pictured from right to left on the back row) joined 22 students accepted into the Meharry Medical College Center of Excellence Bachelor of Science/Doctor of Medicine Program during the summer of 2016. Two students, Andrew Leach and Karigan Awkward, (pictured in the white lab coats on either end of the front row) have received early acceptance to Boston University's School of Medicine. Breanna Brown (front row, next to Andrew) will take part in a medical internship at the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Medical Center. Pictured to the right of Breanna is Sazshae Mills, Mikaela Holmes, and Amani Johnson, all of whom will be at Meharry. Meharry Summer Interns pictured in the second row of the photo include Vinshae Gardner, Mikaela Nixon, Bianca Mariner, Simeon Hicks, Raeleen Brown, and Kadedrah Parson (left to right). The two students joining the faculty on the back row are Clarissa Allen and Khaliyah Moore, both of whom will intern at Meharry.

"With the ever increasing number of our premed students attending the Meharry Medical College BS-MD program, as well as other internships, VUU is fast becoming a premier institution in the preparation of candidates for medical school," said Dr. Premaratne.



Taylor White Named Scholar-Athlete Of The Year

The Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association announced its top student-athlete honors with the Scholar-Athlete of the Year award. Taylor White of Virginia Union University's women's basketball program has been named the 2016 Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

The Scholar-Athlete of the Year is awarded to the most outstanding and well-rounded female student-athlete in terms of her athletic, academic, and community performances. On the basketball court, Taylor White recorded an average of 10.1



rebounds and 9 points per game. She totaled 11 double-doubles, blocked 26 shots, and was named to the 2016 All-CIAA Women's Basketball Team. In her best contest this season, the 4.0 Dean's List Education major grabbed 20 rebounds while scoring 21 points versus Rollins College.

Playing a major role in her community, White served as an essay judge for the Lucille M. Brown Community Youth Bowl, participated in the Teddy Bear Christmas Drive, and has volunteered more than 60 hours at the Overby-Sheppard Elementary School in Richmond. In addition to serving as a linguistics tutor, the senior standout led her team in community initiatives during the Elite Eight Tournament.

VUU Hosts Alumnus Gov. L. Douglas Wilder For Discussion of New Autobiography

Governor Lawrence Douglas Wilder returned to his alma mater, Virginia Union University, for a book signing and discussion of his new autobiography on Tuesday, February 2, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. in the Wilder Library Lecture Hall. *Son of Virginia: A Life in America's Political Arena* chronicles Wilder's historic political career, which changed the face of politics in the United States.

This is the first autobiography for Wilder, who was sworn in as Governor of Virginia in January of 1990, the first African American elected governor in

the nation. He was also the first African American to serve as lieutenant governor of Virginia and the first African American elected as a Virginia state senator since Reconstruction.

The grandson of slaves, Wilder's most recent political office was mayor of Richmond, Virginia, which he held from 2005 to 2009. Wilder signed copies of his book and mingled with former classmates following the event. Guests were also able to tour the L. Douglas Wilder Collection, which is located on the second floor of the L. Douglas Wilder Library and Learning Resource Center.



Virginia Union Celebrates the Life of Thornton Dial, Sr.

Virginia Union faculty, staff, students, and art lovers from Metro Richmond gathered in the VUU Museum Galleries on April 5, 2016

to celebrate the life of African American folk artist Thornton Dial, Sr. The self-taught artist passed away on January 26, 2016. Thanks to local philanthropists, Dr. James and Mrs. Barbara Sellman, Virginia Union has become one of the most important repositories of Dial's work with more than 70 of his pieces.

Born on September 10, 1928 in Emelle, Alabama, Dial was most famous for his pieces that depicted being African American in the Black Belt of America, and a rapidly changing society during the Civil Rights era. He built his pieces with whatever he could salvage while working in the industrial suburb of Birmingham. Much of the work that he created he did not consider art until his 50s, when art collector William Arnett discovered him.

Dial's fame rose through the 90s with pieces being displayed in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum of Art and the Smithsonian Museum of Art. With a repeating theme of tigers, a symbol for strength and survival in the black community, strong brush strokes and texture, Dial's work paralleled the likes of Jackson Pollack and Willem de Kooning. Drawing inspiration on what he knew best, Dial's commentary on the darkness of the Deep South and resilience of the spirit of the black community will resonate with us for many years.



Director Barbara Grey (center) and Dr. and Mrs. Sellman.

AHEAD OF THE CURVE IN THE

ARTS



“Behind the Lens”
Virginia Union’s official photographer Mrs. Ayasha Sledge shares her best photographs of the historic VUU campus.

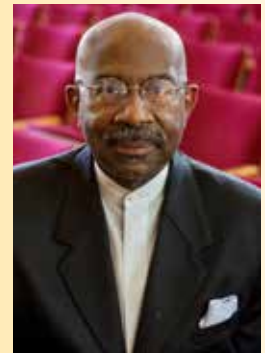


CELEBRATING



“A Festival of Music”

VUU Band Director Mrs. Fayesha Cousins presents the Virginia Union Concert Band and the VUU First Thursday Jazz Ensemble in concert.



“A Spring Encounter Through Music”

VUU Choir Director Dr. Willis Barnett presents the Virginia Union Choir and the VUU Community Orchestra in Concert.

OUR OWN

Observations from the Dean



Dr. John W. Kinney

As I stand on the threshold of forty years of service to Virginia Union University and complete twenty-six years as dean of the School of Theology, I have been privileged to usher another class across the stage to receive graduate degrees from one of the greatest theological institutions in the world. This year, one-hundred and twelve (112) people received the Masters of Divinity degree, twenty-eight (28) received the Master of Arts in Christian Education degree, and six (6) persons were awarded the Doctor of Ministry degree. The students receiving their degrees represent the best of God's committed servants who

embrace preparation as an essential aspect of saying "yes" to the call of ministry. Many of them have already distinguished careers in ministry and in multiple other professions.

Our top graduate, Dr. Alton Hart, Jr. holds a B.S. in Medical Technology from the College of Health and Human Sciences at Georgia Southern University, a Doctor of Medicine degree from Georgia Health Sciences University and a Master of Public Health from the University of Washington. Dr. Hart has been the Internal Medicine Resident and Chief Resident-University of Cincinnati, Senior Research Fellow-Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle, WA, Attending Physician and Associate Professor of Medicine-Virginia Commonwealth University, and currently serves as Public Health Director-Crater District Health District, Virginia Department of Health.



Dr. Alton Hart, Jr.

As a center of excellence, The Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology of Virginia Union University is a center of convergence where things come together: head and heart; preparation and praise; church and academy; pulpit and pew; scholarship and spirituality; reflection and action. In this place of intersection, minds are stretched, excellence is pursued, gifts are cultivated and people are transformed. In an environment that feels like family and affirms the intrinsic worth of all, we educate in a manner that fosters a commitment to life-long learning, genuine service, and holistic liberation. We strive to send forth capable and empowered persons who have been inspired by both the acquisition of academic knowledge and skills and a renewed sense of self and spirit. While celebrating our heritage and culture, we seek to serve the world and while honoring traditions, we encourage creativity and unfettered imagination. At STVU, we worship authentically, study diligently, practice faithfully and dream deeply.

True excellence requires imagination and vision that take us beyond any present accomplishments, so several aspects of our emerging programs are noted on the next page.



Extended Preparation Program (EPP)

This program is designed for persons whose location and life circumstances do not permit them to be well-served by our present delivery systems. The Extended Preparation Program (EPP) is a multi-year program employing four (4) required week-long residential intensives in each year of study. There are multiple ways the program can be accelerated



to reduce the duration of the program. The residential intensives will be in October, January, March, and June.

Participants are also required to be on campus at each Community Formation, held at the beginning of each term. Students would receive assignments for their initial course at the Fall Community Formation. The initial week-long intensive is held in October. Students would have approximately five (5) weeks to prepare for the intensive and five (5) weeks post-intensive for

the execution of additional assignments. In the Winter Formation, they would receive assignments for the January intensive and the cycle would continue for each intensive.

Youth Theology Institute

Building on the strength of its reputation, intellectual leadership, and broad networks within the Black Church and across theological education, Virginia Union University will launch this summer a contextualized theology institute for high school youth called the STREAM Youth Theology Institute. Representing the intersection of religious discourse, (Spirituality, Theology, Rhetoric, Ethics, Advocacy and Ministry) and concrete factors informing life, STREAM is an interdisciplinary approach designed for rising high school juniors to explore the texts, theologies, and traditions of their faith and the intersections of faith with things like self-identity, vocation, advocacy, community, and creation. We are enthusiastic about the impact this program will have in the lives of high school youth, the program's fit with our University's mission and vision, and the opportunity it affords us to build on existing partnerships with congregations and denominational bodies both within and beyond the mid-Southeast region. Drawing on existing strengths of the University and resources of the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology, we envision the STREAM Youth Theology Institute as a long-term investment of the University in fostering theological inquiry and vocational exploration among an emerging generation of visionary young leaders who will make profound contributions in congregations and communities.

SAVE THE DATE THE SAMUEL DEWITT PROCTOR SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AT VIRGINIA UNION UNIVERSITY

Ellison-Jones Convocation 2016

"Preaching Power: Proclaiming Love and Justice"

Monday, November 14th - Thursday, November 17th, 2016
Virginia Union University - Living and Learning Center



**DR. LESLIE
CALLAHAN**
ST. PAUL'S BAPTIST
CHURCH
PHILADELPHIA, PA



**DR. JERRY
CARTER**
CALVARY BAPTIST
CHURCH
MORRISTOWN, NJ



**DR. MARCUS
COSBY**
WHEELER AVENUE
BAPTIST CHURCH
HOUSTON, TX



**DR. SYLVESTER
SMITH**
VUU SCHOOL OF
THEOLOGY
RICHMOND, VA

Early Registration (July 1, 2016 - November 1, 2016): \$200.00

Onsite Registration: \$225.00 • One-day (lunch not included): \$90.00

For the convocation schedule and registration information, please visit www.mystvu.org

SunTrust Foundation and Virginia Union University Partner to Provide Financial Literacy in the Classroom

Comprehensive approach to reaching students, parents and Greater Richmond residents with financial counseling and education

The SunTrust Foundation has awarded Virginia Union University (VUU) a \$204,000 grant to establish a financial literacy program for students, parents and residents in the Greater Richmond area. The financial literacy program will teach financial habits and offer solid steps for smart financial planning.

Virginia Union's General Studies courses will be revised to include a financial literacy component reaching approximately 500 students through 10 certified instructors. The revised course curriculum will be based on the National Endowment of Financial Education (NEFE) curriculum and is designed to empower financial decision-making for individuals and families through every stage of life.

"SunTrust is dedicated to providing the tools to help people move from financial stress to financial confidence," said



SunTrust Bank Vice President William Carter and SunTrust Mortgage President Dorinda Smith present check to VUU President Dr. Claude Perkins and VP for Institutional Advancement Dennis Washington.

Dorinda Smith, Head of SunTrust Mortgage on behalf of the SunTrust Foundation. "The SunTrust Foundation supports this project because it will teach proven financial principles and allow students to build confidence in managing their finances."

"Virginia Union University has a strong legacy of improving the lives of our students and their parents," said Dr. Claude G. Perkins, President of Virginia Union University. "This program will bring a greater degree of financial awareness

and improve the financial management decision-making process."

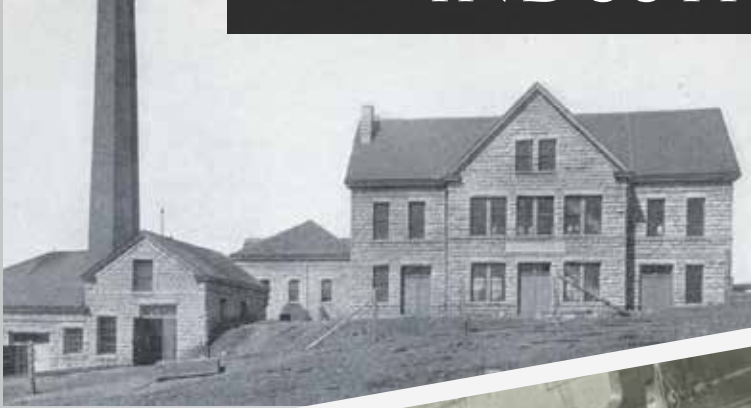
As part of the grant, VUU will also provide financial education courses to parents of VUU students and residents in the Greater Richmond area. Parents of VUU students will have access to financial planning workshops, resource information and customized learning experiences. Greater Richmond area residents will be engaged through existing community organizations and through collaborations with SunTrust Mortgage and SunTrust teammates.

VUU needs your commitment and support!

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



HELP PRESERVE VUU HISTORY JOIN THE CAMPAIGN TO RESTORE INDUSTRIAL HALL



Industrial Hall was built in 1899 and equipped with electric machinery for wood and iron work, including blacksmithing.

Virginia Union proposes converting the currently unused building to house the Museum Art Galleries, but we can't do it without your help!

Please contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at (804) 342-3938 to make your donation now.

Virginia Union University Thanks The Richard S. Reynolds Foundation For Its Recent \$100,000 Grant To Help Fund The Renovation And Restoration Of Industrial Hall.



Bank of America Richmond Market President Victor K. Branch (pictured in center of photo) presents \$10,000 check to VUU President Dr. Claude G. Perkins (pictured on the right) and Vice President for Institutional Advancement Dennis C. Washington (pictured on the left). The donation was given in support of the restoration and renovation of Industrial Hall.

VUU Women's Basketball Champions!

The buzz began early. It had its origins on April 21, 2015, when Virginia Union University announced that AnnMarie Gilbert was going to be the women's basketball head coach when the 2015-16 season began.

It started to build over the summer months when Gilbert went looking for pieces that were missing from the Lady Panther lineup. "I knew if I could land a quality point guard, we could do some great things," Gilbert said. "I really thought a couple of the pieces that were already here in Lady Walker and Taylor White were strong returning athletes, but there was no real floor general."

Once school began, people connected with the VUU Athletic Program quietly began to notice.

"The conditioning was one of the most important parts of the process," said Gilbert. "We started out on the track and then transitioned to the court and the weight room. The team completely bought in. Our workouts began at 6 a.m. Of all of the teams that I've coached in 22 years, this team worked the hardest and complained the least."

"We had a whole new system," Taylor White said. "We had a lot more ambition and a lot of confidence in our coaching staff."

When the CIAA held its annual Tip-Off Luncheon in Charlotte, N.C., on October 1, the Lady Panthers were picked to finish fourth in the Northern Division, behind Virginia State, Lincoln and Chowan. Gilbert was gracious about the prediction, but she knew something that no one else did.

She had landed her point guard: Kiana Johnson. Johnson, a 5-7 point guard from Chicago, Illinois, had committed to VUU after sitting out a year. In three seasons at Michigan State, Johnson had averaged 8.2 points per game.

She would come in and re-write the Virginia Union record book.

Once practices began in October, the buzz began to be audible.

"I knew this team was going to be special when I saw all of the transfers," White said. "We saw all this talent in open gym, and on the track we knew we were determined to win."

People began showing up to the Lady Panthers' practices. Fans, hoping to catch a glimpse of the team, peeked around the corners of the bleachers of storied Barco-Stevens Hall. Some had heard about the guard from Michigan State, others wanted to see the returning players.

A curiosity had crept in.

Even with the murmuring, fewer than 100 people were in the stands when VUU defeated Central Methodist University 79-67 in the exhibition opener on November 5. But that soon changed. On November 9, the Lady Panthers shocked Division I Norfolk State 94-91, with Walker and Johnson scoring 29 points each.

The curiosity was replaced with an air of excitement.

The buzz turned into a roar. The Lady Panthers won their first eight games, with Johnson scoring over 30 points in three of the games. Walker had grabbed 20 rebounds in two games. Walker would eventually get a school-record 27 rebounds in a single game.

The wins piled up. Johnson's statistics became astronomical. Soon she was leading the nation in scoring.

"I knew this team was special when I first got here," Johnson said. "I saw that we had a lot of talent even though some of it was raw. But some of it was polished, so it was just a matter of us putting in the work and sticking together."

After winning their first eight games, it was clear that the Lady Panthers were just getting started. They beat perennial CIAA power Shaw by 29 points. Defending CIAA champion Virginia State fell by 16 points. Bowie State lost by 36, Livingstone by 30.

There was no stopping the Lady Panthers. The roar was now an excited howl. People began to return to games in droves. Television turned up for highlights of women's games for the first time ever.





Gilbert, in her first season, would be named the CIAA Coach of the Year and the NCAA Atlantic Region Coach of the Year.



The Lady Panthers climbed in the national polls. The team tied the school record by winning 15 straight games at one point. VUU would finish undefeated at home (14-0).

VUU also captured the team's first CIAA title in 34 years when the team beat Shaw 70-66 in Charlotte, N.C. There was no more waiting for the Lady Panthers.

The NCAA awarded VUU the #1 ranking in the Atlantic Region, the first time ever for a VUU women's team. For the first time in the building's 69-year history, Barco-Stevens Hall would play host to the NCAA Tournament.

The VUU community, along with the entire city of Richmond, loved it. Virginia Union ran over Indiana (Pa.) by 19 points in the opening round. Wheeling Jesuit fell by nine points in the regional semi-final.

In the championship game, Johnson put on a show that the 2,400 fans inside Barco-Stevens Hall and the thousands more watching on a regional television broadcast wouldn't soon forget. Johnson scored an NCAA Tournament record 49 points as she led the Lady Panthers to a 91-77 win over #3 West Liberty. "I wanted to give the fans something to remember me by," Johnson said as she kissed the Regional Championship trophy.

The Lady Panthers went on to appear in the school's first Elite Eight in 32 years, and ended being ranked #3 in the NCAA Power Rankings with a school-record 28 wins. Johnson would become the WBCA National Division II Player of the Year as well as the CIAA Player of the Year. Lady Walker would be named the CIAA Defensive Player of the Year. "This was a great experience," Johnson said. "It was a great group of girls, a great coaching staff and I'm going to take everything I learned throughout the year with me."

Gilbert, in her first season, would be named the CIAA Coach of the Year and the NCAA Atlantic Region Coach of the Year. Now thoughts are turning to the 2016-17 season. "We are attracting more recruits sooner and just a higher level of athlete," Gilbert said. "A lot of recruits who came this past season to watch us play and those who have watched us online have said 'Your team is more exciting than some of the Division I schools we've watched play.' So I think there's a positive buzz going, and we're going to capitalize on it."

The buzz has already begun.

VUU Men's Cross-Country Champions

Virginia Union University's Men's Cross-Country Team captured its second straight CIAA Championship, finishing with a team score of 24, at the CIAA Cross-Country Championships held on Thursday, October 29, in Cary, N.C.

VUU Head Coach Wilbert D. Johnson was named the CIAA Coach of the Year for the second straight year.

VUU's Luis Nieves, Franck Charles, Arthur Casey, Emmanuel Nelfrard and Linda Moise all earned All-CIAA honors by finishing in the top 10.

Nieves captured top individual honors by finishing first with a time of 26:11 over the eight-kilometer course. Charles was fourth with a time of 26:51, while Casey was fifth with a time of 27:23.

VUU's Nelfrard was sixth with a time of 27:59 and Moise was eighth with a time of 28:25.

Virginia Union's Bart Kaminski was 16th with a time of 29:19.

Former Miss VUU Donates \$100,000

“I wanted to do a little something to help students and open doors to education,” said VUU alumna Vivian Wilson McNorton '45. McNorton, a former Miss Virginia Union and retired teacher, contributed \$100,000 to Virginia Union University to establish an endowed scholarship in recognition of Regina Veola Wilson, McNorton's late aunt who is also an alumna. In addition to her aunt, the endowment recognizes Ms. Edythe Wilson Turner, Ms. Harriette Wilson Madden and Ms. Rosa “Goldbug” Wilson Forrester, who are members of her family and played active roles in education.

Growing up, education was a priority. “My grandfather wanted everyone to be educated,” stated McNorton. For the Richmond native, there was no other option than to attend VUU. “I knew when I finished high school, I was going to Virginia Union.” McNorton liked history and decided to declare it as her major. On campus, she wasn't one to be found in crowds, but her charming personality and pursuit for excellence led her to be crowned Miss Virginia Union University 1943.

After graduation and taking the necessary classes and exams to teach, McNorton began her teaching career and was an educator for Yorktown Public Schools and Richmond City Public Schools. When McNorton wasn't in a classroom, she could be found traveling to different countries. She was committed to impacting lives and wanted to share her experiences with her students. “I wanted to see what I was teaching,” she said. At the age of 91, McNorton has traveled to every state, except Alaska, and has visited Paris, Germany, France, London, Spain, the Caribbean, and several places in South America. “I love Latin countries,” McNorton said, and she was a frequent visitor to Mexico. “Traveling was my thing.”

After 40 years of teaching, she retired but continued to keep in contact with many of her students. “Students since grade four still come visit me every week,” shared McNorton. Traveling from as far as Arizona, her students recognize the significant impact impressed upon them.

Because of the generosity of Ms. McNorton, the Vivian Paulina Wilson (McNorton) and Regina Veola Wilson Endowed Scholarship



Fund will assist female students with a 2.5-3.0 GPA, majoring in Elementary Education. “I came in contact with many children who I knew had good potential but not high scholastics. This scholarship will benefit those students and help them reach their full potential.” The contribution and lasting legacy from McNorton, in honor of her family, will provide students a pathway to their limitless future.



The **Virginia Union University Tom Harris Alumni Chapter** presented a check for \$10,300 to Virginia Union University President Dr. Claude G. Perkins on June 21, 2016. The donation is the result of the chapter's annual fundraiser brunch, which was held on May 21, 2016. Nearly 80 alumni and friends of Virginia Union attended the fundraiser at the Panther Grill. VUU Director of Alumni Relations Charmica Epps '08 served as guest speaker for the event. Congratulations to Mr. Arthur Almore, the winner of the annual cheesecake auction, for his generous donation of \$4,000. The chapter's donation will support the endowment of Virginia Union University. This presentation brings the Tom Harris Alumni Chapter's total donations to \$22,800 for the current fiscal year.



Class Notes

Kallay La' Shawn Blunt '15 and **Jason Smart-El' 16** will be traveling to Shanghai, China to teach English in August 2016.

Michelle Carroll'08 was promoted Director of State Legislative Affairs for Financial Services Institute in Washington, D.C.

Rev. Dr. Roscoe D. Cooper III '96 was elected to the Henrico County School Board (Fairfield District).

Lisa Dunn-Jenkins'94 was elected to the National Association of Foster Grandparent Project Directors (NAFGPD) Board of Directors. The term is for two years and she will serve as the Atlantic Cluster Representative.

Pastor Dr. Thomas F. Freeman '39 celebrated 65 years of pastor and people at Mount Horem Baptist Church in Texas. Dr. Freeman is also a legendary educator and distinguished Professor of Forensics at Texas Southern University. He has served as coach for over 60 years to the internationally acclaimed Texas Southern University Debate team. Dr. Freeman and the TSU Debate Team, trained academy award-winning actor Denzel Washington and his cast in the movie, *The Great Debaters* which was nominated for a Golden Globe award.

G. Leonard "Glenn" Starnes II '07 was hired as BELL (Building Educated Leaders for Life) Director of Program Operations in Montgomery County, Maryland. In his new role, he will lead BELL's collaboration with Montgomery County Schools and expand summer learning opportunities for at-risk students.

Frank Thornton'66 was elected to his sixth term on the Henrico County Board of Supervisors. He currently serves within the Fairfield Magisterial District.

T. Roosevelt Williams, Jr (Teddy) '81 retired from his position as Senior Chemist from the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission after working there for 26 years.

in memoriam

Mr. Pierre A. Ames '72
 Mrs. Claudelia S. Barnes '54
 Mr. Charles Edwin Beard '13
 Reverend Henry Blunt '77
 Mr. Daniel W. Boddie '43
 Mrs. Marian I. Bowie '45
 Mr. Harold Bernard Branch '94
 Colonel Fred Vann Cherry, Sr. '51
 Rev. Dr. Howard A. Chubbs '62
 Rev. Clarence L. Crews '57
 Mrs. Margaret C. Crews '57
 Mr. William Alexander Dixon '94
 Mrs. Evelyn S. Fraser '40
 Reverend Herman A. Ford '60
 Dr. Raymond Gavins '64
 Mrs. Gladys B. Hider '53
 Mrs. Colethia R. Holcomb '54
 Mrs. Dorothy T. Hunter '49
 Dr. Allix B. James '44, '46
 Mrs. Geraldine R. Johnson '59
 Dr. Lynwood A. Jones, Jr. '49
 Mrs. Dorothy M. Jefferson Jones '69
 Mrs. Frances E. Jordan '46
 Dr. James C. Kelly, Sr. '64
 Attorney Leonard W. Lambert, Esq. '60
 Mrs. Ariminta J. Lomax '34
 Mrs. Gladys J. Lovett '62
 Dr. Paul Melvin Martin, Sr. '64
 Mr. Robert D. Moore '62
 Mrs. Barbara Williams O'Dell, '69
 Mr. Willie H. Oliver, Jr. '74
 Ms. Rita Lamar Pulliam '77
 Arthur L. Pulley, Esq.'50
 Ms. Estella Taylor
 Ms. Ruth A. Taylor '56
 Mrs. Julia M. Thornton '45
 Mrs. Lola Thornton-Taylor '48
 Dr. Virginius Bray Thornton III '58
 Mrs. Hilda Yates Warden '35
 Mrs. Elsie J. White '57
 Reverend Leonidas Bernard Young II '78

Faculty and Staff Updates

Dr. David Adewuyi served as managing editor of the December 2015 issue of *The African Symposium: An Online Journal of the African Educational Research Network (AERN)*. Virginia Union University is the current secretariat for AERN, which was founded in 1992 for the purpose of promoting, coordinating, and disseminating collaborative research among African and American scholars on educational and human development issues. VUU President Dr. Claude G. Perkins serves as chief administrative officer of AERN and publisher of the international journal.

Dr. Carleitta Paige-Anderson was promoted to Associate Professor of Biochemistry with tenure. She will lead the efforts to implement the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Science Education Alliance-Phage Hunters Advancing Genomics and Evolutionary Science (SEA-PHAGES) course in VUU's General Biology laboratory section during the 2016-2017 academic year. Also, Dr. Paige-Anderson was recently awarded a \$50,000 grant from the United States Department of Homeland Security to support the project entitled "Investigating the role of Nrf2 in Lung Airway Epithelial Cells Following Rift Valley Fever Virus Infection."

Mr. E. Lee Coble was named to the NCAA Regional Advisory Committee for the second straight year.

Dr. Joy Lawson Davis was invited by the editor of *The Virginia Journal of Education* to write the cover story for the April 2016 issue. The article explores the issues and strategies for teaching "Race, Social Justice, and Equal Opportunity."

Ms. AnnMarie Gilbert guided the Lady Panthers to a school-record of 28 wins resulting in VUU's first CIAA Championship in women's basketball in 34 years, and an appearance in the NCAA Elite Eight in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Coach Gilbert was also named the NCAA Atlantic Region Coach of the Year, as well as the CIAA Coach of the Year. The National Sports Media Association named Coach Gilbert its 2015-16 Big House Gaines College Basketball Coach of the Year.

Dr. Joy Goodrich served as chairperson for three Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) off-site review teams. She joined a team of eight professionals who reviewed three universities for compliance with 15 core requirements, 67 comprehensive standards, and nine federal requirements.

Ms. Linda R. Jackson was accepted to the 2016 class of the HIGHER Ground Women's Leadership Development Program at Virginia Commonwealth University's Grace E. Harris Leadership Institute. The Program lends itself to promoting the development of current and emerging leaders in academic institutions and nonprofit organizations. The Institute's leadership programs are based on the principles of collaboration and partnerships with a strong commitment to long-term relationships between clients and participants.

Ms. Felicia Johnson was named to the NCAA Nominating Committee and the CIAA Management Council.

Dr. John J. Johnson published two articles: "The Koran's Denial of Christ's Crucifixion," in *Evangelical Review of Theology* (January 2016), and "Is Apologetics Counter-Productive? An Evaluation and Critique of Myron Penner's *The End of Apologetics*," in *Global Journal of Classical Theology* (December 2016).

Mr. Wilbert Johnson guided VUU to its second straight CIAA championship in men's cross-country as well as being named the CIAA Cross-Country Coach of the Year. He was also elected president of the CIAA Coaches Association and appointed to the NCAA Regional Advisory Committee for Cross-Country.

Ms. Margarette Joyner was featured in *Style Weekly* magazine discussing Virginia Union's theater program and its service to the Richmond community.

Dr. Yung Suk Kim has published a new book: *Messiah in Weakness: A Portrait of Jesus from the Perspective of the Dispossessed* (Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2016) (ISBN: 978-1-4982-1745-3).

Ms. Deelyn Leigh was selected to present a workshop at the Africana Critical Composition and Rhetoric Association's (ACCRA) Conference at Bowie State University for "Black Lives Matter: Language(s) of the Unheard". Ms. Leigh's presentation was on Black Feminists' Approaches in the Black Lives Matter movement.

Reverend Melissa Mason was ordained on Sept 26, 2015, making her the first woman licensed and ordained at Emmaus Baptist Church in Mathews, VA. She is also among the Class of 2016 for Emerge Virginia, a training program for women interested in holding political office.

Dr. Francis Mensah published the following articles: "Experimental characterization of a small custom-built double-acting gamma-type stirling engine," *American Physical Society*, March 2016; "Measurement of Water Vapor in the Lower Troposphere using LIDAR," *American Physical Society*, March 2016; and "A Study of the Viscosity of Suspensions of Solid Particles: Applications to Red Blood Cells (RBC) and Nanomaterials in Nanomedicine," Springer, 2015 edition, Book Chapter.

Dr. Julie A. Molly was reappointed to serve a one year term on the Richmond Community Criminal Justice Board by the Richmond City Council. The purpose of the Board is to promote efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of community criminal justice; to establish policies that structure programs which will assist judicial officers in discharging their duties and better meet the needs of offenders; and to approve funding sources that support programming in the criminal justice system.



Virginia Union University Dates to Remember

EVENT	DATE
Fall Classes Begin	August 11, 2016
Fall Break	October 24-25, 2016
Fall Convocation	October 7, 2016
Homecoming	October 8, 2016
Ellison - Jones Convocation	November 14-17, 2016
University Winter Choir Concert	December 1, 2016
Last Day of Fall Classes	December 1, 2016
Final Exams	December 5-9, 2016
Founders Day	February 3, 2017
Baccalaureate Ceremony	May 12, 2017
Commencement Ceremony	May 13, 2017

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

Dr. Moneka Monroe was invited as a speaker by TEDxUF for a Ted Talk on criminal injustice. She has worked with inmates in the U.S. penal system to explain the process of restoration of civil rights and to encourage post-secondary education opportunities for inmates.

Dr. Michael E. Orok has been awarded a Title III professional development grant to travel to Cape Town, South Africa as a Senior Scholar for the Fifth Young Scholar Workshop to be held July 20-27, 2016. The workshop will focus on research that advances understanding of global disparities in public policy, public administration, non-governmental organizations and the communities they serve.

Dr. Shyamal Premaratne had a peer-reviewed paper titled "Atrial Fibrillation and flutter following coronary artery bypass graft surgery: A Retrospective study and review" published in the *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine Cardiovascular Disease*.

Mr. Samuel T. Rhoades III was invited to speak at The National Association of College and University Business Officers 2016 Annual Meeting in Montreal July 16-19, 2016 on the topic of minority-serving institutions that have realized significant benefits from Title III funds.

Dr. Vernon A. Ruffin announced the acceptance of a publication he was involved in at Case Western Reserve University. The article is entitled "Soluble Prion Protein and Its N-terminal Fragment Prevent Impairment of Synaptic Plasticity by A β Oligomers: Implications for Novel Therapeutic Strategy in Alzheimer's Disease" and will be published in *Neurobiology of Disease*.

Dr. Sunita Sharma presented "The Power of An Effective Teacher" at the annual conference of VA Council of Exceptional Children at Lynchburg, VA on March 11, 2016, and on the topic "Framework for 21st Century Teaching and Learning" at VA Council of Teacher Education, Roanoke, VA on March 16, 2016. She also presented on the topic "Culturally & Linguistically Diverse Classroom of Today: Are you Professionally Prepared?" at the International Conference of the Council of Exceptional Children on April 13, 2016.

Dr. Peter Sutton presented a paper "Biting Gaunilo's Bullet" at the Society of Christian Philosophers Conference at Messiah College, PA in September of 2015. In the Fall of 2015, his article "Weeping Angels and Many Worlds" was published in *More Doctor Who and Philosophy* (Open Court Press, Lewis & Smithka, eds.) In addition, Dr. Sutton served as a judge at the annual Ethics Bowl at Collegiate School in Richmond in January of 2016.

Mr. Joe Taylor received The Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Football Coaches Association/Fellowship of Christian Athletes and was inducted into the MEAC Hall of Fame.

Dr. Robert Wafawanaka was the inaugural presenter of the "First Fridays @ the Seminary!" lecture series on "I am My Brother's Keeper: Biblical Responses to Poverty and Wealth." He also published "The Global Crisis of Debt in Context: Biblical and Postcolonial Reflections on the Ideology of Empire" in *Reading the Bible in an Age of Crisis: Political Exegesis for a New Day*; and a book review of *The Poverty of Nations: A Sustainable Solution*, in the *Journal of Church and State*.



Virginia Union University

1500 North Lombardy Street / Richmond, VA 23220

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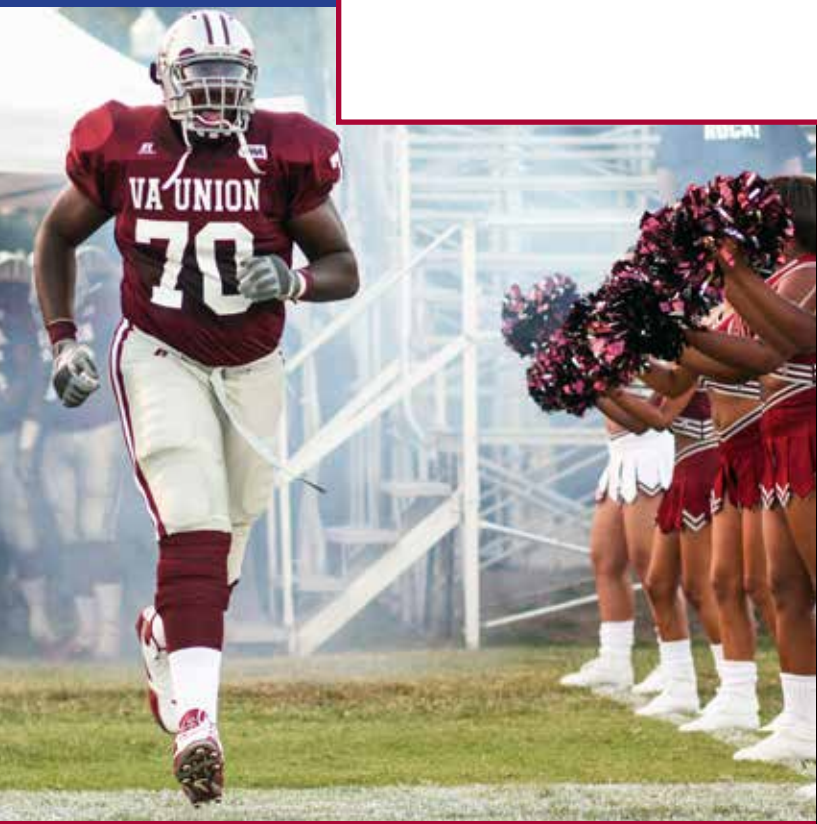
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Richmond, VA

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VUU 2016 Football Schedule

VUU Football vs. Long Island University-Post	1:00 PM	Sept. 3
Hovey Field		
VUU Football at Newberry	4:00 PM	Sept. 10
Newberry, SC		
VUU Football at Winston-Salem State	6:00 PM	Sept. 17
Winston-Salem, NC		
VUU Football at Fayetteville State*	6:00 PM	Sept. 24
Fayetteville, NC		
VUU Football vs. Saint Augustine's*	1:00 PM	Oct. 1
Hovey Field		
VUU Football vs. Lincoln (Pa.) University*	1:00 PM	Oct. 8
(Homecoming) Hovey Field		
VUU Football at Chowan University*	1:00 PM	Oct. 15
Murfreesboro, NC		
VUU Football vs. Bowie State University*	1:00 PM	Oct. 22
Hovey Field		
VUU Football at Elizabeth City State University*	1:30 PM	Oct. 29
Elizabeth City, NC		
VUU Football vs. Virginia State University*	1:00 PM	Nov. 5
Hovey Field		

*CIAA Game

VIRGINIA UNION UNIVERSITY HOMECOMING 2016

"All Roads Lead Home"

October 2-9, 2016

HOST HOTELS

Wyndham Virginia Crossings Hotel and Conference Center
1000 Virginia Center Parkway
Glen Allen, VA 23059
804-727-1400

Courtyard Marriott Richmond North
10077 Brook Road
Glen Allen, VA. 23059
804-266-6900

Hampton Inn and Suites at Virginia Center
1101 Technology Park Drive
Glen Allen, VA. 23059
804-261-2266