

SUMMER 2015 / UNIVERSITY NEWS

UNIONITE

VIRGINIA UNION UNIVERSITY



150TH ANNIVERSARY **VU** 150th COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE

VUU From The President



It is a distinguished honor to present to you the 150th Anniversary Commemorative Issue of the *Unionite*. As we celebrate and reflect upon the stellar history of Virginia Union University, we recognize the contributions of VUU alumni in practically all areas of American life. From our opening event with noted alumnus Randall Robinson to our culminating unveiling of a 150th anniversary monument, our theme “A Bridge to Intellectual Freedom and Equality” has served us well. Virginia Union University first built the bridge from slavery to freedom and equality by providing educational opportunities to newly freed slaves in 1865. The bridge remains just as strong today as the university family rededicates itself to its mission of intellectual freedom and equality for each student who spends time walking VUU’s hallowed grounds.

The Virginia Union University family is extremely grateful to the many alumni and friends who joined us in our Sesquicentennial celebrations this past year. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to Governor Terry McAuliffe, Richmond Mayor Dwight C. Jones, members of the Virginia General Assembly, and the Virginia Union University Board of Trustees for their participation. I must also acknowledge the fine job of Chief of Staff Vanessa Coombs, who led the 150th Anniversary Events Committee in the planning and execution of the stellar calendar of events during this past year.

This issue of the *Unionite* also highlights the outstanding accomplishments of Virginia Union faculty and students, especially in the areas of science and international studies. You will read about a major grant awarded to our Graduate School of Theology and some major wins earned by students in our athletic program.



VUU Board of Trustees

It is because of your steadfast support that Virginia Union is the strong university you see today. We still have many bridges to cross and challenges to overcome. It is up to all of us going forward to keep “The Bridge to Intellectual Freedom and Equality” accessible to all of those who come after us.

We praise God for his grace and mercy.

Claude G. Perkins

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



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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.

THE 150TH CELEBRATION
Virginia Union University:
 THE BRIDGE TO INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM AND EQUALITY



After more than two years of planning, Virginia Union University kicked off its year-long 150th anniversary celebration with noted alumnus Randall Robinson on September 8, 2014. More than 700 students, faculty, alumni, and friends packed Coburn Hall to hear the author and foreign policy advocate address the anniversary theme, “A Bridge to Intellectual Freedom and Equality.”

“I think this is a miracle story,” Robinson said. “The bridge is a miracle. That we can sustain anything under the conditions that we have borne for 150 years is a miracle in and of itself.” Robinson’s appearance was followed by monthly events in celebration of the University’s 1865 founding as Richmond Theological Seminary in a former slave trading and holding complex called Lumpkin’s Jail.

Two weeks after Robinson’s stirring presentation, the official ribbon cutting for the new Claude G. Perkins Living and Learning Center was held on September 24, 2014. The new 68,000

square-foot facility provides for 240 beds in suite-style rooms for students, as well as conference and seminar facilities. October 10, 2014 marked the University’s official Opening Convocation with the Honorable Dwight C. Jones, VUU alumnus and Richmond mayor, as the featured speaker.

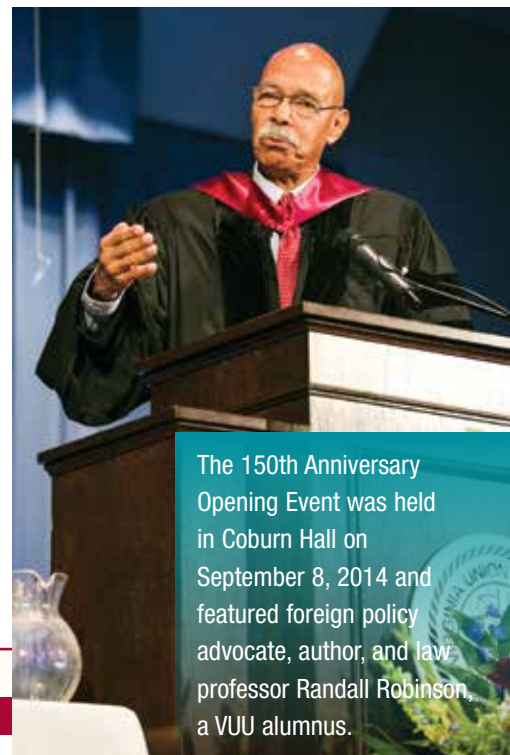
Several academic symposiums were held during the Sesquicentennial Celebration, including “Telling Our Story: Voices from the Past.” Virginia Union archivists and theology graduate students presented selected readings from the writings of students who attended Richmond Theological and Wayland Seminary in the 1800’s. The two schools merged in 1899 and their names were changed to Virginia Union University. A panel of five presidents of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) held a wide-ranging discussion on November 14, 2014. On January 27, 2015, a noted panel of historians, moderated by

Dr. Ed Ayers, discussed issues related to Richmond immediately following the Civil War and Virginia Union’s role in building leadership during that time period.

The culmination of the 150th Anniversary Celebration included a Rededication Ceremony and March on April 9, 2015 and the unveiling of a 150th Monument on April 29, 2015. The Rededication Ceremony was held at the site of the Lumpkin’s Jail complex in Richmond’s Shockoe Bottom. VUU Board Chairman

“The bridge is a miracle. That we can sustain anything under the conditions that we have borne for 150 years is a miracle in and of itself.”

Randall Robinson



The 150th Anniversary Opening Event was held in Coburn Hall on September 8, 2014 and featured foreign policy advocate, author, and law professor Randall Robinson, a VUU alumnus.



Dr. W. Franklyn Richardson told the crowd of several hundred people that Lumpkin's Jail was "a sign of hope that no matter how dark the situation, no matter how difficult the circumstance, you can become all that God has called you to become." Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe encouraged the crowd to "build upon what happened 150 years ago."

The commemoration then moved to Ebenezer Baptist Church, where early classes were held for Hartshorn Memorial College. Hartshorn, the first college for African American women, merged with Virginia Union in 1932. "All I can say is welcome home," said Pastor Levy Armwood, a Virginia Union alumnus.

A one-mile Rededication March from Ebenezer to the VUU campus was followed by a stirring message of rededication and tribute to former presidents and Board members from Dr. Richardson and Dr. Perkins. On April 29, 2015 renowned sculptor Ed Dwight unveiled a monument honoring the University's 150 years of achievement. The monument is located on the Lombardy street campus between Ellison Hall and the Belgian Building.



150th Anniversary culminating events included a Rededication Ceremony at the site of Lumpkin's Jail and a Rededication March on April 9, 2015.





The Claude G. Perkins Living and Learning Center Ribbon Cutting.



The HBCU Presidents Panel on November 14, 2014 included VUU President Dr. Claude G. Perkins, Benedict College President Dr. David Swinton, Tougaloo College President Dr. Beverly Wade Hogan, Bowie State President Dr. Mickey Burnim, and Shaw University and Johnson C. Smith President Emerita Dr. Dorothy Yancy.



VUU alumnus and Richmond Mayor Dr. Dwight C. Jones addressed a packed Coburn Hall during the University's Opening Convocation on October 10, 2014.



The Virginia Union Concert Choir presented concerts in December and April. The April concert featured an original 150th Anniversary Composition by Dr. Willis Barnett, VUU Director of Choral Activities.



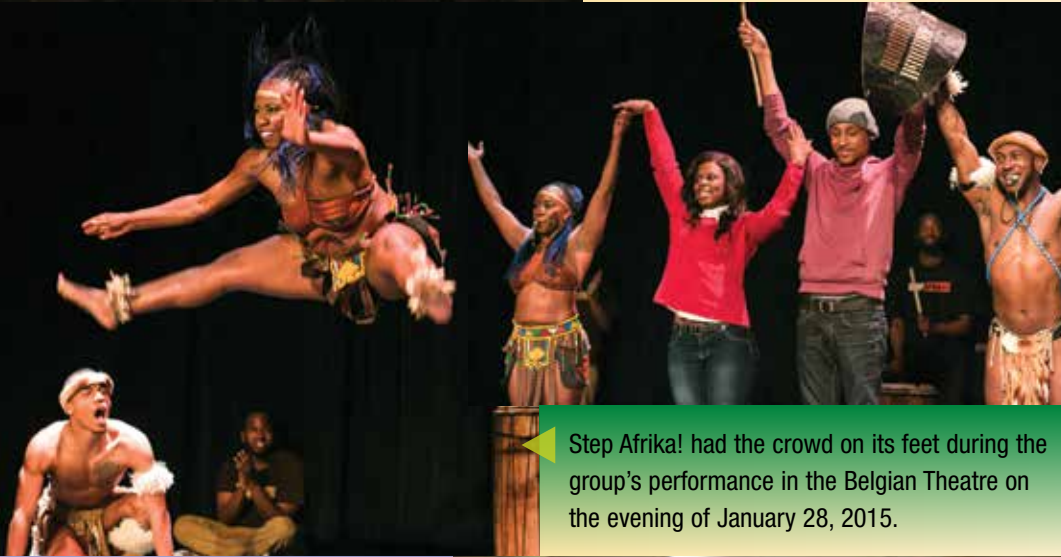
Virginia Union graduate students Samantha Richardson-Epps, Milton Robinson, Larry Winningham, and Alroy Henderson joined VUU archivists Selicia Allen and Adam Zimmerli in the presentation of "Telling Our Story: Voices from the Past" on October 28, 2014.



In January of 2015, the VUU family was elated to welcome back to campus the Annual Community Leaders Breakfast in Honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Attorney George Martin was the featured speaker in the Claude G. Perkins Living and Learning Center. Governor Terry McAuliffe and Richmond Mayor Dr. Dwight C. Jones also addressed the crowd.



Dr. Ed Ayers moderated a panel entitled "Emancipation: The First 50 Years." He was joined by local scholars Dr. Gregg Kimball, Library of Virginia; Dr. Laurant Lee, Virginia Historical Society; Dr. Cassandra Newby-Alexander, Norfolk State University Professor of History and Dr. Raymond Hylton, Virginia Union History Professor.



Step Afrika! had the crowd on its feet during the group's performance in the Belgian Theatre on the evening of January 28, 2015.

Artist Hamilton Glass worked with VUU students in the preparation of a 150th Anniversary mural in Henderson Center. The mural highlights just a few of the many distinguished VUU alumni throughout the University's history.



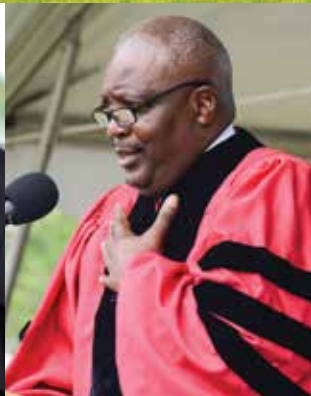
On April 29, 2015 renowned sculptor Ed Dwight unveiled the 150th Anniversary monument on the Lombardy Street campus.



Virginia Union played a major role in Richmond's commemoration of the end of the Civil War and Emancipation in April. The Concert Choir performed on the Capitol steps with Governor McAuliffe and VUU archivists Selicia Allen and Adam Zimmerli joined Dr. Raymond Hylton in the presentation of a day-long exhibit about Virginia Union's early history.



COMMENCEMENT 2015



VUU GALA 2015



Opportunities Abound In VUU Sciences

When VUU 2015 valedictorian Renee McGilvary was a young girl her mother, VUU music professor Charmaine McGilvary, had high hopes for her. “She placed pictures of my face over the faces of 50 influential doctors listed in *Ebony* magazine,” Renee McGilvary said. Renee was interested in medicine as a child, but never thought about becoming a doctor until Virginia Union entered into a partnership with Meharry Medical College, allowing her to attend a six-week summer internship. “I went to Meharry and saw all those brilliant black male and female doctors,” Renee said. “Seeing someone who looked like me planted a seed.”

Meharry’s program accepts rising sophomores and juniors with a grade point average above 3.25. Students study organic chemistry, cell and molecular biology, and medical terminology during their first summer in the program. They return for a second summer to prepare for the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT). Virginia Union has 16 students participating this summer and 12 participated last summer.

Another unique opportunity opening doors for Virginia Union science students is a program called “Coaching for Academic and Professional Success in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics” or CAPS in STEM. Intrusive academic coaching is the trademark of this \$1.75 million National Science Foundation grant. “Coaches move



Renee McGilvary



Nhat Le and Dr. Gerard McShepard in new biology lab.



Raeleen Brown

students from where they are to where they need to be academically,” according to Co-Principal Investigator Dr. Phillip Archer. “In part, this requires rapid identification of specific learning styles tailored to the individual student, coupled with special observations and awareness of student self-concept and identity.” In addition, the

coaches organize departmental seminars, help students with internships and research opportunities, and prepare individualized success plans for students.

VUU Biology major Raeleen Brown attended the CAPS in STEM Math and Science Summer Institute (MSSI) last summer.

“VUU helped me know I could succeed,” Brown said. “I stay on track here because of my faculty. The MSSI was a great start. I kept a 4.0 grade point average during the summer and still have a 4.0 at the end of my freshman year.”

For rising senior Nhat Le, a Chemistry and Mathematics major with a 4.0 grade point average, the CAPS in STEM program has provided an opportunity to present his research to thousands of people at national conferences. “This school inspires people to do great things,” said Le. He is especially impressed with the availability of the faculty at Virginia Union and recounts two instances where a faculty member at a much larger majority institution closed his office door when he saw Le coming to speak with him.

Jamie Tyler attended yet another summer opportunity currently offered to science majors at Virginia Union. The STEM EnRichmond Teacher Education Program has an overarching goal of increasing the number of kindergarten through 12th grade teachers who specialize in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics. MeadWestvaco Corporation and Wells Fargo Bank fund a summer initiative where students can earn up to 10 credit hours. During their freshman year, students continue to receive academic advising and tutoring, and Altria Group provides up to \$25,000 in scholarships. “African-American teachers are so badly

needed,” Tyler emphasized. “African-American males are the lowest represented.” Tyler added that the work in the summer institute was rigorous and prepared him to succeed during his freshman year of college.

Virginia Union rising senior Gaelle Ebelle will spend her summer at Boston University Medical School. Ebelle took advantage of yet another Virginia Union Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that allows VUU students early acceptance to Boston University’s Medical School. The biology major spent last summer taking classes and shadowing doctors at the medical school. This summer she will continue with classes, but will also spend her senior year at Boston University. She will return to Virginia Union to receive her degree next May and then

return to Boston to start medical school. “I’m excited,” Ebelle exclaimed. “I want to know just how far I can go and I want to thank my faculty at VUU for pushing me and encouraging me.”

And that is the one common thread among all of the outstanding students interviewed for this story. Yes, they have been provided with exceptional opportunities, and yes, they all have great futures ahead of them. But, they are all extremely grateful for the guidance provided by Virginia Union University faculty. “They mean the world to me,” Renee McGilvary said with tears in her eyes. “When I first came here, I was quiet, I sat in the back. The faculty at VUU forced me to be a leader. I’m very grateful. I didn’t know I had that in me.”



Gaelle Ebelle



Jamie Tyler

Center for International Studies Celebrates Fifth Anniversary

When the Center for International Studies opened its doors on the Virginia Union campus in January of 2010, its major travel project was a one-week seminar that included two faculty members and one administrator. Today, the Center is equipped to send any student, staff, or faculty member to any part of the globe, according to Center Director Dr. David Adewuyi. Dr. Adewuyi has assisted VUU faculty in internationalizing more than 40 courses and travel has been extensive. “The world has become so interdependent such that our students need international experiences to be culturally competent and globally marketable,” Adewuyi said.

During spring break 2015, Assistant Professor Constance Causer and Department of Psychology Chair Dr. Heidi Villanueva accompanied eight students to Europe for a 10-day tour of London, Paris, and Amsterdam. In addition to visiting iconic cultural landmarks of the region, the group participated in several unique cultural and

educational experiences, according to Dr. Villanueva. “We attended Mass at the Church of England, we attended a Supreme Court hearing in London, and visited with public advocates in Amsterdam to learn about the Netherlands’ policies regarding the sex trade and drug use,” said Dr. Villanueva. “Often students have a very narrow view of the human service field due to their limited experience and cultural competence. As we train our youth to become lifelong learners and experts in their field, we must expand their view on the world.”

Horizons were definitely broadened for a group of German students who spent two weeks living on the Virginia Union campus this past fall. “You are all so friendly,” said Kiona Selmke. “Our roommates gave us detergent, use of their hair dryers, anything we needed.” It’s different in Germany. People are not so open.” The students from the Berlin College of Trade and Commerce attended VUU classes and visited historical sites in Washington, D.C., Richmond,

Williamsburg, and Charlottesville. The trip was facilitated by a very unique group of people dedicated to international exchanges, including VUU Board of Trustees member Ms. Jeannie Baliles, Berlin College faculty member Dr. Andrea Mehrlander, Founding Headmaster of Trinity Episcopal School Robert Goodman, Jr., and numerous VUU staff members.

This same group arranged for a June reciprocal visit to Berlin for eight Virginia Union students, accompanied by faculty members Dr. Gerard McShepard and Ms. Patricia Murray. In exchange for the German students’ free room and board in MacVicar Hall and the Claude G. Perkins Living and Learning Center during their fall visit, VUU students stayed free of charge with families in Germany during their June visit.

In addition to group visits for several weeks at a time, Virginia Union students have been quite successful studying abroad for entire semesters. VUU alumna Caethia

Dr. Heidi Villanueva (far left) in front of Tower of London with Charnice Tate, Shatovia Irvings, Paris Dickerson, Brittany White, Constance Causer, William Taylor, Sashanna Marsden, Amirah Sims and Ryann Fraser.





Ebony Hightower visits South Africa's Cape of Good Hope.

She also designed and implemented a capstone project which included interventions to address the gaps in the Young in Prison program for female offenders. "South Africa improved my sensitivity to the values of others who are both similar to and different from me," Hightower said. "This has helped me to examine my own values and heritage. I have grown personally and academically."

Christmas, the first VUU student to complete a year-long study abroad program in China in 2013, is now an English teacher living in China. Current VUU student Ebony Hightower spent spring semester 2015 in a service learning program with the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) in South Africa. In addition to taking classes in *Poverty and Development: Cape Town Case Study*; *Community Partnership: Theory and Engagement*; and *Social Research Methods*, Hightower studied the Afrikaans language.

A trip to Costa Rica for students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) is planned for fall 2015, as well as a trip to Finland and Sweden for Education majors.

For more information on these trips and the Center for International Studies' Fifth Anniversary Celebration, which will be held during International Education Week in November 2015, please contact Ms. Ida Jones at (804) 342-3937.

VUU Welcomes Two New Board Members

Ms. Stephanie Gaillard White and Dr. Steven G. Blunt are the newest members of the Virginia Union University Board of Trustees.

Ms. White is Vice President of Human Resources for MeadWestvaco Corporation, a global packaging company with its headquarters in Richmond, Virginia. She has HR strategic leadership responsibilities for the company's beverage business, the Asia-Pacific region and global corporate functions. She also has responsibility for diversity and inclusion.



Ms. White received a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of South Carolina with a double major in Management Information Systems and Finance.



Dr. Steven G. Blunt is Senior Pastor of the historic First Baptist Church Mahan Street in Suffolk, Virginia. He is also President of the Baptist General Convention of Virginia. Dr. Blunt is a proud double graduate of Virginia Union University, receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1996 and a Master of Divinity in 1999. He also holds a Master of Theology from Union Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond, Virginia and is a 2009 graduate of Howard University's School of Divinity in Washington, D.C., where he attained the Doctor of Ministry.



Students from Berlin College of Trade and Commerce wave goodbye to their new friends at VUU.

VUU School of Education Announces New Master of Arts Degree

The Evelyn Reid Syphax School of Education, Psychology, and Interdisciplinary Studies now offers a Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction. The 36-hour degree program is designed for completion in 18 to 24 months. The program offers three emphasis areas, including Elementary Education, Special Education, and Urban Education.

“We need teacher leaders and problem solvers,” said Dr. Joy Lawson Davis, Associate Professor and Chair of Teacher Education at Virginia Union.



“This program is designed to prepare persons to lead teachers as instructional coaches or to pursue

additional work as school administrators.” The National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) recently continued the national accreditation of Virginia Union’s Teacher Education Program and the Southern Association of Colleges (SACS) has approved the new graduate program.

This is Virginia Union’s first graduate degree offered outside of the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology, which offers a Master of Arts in Christian Education, a Master of Divinity, and a Doctor of Ministry. Virginia Union also offers a teacher licensure Weekend College, designed for persons who need to complete teacher licensure requirements in the state of Virginia. A Weekend College Satellite Program is now available at Greenville High School in Emporia, Virginia.



Dr. Tim Wenzell, Dr. Raymond Hylton, Dr. Luminita Dragulescu, Ms. Aloni Hill, and Dr. John-Paul Wilson recently interviewed Civil Rights icon Dr. Wyatt Tee Walker as a result of their NEH Grant.

Virginia Union Receives NEH Grant for Learning Community

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has awarded Virginia Union University \$98,456 to create a Learning Community Program (LCP). The general theme of the program, *Teaching African American Heritage through Learning Communities*, will be divided into four topics over a period of four semesters.

Three humanities departments will be part of the program, including Languages and Literature, History and Political Science, and Mass Communication. “Twelve faculty from these three departments will be trained in regards to coordinating courses around certain themes and topics,” said Project Director Dr. Luminita Dragulescu. “The mission is to create an educational environment where students acquire and expand their intellectual and academic skills through interdisciplinary courses. Inaugural courses for the program are *History of the Civil Rights Era* and *Literature of the Civil Rights Era*.

“It is my great pleasure to announce the latest round of NEH grant awards,” said NEH Chairman William Adams. “NEH grants play a critical role in making the insights afforded by the humanities available to all to help us better understand ourselves, our culture, our society.”

Virginia Union’s award is part of \$17.9 million in grants awarded by NEH to support 233 humanities projects. These awards will support a wide variety of projects, including research fellowships and awards for faculty, traveling exhibitions, the preservation of humanities collections at smaller institutions, and training programs to prepare libraries, museums, and archives to preserve and enhance access to their collections. Grants will also support humanities initiatives at historically black colleges, Hispanic-serving institutions, and tribal colleges and universities, and help institutions improve and secure long-term support for their humanities programs and resources.



Dr. W. Franklyn Richardson, Mr. Thomas Farrell II, Ms. Patricia Carter Sluby, Dr. Claude G. Perkins, Judge James Spencer, Brigadier General Mitchell Kilgo, and Bishop Rudolph McKissick, Jr.

Virginia Union Presents Four Honorary Degrees

In addition to the more than 300 degrees awarded during Virginia Union University's 2015 Commencement Ceremony, four honorary degrees were presented to distinguished individuals, including three Virginia Union alumni.

Dominion Resources Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer Thomas F. Farrell, II received the Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree. Under Mr. Farrell's leadership, Dominion Virginia Power has invested approximately \$2 billion in environmental upgrades and safeguards to its operating facilities. The company has also achieved double-digit growth in operating earnings per share and in the company's dividend rate.

Brigadier General (BG) Mitchell Kilgo received the Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree. BG Kilgo received a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Natural Sciences from Virginia Union in 1988. He is currently the Chief Information Officer and G6 of U.S. Army Forces Command, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He has served in a variety of command and staff positions in Fort Ritchie,

Maryland; Fort Belvoir, Virginia; Camp Zama, Japan; Wiesbaden, Germany; Korea; and Iraq.

Bishop Rudolph W. McKissick, Jr. was awarded the Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree. He is Senior Pastor of the 14,000-member Bethel Baptist Institutional Church in Jacksonville, Florida. Nationally recognized as an outstanding preacher, teacher, theologian, and academician, Bishop McKissick is also the author of several books. He holds a bachelor's degree from Jacksonville University, a Master of Divinity from the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union, and a Doctor of Ministry degree from the United Theological Seminary.

Ms. Patricia Carter Sluby was presented the Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree. She is a registered patent agent and past president of the National Intellectual Property Law Association. Ms. Sluby has published three books and holds 22 registered copyrights for her books and articles concerning intellectual property and history. She received a B.S. in Chemistry from Virginia Union in 1960.

Board Member Receives Meharry Honorary Degree

Virginia Union University Board of Trustees member Dr. Frank Williams, III received an Honorary Doctorate from Meharry Medical College on May 16, 2015 in Nashville, Tennessee. Dr.

Williams received an MD degree from Meharry Medical College in 1960. He earned a bachelor of science degree from Virginia Union University



in 1956. Dr. Williams is a board qualified psychiatrist with a specialty in psychoanalytic dynamic therapy and administrative psychiatry in Los Angeles, California. Since 1985, he has held the position of Executive Vice President and Medical Director at Kedren Acute Psychiatric Hospital.

Dr. Williams is an original member of the *Guardians of Our Legacy*, a group of loyal and generous alumni who have donated \$100,000 or more to Meharry Medical College and is also a member of the Royal Society. Dr. Williams is praised as being in the top five percent of living alumni supporters at both Meharry Medical College and Virginia Union University. Dr. Williams has an endowed scholarship in honor of his late son, Mr. Frank Williams, IV at both Meharry and Virginia Union University. He is also a recipient of the Meharry Medical College President's Award for 25 years of service to mankind.

VUU Hosts HBCU Student Leadership Summit

On March 31, 2015, Virginia Union's Office of Student Activities and Leadership hosted the inaugural Virginia HBCU Student Leadership Summit. Campus leaders from Virginia Union University, Hampton University, Norfolk State University, and Virginia State University attended. The Summit's primary purpose was to create a platform for strategic planning and dialogue to support student-led advocacy of HBCUs in Virginia.

The idea for the summit grew out of questions from students concerned about media reports on the relevance of HBCUs and school closures, according to Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs, A. Zachary Faison, Jr. "What we found is that there are a lot of comments from HBCU presidents, experts, academicians, but no platform for students to discuss their thoughts about the future prosperity and persistence of HBCUs," he said. This is the first time student leaders from each of the Virginia HBCUs had an opportunity to come together to talk about issues directly impacting them at their institutions."



Students focused on five key areas: Enhancing Academic Rigor, Transforming the Image and Perception of HBCUs, Examining Financial Barriers to Student Access and Completion, Nurturing an Authentic Student-Centered Institutional Culture, and Reassessing the Traditional Mission and Purpose of HBCUs. During breakout sessions, students discussed and challenged one another to develop potential solutions that can be advocated at each institution. One solution is a plan to develop the Virginia HBCU L.A.U.N.C.H. program. It stands for **L**eaders **A**dvancing **U**nder **N**ew **C**ulture and **C**areer **H**abits and will be implemented at each of the four HBCUs in Virginia. The student-run

initiative seeks to improve academic rigor by advocating for: higher student performance expectations, personal responsibility for academic success, promotion of early career readiness, and continual reassessment of the curriculum to ensure employment relevance. Other solutions include mandatory financial literacy workshops, greater recruitment of international and domestic non-African American students, and showcasing Virginia HBCU history and student success stories.

VUU's Office of Student Activities and Leadership will also host next year's summit planned for spring 2016.



Congratulations to Presidential Citation Award Winners for Outstanding Service

Ms. Fayesha Cousins, Dr. Anthony Madu and Dr. Mary Young.

Ms. Esther White



Dr. Claude G. Perkins, Miss Miranda Frenzley, Mr. Nate Frost and Mr. Paul Koonce.

Dominion Virginia Power Completes Solar Installation on VUU Campus

Dominion Virginia Power continued its decades-long partnership with Virginia Union University with the installation of more than 240 photovoltaic panels on the rooftop of Henderson Center. Faculty, staff, and students gathered in late March to celebrate the new solar system, which is now generating about 70 kilowatts of electricity or enough to power approximately 18 homes.

“With the installation of this solar project, we not only learned environmental facts relevant to the usage of the panels, but also what it means to work hard as a group and to motivate each other to get the job done,” said Miranda Frenzley, VUU Computer Information Systems major.

“Not every institution or facility gets the opportunity to partner with the area’s number one power and energy source to aid the promotion of establishing and continuing a safe environment for the community.”

“It’s very appropriate that we have a solar facility here on the Virginia Union campus so that Dominion and Virginia Union can learn about renewable energy together,” said Paul Koonce, Executive Vice President of Dominion Resources, Inc. and Chief Executive Officer of Dominion Virginia Power. The project is part of Dominion Virginia Power’s Solar Partnership Program in which Dominion leases rooftop or ground space in order to install solar panels, study their impact, and assess their benefits.

Virginia Union President Dr. Claude G. Perkins called Dominion one of the most innovative companies in the country. “It’s a company that cares about its community and it’s a company that supports the mission of our institution,” Dr. Perkins said. “We are indeed honored to be one of the first in the Solar Partnership Program, and we are indeed honored to have such a long-standing, committed relationship between Dominion Power and Virginia Union University.”



Plaque Honors VUU Veterans

The bronze plaque honoring Virginia Union students who served their country during World War I has finally returned home to Coburn Hall. The plaque hung on the wall of Coburn from approximately 1919 to 1970 when the building was gutted by fire, according to VUU Professor of History Dr. Raymond Hylton. Following the fire, the plaque “disappeared for over 40 years,” Dr. Hylton said. “When I inquired of Dr. Allix B. James, president at the time of the Coburn Chapel fire, if he knew of its whereabouts, he was unable to tell me. Then in idle conversation someone spoke of having seen such a plaque in the basement of the C.D. King Building.” In 2011, VUU Director of Facilities Management David Gordon located the plaque and it is now prominently displayed on the back of Coburn Hall.



Local pastors and community leaders gather for symposium on faith and city.

with issues related to politics, economics, and environmental justice,” stated Dr. Bond. “Let’s have grown up conversations that demonstrate that our faith commitments are not isolated to the Sunday morning experiences.”

Center for Lifelong Learning and Leadership

The Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology’s Institute for Lifelong Learning is getting a facelift. It will be called the Center for Lifelong Learning and Leadership and Dr. Adam Bond, Associate Professor of Historical Studies, has been named director of the Center, effective July 1, 2015. “The Center will reinvent what it means to do continuing education and provide support to persons trying to understand their sense of calling to do God’s work,” explained Dr. Bond. “This work can be done in a congregational setting or within one’s professional responsibilities.” Dr. Bond added that the Center will be charged with rethinking courses, events, seminars, and workshops that are currently offered in STVU’s current Continuing Education program.

Phase One of the Center’s work will be to offer new workshops during the School of Theology’s Annual Church Leadership Conference. Dr. Bond is also investigating the possibility of holding a summer institute on the Virginia Union campus in 2016. “This is an opportunity to allow faith communities to intersect everyday responsibilities and deal



School of Theology Ranked #3 by Students

Virginia Union University’s Graduate School of Theology has been ranked #3 in the Spring 2015 Rankings of the Top Theology/Religious Graduate Programs according to students. Program rankings were compiled by Graduateprograms.com between September 1, 2012 and March 31, 2015. The rankings encompass reviews posted by more than 70,000 students participating in over 1,600 graduate programs nationwide.

Graduateprograms.com assigns 15 ranking categories to each graduate program and each graduate school. Rankings cover topics such as academic competitiveness, campus safety, career support, faculty accessibility, student diversity, workload, and education quality.

Graduate School of Theology Receives \$500,000 Grant

Dean John W. Kinney has announced a \$500,000 grant entitled “Creating a Culture of Generosity” from the Lilly Endowment. The three-year grant will allow Virginia Union’s Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology to strengthen its fundraising capacity. Similar grants were awarded to Hood Theological Seminary, Howard University School of Divinity, Interdenominational Theological Center, Payne Theological Seminary, and Shaw University Divinity School.

The grant is grounded in the idea that creating a culture of generosity will beget generosity. Grant funds will be used to provide the part-time assistance of a fundraising professional, to improve alumni databases, to create promotional materials specific to the School of Theology and to launch a School of Theology alumni website.

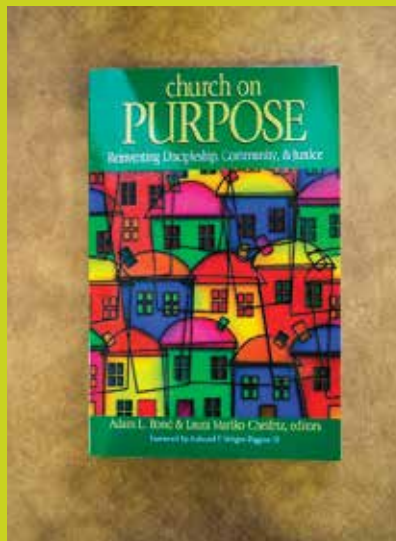




STVU Professor Receives ABHMS' Highest Recognition

Dr. Denise Janssen, Assistant Professor of Christian Education at the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University (STVU), has been awarded the Luther Wesley Smith Education Award. Presented by the American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS), the award is the highest recognition for exceptional effectiveness by an individual who has strengthened Christian education at an American Baptist-related seminary.

Dr. Janssen was selected by the ABHMS Board of Directors from nominations submitted by clergy and laypersons across the United States and Puerto Rico. "We believe that her work and witness epitomize the life and spirit of this award as she has strengthened the ministry at Virginia Union, as well as impacted a new generation of Christian educators with the publication of her book *Fostering Faith*," said ABHMS Executive Director Dr. Aidsand Wright-Riggins, III.



“ABC Reads” Selects Bond Book

STVU Associate Professor Dr. Adam Bond's latest book has been selected as the read of the year by the American Baptist Churches USA. Bond's book *Church on Purpose: Reinventing Discipleship, Community, and Justice* was chosen by the "ABC Reads" program as the featured read this year for its 5,000 local congregations. "I am surprised and honored," Dr. Bond said. "Judson Press has a long list of noted and emerging authors."

The book, which is co-edited by Rev. Laura Mariko Cheifetz, is a view of leadership within congregational life by members of Generation X. "We asked persons in the 35 to 45 age range to offer their one big idea for re-inventing the church," said Dr. Bond. "I was surprised at the range of concerns that they brought to the table."

Dr. Bond added that the ideas expressed in the book range from traditional to radical. In an article entitled "Believers Unchained," Madeline McClenney-Sadler discusses why Christians must abolish prisons or stop preaching the gospel. "The idea is that as a generation we have a different set of ideas and sources that inform the way we view the world," Bond noted.

The associate professor has published two other Judson Press books entitled *I've Been Called, Now What?* and *The Imposing Preacher: Samuel DeWitt Proctor and Black Public Faith*.

"The idea is that as a generation we have a different set of ideas and sources that inform the way we view the world,"
Dr. Adam Bond

Local Philanthropists Donate \$100,000 to VUU Industrial Hall Restoration

Pamela and William A. Royall, Jr. have donated \$100,000 toward the restoration of Virginia Union University's Industrial Hall. The money will go toward the University's \$4.5 million fundraising construction goal for the unused historic 1899 building that sits on the south edge of the campus overlooking Interstate 95. If the goal is met, the building will become the home for the Virginia Union Museum Art Galleries, currently located in the L. Douglas Wilder Library.

"We have been looking for ways to provide support to Virginia Union and we are very excited about this project," said Dr. Pamela Royall. "Our first support to the University centered around helping with enrollment," William Royall, Jr.

"Once someone learns to look at and appreciate art, it forever changes the way they view the world and creates so many opportunities for inspiration."

William Royall, Jr.

added. "Recently, our support moved toward this project with the museum galleries. Once someone learns to look at and appreciate art, it forever changes the way they view the world and creates

so many opportunities for inspiration."

Mr. Royall, the founder of Royall and Company, a college marketing firm, is in his second term as president of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. He and his wife Pamela are co-chairs of the campaign to build VCU's Institute for Contemporary Art (ICA) in Richmond. Dr. Royall is Head of Research for Royall and Company and the former executive director of the Interactive Marketing Institute at VCU's School of Business.

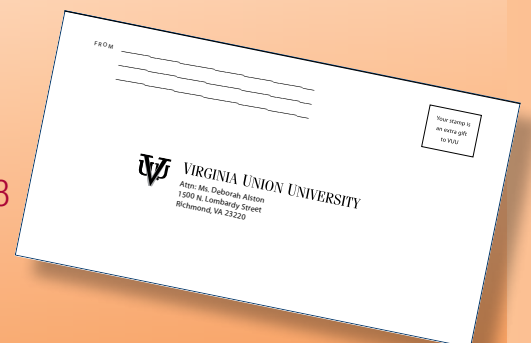


The Royalls are frequent visitors to Virginia Union's Museum Art Galleries. They also collect the work of folk artist Thornton Dial, which is a significant part of the University's collection.

ALUMNI

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.



Richmond Native Honors VUU with \$50,000 Donation

Ask 82-year-old Nathaniel Green about Virginia Union University and it's clear that he loves the place. He knows the history. He can list the University's distinguished alumni. And he makes the kind of contributions that affirm his affinity for Virginia Union, recently making a \$50,000 donation. But Nathaniel Green never attended his beloved Virginia Union.

To understand the reason behind Green and his wife JoAnn's generosity, one needs to reach all the way back to 1939. Green was a young child at Webster Davis Elementary School in Richmond, Virginia's Fulton neighborhood. Many of his teachers had received their bachelor's degrees from Virginia Union University, but one in particular stood out. Her name was Anna Woltz Jackson. "She was a very caring person and took an interest in students," Green remembered. "She was the hardest teacher on me and I loved her the best."

As Green moved on to high school, his admiration for VUU and its alumni continued. "Union was right down the street from Maggie Walker," Green said. "I always wanted to go to Union, but I didn't. I joined the military." He fondly recalls popular VUU athletes and alumni, such as Samuel Gravely, the first black admiral in the U.S. Navy. Green met him when he worked in Washington, D.C.

Green's first contribution to Virginia Union was in



"When I listened to Dr. Perkins talk and his dream for VUU, I felt strength in what he was saying."

Nathaniel Green

the 1980's when he was approached by former Virginia Union Board of Trustees member the late Dr. Bathrus Williams. More recent donations have been encouraged by current Board member Dr. Marilyn Brown. But it was a call from Virginia Union President Dr. Claude G. Perkins that moved Green and his wife to establish an endowed scholarship. "When I listened to Dr. Perkins talk and his dream for VUU, I felt strength in what he was saying," Green stated.

"After listening to him speak (during a recent visit to their Florida home), I had such confidence that the money we gave him

would be put to good use," JoAnn Green added. "He's like the father of all the children that go to Virginia Union."

On November 14, 2014, the Virginia Union University Board of Trustees passed a resolution to use JoAnn and Nathaniel Green's \$50,000 donation to establish "The Nathaniel N. and JoAnn P. Green Fultonian Endowed Scholarship Fund" in honor of those VUU alumni who lived in his Fulton neighborhood who enriched his life through their friendship and guidance. Income from the scholarship fund will be awarded annually to one or more underprivileged students majoring in Business with a minimum 3.25 grade point average.

First CCAA Championship for Cross-Country

Virginia Union University's men's cross-country team won the school's first-ever CCAA Championship as the Panthers placed five runners in All-CCAA status at the CCAA Championship, held on Thursday, October 30, in Cary, N.C.

The Championship was the first conference championship since the VUU men's basketball team won the CCAA Championship in 2006 and the first non-basketball championship since the 2001 VUU Football team won the CCAA Championship.

"Champions aren't made in the gym. Champions are made from something they have deep down inside of them—a desire, a dream, and a vision," VUU Head Cross-Country Coach Wilbert D. Johnson said. "The formula for success is simple: practice and concentration, then more practice and more concentration."

Coach Johnson was named CCAA Cross-Country Coach of the Year.



C'Evon Jones Wins National Championship



Virginia Union University's C'Evon Jones has won the school's first national championship in Indoor Track & Field by winning the women's 60 meter dash at the NCAA Division II Track & Field Championships in Birmingham, Ala.

Jones, a junior from Pompano Beach, Fla., won the championship with a time of 7.35 seconds, with Raven Covington of Winston-Salem State University coming in second with a time of 7.42 seconds.

"We decided to make a commitment prior to the National Championship," said VUU

Track & Field Head Coach Wilbert D. Johnson. "During the last two weeks we got up at 4:45 a.m. and drove to Hampton, Va., to practice at the Boo Williams Complex. Commitment, hard work and dedication proved to be the correct formula for C'Evon Jones becoming a National Champion in the 60 meters."

Jones' National Championship is the first National Championship for VUU since the men's basketball team won the National Championship in 2005.



Virginia Union's Quincey Lewis

A Winning Season For VUU Softball

The 2015 season of Virginia Union University Softball saw a marked progression in a team that continues to transform.

The Lady Panthers, coached by third-year coach Sharika Joynes, recorded 16 wins, the most for a VUU Softball team since the 1988 squad won a school-record 19 games. VUU finished the year at 16-11 overall and third place in the Northern Division of the CIAA with a 10-7 conference record.

Along the way, individual Lady Panthers made their own presence known. VUU's Quincey Lewis threw the first no-hitter in school history when she blanked Lincoln University of Pennsylvania 13-0 at the VUU Softball Field on Saturday, March 28. Lewis, a senior from Willingboro, N.J., finished her career with 35 wins and 234 strikeouts.

Two new additions to the team were pitcher Shontell Linnette and third baseman Taylor Hamilton.



VUU 2015 Football Schedule

VUU Football vs. Brevard College (Faculty and Staff Day)	1:00 PM	September 5
VUU Football at St. Augustine's Raleigh, NC	1:00 PM	September 12
VUU Football at Gardner-Webb University Boiling Springs, NC	6:00 PM	September 19
VUU Football vs Johnson C. Smith University* (Community Youth Bowl)	1:00 PM	September 26
VUU Football at Shaw University* Raleigh, NC	1:00 PM	October 3
VUU Football at Lincoln (Pa.) University* Lincoln University, PA	1:00 PM	October 10
VUU Football vs. Chowan University* (Homecoming)	1:00 PM	October 17
VUU Football at Bowie State University* Bowie, MD	1:00 PM	October 24
VUU Football vs. Elizabeth City State University* (Senior Day)	1:00 PM	October 31
VUU Football at Virginia State University* Peterburg, VA	2:00 PM	November 7

*CIAA Game

VUU's Ben Wallace Inducted into Hall of Fame

Ben Wallace, who played for Virginia Union University and then went on to a 16-year career in the NBA, was inducted into the State of Virginia Athletic Hall of Fame on Saturday, April 25, in Portsmouth, Va. Wallace was named defensive player of the year four times while in the NBA and he won an NBA championship with the Detroit Pistons in 2004.

Wallace, who still holds the VUU record with 114 blocked shots in 1995-96, was inducted along with Angela Hucles, Johnny Grubb, Paul Hatcher, Fletcher Arrit and Mike Stevens.

"I didn't imagine this day," Wallace said. "I worked hard to try and be the best player I can be, best person I could be, and in order to get an accomplishment like this takes other people to recognize the work that you put in, or the type of person you are, and I just appreciate those people that recognize me and voted me in."

Wallace said he stopped watching basketball three years ago, but he's still close to the game. He runs a gym for at-risk youth in Richmond.

Angela Hucles, who was inducted with Wallace, is the granddaughter of the legendary Henry Hucles, who played and coached football at VUU.

"This whole journey has been incredible," said Hucles. "Having progressed to the highest level with the U.S. Women's National Team to represent my country is one of my favorite in terms of greatest accomplishments that I hold."

Hucles won two Olympic gold medals as part of the United States Women's National Soccer Team. Henry Hucles was Athletic Director at Virginia Union for 30 years



and retired in 1969, capping a 50-year involvement with the University.

Another former VUU athletic director was recently honored by the CIAA. Former AD James Battle, Ben Wallace, and former VUU President Dr. Allix B. James were all inducted into the CIAA Hall of Fame on February 27, 2015 in Charlotte, North Carolina.



Jay Butler, Jr. Heads VUU Men's Basketball

Lester "Jay" Butler, Jr., has been named the 10th Head Coach in the history of Virginia Union University's men's basketball program. Coach Butler comes to Virginia Union after 11 seasons as head coach of the women's basketball program at the University of the District of Columbia.

Since his hiring in 2003, Butler changed both the perception and quality of the

District of Columbia women's basketball program. Bringing stability, vision and a love for the game, Butler earned the respect of his opponents and established Firebird women's basketball as a competitive force in Division II.

In his 11 seasons as head coach at UDC, Butler amassed 177 wins, two Independent Collegiate Athletic Association (ICAA)

New Women's Basketball Coach AnnMarie Gilbert

Virginia Union University announced on Tuesday, April 21 that AnnMarie Gilbert will become the eighth head coach of the VUU Women's Basketball Team. With over 20 years of college coaching experience, AnnMarie Gilbert was the head coach at Eastern Michigan University from 2007-2012, where she compiled a 94-64 record. As head coach, the Eagles had three consecutive 20+ win seasons (2009-12) and received an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament in 2012. Gilbert guided Eastern Michigan to the Mid-American Conference (MAC) Tournament championship in her final year (2012), with her star player Tavelyn James receiving the Francis Pomeroy Naismith Award.

Gilbert spent three seasons (2003-06) as an assistant on the Michigan State coaching staff. She was the staff's recruiting coordinator and worked with the guards. Gilbert spent the previous eight seasons (1994-2002) as the head

coach of NCAA Division III Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio. She is the winningest coach in Oberlin women's basketball history as the Yeomen made six appearances in the North Coast Athletic

Conference (NCAC) postseason tournament during her tenure. She assisted in the development of eight all-conference players and the 1999 All-NCAC Newcomer of the Year. She began her coaching career at Oberlin as an assistant coach with the women's basketball team in 1992-



93 and was an assistant men's basketball coach in 1993-94, before assuming the women's basketball head coaching duties in 1994. In addition to coaching, Gilbert served as the Senior Women's Administrator/Associate Director of Athletics at Oberlin from 1996-2002.

national championships, ECC Coach of the Year, ECC regular-season championships, two ICAA Coach of the Year awards and four NCAA Tournament appearances. He enjoyed his finest season in 2014-15 when the Firebirds registered a school-record 25 wins and a No. 22 national ranking for the season. Butler guided the Firebirds to their fourth NCAA Tournament appearance last season with a school-record third seed in the East Region.

A 1998 graduate of Virginia Union University with a degree in criminal justice, Butler played for legendary coach Dave Robbins, and was a key member of the Panther basketball program. He helped Virginia Union capture three straight CIAA championships and make four NCAA Division II appearances. In 1996, Butler's senior season, he guided the team to the NCAA Division II Final Four. "Jay was a complete team player and a smart guard," Coach Robbins

said. "He never worried about scoring himself, but made the players around him better." Coach Butler received nothing but praise from his former VUU teammates. "Jay enabled all of us to be not just better players, but a better team," said former NBA professional Ben Wallace. "He was the catalyst in our going to the 1996 Final Four, and his success on the court has transferred to the coaches' bench."

VUU Distinguished Professor Honored

Courage, dedication and persistence are all lessons taught through the life of Virginia Union University's distinguished professor emeritus Dr. Ruth Coles Harris. Through her own life experience she confronted adversity, integration and even sexism. In 1963, she became the first African American woman to be certified as a public accountant in Virginia. She was recently celebrated at the 2015 Virginia Women in History program at the Library of Virginia.

Harris, 86, joined the VUU family prior to taking the CPA exam. A native of Charlottesville, Virginia, she found her way to Virginia Union University after being referred to VUU President Dr. John Malcus Ellison. Dr. Ellison sent a telegram to Harris requesting a meeting to discuss becoming the second full time instructor within the Commerce Department. Harris came highly recommended. She had completed her bachelor's degree in business administration from Virginia State University and her MBA from New York University.

Teaching was something that Harris never envisioned doing. She recalled telling a professor in college, "I will

starve to death before I ever teach a day in my life." After meeting with Dr. Ellison, she was offered a position with the university and began teaching shorthand and typing in the Belgian Building in 1949. Harris' vow to never teach turned into a 48-year teaching career with Virginia Union University.

Managing a family and serving as a college instructor, Harris wanted to add to her resume, the certification of public accountant. Late nights and early mornings consumed her life during preparation for the exam. "After everyone went to bed I was up studying until 2am and was at work behind my desk at 8am," Harris said.

Segregation was still very real when Harris took her CPA exam. While her white counterparts were provided with options for lodging in Virginia Beach where the testing site was located, Harris had to commute from Norfolk each day in order to complete the two-and-a-half-day exam.

Understanding the times, but yet putting up a fight, she made several phone

calls finally reaching the Chairman of the State Board of Accountancy demanding a response to this matter. "He apologized profusely and told me that he was very sorry but there was no place for me to stay in Virginia Beach," she said. She would have to find her own accommodations. "I had to drive from Virginia Beach and back, and everyone else just walked across the street from where they were staying to the convention center," explained Harris. "They didn't have to do this commuting."

In spite of her challenges, Harris focused on her task and completed her exam. Her husband, the late John B. Harris, would offer encouragement by reminding her, "For every obstacle you should look at it not as an obstacle but as an opportunity. You find a way to go over it, around it, or under it but you keep on going."

During class instruction, Harris was called out of class and informed that she passed the CPA exam. "I went to my office and there was a newspaper reporter on the phone from the *Richmond News Leader*. He said he

"Don't let other people define what you can and cannot do. Education is key. The knowledge you gain you won't lose."
Dr. Ruth Coles Harris



Dr. Ruth Coles Harris

was just calling because he understood that I was the first black female CPA in the Commonwealth of Virginia and he wanted to interview me on the spot.” This was the first notice that Harris received that she had passed the exam. She could now add to her resume, certified public accountant. As Harris continued at the University, she was later appointed as Chairman of the Commerce Department, Director of the Division of Commerce and in 1973 was appointed director of the newly established Sydney Lewis School of Business Administration. Harris continued her education and completed her doctoral degree from The College of William and Mary in 1977.

She encountered a number of students throughout her tenure at Virginia Union, including Virginia Union University Board of Trustees member N. Scott Phillips, Esquire. Phillips, a 1983 graduate, remembers how Harris demanded a standard of excellence from her students. “Her classes were hard but she was extremely fair,” he said. Phillips was enrolled in a number of classes under Harris as she served as the head of the School of Business. “She made sure we were as well prepared

as anyone coming from any other institution,” he added.

Harris wanted her students to succeed and sought opportunities for them to intern and put into practice their knowledge obtained in the classroom. She reached out to several firms in an attempt to secure internships for her students. Many of the major firms informed her that they did not have the space. However, other universities were placing students within the same companies. “My colleagues at VCU were telling me at the same time that many of their students were getting positions with these same companies that told me they didn’t have any positions,” Harris explained.

Harris encountered not only racism, but she also faced sexism in her professional field. “In my field it wasn’t about just being black; it was about

being a woman as well,” she recalled. The VUU instructor many times was the only woman in attendance during accounting seminars and conferences. “I went to the University of Virginia meeting and when I got there everyone was calling me

Ruth. I said to myself how do they know my name? I don’t know these people,” shared Harris. “We had pre-registered and they had the list of participants on the program and there were 74 white males and me. And I knew that none of their names was Ruth.”

In May 1997, Harris retired from Virginia Union after serving 48 years. “She was the best professor I had on any level,” shared Phillips. Harris has accomplished much in her lifetime. In 1998, Virginia Union University awarded Harris a Doctor of Humane Letters degree for her many years of service. Through her selfless work, she has paved the way for many to follow and encourages students to never be limited by others. “Don’t let other people define what you can and cannot do. Education is key. The knowledge you gain you won’t lose.”

VUU Alumni Association Provides Student Scholarships

Robert '04 and Janiel '01 Youngblood were announced winners of the Virginia Union University National Alumni Association, Inc. Invest in a Student Campaign Dream Car Giveaway. The drawing was held during the third annual VUU Scholarship Gala and Masquerade Ball. A check for \$26,000 from the proceeds of the campaign was presented to Dr. Claude G. Perkins in order to provide scholarships to Virginia Union University students.



VUU Alumna Recognized for Educational Leadership

Dr. Kiwana Yates '01, principal of George W. Carver Elementary School in Richmond, VA, received the 2015 R.E.B. Award for Distinguished Educational Leadership. The annual honor, administered by the Community Foundation, goes to one



principal each in Richmond and the counties of Chesterfield, Hanover and Henrico who demonstrate effective leadership, commitment and community partnership. The award includes a \$7,500 cash grant to the principal and an additional \$7,500 for school projects chosen by the principal. Yates says she will use the school grant to fund educational field trips for Carver students and to send fifth graders to visit area colleges.



VUU National Alumni Association Elects New Officers

First row: Carolyn W. Jacobs '64 – President, Dr. Steven E. Hairston '85 – Vice President, An'Jou Skipper-Johnson '87 – Treasurer, Pearl Johnson '80 – Recording Secretary, Gladys Monroe '89 – Financial Secretary, Morris White III '03 – Necrologist, Earl Turner '79 – Chaplain. **Second Row:** Robert Youngblood '04 – Member at Large, Terri Weaver '87 – Member at Large, Patricia P. Spence '68 – Membership Officer, Laverne R. Johnstone '86 – Member at Large, Michael Newsome '83 – Member at Large.

**Not pictured: Jeanette Jones '02 – Corresponding Secretary*



Class Notes

Eboni E. Bryant '02 was appointed to the Birmingham Planning Commission by the Birmingham City Council. In addition, Eboni was elected to serve as Vice-Chair for Youth Affairs for the Jefferson County Democratic Executive Committee.

Leha Byrd '00 has published a book entitled *15 Days, 15 Minutes: A Daily Devotional to Help You Connect with God as You Start Your Day*.

Dr. Leonard L. Edloe '99 was awarded the 2014 Hugo H. Schaefer Award from the American Pharmacists Association.

Tamica Epps '02 was hired as Regional HR Business Partner for McKesson Corporation, which is ranked 13th on the FORTUNE 500 list.

Dr. Steven E. Hairston '85 was named Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Chief Operating Officer at Saint Augustine's University.

Pamela Johnson '86 was hired as Managing Editor for the Trust Publishing Group.

Dr. Cora Marrett '63 was inducted into the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame in September 2014 in the field of science.

Alana Meek '04 was selected as one of 31 residents for the Richmond Teacher Residency (RTR) at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Adrienne Moore '04 was recently recognized by Geico CEO Tony Nicely for bringing in more than \$6 million in revenue.

Robert Moore '10 graduated from University of Virginia with his JD and MBA. He accepted a job with Thompson Hospitality as Director of Business Development.

Sarah Morris '05 earned her doctoral degree in educational leadership from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Necole Parker '93 was named 2015 Small Business Person of the Year. Necole is the CEO and Founder of The ELOCEN Group LLC.

Dr. Edith J. Patterson '69 was recently elected to the Maryland House of Delegates.

Dorthula H. Powell-Woodson '78 was recently elected to a second term on the Board of Directors of the American Health Lawyers Association.

Nakia Pringle '06 and Randy Mack '04 united in marriage on Saturday, August 30, 2014.

Lauren Puryear-Anderson '10 earned her PhD in Clinical Psychology from Walden University.

Anissa E. Richard-Jones '02 recently became an elementary school assistant principal with Passaic Public Schools.

Sherita N. Chapman Smith, M.D. '02 has joined the VCU Medical Center Team. Dr. Chapman's area of specialty is Neurology/ Acute Stroke care.

Dr. Jeffrey O. Smith '90 was appointed the new superintendent for Hampton City Schools in Hampton, Virginia.

Tanikka Toler '06 and Jonas Fevrier '05 united in marriage on April 17, 2015

Usher V. Walker, Jr. '01 completed his master's degree from Troy State University in Alabama. Usher also accepted a new job working with Atlanta's Department of Social Services.

Dr. Lashira M. Williams received a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Xavier University of Louisiana on May 9, 2015.

Heidi Wilson '04 was recently promoted to Interim Chair of the Department of Mass Communications at Virginia Union University.

Ryan J. Wilson '11 Business Management recently became a Walmart Assistant Store Manager in New Jersey.

Dr. Christopher Wyckoff '92 was selected Teacher of the Year at Eaton Middle School in Hampton, VA.

Janiel E. Youngblood '01 earned her Certified Public Accounting license.

in memoriam

Mr. Ivan C. Armstrong, '89

Dr. Harold E. Braxton, '55

Reverend Lewis T. Brim, '74

Mrs. Ruby M. Bryant, '39

Mr. Courtland W. Butts, '53

Mr. Herman L. Carter, Jr., '58

Reverend Robert B. Carter, '52

Mr. Ralph D. Dickens, '63

Mrs. Linda C. Driver, '71

Mr. Ralph R. Fleming, '55

The Honorable George W. Harris, '63

Ms. Clarice P. Johnson, '64

Reverend Dr. G. Daniel Jones, '62

Mrs. Geraldine S. Jones, '63

Ms. Shirley Lightfoot, '65

Dr. Edward D. McCreary, Jr., '40

Mr. Vernon J. Moore, '82

Mr. Novell K. Robinson, '52

Miss Lillian A. Shearin, '04

Mr. William S. Spencer, '63

Reverend Britt A. Starghill, '92

Mrs. Ruth Turner, '41

Miss Irene S. Whitlock, '74

Mr. Otis Williams, Jr., '04

Mr. Wistar M. Withers, '68

Former President
Dr. S. Dallas Simmons

Faculty and Staff Updates

Ms. Selicia Allen presented an exhibit focusing on the 1870's curriculum of the Richmond Theological Institute for Freedmen during the April 4, 2015 celebration entitled "Richmond's Journey: From the End of Slavery and Civil War to Today." Ms. Allen also played a major role in Virginia Union's 150th Anniversary events, presenting a program entitled "Telling Our Story: Voices from the Past," which included excerpts from journals of students who attended Wayland Seminary and Richmond Theological.

Ms. Sukenya Best presented a visual art performance titled "Dancing Ink" at the Annual Southern Graphic Council International Conference. She also exhibited her work at the SunTrust Bank Center's Art Gallery and at the Spotlight Gallery in Pine Camp Art and Community Center. In addition, Ms. Best participated in the group exhibition "Redefining Print: Contemporary Prints for Women of the African Diaspora" in Houston, Texas in June.

Dr. Delta Bowers is a founding member and president of the newly-established National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. Richmond Metro Area Chapter.

Ms. Sabrina Dent has been accepted into the 2015 Inaugural Class for the Baptist Joint Committee Fellows Program. This fellowship gives young professionals an opportunity to deepen their historical, theological and legal understanding of religious liberty and develop skills to advocate for the cause throughout their careers.

Dr. Luminita Dragulescu published "Bearing Witness?: The Problem with the White Cross-Racial (Mis)Portrayals of History." *From Uncle Tom's Cabin to The Help: Critical Perspectives on White-Authorited Narratives of Black Life*. Eds. Claire Garcia and Vershawn Young. Palgrave Macmillan, 2014: 15-24. She also presented "Teaching African American Heritage: Implementing a Learning Community Program at an HBCU" at the 2014 HBCU Story Symposium in Washington, D.C. in October of 2014.

Dr. Dorothy Eseonu and **Dr. Karl Jackson** traveled to the University of Virginia with nine students for the largest statewide platform for undergraduate research in Chemistry, the *Virginia Section of American Chemical Society's* Undergraduate Research Poster Session,

where five VUU Chemistry students presented their research: Ernesto Blay, Sharde Harbor, Nha Le, Corshai Williams and Stephanie Wilson.

Mr. A. Zachary Faison has been accepted for admission to the Harvard Graduate School of Education's Institute for Educational Management (IEM) and will participate in the program held in Cambridge, Mass. later this summer. The highly competitive and notably rigorous IEM program is a total-immersion experience designed to develop leadership qualities and vision of senior leaders in institutions of higher education.

Mr. Kaiem Frink's abstract entitled "Virginia Union University STEM Education for Pre-Service Educators was published in the American Geophysical Union (AGU). Mr. Frink serves on AGU's Education Council.

Dr. Raymond Hylton published a book titled *Virginia Union University: The Campus History Series*. The book is only the third history of Virginia Union ever published and it is the first available for general circulation since 1925. Dr. Hylton was also a panelist on the VUU 150th Anniversary presentation entitled: "Emancipation: The First 50 Years."

Dr. Karl Jackson continues working with students on his research project with Dominion Power. The project is entitled: "Water Quality Analysis and GIS Mapping of Contaminants Along the James River."

Ms. Felecia Johnson has been named to the NCAA Division II Nominating Committee. The Committee presents nominations for vacancies on all Division II-specific committees.

Ms. Ida Jones was selected for the NAFSA Association of International Educators 2015 Diversity Impact Program. She will receive a year of mentoring and professional development in order to increase VUU's study abroad and global competencies.

Ms. Margarette Joyner has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Richmond Theatre Association. She is also artistic director of the Heritage Ensemble Theatre Company. Ms. Joyner designed costumes for *This World We Know* at the Treehouse Theatre, *Cinderella* at the Fort Lee Playhouse, and *Soldier Come Home* at the Beacon Theatre.

Dr. Yung Suk Kim presented a paper titled "Reading the Parable of the Father and Two Sons in Luke 15:11-32 from a Perspective of Divided Korea: Seeking a Model of Reconciliation" at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in San Diego, CA. He is also the new editor of the *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Religion*, a peer-reviewed online journal.

Dr. Anthony Madu was promoted to the rank of full professor. He also serves on the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB) committee responsible for accrediting Biochemistry and/or Molecular Biology degree programs across the nation.

Rev. Melissa Mason received a Master of Divinity degree from Virginia Union University's Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology on May 9, 2015.

Ms. Lauren McNeill was awarded a Master of Education in Counselor Education with a focus in College Student Development from Virginia Commonwealth University on May 9, 2015. She has also been accepted into the Ph.D. in Higher Education program at Old Dominion University.

Ms. Patricia Murray was selected for the 2014 NCAA Division II Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) Fellows Institute. She participated in intensive training designed to foster professional development and enhance her effectiveness as the faculty athletic representative on Virginia Union's campus, as well as within Division II of the NCAA.

Mr. Lewis Newbill was awarded a Master of Divinity degree from the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University on May 9, 2015.

Dr. Adelaja Odutola and **Dr. H.P. Singh-Sandhu** presented a paper titled "The NCAA Cartel Behavior: Will it Yield to Market Pressures?" at the Virginia Association of Economists Annual Meeting on March 19, 2015 at Randolph Macon College in Ashland, Virginia.

Dr. Michael Orok published a book entitled *Jim Crow: A Postmortem Political Analysis*. Dr. Orok was also selected by the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) to participate in a year-long Senior Leadership Academy. He is one of 28 mid-level administrators in higher

education nationwide selected to participate in the leadership development program.

Dr. Carleitta Paige-Anderson and Virginia Union students Veronica Pegram and Amber Jordan have been awarded a summer research opportunity by the Department of Homeland Security. They will conduct research at the Institute of Infectious Animal Diseases Center of Excellence at George Mason University.

Ms. Melody Pannell received two degrees at Virginia Union University's recent Commencement: a Master of Divinity and a Master of Arts in Christian Education from The Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology on May 9, 2015.

Dr. Vernon Ruffin published a paper entitled "Effects of Metabolic Acidosis on Intracellular pH Responses in Multiple Cell Types" in *Am. J. Physiol. Integr. Comp. Physiol.* 307:R1413-R1427.

Dr. Sunita Sharma presented "Improving Teacher Candidates' Learning, Development, and Achievement in PK-12 Schools" at the International Annual Consortium for Research on Educational Assessment and Teaching Effectiveness (CREATE) Conference. She also presented "Differentiated Instruction for Exceptional Students in a 21st Century Global Inclusive/Special Education Classroom" at the Virginia Council of Exceptional Children Annual Conference.

Dr. Peter Sutton published the article entitled "Moore's 'New' Open Question Argument" in *Res Philosophica*, Issue 91, Volume 4: October 2014.

Dr. Robert Wafawanaka published a paper: "Is the Biblical Perspective on Poverty that 'There Shall Be No Poor Among You' or 'You Will Always Have the Poor With You?'" In *Review and Expositor* Vol. 111: Issue 2 (May 2014): 107-120. He also presented a paper at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA, titled, "The Bible, Power and Wealth in Africa: A Critique of the Prosperity Gospel in Sub-Saharan Africa," African Biblical Hermeneutics Section, November 22-25, 2014.

Ms. Marcy Williams was honored with the 2015 Metropolitan Business League Distinguished Community Service Award. In 2014, Ms. Williams published her 3rd book entitled *Is My Face in Cyberspace? – Keeping Your Child Safe Online*.

Dr. Mary Young has been nominated to serve on the 18 member Board of Commissioners for the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada (ATS) and will serve until 2020.



Virginia Union University Upcoming Events

EVENT	DATE
Fall Classes Begin	August 13, 2015
Fall Break	September 23-25, 2015
Fall Convocation	October 16, 2015
Homecoming	October 17, 2015
Ellison - Jones Convocation	November 9-12, 2015
University Winter Choir Concert	December 3, 2015
Last Day of Fall Classes	December 3, 2015
Final Exams	December 7-11, 2015
Spring Classes Begin	January 11, 2016
Founders Day	February 5, 2016
Annual Church Leadership Conference	March 12, 2016
Spring Break	March 14-18, 2016
University Choir Spring Concert	April 14, 2016
Baccalaureate Ceremony	May 6, 2016
Commencement Ceremony	May 7, 2016
Edosomwan Evangelism Conference	May 14, 2016

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



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