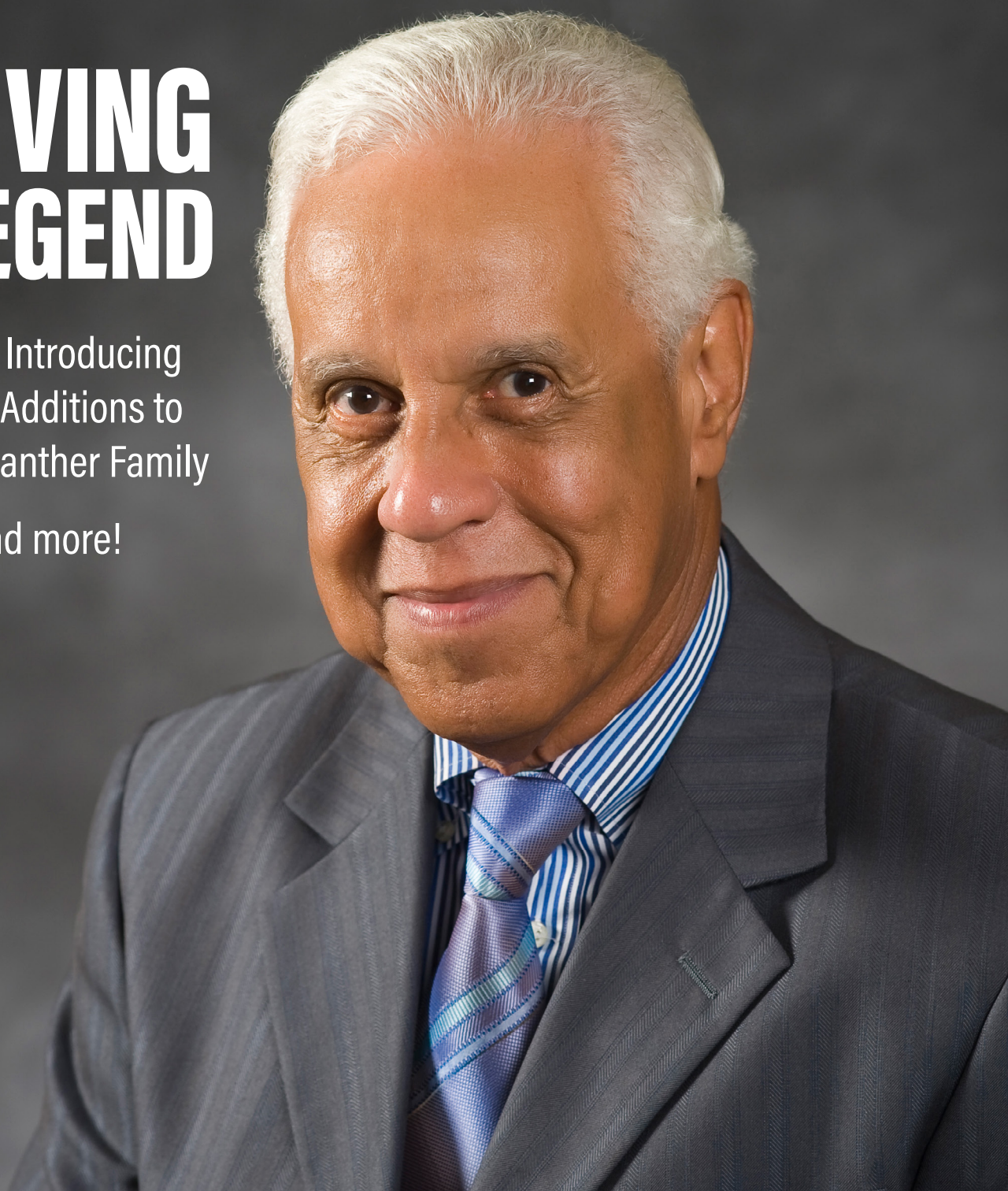


SEPTEMBER 2020 / UNIVERSITY NEWS
UNIONITE *EXPRESS*

VIRGINIA UNION UNIVERSITY

LIVING LEGEND

Also: Introducing
New Additions to
the Panther Family
... and more!





Panther Family,

Welcome to the Fall 2020 Academic Year! In an effort to improve the safety and security of the campus, we have identified methods to reinforce the [safety/protection] of the environment. Please make sure you review and adhere to the Re-Opening Plan for specific details (such as Daily wellness check, face mask required, social distancing, etc.). Visit the following link to read the Opening Plan: <https://bit.ly/2Q5LCqz>

Appointment Request Form

The Police Department is implementing an Appointment Request Form. The form is REQUIRED for all guests that enter the campus. Please complete the form when possible 24 hours before having a guest come on campus. A guest is considered anyone who comes on campus for a specific purpose that does not ordinarily have permission to do so.

<https://bit.ly/34jWEAH>

Ride Hail Pick-Up Location

The decision to create a dedicated ride-hail, pick-up, and drop-off location on campus was developed and should be adhered to by the VUU Community. If you utilize services such as an Uber or Lyft, the designated pick-up and drop off area will be at the security booth located at the Graham Road entrance. All students, faculty, or staff will be required to meet their ride-hail at the Police Security booth for pick-up or drop off. This also includes food and grocery deliveries (i.e. GrubHub, Uber Eats). Any alternatives to this are at the discretion of the Police Department.

Curfew

Effective Fall 2020, the curfew of 9:00 p.m. will be enforced for anyone that resides on campus. You will not be able to enter and exit the campus from 9:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m.

Volunteer

If you are interested in learning more about the Police Department, please e-mail us at campuspolice@vuu.edu.

Communication

You can receive updates through the following methods:

Join us on Social Media through Instagram [@VUUPolice](https://www.instagram.com/VUUPolice)

Visit our website:

<https://www.vuu.edu/about-vuu/university-police/university-police-staff>

Anonymous Tip Line:

<https://www.vuu.edu/about-vuu/university-police/vuu-anonymous-tip-line>

Yours truly,

C. Meshia Thomas

Chief of Police/Director of Public Safety
Virginia Union University

VCAAW & VCAAM

Virginia College for African American Women — Virginia Union University (VUU) has an embedded legacy of women's history. In 1932, Hartshorn Memorial College merged with VUU to become the first women's college to confer bachelor degrees in the United States. In that respect, to maintain that legacy, the Virginia Union University College of African American Women (VCAAW) was established in 2018. VCAAW serves as a platform providing every enrolled VUU woman the opportunity to form a community of empowerment and focus on essential life skills to achieve their personal and professional goals.



VCAAW is supported through the Division of Student Development and Success (SDS) that aids in facilitating student's growth over time. The Nine Noble Achievement Model is a success model used to focus on nine expectations for students to achieve within their four-year experience. VCAAW will adhere to the Nine Noble Achievements and other divisional strategies to increase retention.

VCAAW provides support structures and meaningful opportunities for participating students to connect with each other, faculty, staff, and community partners with the goal of positively influencing a VCAAW student's overall experience.

Virginia College for African American Men — In the Spring of 2016 VUU through its Division of Enrollment Management & Student Affairs launched the inaugural cohort of the Virginia Union University College for African-American Men (VCAAM). A first of its kind student support program for the university, VCAAM was conceptualized and specifically designed to support the retention, academic performance and successful persistence of the university's African-American male student population who represent approximately 40% of VUU's overall student populace. Through a targeted series of specially created programming, events, and activities, VCAAM provides support structures and meaningful opportunities for participating students (selected freshman) to connect with each other, faculty, staff, and community role models with the goal of positively impacting VCAAM students' overall university experience. The program's mission is to ensure and support VCAAM student's overall development and success academically, professionally and socially by fostering their overall growth in the following areas: Education/Retention; Leadership & Professionalism; Social/Economic Justice Awareness & Activism; Community Engagement; and Cultural Diversity & Spiritual Stability



2020

Fall Opening Convocation

VIRGINIA UNION UNIVERSITY

SEPTEMBER 24TH | 11:00 A.M.



VIRGINIA.UNION



VUU TV



GUEST SPEAKER
DR. A. ZACHARY FAISON, JR.
PRESIDENT & CEO
EDWARD WATERS COLLEGE



LIVING LEGEND

by Justin-Mychal White

From being elected as the United States first black governor in 1990 to witnessing the election of the first black president in 2008, Douglas Wilder has solidified his place in US History and has helped change the lives of millions along the way.

Virginia Union is synonymous with producing some of the most prominent leaders the world has seen to date. From Mary Lumpkins in 1865 to the VUU 34 in 1960 to grooming the nation's first black governor in 1990, to being a leading voice in the fight for social justice in 2020. For the past 155 years, VUU has quietly provided students with the foundation, education, and support for students to become change agents both locally and nationally, with L. Douglas Wilder is no exception.

As the year 2020 continues to progress, African American pioneers continue to accomplish feats that have yet to be achieved by people of color. Take General Charles Brown Jr., for example. He simultaneously became the first African American to be appointed Military Chief of Staff and to lead any branch of US Armed Forces. On the other hand, there is Jason Wright, who became the first African American to be named President of an NFL team franchise with the Washington Football Team. In addition to these distinguished gentlemen, there is California Senator Kamala Harris of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated. The first African American woman to be selected as running mate for a presidential candidate, solidifying the opportunity to be the first black Vice President in the United States.

In order for any of these occurrences to take place, a number of individuals were willing to fight for the civil liberties and justice of African Americans across the nation, with one of

the most notable being right here in Richmond, Virginia.

Going from a child who was not allowed to attend white only schools, to a man who won the 1990 election with a majority white vote, Wilder has always served as a bridge builder. A person who has consistently brought people together despite age, race, religion or any other social dividers. He is commonly described as a man of integrity, and someone who has always used his platform to fight on the behalf of others.

September 13th marks 30 years since Wilder was elected the 66th Governor of Virginia. More specifically, Wilder made history by becoming the first African American to ever hold the position in the United States of America. As we celebrate Wilder's 30th Anniversary, he was gracious enough to sit down and answer a few questions for his Alma Mater:

Q: Before going on to have a successful career as a lawyer, war veteran, and politician you were a chemistry major at Virginia Union. Can you share with me some of your most cherished moments from your time at VUU?

A: I think what I appreciate most about Virginia Union, is the professors really take time to be concerned. Mine was Dr. Dunlap Wall, he was the first African American graduate of the University of Michigan with a doctorate degree, he use to take the time to just talk to you. Dr. Henry Jarrett McQuinn, economics and sociology use to always tell us "pull yourself up by the bootstraps and lean steadfastly into the wind". Professor Jefferson, Chemistry, same thing. Professor Stevens Mathematics. It made me understand that the survival of the group depended on what we gave the people of the next

generation, based off of what we received from the previous one. My track to politics was a bit different, I knew when I came back from Korea, I had to get more involved.

Wilder's idea of being involved initially was to do it from a legal vantage point. After being honorably discharged from the Army, Wilder began his studies at Howard University School of Law graduating in 1959. Subsequently Wilder returned to Richmond and established his own practice. However, at that point Wilder had no intentions on becoming a politician but rather use his law degree to fight for the civil liberties and justice of those who felt they had little power to do so themselves.

Q: At what point did you know you wanted to get involved in politics?

A: It was relatively unconscious, in terms of knowing it. I didn't want to be in politics because I didn't want to beg for votes, and ask for money. I didn't want to run for office, but I knew I would be involved in arguing what we needed to do to make a real change. Then I realized if I didn't offer myself, I had no right to complain about who was not doing what, or what was not being done.

In 1969, Wilder entered the political realm by winning the special election for Virginia State Senate. With a background in law, Wilder is still known as one of the best legislators to ever step on the senate floor. He creating, debating, and voting on legislation, which led to the modification of existing laws, as well as created new laws entirely.

Q: Once you entered the political sphere, what was your motivation to continue for so many years?

A: My mother was the greatest source of inspiration I had. She told me if I'm going to challenge anything, I had to know the facts. She told me "Understand what it is to convey your thoughts, and don't be afraid ever, of expressing yourself, if you are right". She would say, "You must demand what is right, and criticize what is wrong."

My father was also a big inspiration to me, but he had very little to say other than to tell us what was going on with the Byrd Organization that ran Virginia during segregation and what needed to be changed.

And all of those speakers I heard at Virginia Union challenging us and encouraging us to do what we needed to do to create change. They never told us how to do it or what to do but to do something in order to change the circumstances, not only for ourselves, but for the future generations as well.

With each election, Wilder accomplished one historic achievement after another making him a key inspiration to a vast number of African Americans involved in politics. Between 1985 and 1990 the nation saw a major uptick in the number of African Americans involvement in local politics nation wide.

Q: Its no secret that you have been an inspiration to a number of aspiring politicians. What advice would you give to anyone looking to get involved with government or political affairs?

A: First, you do not have to be elected to anything, to be involved. Some of the greatest, most important positions in government are people who have never been elected. The Federal Reserve, who elects them?! Judges that sit on the bench, the superintendent. Its one thing to be called a leader, but it's another thing to lead. I've met so many young people, who are, in my judgment, more informed than our leaders. The pattern for leadership should be, "you never know enough". The key is to listen to the people you represent.

Wilder did just that throughout the entirety of his career. After the electoral districts were re-zoned in 1970, Wilder inherited a predominately-black constituency and immediately began to work on their behalf. Wilder was championed for his stance on better access to educational resources, his progressive position on pro-choice rights, and for going toe to toe with Jim Crow influenced laws on the senate floor for more than a decade. As his political trajectory ascended, Wilder would continue to have more of an impact and a further reach that affected more people, despite race. Leaving behind a noteworthy legacy.

Q: As we celebrate your 30th Anniversary, looking back to the beginning of your career, what legacy did you imagine you'd leave behind, and do you think you were able to live up to you own expectations?

A: You never reach the heights of your ambitions. I have always wanted to do more and I continue to try to do more. I wanted to be certain that my election would make a difference. Not in terms of being the first anything, but rather to do things that made a real impact. I was able to do things relative to education, I was able to do some things relative to housing, and I was able to do things for the people. I knew I could get elected once I was able to speak with the people. So despite what legacy I may have at the moment, it is far from over!

Aasiaonnia Thomas

Virginia Union would like to welcome one of its own, alumna Aasiaonnia Thomas, as the new Virtual Instructional Technologist. The 2020 graduate received her Bachelors of Science in Computer Information Systems. With a 3.92 grade point average, Thomas graduated Summa cum laude finishing in the top fifth percentile of her class. Away from her studies, Thomas was a standout on the VUU Bowling team throughout her tenure as an undergraduate student, spending her last two seasons serving as team captain. A proven leader, Thomas served in leadership roles for a number of organizations both, locally and nationally. After being inducted to the National Society of Black Engineers in 2017, Thomas was unanimously appointed to Vice President in 2018 & 2019. In addition, she serves as a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success in 2018, as well as maintaining memberships with VUU College for African American Women, VUU Honors Program, and Event coordinator for the VUU chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers. Thomas will be attending Virginia Commonwealth University in the Fall to begin her Masters of Science in Information Systems, with an anticipated graduation date of May, 2022.



James Roache

James Roache assumes the role of Transportation Coordinator for Virginia Union University. The Queens, NY native, attended John Tyler Community College and Strayer University, while offering nearly a half decade in Transportation and logistics Services. Although Roache will work primarily with the Executive Leadership Team, he will also add support, university wide, including students transport and athletic travel.



John David Bratton

John David Bratton has been a regular face at Virginia Union since performing alongside Bishop Hezekiah Walker, at President Lucas's Inaugural Concert last October. Richmond has become his home for the foreseeable future, as he will now serve as Music Professor and Director of the University Choir at VUU.

Bratton took on the responsibility of leading a delegation of choir students on a European Tour to bring in 2020. The tour hosted 16 concerts, all of which were sold out, from Dec. 7th through January 3rd.

The Benedict College alum is most notably known for his Gospel Music Catalog, which is highlighted by the hit song "Every Praise" featuring Bishop Hezekiah Walker.

In June, The choir sang background vocals for musician and composer Jose Feliciano as he debuts his new song "I'm America" live for the first time on Good Morning America.

Cleve V. Tinsley IV

Dr. Cleve V. Tinsley IV joins Virginia Union as an assistant professor of history, religion, and Africana studies. He has also been appointed as the Inaugural Director of the Center for African American History and Culture (CAAHC).

Dr. Tinsley earned his MA and PhD in religion from Rice University, where he concentrated in the study of African-American religion(s). A scholar of race, religion, and Black studies, Dr. Tinsley employs interdisciplinary theoretical and analytic strategies in research that seeks to uncover the nature and meaning of Black American identity, in the lives of African Americans today.





RE:UNION

Excellence, Reimagined.

View our 2020 Reopening plan at
www.vuu.edu/vuu-opening-plan

MAYORAL DEBATE 2020

AT VIRGINIA UNION UNIVERSITY

September 24th

MODERATORS

Governor L. Douglas Wilder
Juan Conde, WRIC Anchor



5:00pm–6:00pm

Live Broadcast on WRIC-TV8

5:00pm–7:00pm

Live Broadcast on Virtual Platforms

www.wric.com | [f Virginia.Union](https://www.facebook.com/Virginia.Union)

Join us for our chapel services!

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Saturdays at 12N EST



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**BLACK
VOTES
MATTER
FRIDAYS**

AT VIRGINIA UNION UNIVERSITY
SEPTEMBER 25 | 12 PM TO 2PM | HOVEY FIELD
POLITICAL LEADERS | MUSIC | VOTER REGISTRATION

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

