

SPRING 2014 / UNIVERSITY NEWS

UNIONITE

VIRGINIA UNION UNIVERSITY



TRANSFORMATION



NEW BUILDING ON TRACK
FOR FALL OPENING

PAGE 4

SOLAR PANELS COMING
TO HENDERSON CENTER

PAGE 5

MEET THE FIRST
THURSDAY GROUP

PAGE 20

VUU From The President

What a monumental year this has been for Virginia Union University. We have been blessed to watch the steady progress of our new Living and Learning Center. We have witnessed the transformation of a very special group of students who came to us as uncertain freshmen and left us as proud, confident graduates ready to take on the world. We salute Virginia Union's Class of 2014 – the largest graduating class in 10 years.

We have titled this issue of the *Unionite* "Transformation" for many reasons. It's evident in our new Chemistry Lab and the solar panels coming to Henderson Center. You can see it in our science students heading off to Meharry Medical College for summer internships. Virginia Union is undergoing a metamorphosis.

In this issue you will learn about new partnerships, as well as gifts from long-time supporters.

We are grateful to share with you exciting information from our Centers of Excellence, including new publications from the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology faculty, new exhibits from the VUU Museum Galleries, and the latest from the Virginia Union University Choir.

As always, we thank you for your continuing support and we look forward to sharing our upcoming 150th anniversary activities during the 2014-2015 academic year. Please watch the Virginia Union website at www.vuu.edu for a complete calendar of 150th anniversary events later this summer. Information with respect to ordering a new VUU publication



VUU Board of Trustees

highlighting distinguished alumni through the years is also included in this issue of the *Unionite*.

God bless you and God bless Virginia Union University.

Claude G. Perkins

Claude G. Perkins, Ph.D.
President



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

Transformation...Metamorphosis....

There are many ways to describe what is currently happening on the campus of Virginia Union University, but we thought the best way might be a series of photographs of the new Living and Learning Center, which is changing the face of the campus.

Many of the changes, though significant, are a bit more difficult to see. Buildings are being upgraded with more energy-efficient windows and lighting. Henderson Center

has been chosen as a test site for solar energy. Students are working in a new state-of-the-art Chemistry Lab. The historic sculptures on the outside of the Belgian Building have been updated. And best of all, Virginia Union students are embarking on new and exciting learning opportunities.

We invite you to read more about these projects and other transforming work currently taking place on the campus of Virginia Union University.



Prototypes representing a lounge area and double room.

The progress is visible over the months in the new Living and Learning Center at VUU.



Historic Belgian Building Sculpture is Restored

The historic bas reliefs located on the exterior wall of the Belgian Building and at the base of the Belgian Building tower have a new look. Craftsman James Robertson cleaned the terra cotta sculptures and then on a panel-by-panel basis removed loose or deteriorated mortar and repaired cracks and loose or broken terra cotta.

The restoration was funded by Bells for Peace, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the Belgian Building. The organization is also responsible for installing an electronic carillon in the Vann Memorial Tower of the historic building. “Everywhere I go, people talk about the beautiful music coming from the Virginia Union campus,” said Dianne Watkins, Bells for Peace President. “It says we are in this community and we deserve to be seen and heard. We have a voice.”

Watkins’ efforts are in memory of Virginia Union’s first African American president Dr. John Malcus Ellison, Sr. and his wife Mrs. Elizabeth Ellison. Dr. Ellison spearheaded fundraising efforts to move the Belgian Building from the grounds of the 1939 World’s Fair in New York following the donation of the building by the government of Belgium.

During World War II, the Belgian Building was leased to the United States government as a U.S. Army and Navy Receiving and Induction Center. Bells for Peace, Inc. also donated money to provide for exterior lighting of the Belgian Building in honor of the thousands who were processed for military service at the location. Records indicate that nearly 200 Virginia Union faculty, staff, and students served in the Armed Forces during this period.



New Chemistry Lab is State-of-the-Art

Virginia Union’s new Chemistry lab is equipped with modern chemistry instrumentation, including two hooded experiment areas where students can conduct tests of toxic chemicals without the risk of exposure, and work areas that can be electronically raised allowing students to stand during experiments. It also features enhanced safety equipment in case of chemical exposure to the skin and eyes, and handicapped-accessible spacing of work areas.

Dr. Karl Jackson, Assistant Professor in the Department of Natural Sciences, said it’s exciting to watch students learn with the new equipment. “Students are using the latest equipment to help test their samples. They are learning in a professional research environment.”

Briah Bebbs, from Richmond, Virginia said she’s learned a lot since switching her major to Chemistry. The professors have worked with her during lab experiments and taught her how to record the results. She mostly enjoys watching the reaction from mixing different ingredients. Dominique Patterson of Mt. Holly, NJ enjoys working with the spectrometer and watching how fast it can read solutions.

The lab is continually being upgraded to ensure the latest equipment and learning opportunities. Next semester, chemistry professors plan to integrate Vernier, Inc. instructional technology.



VUU is Solar Test Site

Virginia Union is one of four selected sites in Virginia to partner with Dominion Virginia Power on its small generator solar program. At a cost of approximately \$500,000, Dominion will install a system of 84 solar panels on the roof of Henderson Center.

The system will produce over 108,000 kilowatt hours of electricity from direct sunlight each year and that’s enough to serve 20 homes. The project will allow Dominion to assess the benefits of solar energy production on the utility grid. VUU will be able to observe on-site operation of solar power generation and real-time data collection.

VUU GALA 2014



COMMENCEMENT 2014

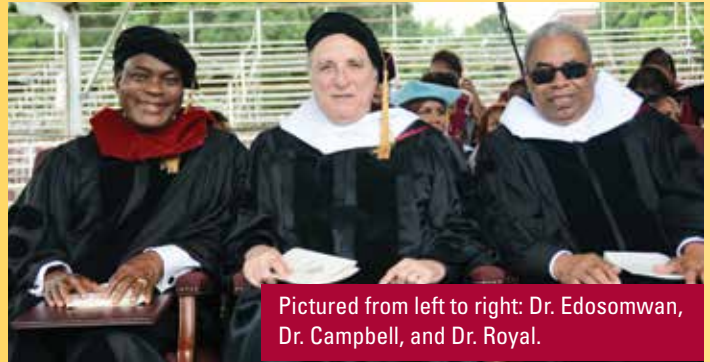


VUU Honors Campbell, Edosomwan, and Royal

Virginia Union's recent Commencement ceremony included the awarding of 220 undergraduate and 135 graduate degrees, the largest number in the past 10 years. The University also presented three honorary degrees to Rev. Benjamin P. Campbell, Rev. Dr. Johnson A. Edosomwan, and Dr. Frank S. Royal, Sr.

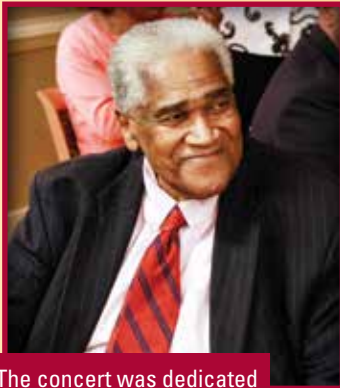
Rev. Campbell is an Episcopal priest and the Pastoral Director of Richmond Hill, an ecumenical Christian community and retreat center located in the Church Hill section of Richmond. Rev. Dr. Edosomwan is the presiding Apostle, Chairman, and Trustee of One God Ministry, a global church with branches in Virginia, Florida, Wisconsin, and Kenya. Dr. Royal served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Virginia Union for 30 years and as a Doctor of Medicine in Richmond for 40 years.

Virginia Union alumnus and former Virginia Governor L. Douglas Wilder was the featured speaker, bringing the crowd to its feet with his inspiring words:



Pictured from left to right: Dr. Edosomwan, Dr. Campbell, and Dr. Royal.

"I will persist until I succeed because I was not delivered in this world in defeat. Nor does defeatism run through the blood of my ancestors. I am not some sheep waiting to be told what to do by some shepherd. I am a lion... The slaughterhouse of failure is not my destiny. I will persist until I succeed."



The concert was dedicated to the memory of the late Dr. Benjamin Lambert, III



From left to right: Lisa Burns Edwards, Charmaine McGilvary, and Karen Savage

Annual Spring Concert Wows Audience

Virginia Union University's Annual Spring Concert is being described as one of the best in recent memory. Under the direction of Dr. Willis Barnett, the Virginia Union Choir performed a variety of genres, including spirituals, anthems, gospel, and hymn arrangements. Soloists Lisa Burns Edwards, Charmaine McGilvary, and Karen Savage had the crowd on its feet with the performance of "He's Got the Whole World."

This year's concert was dedicated to the memory of the late Dr. Benjamin Lambert, III, who served on the Virginia Union University Board of Trustees for 41 years. Dr. Lambert was a true servant leader, representing the Ninth Senatorial District in the Virginia State Senate from 1986 to 2007, and serving in the Virginia House of Delegates from 1978 to 1985. He was the first African American in the 20th Century to serve on the Virginia Senate Finance Committee.

A Session with Senator Tim Kaine

United States Senator Tim Kaine held a wide-ranging discussion with a group of Virginia Union University student leaders in Wall Auditorium on February 10, 2014. Students questioned the Senator on topics ranging from immigration reform to his plans for higher office. “I haven’t had that lightning strike yet,” Sen. Kaine responded when asked if he had ever considered running for president of the United States. “You should only do that if you have an epiphany that you can do something that no one else can do.”

Sen. Kaine, who was elected in 2012, told the students that he is one of only 20 Americans to have served as a mayor, governor, and United States senator. He advised VUU students to make their lives about serving others. “If you’re a giver, you’re going to be happy,” Sen. Kaine said. He added that those who serve others will always be able to find work.

When questioned about immigration reform, Sen. Kaine told the students that he is optimistic that it will happen this year. “The new

American population is growing so fast that no party can be seen as anti-immigration and still have success,” stressed Sen. Kaine. As one of the few Senators fluent in Spanish, the Senator encouraged students to make learning a new language a priority.

VUU students and the Senator also discussed the importance of coming up with new strategies to hold down college costs. “For the first time in the U.S., student loan debt is higher than credit card debt,” Sen. Kaine said. He added that a major debate concerning the minimum wage would be coming to the Senate soon. In closing, the Senator urged VUU students to stay politically informed and to get involved in local campaigns, such as city council or the school board.



Artist April Harrison Shines at VUU Galleries

Virginia Union University’s Art Galleries in the L. Douglas Wilder Library featured the work of Artist April Harrison at an opening reception held on April 17, 2014. Harrison is known for her eclectic use of materials, allowing for rich textures and dynamic images. Her focus is on “creating positive images of color, embracing individual diversity, inner spirituality and natural God-given beauty.” Although she is self-taught, her works have been well received throughout the arts community and are owned by collectors such as Whoopi Goldberg, the Honorable Andrew Young, and the Honorable Ruth Simmons. In addition, her works have been on exhibit at galleries in New York, Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee and Washington, DC. Harrison’s work has received media coverage in newspapers, magazines and television including Essence Magazine, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, and Black Entertainment Television.



The exhibit drew art lovers of all ages including Jada Perkins, granddaughter of VUU President, Dr. Claude G. Perkins.

New Articulation Agreement With Halifax Community College

Virginia Union University President Dr. Claude G. Perkins recently signed an articulation agreement with Halifax Community College President Dr. Ervin V. Griffin, Sr. The agreement will make it easier for students graduating with an associate degree from Halifax Community College (HCC) to transfer into a baccalaureate degree program at Virginia Union (VUU).

As long as HCC graduates have at least a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale, and all other conditions for admission are met, the transfer students will be admitted to VUU with junior class status.

“Due to our close proximity to Virginia, I think this is a fitting and proper



Photo courtesy of Sam Rhoades

agreement for our students,” said HCC President Griffin. Dr. Perkins announced that he would set aside \$150,000 in scholarships for HCC transfer students admitted to VUU under the agreement.

“Due to our close proximity to Virginia, I think this is a fitting and proper agreement for our students.”

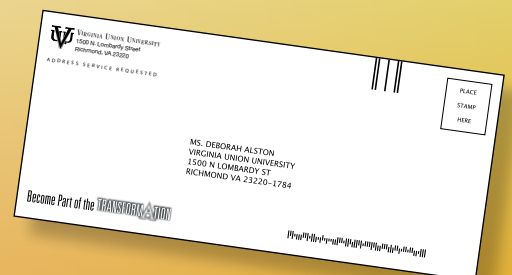
— **Dr. Ervin V. Griffin, Sr.**
Halifax Community College

Become Part of the **TRANSFORMATION!**



VUU needs your commitment and support!

To make an ongoing transformation 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.





VUU Welcomes New Board Member

Ms. Mary Gordon, Vice President, Quality Compliance for Altria Client Services, has joined the Virginia Union University Board of Trustees. Ms. Gordon's organization at Altria Group is responsible for the Quality Management System infrastructure for the Altria family of companies in the development, manufacturing, and distribution of tobacco products. Previously, Ms. Gordon was Vice President for Manufacturing for U.S. Smokeless Tobacco Company, overseeing smokeless tobacco processing through company facilities in Tennessee, Illinois, and Kentucky. She has also served as Vice President and General Manager of Manufacturing for Philip Morris USA. A graduate of Spelman College, Georgia Tech and VCU, Ms. Gordon will serve on the Academic Affairs and Institutional Advancement committees of the Board.

Noted Researcher on Race and Teaching Addresses Second Annual Urban Child Symposium

Dr. Dyan Watson, who wrote about her fears and hopes for her young black son just before the Trayvon Martin shooting, was the keynote speaker at the second annual Urban Child Symposium. Hosted by Virginia Union University's Center for the Study of the Urban Child, the day-long symposium was held April 16, 2014.

Dr. Watson is an assistant professor of education at Lewis and Clark University's Graduate School of Education and Counseling and focuses her research on understanding how race and culture influence the classroom. Her publications include "Norming Suburban: How Teachers Talk About Race Without Using Race Words" and "Effective



Teaching/Effective Urban Teaching: Grappling with Definitions, Grappling with Differences."

In addition to Dr. Watson, the symposium featured academicians, practitioners, policy makers, advocates, youth, and other community stakeholders who addressed the theme of "The Whole Child is Greater than the Sum of its Parts."



FOUNDERS DAY 2014



“Nobody But Jesus”

Virginia Union's Annual Founders Day Convocation and Rally was held on February 7, 2014, celebrating 149 years of excellence. VUU President Dr. Claude G. Perkins opened the ceremony with the reminder that Founders Day “serves as a time to reflect on those who have gone before, with a focus toward the future.” He noted that private institutions face many challenges, but “what has sustained Virginia Union University has been associated with our values, devotion to this institution, our mission and motto: “God Will Provide.”

The Allix B. James Chapel of Coburn Hall was filled to capacity as Rev. Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr., Pastor Emeritus of Trinity United Church of Christ (Chicago), delivered the Address “Nobody but Jesus.” He urged those in attendance to remain faithful because Jesus blesses those who remain focused and “the Lord will bless others through that faithfulness.” Wright said “Nobody but Jesus” created Virginia Union out of what was once Lumpkin’s Jail, saying “He does not have to change your location to change your situation.” He encouraged everyone to remember their “Nobody but Jesus” testimony and remain focused on the mission of the University.

The Founders Day Luncheon and Rally immediately followed the Program. Dr. John W. Kinney, Dean of the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology, offered greetings and gave remarks about the purpose of the occasion. The Rally was attended by VUU supporters, churches, ministers, alumni and friends.



COMMUNITY LEADERS BREAKFAST



ELLISON-JONES CONVOCATION

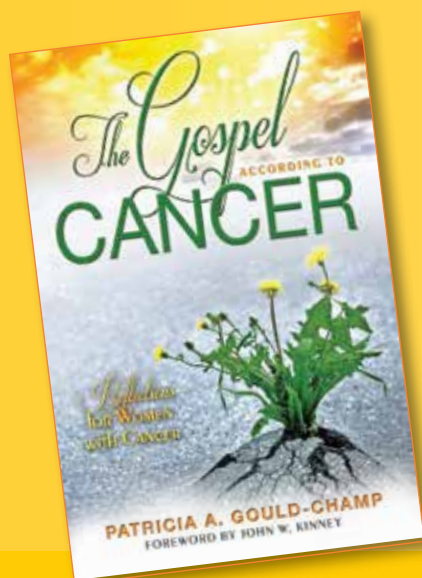


The Gospel According to Cancer

“Hello, Mrs. Gould-Champ, I got your lab work back and it’s cancer.”

It’s been almost 10 years since VUU School of Theology Assistant Professor Dr. Patricia Gould-Champ received the life-altering diagnosis in a phone call from her doctor. “These are words that can’t be taken back,” she writes in her new book. “These are words that change a normal day into the beginning of a journey into the unknown. These are words that test who you are and what you believe and what faith really is.”

Eight rounds of chemotherapy for stage three breast cancer left Gould-Champ with limited mobility. She can’t stand or walk for lengthy periods. She is one of the very few women whose hair did not grow back when her chemotherapy ended. As her 67-year-old bald and beautiful frame makes its way to teach classes at her alma mater, she sees herself as more than a survivor. She



is a conqueror. “Some come out bitter, not better,” she says in a recent interview on campus. “I’ve got to decide that I’m going to live. God has made some wonderful opportunities.”

The Gospel According to Cancer is one of the many opportunities Gould-Champ has seized as a result of cancer. The book, available on Amazon.com in June, is the result of a journal that she kept during her cancer journey. “Our journey is our journey,” she emphasizes. “There’s no blueprint. It’s O.K. Faith struggles. It’s up and down. It’s O.K. to ask hard questions, to doubt. God is big enough to handle it.”

Gould-Champ started reading her journal entries to local cancer groups and to her congregation at Faith Community Baptist Church, where she has been pastor for nearly 20 years. She was surprised with the reaction. “People said I don’t have cancer, but this relates to any difficulty in life,” she recalls. “People would say you got into my head. You know how I feel.”

The book is raw and personal. She talks about being so nauseated after chemo that she had to leave the pulpit before preaching. Yet, she only missed one Sunday during her illness. She talks about the first time she was intimate with her husband following her surgery. She travels deep into her psyche, addressing the guilt of blaming herself for the cancer in the chapter “What Did I Do Wrong?” She writes, “It’s amazing how we say one thing but we live another. It’s

amazing how faith sounds when we’re sick as opposed to when we’re well. When we’re well, we seem to understand that God is in control of all things...we seem to know that God does not use pain and suffering to get back at us for our mistakes and bad choices. But when we’re sick...our thinking changes...Sickness will cause a woman who has walked by faith all her life...to entertain the thought that what she did or did not do resulted in this dreadful disease.”



“I’ve got to decide that I’m going to live. God has made some wonderful opportunities.”

The last chapter of the book is “I Plan to Live Until I Die...” Gould-Champ has been cancer-free for seven years. She sees her doctor once a year, but refuses to dwell on the issue of whether the cancer will return. She is focused on her legacy now, a legacy of spreading hope and faith to others. “We beat up on ourselves,” she says. “I’m not a good Christian. I shouldn’t worry. I shouldn’t be said. It’s O.K. to worry sometimes. The issue is that faith keeps us from dwelling and remaining in a place of defeat and failure. Faith keeps hope alive.”



Pictured from left: VUU President Dr. Claude G. Perkins, Gaelle Ebelle and Associate Professor Shyamal Premaratne.

VUU Student Accepted to Boston University Medical School

Gaelle Ebelle has received early acceptance into the Boston University Medical School thanks to a partnership with Virginia Union University. The early acceptance program facilitates qualified students' entry into medical school.

The biology major will head to Massachusetts this summer for a six week summer program, where she will take classes and shadow doctors. She will spend her junior year attending classes at Virginia Union before heading to Boston University for her senior year.

Ebelle is from Cameroon, Africa and hopes to become a pediatrician or surgeon in the future.

VUU Students Compete in National Academic Championship

Virginia Union University students were excited about the "Sweet 16," but there was no basketball involved. Instead, the University's Honda Campus All-Star team matched its brainpower with 47 other teams in Torrance, California for the 25th annual Honda Campus All-Star Challenge (HCASC) April 12-16, 2014. More than \$300,000 was at stake this year in the knowledge game of quick recall for America's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).



Virginia Union's team consisted of three returning players (DeJamine Bryson, Jesse Gray, and Victor Lilly) and one rookie (Ashley L. Green). The road to the championship began in the fall of 2013, with 76 teams vying for the final 48 slots. At the tournament, competitors were split into eight divisions and competed in a modified round-robin format. The round-robin was followed by a "sweet 16" single elimination playoff, and the final two teams that emerged from the playoffs competed in a best-of-three competition for the title of National Champions and the grand prize of \$50,000.

Virginia Union played very well, and had its best record in the last 5 years, beating North Carolina A&T and Tougaloo, and tying for third place in their round-robin division. Unfortunately, only the top two schools from each division (NCCU and Clark Atlanta) moved on to the playoffs. In the end, Fisk University beat out Oakwood in the finals to take home their first HCASC trophy. "Virginia Union's team will have two returning players next year, and is actively recruiting smart, eager students for next year's team so we can bring the title home to Richmond," said Team Coach Dr. Peter Sutton.

Since 1989, the Honda Campus All-Star Challenge has awarded more than \$7 million in grants to participating HBCUs, impacting the lives of more than 100,000 students across 22 states.

Bryson Takes The Wheel For Honda

“A noble leader answers not to the trumpet calls of self-promotion, but to the hushed whispers of necessity.”

— Mollie Marti

If anyone fits that mold, it is Virginia Union University student-athlete DeJamine Bryson, as she served her second year as captain of VUU's Honda Campus All-Star Team. As the oldest of four children, one might say that Bryson was a natural born leader.

In addition to her responsibilities as captain of the Honda Campus All-Star Team, Bryson, who is an aspiring law student, served as president of the Pre-Law Society for the past two years.



To no one's surprise, Bryson's leadership skills apply to more than extracurricular activities. The graduating senior from Charlotte, North Carolina thrived within the classroom as well. Bryson's name was all but engraved on the Dean's List as soon as she arrived on the VUU campus and she maintained a 3.6 cumulative grade point average.

Using that grade point average to her full advantage, Bryson became a member of the Virginia Union Honors Programs as a sophomore. She is also a member of Psy Chi, the International Honor Society for students majoring in Psychology.

As if the aforementioned were not enough, Bryson left for Army basic training one week after her graduation ceremony. It is another chapter toward her goal of becoming a U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps attorney.

VUU Students Prepare for Careers as Doctors

Virginia Union students will represent the largest group of participants at this summer's Meharry Medical College Center of Excellence Bachelor of Science/Doctor of Medicine Program. The program is a six-week internship open to rising sophomores and juniors with a grade point average above 3.25. Students participating in the program for the first time are Keyana Elmes, Corrina Parkmond, LaCheyla Blount, Elizabeth Parsons, Jessica Bellamy, Shikia Davis, Amber Jordan, and Dylan Murietta (pictured on the first row below). Students returning to the program for the second summer are Elodie Mawel, Monique Stone, Demetri Boston, Renee McGilvary, and Valencia Hines (pictured on the second row below). Also pictured in the photo are VUU President Dr. Claude G. Perkins (on the far left) and Associate Professor Dr. Shyamal Premaratne (on the far right).

The program will provide students with a stipend and pay for all travel, lodging, and food. “Once students complete the program with the requisite grade point average, they are guaranteed a spot at Meharry Medical College,” said Dr. Premaratne. He added that this year's group of scholars is twice the size of last year's group.



VUU Student Receives \$25,000 UNCF Scholarship

It would be a serious understatement to say that Virginia Union's Saraisa Simpson is excited to be a recipient of the UNCF Rising Stars Scholarship in Partnership with Target. "It was amazing!" exclaimed Simpson. "They treated us like celebrities." The 34-year-old Social Work major sat down for an interview immediately following her return from Atlanta, Georgia for the taping of the United Negro College Fund's (UNCF) "An Evening of Stars."

Simpson's selection as a "Rising Star" entitles her to a \$25,000 scholarship and she is extremely grateful, but an even greater value for Simpson is the opportunity to touch the lives of others. "This is going to show a mom sitting home with nowhere to turn that she can pick up the telephone and get help," Simpson said. "There are resources out there. There are people who care."

The mother of 5-year-old Gavin and 13-year-old Jaila started her quest for higher education immediately following her 1998 graduation from George Wythe High School in Richmond, Virginia. Over the next 15 years, she would attempt a

college degree at three different institutions. Her marriage to a member of the U.S. Marine Corps kept the family moving too often to complete her studies. But she never gave up. Not when her marriage fell apart. Not when her son was diagnosed with epilepsy. Not when her mother was diagnosed with stage four liver and colon cancer. "Education is so important to me because I will be a legacy to my family, the first to receive a college degree," Simpson beamed. "Education is the key to success. You're not even competitive without some credentials."

Simpson transferred to Virginia Union last fall after completing an associate's degree at a local community college. She said the excellent reputation of the Social Work program attracted her. She quit a full-time job and "stepped out on faith" that she would find the finances she needed. She credits Ms. Carolyn Bracey in VUU's Office of Financial Aid for encouraging her to apply for a UNCF scholarship. "She and Dr. Donna Mack-



Saraisa Simpson

"This is going to show a mom sitting home with nowhere to turn that she can pick up the telephone and get help. There are resources out there. There are people who care."

— Saraisa Simpson

Tatum (Executive Manager of Enrollment Transition and Scholarship Management) have a calling," Simpson added. "It's more than just a job."

Mr. & Miss Virginia Union University 2014-2015

Congratulations to Wesley Arthur and Tiera Sedden on being chosen Mr. & Miss Virginia Union University 2014-2015.

Wesley Arthur was born in Saint Mark, Haiti but moved to Union, New Jersey at a young age. He remains connected with his roots through the Adopt Haiti Project which focuses on strengthening the local relationships

of Haitians in Central Virginia.

Arthur is a junior majoring in History/ Political Science, Secondary Education. He will pursue a career as a high school teacher or professor at

a small liberal arts school. Arthur's favorite quote is by Jesse Owens, "One chance is all you need."



Tiera Renee Sedden is a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She is a junior majoring in Psychology with the intent to become a certified child and family counselor, and initiating a nonprofit organization for youth. Sedden dedicates her life to uplifting and motivating young people to become confident in who they are and accomplishing what they are placed on this earth to do. Her Platform, "Awakened Destiny - Discovering and Committing to the Calling," is an initiative to drive VUU students to move forward with the calling placed on their lives through community engagement, peer to peer uplift and faculty/student collaboration.

VUU Scholars Attend Science Conference in California

The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) held its annual conference in San Diego, California from April 25th to April 30th, 2014. Scientists and researchers in the fields of anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, pathology, nutrition, and pharmacology convened to discuss the strides and contributions made in an area commonly referred to as "experimental biology." The meeting featured over 400 booths, plenary award lectures, pre-meeting workshops, oral and poster presentations, and on-site career services.

Four Virginia Union honor students (pictured below from left to right Nhat H. V. Lee, Earnesto Blay, La'Cheyla Blount and Valencia Hines) attended the conference. They were accompanied by Dr. Gerard McShepard – Interim Chair of the Natural Science Department.

The mission statement of FASEB is "to advance biological science through collaborative advocacy for research policies that promote scientific progress and education and lead to improvements in human health." FASEB was founded in 1912 and has grown to currently 26 individual member organizations. One of the member organizations is the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. Dr. Anthony Madu started a chapter on the campus of Virginia Union University and serves as the advisor to the chapter. Earnesto Blay and La'Cheyla Blount presented their research results from an internship that they participated in last summer. Blount also presented her summer internship research results conducted with Dr. Carleitta Paige-Anderson (VUU professor and alumna), who is currently on a Fulbright Fellowship in Indonesia.



First Thursday Group Continues the Legacy

Ask the First Thursday Group what they are all about and they proudly respond, “No rules, no officers, no leaders, no agenda.” The retired professionals, who all grew up in Richmond, say they belong to too many other organizations with a long list of regulations. So when they got together for that first dinner in 1999, it was all about a group of friends with certain things in common who wanted to reunite. Those common characteristics, for most of the men, include graduation from Armstrong High School and Virginia Union University, as well as membership in Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity.

But when Dr. Claude Perkins returned to Richmond as president of Virginia Union, something changed for the First Thursday Group. “Overall, it was a sense of dedication to VUU, said Dr. Roland Moore, VUU Class of 1969 and Board of Trustees member. “The new president galvanized a spirit of commitment to our alma mater. People could see some things happening.”

It started when VUU sports fan Vernon Wildy suggested that the First Thursday Group purchase a flag pole for Hovey Field. Through the years,



Pictured from left to right on front row are James Hunt and Dr. Roland Moore, pictured on the second row are Vernon Wildy and John Bullock; pictured on the third row are Jerome Johnson, Carlton Stevens, Frank Smith, and T. Harding Lacy. Contributing members not pictured include Daniel Battle, Dr. Johnnie Cameron, Ben Miles, Melvin Robertson, Frank Thornton, Dr. James McCain, James White, the late Harry Lewis, Dr. Reginald Mayo, George Bates, and the late Jan Smith.

that \$1,000 donation has grown into nearly \$100,000 in donations from the First Thursday Group to Virginia Union University. “Every animal’s responsibility is to see that the next generation succeeds,” said T. Harding Lacy, Jr., VUU Class of 1967.

“My mother said no matter what, you’re going to college,” said Jerome Johnson. “I followed my girlfriend to Union and we’ve been married 47 years.” Even the few members of the group who are not VUU alumni have a connection that keeps them committed to the cause. “I grew up in Church Hill,” said Frank

Smith, the one Hampton University graduate in the group. “My cousin was the first to go to college and she finished at Virginia Union.”

“VUU and all HBCUs have got to focus on bringing our best and brightest back to our own schools,” added John Bullock, Jr., VUU Class of 1966.

Even without a stated agenda, it’s clear that the First Thursday Group is committed to using its collective wisdom and resources to make sure that their beloved alma mater not only survives, but thrives.

Bank of America Supports LLC

Bank of America Virginia Area President Gary Gore and Senior Vice President Victor Branch presented Virginia Union President Dr. Claude G. Perkins and Institutional Advancement Vice President Dennis Washington a check for \$25,000 for the new Living and Learning Center (LLC). The grant ensures greater access to state-of-the-art, community centric spaces. The Living and Learning Center will provide a large, flexible, space for students and members of Richmond's Northside.



Mr. Gary Gore, Dr. Claude G. Perkins, Mr. Victor Branch, and Mr. Dennis Washington.

Attorney William “Al” Smith Remembers VUU



William Alfred Smith

The estate of VUU alumnus William Alfred “Al” Smith has donated more than \$130,000 to Virginia Union University. Smith, who died on December 23, 2011, began his education at Virginia Union in 1947. He left for two years to serve in the United States Air Force, but returned to complete his studies and graduated with a Sociology degree in 1955.

Smith applied to the University of Richmond’s T.C. Williams Law School, but was turned down. “I was told that because I was black, I couldn’t go to law school there,” Smith told a local newspaper. He was able to complete law school and obtain a Juris Doctorate from the Howard University School of Law.

He began practicing law in Hampton, Virginia in 1958 and practiced for more than 37 years. His landmark case was in 1963, when he helped three African American nurses sue the Hampton Training School for Nurses. The school required African Americans to eat in the basement, excluding them from a 700-seat cafeteria built with federal and state funds.

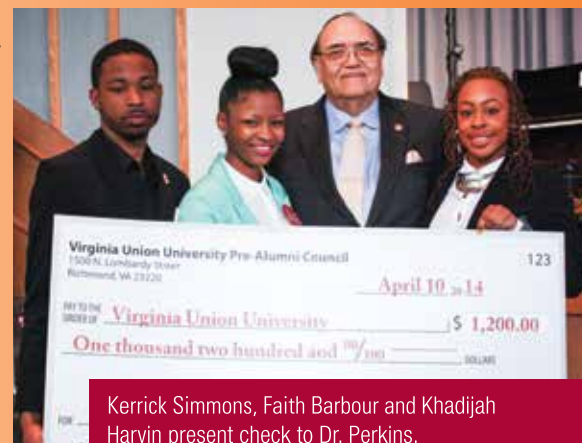
Virginia Union Pre-Alumni Make a Difference

On April 10, 2014, members of the Virginia Union University Pre-Alumni Council (PAC) made a check presentation to VUU President Dr. Claude G. Perkins in the amount of \$1,200 and an additional \$580.67 for student scholarships at VUU. The contribution was money raised from their “I Am VUU” fundraising campaign that began in November of 2013.

Members of the group were charged to raise \$1,000 among other VUU students. “The goal was to have as much participation as possible from the student body,” said Charmica Epps, Director of Alumni Relations and Advisor to PAC. “We have to start early with helping students understand the importance of giving back and have the conversations while they are here on campus.”

PAC members attended athletic events and set up presentations in Henderson Center for students to make their contributions. “It’s not the advancement office staff asking students to donate, but in this instance, it’s students asking their classmates and peers,” said Epps. More than 100 individuals made a donation to the campaign, including faculty, staff, and alumni. Students were also responsible for sending thank you notes to each individual who made a contribution. “They are learning what it means to be active alumni,” said Epps. “When they graduate and take the alumni oath, which states ‘I shall loyally support my alma mater with all the resources at my disposal,’ we know they’ll mean it.”

The group’s donation was matched by VUU President Dr. Claude G. Perkins.

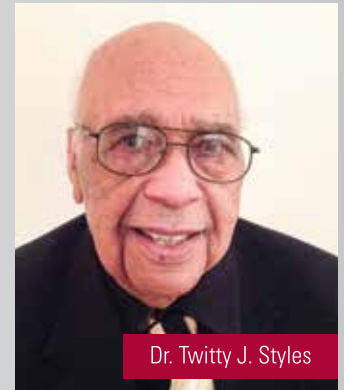


Kerrick Simmons, Faith Barbour and Khadijah Harvin present check to Dr. Perkins.

Dr. Twitty Styles Endows VUU Scholarship

Dr. Twitty J. Styles, VUU Class of 1948, has donated \$25,000 in order to establish “The Twitty J. Styles ’48 Family Endowed Scholarship Fund.” Income from the Fund will be awarded annually to one or more students majoring in Biology at Virginia Union with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.5.

Dr. Styles is Professor Emeritus at Union College in Schenectady, New York. He received his Ph.D. in Biology from New York University in 1963.



Dr. Twitty J. Styles

Altria Group Awards VUU \$550,000 STEM Grant

Altria Group has awarded a \$550,000 grant to Virginia Union University for scholarships and related programs to attract and support students preparing for careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) and STEM teaching.

Within its “STEM: EnRichmond” program, Virginia Union has designed a program to help students explore a variety of career options in the STEM area, with special emphasis on K-12 education. These activities fall into six major areas within the two-year program: recruitment, academic content, mentoring, community engagement, summer reinforcement, and scholarships. The program will begin with a four-week summer institute. Students will also receive intensive coaching, academic advising, tutoring, and other support services.

“We are pleased to provide this support to enable students at Virginia Union University to pursue education and training in the STEM disciplines,” said Charlie Agee, Director of Corporate Contributions for Altria. “We believe that mastery of STEM subjects in college will help students be more prepared for and successful in their careers, now and in the future.”

Altria’s support will fund scholarships for two classes of 10 students each, with requirements that the students focus their studies in the STEM disciplines and/or STEM education. The contribution also includes part of the coordination and evaluation costs for the program.

“This grant marks the continuation of many years of successful educational partnerships between Altria and Virginia Union University,” said Dr. Claude Perkins, President of Virginia Union University. “We are excited about the students who will complete this program and go on to serve our community and nation with distinction.”



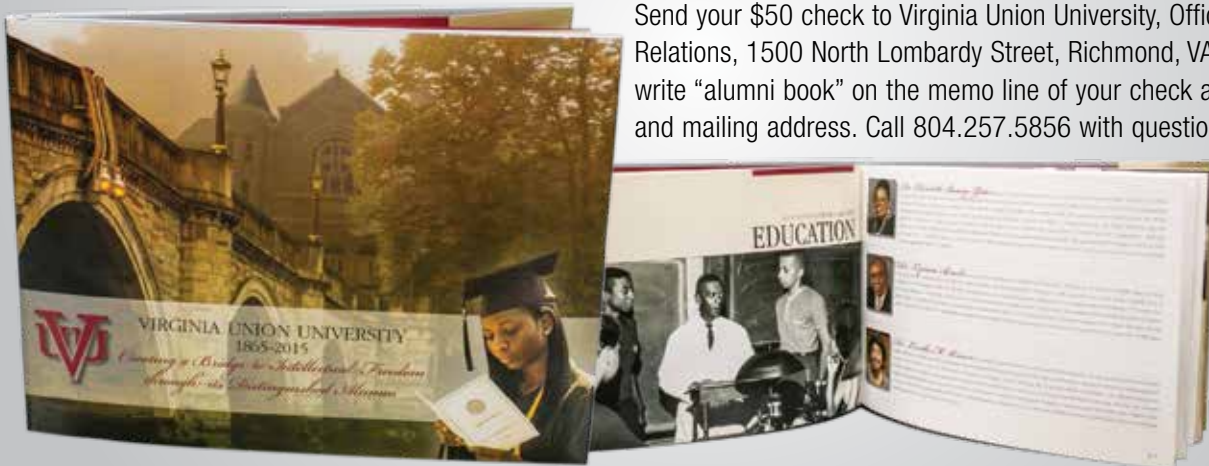
Dr. Claude Perkins and Ms. Mary Gordon, Vice President, Quality Compliance, Altria Client Services.

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150TH ANNIVERSARY PUBLICATION

*Virginia Union University 1865-2015: Creating a Bridge
to Intellectual Freedom through its Distinguished Alumni*

Get your copy now and learn about the many distinguished graduates who have called VUU home since 1865.

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HOMECOMING
2014
"Rebuilding the Dream"

OCTOBER 11, 2014
VUU VS. LINCOLN (PA)
1:00 PM

MEET THE NEW TEAM...

Athletic Director Joe Taylor

Joseph “Joe” Taylor was appointed Virginia Union University’s ninth athletic director in December of 2013. He is excited about the opportunity afforded him to lead the revitalization efforts of the VUU Athletic Department. “Hopefully the experience that I have been blessed with the past 40 years has prepared me for this great opportunity,” Taylor said.

Taylor brings a wealth of experience, having served as head coach of Virginia Union University, Hampton University and Florida A&M University. In his inaugural coaching campaign in 2008, he led the Rattlers to a record-setting 9-3 finish – one of the best one-year turnarounds in the country (from 3-8 in 2007) – in the process tying Hall of Fame legend A.S. Gaither’s school record for the most wins by a first-year head coach set in 1945.

During his tenure at Hampton, Taylor guided the Pirates to a scintillating 136-49-1 record, highlighted by four Black College Championships (1994, 1997, 2005, 2006), nine conference titles (CIAA: 1986, 1992, 1993, 1994; MEAC: 1997, 1998, 2004, 2005,

2006), a Heritage Bowl Championship (1999), plus 11 trips to the NCAA playoffs (Division II: 1986, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994; FCS/I-AA: 1997, 1998, 2004, 2005, 2006).

He finished his career at 233-96-4, ranking him third (3rd) in career victories and fourth (4th) in career winning percentage among active coaches in the NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision (FCS, formerly I-AA), and third (3rd) in HBCU history behind Eddie Robinson and John Merritt.



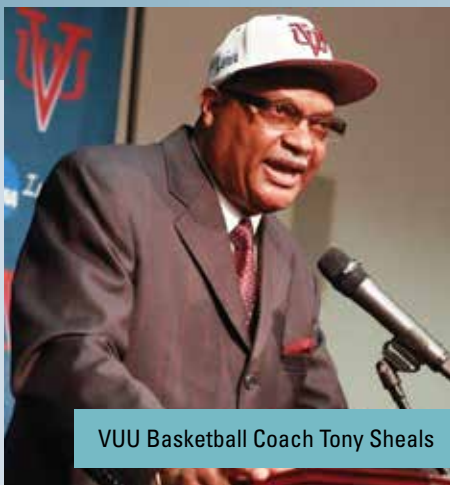
VUU Athletic Director Joe Taylor

Head Men’s Basketball Coach Tony Sheals

Tony Sheals has coached on the high school, collegiate and professional basketball levels for more than 20 years, including Florida State University, Bethune-Cookman University, Towson University, Delaware State University, and most recently Saint Augustine’s University. He spent

three seasons at Florida A&M University, where he was the Associate Head Men’s Basketball Coach.

Sheals was head coach at Bethune-Cookman (1994-1997) and Delaware State (2000) during their most successful periods in basketball history.



VUU Basketball Coach Tony Sheals

He finished with a conference record of .500, or better, each season at Bethune-Cookman, where Sheals was named MEAC Coach of the Year in 1995. The Wildcats established school marks for best overall regular-season record and conference finish.

Sheals enjoyed success as an assistant coach for several years in the traditionally strong Atlantic Coast Conference, considered one of, if not the best, collegiate basketball conference in the nation. He was Director of Basketball Operations at the University of Miami (2001-2002) and Assistant Men's Basketball Coach at Florida State University (2002-2006).

During his time in Miami, the Hurricanes played in the NCAA Tournament four times in five years, earned a No. 5 seed in the NCAA Tournament and won a then school-record 24 games.

Head Football Coach Mark James

Mark James, former VUU defensive line coach, has worked with a number of successful coaches, and future and present NFL players.

He started his coaching career as a high school defensive assistant at Coconut Creek in 1997. In 1998, James made the decision to attend Virginia Union University after transferring from University of Louisville. Upon graduation from Virginia Union University in 2000, he returned to the south Florida area.

James was the head coach at Dillard High in 2004-2005. From 2005-2011 he was the head coach at Boyd

Anderson, where James won three district championships and led the team to become the school's all-time winningest football coach.

James was a defensive lineman at University of Louisville from 1990-1993 and Virginia Union University from 1998-2000.

He earned a degree in history and political science from VUU in 2000. James was named the National VUU Alumnus of the Year in 2007. He earned a master's degree in educational leadership from Florida Atlantic University and is scheduled to earn a Ph.D. in higher education administration in the fall of 2014.



VUU Football Coach Mark James



Reading, Writing and Relentless

In his 1994 Inaugural Speech, the late Nelson Mandela is quoted as saying “as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.” This story articulates the journey of how one VUU Panther chose to let his light shine.

Justin-Mychal White is a golfer at Virginia Union University, which may seem a bit odd to those who know him. “I was a one-year starter in football and got voted to the Coaches Association’s All-State Football Team,” White explained, “but even with that I was never highly recruited.”

Opting to take a preferred walk-on position at Hampton University, the native of Buffalo, New York soon found himself as the odd man out. “After only four semesters, I never had the same coaching staff, someone was always coming or going,” said White. “In that business people have the style of players they want and one coach’s style isn’t always the same as another, and you slowly get worked out of the system if you’re not considered elite.”

After time on the field ran out for White, so did

the finances. “When I came back to Richmond I basically found myself without a place to stay, so for six months I was sleeping in my car every night,” White said. “I would sneak into local gyms to shower and I had a friend who worked at a dry cleaners and would press my clothes for the week so I wouldn’t walk around looking like a bum.”

White never lost focus on his goal of earning a college degree. “My grandfather would always tell me to learn as much as I could and stay in school as long as I could,” said White. “When he died, I vowed to earn my college degree.”

White worked at a local sports bar from open to close seven days a week trying to earn the money to return to school and make good on the promise he made to his grandfather. In 2012 he was granted that opportunity in a near-death sort of way.

“I was going to a funeral in Philadelphia, and I was on the highway going around a turn when a tractor trailer landed on top of my rental car,” recalled White. “My mom and aunt were with me and no one was seriously injured. I remember watching the coverage from my hospital room and the news anchor said something to the effect that he would be surprised if there were any survivors. That’s when it hit me, no pun intended, I could be dead. We all could’ve been dead, and I just started crying and thanking God.”

The money from the settlement was just enough to cover the last of the expenses for White to return to school. In the fall of 2012, White enrolled at Virginia Union and has flourished academically, making the Dean’s List all four semesters.

Although it may appear that he has a firm grip on his academics; that also comes with challenges. “I’m majoring in Languages and Literature and I have dyslexia,” said White. “I know people read over my papers and see

small spelling errors and just assume I was being careless, but sometimes I see things and it looks correct to me, but it’s not. It’s like half of each word will combine to see a completely different word. Studying and writing papers take me a bit longer than it would with someone else.”

The promise that White made to his grandfather will be fulfilled in May 2015 when he walks across the stage as a proud graduate of Virginia Union University.



A Student-Athlete on a Mission

Danielle McEachern, a member of the Virginia Union University softball team, rises each day facing an ongoing mission – to prove people wrong. “I am one of nine children,” she said. “Four step brothers, and four (biological) brothers. Five are older than me, three are younger. I grew up playing sports with them in the yard, but I’m the only one to graduate high school, and the only one to attend college.”

“I played every sport in high school, volleyball, basketball, softball,” she said. “I ran a lot, and that kept me going.” McEachern rose to the occasion through all four years at Redemptorist High School in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She became captain of the girls’ basketball team in her senior year.

It was a year that almost never happened. “I broke my ankle and tore ligaments in my senior year,” she said. “I decided to saw my cast off before every game and wrap my ankle so I could finish my basketball season.”

So before each game, McEachern would find a quiet place and saw off her cast. Then she would wrap the ankle, play through the pain, and have a cast re-applied. She did this 25 times during the season. “I taped my shoe onto my leg so that I could run,” she said.

Despite the pain, she rose to the occasion. As a student-athlete at Virginia Union, she’s a Presidential Scholar with a cumulative grade point average of 3.3. Last season, McEachern batted .324 for the Lady Panthers. She was third on the team with 17 runs batted in.

It is an academic and athletic career that some thought would never happen. “I think some outside peers expected me to just fall into what my family had fallen into in the past,” she said. “I have made my mom extremely proud.”

Even her own siblings questioned her decision to attend college. “Some of my brothers were upset that I was attending college,” she said. “I didn’t tell my family right away that I was attending college. They told me that college wasn’t for me or for my family, that we could do better without it and that it was a waste of time and money.”

McEachern, who just graduated with a degree in marketing, has risen above all of it. I know it’s hard to believe, with everything that has happened, but my mom always taught me that an education is important,” McEachern said. “She may not have instilled that in all of us, because college isn’t for everyone, but it made me want to do it more.”

Track Team Ranked 19th

The Virginia Union University men’s track and field team, fresh off its performance in the VCU Ram Invite, has been ranked 19th in the nation by the United States Track & Field and Cross-Country Coaches Association out of 311 universities competing at the Division II level.

This is rarefied air for the Panther Track & Field Team, and the success can be traced back to their fifth-year head coach Wilbert D. Johnson.

Johnson came to VUU in 2009, and he took over a program which was in disarray. “The team would wear all types of different uniforms,” Johnson said. “Some folks had Nike, some had Russell, some even wore outfits they just put together from the Bookstore.”

The uniforms were just the tip of the iceberg of problems the Panthers faced. Many on the squad didn’t have the basic mechanics needed for competition. Worse yet, some of the student-athletes had just given up, content to show up and not worry about how they performed, either on the track or in the classroom.

Johnson wanted to make a sea-change in the program, not just transforming the appearance, but also a change in the culture of the team academically and athletically.

Yes, he changed the uniforms, but he also instilled a sense of pride in the team. He went out and tirelessly recruited top players. He didn’t let obstacles be perceived as limitations. “Not having a track is really nothing,” Johnson said. “I went to a school in Miami, Florida (Florida Memorial University) and we didn’t have a track, and I became the school’s first national champion. So you don’t necessarily need a track to do great things. I learned that setbacks are setups for great comebacks.”

And Johnson never took no for an answer. He pushed his team through the concept of handicaps to the belief of “handicapable.” “I’m the type of person who will not accept no for an answer,” Johnson said. “I’ll just keep on knocking until I knock the sense into you to come to Virginia Union.”

In short, Johnson now has a top team. The Panthers can compete with the best, not only in the CIAA, but also in all of the NCAA. On March 29, the men’s 4 x 100 relay team broke the meet record in the University of Richmond Fred Hardy Relays with a time of 41.13 seconds. “It’s been a great experience,” Johnson said. “No matter what you put in the way, you can’t stop greatness. Yes, you’re going to have things falter here and there, but it will still rise to the top.”



Dr. Cora Marrett Selected for National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame

VUU alumna Dr. Cora B. Marrett has been selected for induction into the 2014 Class of the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame in the category of Science. Her induction ceremony is scheduled for September 26, 2014 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia.

Dr. Marrett is Deputy Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF). Prior to her appointment as the 12th

deputy of the foundation, she was the Assistant Director of Education and Human Resources and led NSF's mission to achieve excellence in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education. From 2001 to 2007, Dr. Marrett was Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Wisconsin.

In addition to a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Virginia Union,

Dr. Marrett also holds master of arts and doctorate degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She was awarded an honorary doctorate from Virginia Union in May of 2011.



VUU Alumnus Promoted To Colonel

On January 6, 2014, Chaplain James Palmer, Jr. was promoted to the rank of



colonel in the U.S. Army. Colonel James Palmer, Jr. received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Virginia Union in 1988 and a Master of Divinity from Virginia Union's Samuel DeWitt Proctor

School of Theology. He is a career Army Chaplain currently serving as the Garrison Command Chaplain for U.S.

Army Training Center and Fort Jackson. He is a graduate of the Chaplain's Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Combined Arms Services and Staff School, Force Management Course, Command and General Staff College, and U.S. Army War College Senior Service College Fellowship at George Mason University's Institute of Conflict Analysis and Resolution.

Fort Jackson is the largest Basic Training Installation in the United States. This installation trains in excess of 40,000 soldiers every year. As the Installation

Chaplain, Col. Palmer serves as the Senior Chaplain for U.S. Army Training Center and Fort Jackson (USATC&FJ), the Army's largest Initial Entry Training (IET) Center. In the capacity of the Installation Chaplain, he exercises staff authority and technical supervision of 23 Unit Ministry Teams, and 37 weekly worship services conducted in support of the Commander's Religious Program with an annual workload of over 40,000 soldiers. He also provides spiritual leadership that supports 135,000 soldiers, families, civilians and retirees.

Alumni Finance Workshop

Savings, estate planning and retirement planning are just some of the items discussed at the Virginia Union University National Alumni Association, Inc. and First Thursday Group financial seminar, "Effective Tax Strategies in 2014." Alumni attended the free workshop on Saturday, February 15, 2014 at the L. Douglas Wilder Library and Learning Resource Center. Presenters included Frank Smith of Sphinx Financial and Benjamin Lambert, IV of SunTrust Investment Services. Attendees learned the benefits of financial planning and how to leave a legacy at Virginia Union through estate planning and planned giving.



CIAA Brunch

Nearly 100 Virginia Union University alumni attended the 2014 President's CIAA Alumni Brunch during this year's CIAA tournament in Charlotte, North Carolina. While alumni enjoyed the meal, VUU President Dr. Claude Perkins shared University accomplishments, highlights and alumni testimonies from the Annual President's Report. VUU Athletic Director Joseph Taylor also shared his vision and goals for the athletic department and the upcoming season. Several alumni chapters made contributions to the university, along with VUU corporate sponsor Nationwide Insurance.

Class Notes

Minnie Anderson Collins '60 published *The Purple Wash*, her solo collection of poetry in 2012. This collection captures a gamut of inquiries about childhood, love, motherhood, politics and history.

Delight (Young) Deloney '04 accepted an internship offer from Boeing Company. She will be serving as a Human Resources Generalist in their business division in Defense, Space and Security.

Michael Evans '13 has been accepted to Wayne State University where he will be pursuing a Masters in Social Work (MSW). While at Virginia Union University, Michael served as president of the Student Government Association and became a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He currently resides in Detroit, Michigan.

Steve Hairston '85 graduated from North Carolina A&T State University with a Ph.D. in Leadership Studies. His dissertation is "The Representativeness of Traditionally Underrepresented Populations in Appointed Policy-Level State Government Leadership Positions in North Carolina 1973–2012: Who Gets In, Who Stays In, Who Gets Appointed, and Who Gets Disappointed."

Dr. Gregory M. Howard '04 was installed on March 30, 2014 as the 11th Pastor of the First Baptist Church East End, located in Newport News, Virginia. His second publication, *Voices Crying Out in the Wilderness: Contemporary Theologies of Preaching*, was published in February. His first book, *Black Sacred Rhetoric: The Theology and Testimony of Religious Folk Talk*, is also being published as a Second Edition.

Dr. Andre Hudson '00 was recently granted tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT). Dr. Hudson has served as a faculty member in the Thomas H. Gosnell School of Life Sciences at RIT since September 2008. He earned his B.S. in Biology from Virginia Union University in 2000 and a Ph.D. in Plant Biology and Pathology from Rutgers University in 2006.

Rev. Michael Moore '09 was installed as Pastor of Mt. Vernon Baptist Church in Richmond, Virginia on Sunday, March 30, 2014.

Kadeem Roberts '13 is currently attending law school at the University of Massachusetts School of Law. The former Mr. VUU plans to run for mayor in his hometown of Norwalk, Connecticut following law school.

in memoriam

Mrs. Thelma M. Campbell '38

Mrs. Sallye B. Carter '46

Mr. Joseph J. Carter, Jr. '61

Ms. Glennis Williams Chappelle '65

Dr. Gilbert I. Coleman '60

Mrs. Murcelle Allen Coleman '43

Dr. Benjamin J. Lambert, III '59

Mrs. Zelma L. Littlejohn '52

Mr. Carlton C. Lovett '60

Mr. Roland McDaniel, Sr. '41

Mrs. Esther P. Owens '42

Mrs. Barbara H. Parks '62

Mrs. Vernelle Johnson Poole '77

Mrs. Lucille M. Powell '48

Reverend Richard M. Rice '63

Mr. Ronald A. Shelton '85

Mrs. Annette M. Ward '59

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VUU needs your commitment and support!

To make an ongoing transformation 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.



Faculty and Staff Updates

Dr. Phillip Archer, Associate Professor, Department of Natural Sciences, presented “The Residential Distance to Public Housing and its Differential Influence on Infant Mortality Across Race” at Virginia Union’s Center for the Study of the Urban Child’s Second Annual Urban Child Symposium on April 16, 2014. Dr. Archer has also submitted “Community and Individual Level Factors Influencing Preterm Birth: A Multilevel Analysis” for publication in the *Urban Planning and Transport Research Journal*. The article was written with Saba W. Masho, M.D. Ph.D. Dr. Ph. in the Department of Community and Health and Epidemiology at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Ms. Sukenya Best, Art Instructor, Department of Fine Arts, exhibited her printmaking art show entitled Dancing Ink at the Artspace Gallery in Richmond, Virginia in January of 2014. She also participated in a printmaking portfolio exchange through the Southern Graphics Print Conference International. The hand-pulled prints premiered at Sante Fe State University and will be shown nationwide. Ms. Best also published her first cartoon book entitled *Chocolate Bella*.

Dr. Portia Cole, Assistant Professor of Social Work, has the following articles in press: Netting, F.E., O’Connor, M.K., Cole, P.L., Hopkins, K., Jones, J.L., Kim, Y., Mulroy, E., Rotabi, K.S., Thomas, M.L., Weil, M.O., & Wike, T. (in press), “Reclaiming and Reimagining Macro Social Work Education: A Collective Biography,” *Journal of Social Work Education*; Cole, P.L., & Margolin Cecka, D. (in press); “Traumatic Brain Injury and the Americans with Disabilities Act: Implications for the Social Work Profession,” *Social Work*, and Leisey, M., Cole, P.L., Hopkins, K., Jones, J.L., Kim, Y., Mulroy, E., Netting, F.E., O’Connor, M.K., Rotabi, K.S., Thomas, M.L., Weil, M.O., & Wike, T. (in press), “On the Making of a Female Macro Social Work Academic,” *Reflections: Narratives of the Helping Professions*, 19(1).

Ms. Brenda Cureton, STEM Coach, School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology, was recently appointed to the City of Richmond Career and Technical Education Commission.

Dr. Joy Lawson Davis, Chair and Associate Professor in the Department of Teacher Education, was an organizer and panelist at the National Association for Gifted Children National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. The panel was entitled “Joining the National Conversation About Race and Unpacking Legal and Policy Implications for Gifted Education. Dr. Davis was also a keynote presenter at The 2014 Frasier Equity & Excellence STEM Conference at the University of Georgia. The topic of her presentation was “Celebrating Black History & Creating Pathways for Gifted Blacks in STEM Professions.” Dr. Davis also published, along with Dr. Martin D. Jenkins, “A Voice to be Heard (1904-1978)” in A. Robinson & J.L. Jolly (Eds) *A Century of Contributions to Gifted Education: Illuminating Lives*. Routledge Press, NY: NY.

Rev. Sabrina Dent, Office of Graduate Admissions, became President of the Interfaith Council of Greater Richmond on May 28, 2014. She previously served the organization as First Vice President of Programs.

Dr. Liminita Dragulescu, Assistant Professor, Department of Languages and Literature, published “Sacred Ontology and Desacralized World: Race Trauma in J. E. Wideman’s *The Cattle Killing*.” *Literature and Theology*. Oxford University Press. Volume 28, No. 1, March 2014: 63-76. Web and print. She also presented “The Pathology of Racism: Erasure and the Reproduction of Stereotypical ‘Blackness’.” The Louisville Conference for Literature and Culture After 1900, Louisville, KY; 20-24 February, 2014.

Dr. Carrza DuBose, Assistant Professor, Department of Languages and Literature, received a Ph.D. in English from Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland on December 20, 2013. His dissertation focused on two writers from the Harlem Renaissance, Wallace Thurman and Richard Nugent.

Dr. Dorothy Eseonu, Associate Professor of Chemistry in the Department of Natural Sciences, presented “Introducing Green Chemistry and Sustainability Through Problem-Based Learning” at the Virginia Association for Science Teachers in Norfolk, Virginia in November of 2013.

Mr. Dominique Fowler, Huntley Hall Residence Hall Director, has been appointed a member at large on the Virginia Association of College and University Housing Officers (VACUHO) Governing Council.

Ms. Margarette Joyner, Adjunct Instructor in the Fine Arts Department, performed in *A Streetcar Named Desire* at the Firehouse Theatre Project in Richmond, Virginia in April and May of 2014. She also directed campus productions of *Reflections of a Black Cowboy* and *For Colored Girls*.

Dr. Yung Suk Kim, Samuel Dewitt Proctor School of Theology, has been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor. He has also released his latest book, *Truth, Testimony, and Transformation: A New Reading of the “I Am” Sayings of Jesus in the Fourth Gospel*.

Mr. Thomas Millisor, Director of Development and Major Gifts has received a Fundraising and Development Certificate from the University of Richmond Institute on Philanthropy. He has also been awarded Leading Professional Designation from CFRE International: Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE).

Dr. Julie Molloy, Chair and Associate Professor, Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, has been appointed to the Richmond Community Criminal Justice Board.

Dr. Shyamal Premaratne, Associate Professor, Department of Natural Sciences, has published the following articles: Hasaniya NW, Premaratne S, Premaratne ID, McNamara JJ, “A Rare Case of Hepatic Duct Injury From Blunt Abdominal Trauma,” *Am J Case Rep* 2013; 14: 106-8; Hasaniya NW, Premaratne S, Varnes PM, Shin D, Shim W., “Hernia in to the Umbilical Cord With Incarceration Of Liver And Gall Bladder In A Newborn,” *J Ped Surg Case Rep* 2013: 1(No.12): 432-3; and Premaratne S, Tze-Woei T, Coulter AH, Doumite D, Zhang WW, “Symptomatic Popliteal Vein Aneurysm,” *Vasc Endovasc Surg* 2014: 48(No.3): 275-6.

Mr. Ullin Rigby, Director of Residence Life and Housing, has been appointed Chief Housing Officer representative for the state of Virginia on the Virginia Association of College and University Housing Officers (VACUHO) Governing Council.

Dr. Robert Wafawanaka, Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology, was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor. He also published “Teaching Exegesis in Historically Black Theological Schools” (“Teaching Exegesis With a Single Text,” 147-50) with Andrew Mbuvi, James Ashmore, Randall C. Bailey, Dora Mbuwayesango, and Michael Willett Newheart in *Teaching Theology and Religion* 17:2 (April 2014): 141-64. He also participated on a panel that contributed to the May 2014 *Review & Expositor* issue on “Poverty in the US” at the annual Keaton Lectures in Berkeley, CA on May 15-16, 2014.



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VUU 2014 Football Schedule

VUU Football vs. Siena Heights University (Faculty and Staff Day)	12:00 PM	September 6
VUU Football vs. University Of Charleston (Clergy & Veterans Day)	1:00 PM	September 13
VUU Football at Fayetteville State University Fayetteville, NC	6:00 PM	September 20
VUU Football at Johnson C. Smith University *	2:00 PM	September 27
VUU Football vs. Shaw University* (Hall of Fame Day)	1:00 PM	October 4
VUU Football vs. Lincoln (Pa.) University* (Homecoming)	1:00 PM	October 11
VUU Football at Chowan University* Murfreesboro, NC	7:00 PM	October 18
VUU Football vs. Bowie State University* (Lucille M. Brown Community Youth Bowl)	1:00 PM	October 25
VUU Football at Elizabeth City State University* Elizabeth City, NC	1:00 PM	November 1
VUU Football vs. Virginia State University* (Senior Day)	1:00 PM	November 8
CIAA Championship	TBA	November 15

*CIAA Game

