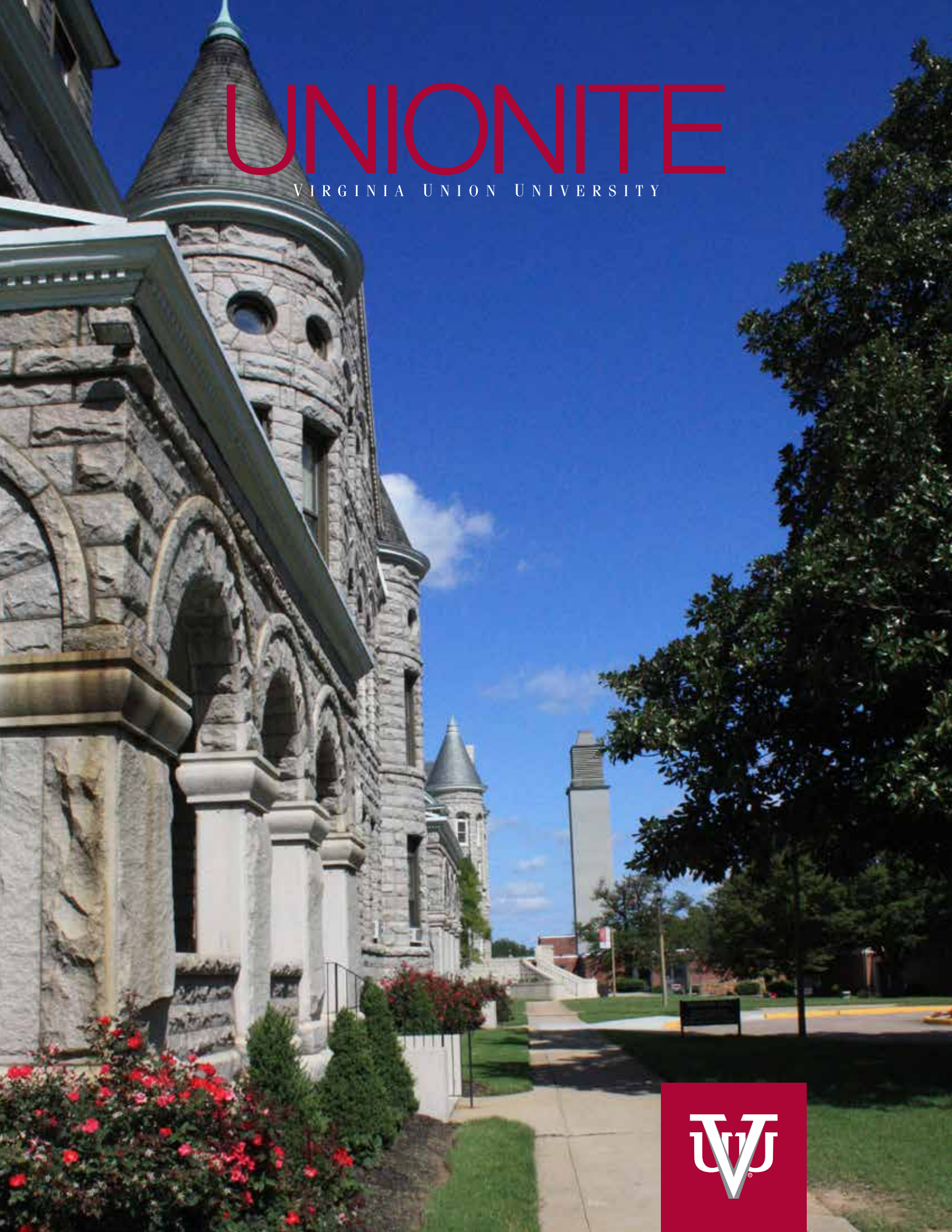


# UNIONITE

VIRGINIA UNION UNIVERSITY





**VIRGINIA UNION UNIVERSITY**

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**UNIONITE**  
VIRGINIA UNION UNIVERSITY

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# VUU From The President

Dear Panther Community,

What a time to celebrate! As we welcomed all the smiling faces on campus for spring commencement, I was honored to recognize 248 graduating seniors that worked tirelessly to get to this point during our 123rd commencement ceremony.

It is one of my favorite times of the year when we honor the accomplishments of our students. With the disruption of the global pandemic, the classes of 2020 and 2021 and the Golden Classes of 1970 through 1972 were also invited to attend commencement as special guests and Panther Pride celebrations took place across to honor them.

As we move into the next season of success, let us be mindful to celebrate one another on our “Best in Class” journey. Each of us plays an important role in making our university and our community better than it was before. I thank you for your continued support that helps us to do just that – make it better. As our graduates prepare to make an impact outside of the university, I encourage you to consider our graduates for open career opportunities. It is imperative that we sow a seed into the next generation of leaders. As always, I appreciate your support and look forward to celebrating our progress.



With Panther Pride,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'HJ Lucas', written over a white background.

Hakim J. Lucas, Ph.D.  
President & CEO

## VUU Spring Commencement Honors Graduating Classes 2022, 2021, 2020, and Golden Classes 1970-1972

On Saturday, May 7, 2022, Virginia Union University honored graduating seniors and recognized the classes of 2021, 2020, and the Golden Classes of 1970-1972 with family members and friends in celebration of their milestone achievement.

American Activist Tamika Mallory gave the commencement address and received an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters alongside Michael Paul Williams. Rev. Dr. Gina M. Stewart was presented with an Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree, and Representative A. Donald McEachin was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree.

### Commencement Speaker Biography — Tamika D. Mallory

**T**amika D. Mallory is a groundbreaking, award-winning social justice leader and movement strategist. Tamika has risen to become the most sought-after, influential activist of her generation. Her committed work, advocacy, frontline bravery, and heroic servitude continue to fuel a solitary act into a global movement inspiring millions around the world to get involved in the fight for racial and social equality.

Tamika, through the impact and gravity of her voice, speaks truth to power no matter the consequences. She is hailed as one of the most influential Black voices of our generation. She served as the youngest ever Executive Director of the National Action Network and was instrumental in creating the New York City's Crisis Management System, an official gun violence prevention program that awards nearly \$27 million to violence prevention organizations annually. Tamika made history when she helped shepherd the largest single-day demonstration, the 2017 Women's March on Washington, serving as one of its four national co-chairs. She recently co-founded Until Freedom, an intersectional social justice organization that serves as

a clearinghouse for organizers, activists, movement attorneys, artists, celebrities, and formerly incarcerated individuals. Tamika also co-hosts alongside "Raptivist" Mysonne Linen, the newly launched "Street Politicians" podcast on iHeart Radio's Black Effect Network.

Tamika has been honored as one of Time 100's Most Influential People and was featured on Fortune's list of the World's Greatest Leaders. Her deliberative vision and focused intentionality have deeply moved and motivated a new generation of spirited, engaged activists. She is never hiding behind a keyboard, but motivated by her selfless convictions to advance freedom and equality. Tamika is a peerless, streetwise lightning bolt for freedom, justice, and equality. The title of her forthcoming book *STATE OF EMERGENCY* is a reflective masterpiece birthed from the urgent declaration she made in the opening of her speech during the George Floyd protests in Minneapolis.



## Honorary Doctoral Degrees

### A. Donald McEachin

U.S. Representative A. Donald McEachin (VA-04) was first elected to represent the 4th Congressional District of Virginia in the United States House of Representatives on November 8, 2016.

His colleagues have selected Rep. McEachin to serve as co-chair of the House Democratic Environmental Message Team, co-chair of the Congressional Black Caucus' Transportation, Infrastructure, Environment, and Energy Policy Council, and vice-chair of the Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition (SEEC). During his first term in Congress, Rep. McEachin co-founded the United for Climate and Environmental Justice Congressional Task Force and continues to lead the task force as a co-chair.

Rep. McEachin represents his constituents, and the Commonwealth of Virginia, as a member of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce (E&C), the House Committee on Natural Resources (Natural Resources), and the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis. As a member of E&C, Rep. McEachin sits on the Environment and Climate Change, the Communications and Technology, and the Energy subcommittees. As a member of Natural Resources, Rep. McEachin sits on the Energy and Mineral Resources subcommittee.

Rep. McEachin is the son of an Army veteran and a public-school teacher raised in the area that he now proudly represents in Congress. Before his service in Congress, Rep. McEachin served as a legislator in both chambers of Virginia's General Assembly. Throughout that time, he fought to protect our most vulnerable citizens and defend the rights of all Virginians. Rep. McEachin is a dedicated public servant who leads efforts that will promote equality, curb gun violence, protect our environment, and preserve access to affordable health care.

Rep. McEachin graduated from American University with a degree in Political Science and from the University of Virginia School of Law. In May of 2008, he received his Master of Divinity from The Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University.

Rep. McEachin has always stood up for working Virginians, families, and children in need. After practicing with several law firms in Richmond, Rep. McEachin and Donald Gee formed McEachin and Gee

in 1990. The McEachin and Gee Law Firm successfully helped many Virginians receive their resources after accidents or injuries.

Rep. McEachin is very active in the community and is a lifetime member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. and the NAACP. Rep. McEachin is also a member of the Virginia State Bar and the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association.

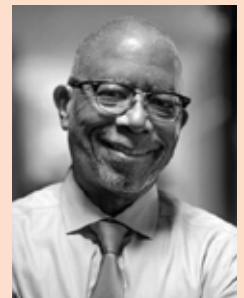
Rep. McEachin and his lovely wife Colette are the parents of three adult children. Colette is an attorney with extensive experience, presently working in the Richmond City Commonwealth's Attorney's office.



### Michael Paul Williams

Michael Paul Williams is an American journalist and a regular columnist at the Richmond Times-Dispatch. Williams joined the Times-Dispatch in 1982 and became a columnist for the paper in 1992, becoming the first African American to hold this position. In 2021, Williams was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Commentary for his writing about the protest movements in Richmond in the wake of the murder of George Floyd, leading to the removal of many Confederate monuments.

Williams is a graduate of Virginia Union University in Richmond. He earned a graduate degree from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University. While at Northwestern, Williams contemplated a career in sports journalism but ultimately pursued hard news. He worked for 10 years as a news reporter at the Times-Dispatch but stated in an interview that he "did not really find my true sense of mission until I started writing opinion." From 1999 to 2000, he was Neiman Fellow at Harvard University. He has won several Virginia Press Association awards for his journalism.



## Dr. Gina Marcia Stewart



The Reverend Dr. Gina Marcia Stewart is an energetic, faithful, and loving pastor, visionary, preacher, adjunct professor, teacher, and community advocate with a heart for God, God's people, and the community. She has led the congregation of Christ Missionary Baptist Church since March 1995. She is the first African American female elected to serve

an established African American Baptist congregation in Memphis and Shelby County.

Dr. Stewart is a graduate of the University of Memphis (BBA), Trevecca Nazarene College (M.Ed-Administration and Supervision), Memphis Theological Seminary (M.Div), and the InterDenominational Center (The ITC-D.Min.). She has also attended the Harvard Divinity School Summer Leadership Institute for Church-Based Community and Economic Development. She is currently pursuing a Phd in African American Preaching and Sacred Rhetoric at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Dr. Stewart currently serves as the President of Lott Carey Foreign Missions Society and member of the National Board of the NAACP. She serves as a trustee for the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology and a Co-Convener for the Women in Ministry Conference. She is a former board member of the Advisory Board for The African American Pulpit, The National Civil Rights Museum, and

Bread for the World. Dr. Stewart is the founder of Greater Works, Inc., a non-profit organization devoted to philanthropy and ministry development. She is also a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. Her awards include but are not limited to the prestigious President's Volunteer Service Award and pin, bestowed upon her by President Joseph R. Biden in June 2021.

With skillful hands and integrity of heart, Dr. Stewart has led the congregation of CMBC to be a compassionate and caring community with a commitment to the proclamation, protest, and practice. At CMBC, the hungry are fed, the naked are clothed, and the transforming love of God touches the wounded and broken.

Dr. Stewart travels extensively, conducting workshops, revivals, and seminars. She is a woman with a heart for God and God's people.





*Congratulations*  
 CLASS OF 2022!  
 CLASS OF 2021! › CLASS OF 2020!  
 CELEBRATING  
 GOLDEN CLASSES 1970-1972!



## VUU's Top Presidential Undergraduate Graduating Seniors

VUU recognizes the academic success of our students and is highlighting VUU's top presidential scholars graduating with a 3.8 or higher. Each student received a monetary award from the First Thursday group and a special medallion for their achievements.

### Brielle Samuels

Brielle Samuels, a social work major from Trenton, New Jersey, is the Class of 2022 Valedictorian, Presidential Scholar, and on the Dean's list since freshman year. Brielle also started working as an after-school counselor at Capital Area YMCA, which led to her launching her non-profit organization, Brielle Samuels & Co, in 2020. Her organization focuses on providing resources to inner-city families.

Not only does Brielle have a heart for her community, but she also contributes to the Panther family. Brielle is currently the Alpha Eta Chapter President of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated. She also serves as the President of Destiny Daughter Incorporated and SGA Vice President of Academic Affairs and is an active member of the Social Work Club. After graduation, Brielle plans to enroll at Howard University to pursue a Master in Social Work. Some essential advice from Brielle is to "manifest the life you want to live," Samuels said. "When you surround yourself with like-minded people, you will put yourself in a position to accomplish anything."

### Salutatorian — Hayden Garcia

Hayden Garcia was born and raised in Cape Town, South Africa. He is a biology student that transferred to Virginia Union in his junior year. After graduation, Hayden plans to earn his master's degree from Virginia Union University in Data Analytics and continue playing golf for the university. Hayden is currently on the Virginia Union Golf Team. Words to live by." — Albert Einstein

### Bianca Lockamy

Bianca Lockamy, is a native of Greenville, North Carolina majoring in biology with a minor in Spanish. Her campus activities include women's basketball (captain since 2018) and 2018-19 CIAA women's basketball champion. Bianca is also a member of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC President 19-22) and the first athlete at VUU to become CIAA SAAC president at the conference level. Additionally, she serves as a member of the NCAA SAAC as an HBCU representative for All-Division II sports. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. After graduation, Bianca plans to attend nursing school, and obtain a doctorate in nursing after becoming an RN.

## Arjene Wilson

Arjene Wilson, a mathematics major from Manhattan, New York, plans to move to China to teach mathematics. Outside of school, Arjene spends her time hosting bible study on Thursdays. Arjene lives by the scripture, “She is clothed with strength and dignity and laughs without fear of the future,” Proverbs 31:25. Arjene encourages students to “find a community who cares about you mentally, physically, and spiritually,” Wilson said. “Going through college alone is tough. Find friends who can support you through this journey.”

## Dylan Snipes

Dylan Snipes, a criminal justice major from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, is no stranger to hard work. As an Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated member, he exemplifies “manly deeds, scholarship, and love for all mankind” through his career endeavors. Throughout his time as an undergraduate student, interning for the United States Department of Justice has been pivotal to his success. After graduation, Dylan plans to enroll at Villanova University to pursue a Master’s in Public Administration with a concentration in Foreign Policy and work for the Department of Justice or the Department of Defense. Some key advice from Dylan is to “put your heart and soul into everything you do,” Snipes said. “Take advantage of every opportunity.”

## Mirlaine Barden

Mirlaine Barden, a Brooklyn, New York Native, is pursuing a degree in mathematics and a minor in physics. Barden’s extracurricular activities include being a part of the university’s choir. At the age of 8, Mirlaine was adopted along with her siblings. A quote that she lives by, “The race is not given to the swift nor strong, but the victory belongs to those that endure to the end.” Mirlaine encourages students to stay the course and to trust God while doing so.

## Daejah Majette

Daejah Majette is a native of Virginia Beach, VA., and is graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology with a minor in Criminal Justice. She is a former member of the women’s XC/track and field team and a current member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, and Delta Mu Delta Honor Society. After graduation, Daejah plans to attend Baylor University to pursue a Doctorate in Psychology and become a clinical psychologist.

## VUU needs your commitment and support!

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



# Celebrating VUU's Academic Achievers

VUU Recognizes graduating students that have achieved excellence while serving the university and their communities.

## Marcia Price

Hailing from Newport News, Virginia, Marcia Price will be leaving Virginia Union University with a Master of Divinity. After graduation, Marcia says she plans to continue to help empower communities to create the political change they deserve to thrive. Currently serving as a delegate in the Virginia House of Delegates and as the Director of VA BLOC, she wants to continue her nonprofit work, which sits at the intersection of womanist theology and social justice Christian education, while training others on how to help create change.

## Lakeisha Jones

Lakeisha Jones, a native of Brooklyn, New York, is pursuing a degree in curriculum and instruction in Special Education. A member of the international honor society Kappa Delta Pi, Lakeisha is completing her Masters with straight A's and credits this accomplishment to believing in herself through the late nights after returning to her postgrad education after 14 years. After graduation, she plans to continue her employment with Richmond City Public Schools as an Instructional Compliance Coordinator. Her favorite quote is, "Everything happens for a reason and in due time. So stay positive and stay confident—you got this!"

## Shannon Gilmer

From Giles County, Virginia, Shannon Gilmer will be graduating from Virginia Union University with a Master's in Curriculum and Instruction in Special Education. One major accomplishment she will cherish from her time at VUU is completing her thesis and becoming Vice President of Kappa Delta Pi. After graduation, she hopes to move into a leadership role at the collegiate level. Currently, Shannon works with the Henrico County Public School system. Her words to live by are from Dale Partridge, "You were born with the ability to change someone's life—don't ever waste it."

## Shajuan Mason

Shajuan Mason, from Chesterfield, Virginia, is graduating from Virginia Union University's Samuel Dewitt Proctor School of Theology with a Master of Divinity. While attending STVU, she received all A's and is in the process of publishing a co-parenting book entitled *Get Over Yourself*. Her goals after graduation are to develop her nonprofit organization and assist her husband, Pastor Justin D. House, in ministry. Currently, Shajuan is an Assistant Professor in our Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice and acts as a substitute judge. Her words to live by are, "Nothing can stop God's plan from coming forth in my life."

## Anissa Loraine Bishop

Anissa L. Bishop, born in Virginia Beach, Virginia, will be leaving Virginia Union University with a Doctor of Ministry and a Master of Divinity. During her time here at Union, she's been both a Dean and Benjamin F. Bunn Scholar, scored a 4.0 GPA, and was selected for a one-on-one in-person conversation with President Lucas to share her experiences and accomplishments while working on her degrees. She has also attended a bevy of conferences on campus, such as the Samuel Dewitt Proctor Convocation, the Church Leadership Conference, and Founders Day Convocation, to name a few. After graduation, she has the dream to establish a nonprofit and publish her first book while expanding her Christian education. Her words to live come from Proverbs 3: 5-6 of the New International Version. They are, "Trust the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

## Eboni Giles

Eboni Giles, a business entrepreneurship management major, has served the VUU community in various capacities. Eboni is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated, Delta Mu Delta Business Honor Society, and Sigma Nu Tau Business Honor Society and has become Miss Virginia Union University. After graduation, Eboni plans to attend the Sidney Lewis School of Business to pursue an MBA degree in hopes of working for Dominion Energy. Eboni reminds herself that it is "not what the community can do for you; it's what you can do for the community." Eboni encourages students never to allow anyone to tell them, they can't do something. "Be the leader someone can look up to," Giles said. "Always ask questions and never be afraid to take risks."

## Amira James

Amira James, a native of Coatesville, Pennsylvania, is pursuing a degree in psychology and a minor in social work. Amira's extracurricular activities include serving as the Vice President of seven the Women's Council during my sophomore year of college in 2019-2020. She also participates as a member of the Panthers Activities Board. After graduation, Amira plans to pursue a career as a Clinical Psychologist. She would also like to get my master's and Doctorate in Clinical Psychology. Amira's favorite quote is, "If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude." – Maya Angelou. She encourages students to stay focused on what they have to do, get involved more, and step out of their comfort zone.

## Here are Some of the Spring 2022 Academic Highlights:



**74%** of students graduated Cum Laude or higher (3.0 and above).

VUU graduated the first cohort of the **Executive Master of Business Administration** and **Master of Political Science**.



Golden Classes of 1972 raised over **\$120K** and counting.

**50%** of graduates have decided to attend graduate school.



**25%** of graduates received employment earning \$60K-\$100K or more.

- **The largest number of graduates with a 4.0 or higher in the history of VUU.**
- **Arjene Wilson** graduated with a 3.84 and will be teaching in China.
- **Devin Sims** graduated with a dual degree in accounting and mathematics and has accepted employment with KPMG.
- **Enoch Rotich** graduated with a 3.89 and has accepted employment with CoStar and will attend the University of Dallas to earn a master's in artificial intelligence and machine learning.
- Delegate **Marcia Price** was the Samuel Dewitt School of Theology Valedictorian receiving a Master of Divinity degree. She serves in the Virginia House of Delegates representing the 95th district. She is now the fifth alumni to hold a seat in the Virginia general assembly.
- VUU graduated the first Master of Political Science student **Natalie Andre**.
- **Dr. Angelo Chapman**, University Pastor serving over 20 years graduated with a Doctor of Divinity degree and successfully defended his dissertation on "Coming to the Table as a Model of Community Formation for VUU and HBCUs."
- **Dr. E. Bernard Jordan**, Master Prophet, Archbishop graduated with a Doctor of Ministry degree and successfully defended his dissertation on "Prophetic Coaching Strategies for African American Church Goers for Mental Health and Hygiene."

*Congratulations to all of our graduates at VUU, job well done!*

# VUU Completes Renovation on Historic Huntley Hall

## VUU to Host Renaming Ceremony for the Historic Building

Virginia Union University is excited to announce the completion of Huntley-Lambert Hall's renovations. Students can expect to move into the building as early as January 6, 2022.

Huntley-Lambert Hall was taken offline in the summer of 2018 because of wear and tear over 125 years. The \$2.8 million budget was approved in March 2021, following the beginning of renovations in June 2021 and ending in January 2022.

The new and improved co-ed upperclassmen and the graduate building offer all single rooms, housing up to 65 students. Each room includes an upgraded bathroom, new furniture, and flooring with a wall-mounted television. Additionally, a new roof and upgraded HVAC system have been installed.

"We are excited to see Huntley open back up and the many upgrades that will create an optimal living experience for our students. Huntley has been a student favorite for years as it

holds many fond memories for many of the alumni," Housing Director Dawnyale Bundy-Hale said. "We're excited to see the new memories the Panthers will create in the coming years as we reopen Huntley with a new fresh look."

In addition to Huntley-Lambert Hall, students and faculty can expect new bathrooms and HVAC upgrades to other residence halls and other campus buildings.

"The upgraded facility will boost the morale of all who enter by the fresh, bright wall and the all-new flooring and furniture," AVP David Gordon said. "It will also increase social distancing capability and students' sanitization control of their space."

In celebration of Dominion Energy's support of the building's renovations, Virginia Union University will host a Naming ceremony and reception in July 2022. More information will be in the following months about the ceremony's specific date and time.



# VUU Receives \$1M Grant to Prepare Students for Careers in the Finance Industry

VUU has been awarded a \$1M grant from Bank of America that will allow students to gain the knowledge and experience needed to prepare for careers in finance.

This grant will launch the MORE program, which stands for **My Opportunity is Real Essential**. Through this program, students and residents of our surrounding communities will have access to financial literacy tools through mobile community outreach, financial literacy labs on campus, and mentorship.

This program is essential as it allows our community to learn the fundamentals of finance that are often not taught in the classroom. At VUU, we want to ensure that students and the community alike are thriving in and out of the classroom and can build wealth that spans generations.



**Bank of America.**



## VUU Toy Giveaway

**Virginia Union University Spreads Christmas Cheer Throughout Surrounding Community**

VUU distributed Christmas gifts to families of Gilpin Court and students who are a part of the RVA Scholars program. This partnership, fostered by VUU, is a continued effort to serve the underserved surrounding communities by establishing mentoring programs to prepare students for the future.

“Through the vision of our President, Dr. Hakim Lucas, we are planning to make sure that we put that vision of Virginia Union right in the Gilpin Court community,” said Dr. Mark James Mentoring Coordinator at VUU. “This is an opportunity for their ‘limitless future’ to become a reality by attending Virginia Union University.”

In November, VUU provided 19 families in the Gilpin Court community with \$50 Kroger gift cards for Thanksgiving. The university has been in partnership with Gilpin Court for the past six years and has provided mentorship to students for the last two years.

## New Mister and Miss VUU

Krystopher Frazier, a rising senior hailing from Motown, Detroit, MI, is a mass communications major aspiring to become a sports journalist and aspires to put the UNION back into Virginia Union University. Mister Virginia Union University Elect for the 2022-2023 academic school year.

Charm Browne is a Psychology major accompanied by a Spanish minor with aspirations to become a Sports Psychologist. She hails from the Queen City of Charlotte, North Carolina. Charm stands on the platform “LACE up for the future, “learning new things, holding ourselves accountable, changing our actions, and executing our new lessons for post-college plans.” Charm is our Miss Virginia Union University Elect for the 2022-2023 academic school year.



# Henrico County Public Schools Announces VUU's 25 Henrico Scholars

**T**hese 25 Henrico County eighth graders learned they were offered full-tuition scholarships to Virginia Union University

For 25 Henrico County Public Schools eighth graders and their families, March 17th was anything but typical. Each of the middle school students was surprised at school by a prize patrol with the news that they had been selected as “VUU Henrico Scholars.” The 25 students will receive full-tuition scholarships to Virginia Union University upon graduation from an HCPS high school in 2026.

Scholarships will cover Virginia Union University’s tuition and college-readiness support as students pursue a bachelor’s degree in an area of their choosing. Students will be responsible for room, board and fees.

During an application window in November and December, 116 students applied to be part of the program. In addition to essays and an interview, scholarship recipients were selected based on extracurricular activities; community involvement and

leadership; a minimum GPA of 2.5; a statement about their career aspirations and dreams; and letters of recommendation. The selection process also prioritized first-generation college attendees and representation from Henrico County’s five magisterial districts.

The students will gather at Virginia Union with their future classmates for a celebration March 31.

The students won’t have to wait until they arrive as college freshmen to take advantage of the program. In high school, they will:

- Be assigned a mentor throughout their high school years to help support, advise and prepare them for college.
- Take part in a weeklong college-readiness and exploration program each summer.
- Enjoy regular on-campus experiences, such as sporting and other events.
- Have access to VUU labs, classrooms, and faculty for educational and professional development.
- Connect with local business leaders in their areas of career interest.

Source: Henrico County Public Schools

## VUU HENRICO SCHOLARS RECIPIENTS:

**Brookland District:**  
**George Moody Middle School:**  
 Tiajia Randolph

**Fairfield District:**  
**Brookland Middle School:**  
 Jayla Henley  
 Kalani Curry

**Fairfield Middle School:**  
 De’Jhonae Sangster  
 Erica Higginbottom  
 Ja’Niyah Little  
 Shykayla Winston

**L. Douglas Wilder Middle School:**  
 Chad Young  
 Eon Fleming  
 Hezekiah Anderson  
 Jaden Tatem  
 Kamari Moore  
 Mikayla Mines  
 Preciana Franges  
 Riyel Waller-Butler

**Three Chopt District:**  
**Holman Middle School:**  
 Cesar Espailat Rojas

**Pocahontas Middle School:**  
 Jayla Bledsoe  
 Joshua Hanna

**Tuckahoe District:**  
**Quioccasin Middle School:**  
 Isaiah Cousins  
 Kaiden Ratay  
 Manas Malwal  
 Patrick Megaly

**Varina District:**  
**John Rolfe Middle School:**  
 Natalia Morales-Gomez  
 Osman Morales Diaz

**Virginia Virtual Academy/John Rolfe Middle School:**  
 MacKenzie Turgeon



Greetings Panther Nation,

As President of the VUU National Alumni Association, I would like to congratulate you on becoming the university's newest alumni and association member. We have an incredible and unique Panther alumni community that spans the globe. You have already survived and experienced an unusual year in history and emerged with your values and adaptability intact. You've just joined a group that values your effort and diligence. Previous alums paved the way for you and are available to support you in your future pursuits.

Virginia Union University develops community leaders, and the communities to which you will be sent will expect you to bring the skills and standards acquired throughout your college years. Hopefully, you've already mastered your fields of study, engaged in extracurricular activities, and developed tolerance and compassion through your Union friends. Of course, you will make mistakes and encounter obstacles, but your support network has just grown exponentially larger if you are ready to leverage the experience of other alumni. The world is yours to explore, and the VUU National Alumni Association is here to assist you. If you have suggestions for alumni events in your area or ways to improve communication, please let me know at [president@vuunaa.org](mailto:president@vuunaa.org) or visit our website at [www.vuunaa.org](http://www.vuunaa.org) and send your ideas.

Again, allow me to express my congratulations and appreciation for your successes and welcome you to the VUU National Alumni Association. We exist to assist one another and to learn from one another. Union's education will serve as the foundation for your achievement. You have prepared yourself to confront new obstacles with both flexibility and confidence, but some assistance from those who have come before you can smooth the route of your journey. Please maintain contact, as others will require your leadership as well.

With Panther Pride,

An' Jou C. White, President

Virginia Union University National Alumni Association



Hello Panthers and Friends,

We are so excited and thrilled that our Men's basketball program was able to compete in the CIAA Championship Game this year. You may not be able to shoot, rebound, or defend. But there is one way that you can assist our Men's Basketball program as we continue to build for the future. Consider making a fully tax-deductible donation to our Men's Basketball Program. With your gifts and support, our program can continue to thrive and compete for Championships every year.

This has been an incredible year for our Panthers. This season, Coach Butler won his 100th game as head coach as the team defeated Livingstone College on December 14, 2021. Coach Butler is the first coach since Dave Robbins to get to 100 wins at Virginia Union University. The team

also captured the Northern Division Championship this year, finishing with a conference record of 13-3 and an overall record of 23-7. Robert Osborne and Jordan Peebles were named to the 2022 All-CIAA Team. Robert

Osborne continued his great play during the tournament. He was also named to the All-CIAA Tournament Team and was named Second-Team All-American by BoxToRow at the season's end.

Jordan Peebles was selected to play in the HBCU All-Star Game, a college basketball showcase highlighting the best HBCU players in the country. This game took place during the Final Four weekend and was broadcasted on CBS.

Visit our Giving Page located on [www.vuusports.com](http://www.vuusports.com) or contact Ralph Brown via email at [rbrown@vuu.edu](mailto:rbrown@vuu.edu) or by phone at (804)257-5752.

Best,

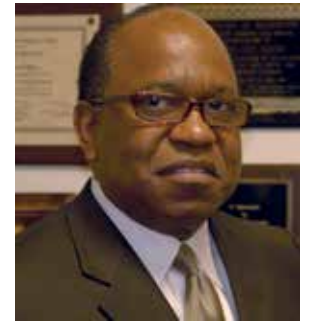
Ralph Brown

Assistant Athletic Director for Development/Marketing



## VUU Intercollegiate Athletics Honors Dr. Roland Moore

Dr. Roland Moore was honored on April 19, 2022, by Intercollegiate Athletics and Community Wellness at its annual Student-Athlete Awards Banquet. Dr. Moore received the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) Award for Greatest Supporter. Dr. Moore



is an avid supporter of Athletics; not only does he attend our Athletic events, but he offers financial support to multiple programs through purchasing season passes with his group First Thursday and donating to numerous Athletic programs.





# Join the Panther Team

## Season Tickets on Sale

Our student-athletic performers continue to succeed in the classroom and their perspective sport. We are calling on our Panther Family today to start early to ensure you can “Join the Panther Team” by securing your seat as a VUU 2022 Football Season Ticket Holder. We want to make sure you don’t miss a second of the action as we kick off the season with the Willard Bailey Classic, our first-ever Thursday Home opener on September 1, 2022.

We all LOVE UNION, so don’t miss it as we return to our annual Homecoming festivities and football game on October 8, 2022. We have five (5) home games this year, so skip the ticket line and purchase a season pass for \$100, which gives you savings of more than thirty (\$30) dollars. Football, Food, and Music equal a great time; come enjoy the Panther experience! We look forward to seeing you and your family this year at our home football games.

For more information, please contact Ralph Brown at [rebrown@vuu.edu](mailto:rebrown@vuu.edu) or phone at (804)257-5752 to purchase season passes.



# VUU's Barco-Stevens Basketball Court Gets New Equipment

In November 2021, new scoreboards and a video board were installed in the Barco-Stevens Hall. Barco-Stevens gymnasium broke ground in 1941 and was completed in 1946. Fast forward, to 1959, the gymnasium was named Barco-Stevens Hall, honoring John W. Barco and Dr. Wesley Stevens. Barco was one of the founders of the VUU Athletic Program and the CIAA, while Stevens was a math professor who taught at Virginia Union for over 50 years.

The newly installed scoreboards have a “vintage” appearance, complete with a functional sweep-second hand that rotates as the time is counted down, being the only second scoreboards of their kind in the United States; the other scoreboard is located in the Sanford Pentagon in Sioux Falls, S.D.

Additionally, new shot clocks, end-of-half neon lights around the backboards, and new locker room clocks were installed.

In 1959, Barco-Stevens Hall became the premier showplace for African-American talent. Count Basie, Lionel Hampton, William Warfield, and Etta Moten performed in the storied hall.

During the 1960s, African-American newsmakers made their way to Barco-Stevens. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Coretta Scott King, Muhammad Ali, and Jackie Robinson spoke at Barco-Stevens Hall.

In the 1970s, more dignitaries came to Barco-Stevens, including Julian Bond, Dick Gregory, and Shirley Chisholm,

the first black woman elected to the United States Congress.

In the 1980s, 1990s, and early 2000s, VUU became a basketball powerhouse in Barco-Stevens Hall.

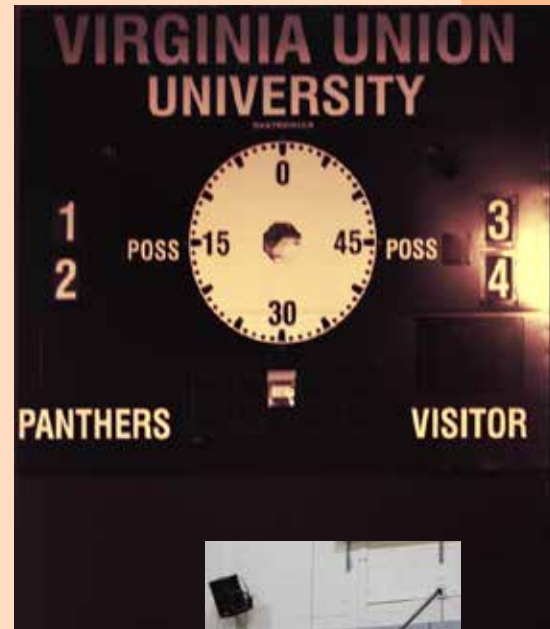
The Panthers won NCAA Championships in 1980, 1992, and 2005. The women’s basketball team won the NCAA Championship in

1983. Dave Robbins would win 713 games as head coach en route to a place in the NCAA College Basketball Hall of Fame.

From 1955 to 2019, VUU men’s and women’s basketball teams would collect 25 CIAA championships.

Although the building celebrated its 82nd birthday in 2021, the bones are still good, and much more history awaits to be written.

The scoreboards were made by Daktronics, and the installation was done by H&M Signs out of Linthicum, MD. The total cost of the boards and installation is approximately \$94,000.



# Virginia Union University Student Participates in Madden NFL 22 and HBCU Tournament

by Jim Junot, Sports Information Director, VUU

Virginia Union University's Rodney McKay, a member of the 2021 VUU Football Team, played in the Madden NFL 22 X HBCU Tournament National Championship on Saturday, February 12, in Los Angeles, California.

McKay, a former running back on the 2021 Panther Football Team, took on Eric Minor from Claflin University. The match aired on the NFL YouTube channel and the NFL Twitch channel.

"This is a great opportunity to be here," said McKay. "I'm blessed to represent Virginia Union in this amazing event."

When asked how he heard about the event, McKay didn't have a hard time deciding to participate. "I'm very good at playing video games, so when Coach Hilliard told me about it, it was a no-brainer for me to join," he said.

McKay said he played Madden NFL 22 up to "six or seven hours per day" in preparation for the National Championship but he didn't let his game-playing interfere with his schoolwork or college football. As a result, in the 2021 season, he was a great contributor to the running back rotation of the Panthers.

McKay graduated with a degree in computer information systems and is now in Graduate School at VUU studying business.

"We are very happy for Rodney McKay, one of our outstanding student-athletes," said Joe Taylor, Virginia Union University Vice-President for Intercollegiate Athletics and Community Wellness. "His commitment and dedication have afforded him an undergraduate degree and success on the football field, and the opportunity to compete on the National level in EA Sports and attend the Super Bowl are great opportunities."





**Virginia Union University**

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