

VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS



A Vision Fulfilled

VSU Celebrates 125 Years!

From the President

What a special year for both Virginia and Virginia State University. The two must be considered together, as so much of our school's history mirrors that of the Commonwealth. With 2007 marking the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown, I quickly realized that, at 125-years-old, Virginia State University has been around for nearly a third of our state's existence.

Born in the years when the bitter taste of slavery was still on its first students' lips, this school has a rich history that is closely linked to our nation's most tumultuous period. And, just as our country overcame this great adversity and has gone on to greatness, so too has Virginia State University journeyed that same path.

In proposing to create a higher education institution for African-Americans in the aftermath of the Civil War, Alfred William Harris envisioned a school with strong black leadership that would give the newly-freed slaves the knowledge they needed to become full participants in this democracy.

The Commonwealth of Virginia – indeed our very country – would not be the nation we now know, without the story of Alfred Harris' dream: to have a place where all blacks who desired an education, could drink from the fountain of knowledge.

As we look back in celebration and admiration of those whose perseverance made this milestone possible, we see America's first, fully state supported, four-year institution of higher learning for blacks as a place of vibrant growth. With an eye toward the future, we called upon our legacy to serve as the foundation of the University's 2020 Vision Plan. Our core values remain solid. We remain committed, as were those who came before us, to ensuring a brighter future for all who desire a quality education.

Every generation of leadership here at Virginia State University has tried to make this school a better place. As the sprawling world in which we live has become a global village, that task has presented us with greater challenges. Challenges we are now moving aggressively to meet.

Yes, Virginia State has changed since its founding in 1882. Since its inception though, we have remained true to our mission of educational opportunities to all who seek it. The observance of our 125th Anniversary is symbolic of our understanding of the past and calling upon that strength to lead our institution to new heights of academic greatness. Unfazed by the challenges we endured over the years, this institution has emerged as a beacon of light that has not been extinguished, nor dimmed, but has grown ever brighter, blazing a trail toward the future.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "E. Moore, Jr." The signature is fluid and cursive.

Eddie N. Moore, Jr.
President

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Engineering Students Win Regional Competition

When he faced Goliath, there was never a doubt in David's mind about the outcome. He was confident in the power God had given him. The story of David and Goliath has been a rallying cry for underdogs ever since.

In a modern day version, where engineering replaced slingshots, a team representing Virginia State University captured first place in a competition against large research institutions such as the University of Virginia, Virginia Tech and the University of North Carolina.

This past spring, VSU students, Tariq Franklin, Darius Brooks, Joseph Johnson and Ishankumar Patel, won a regional competition sponsored by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME).

"We were ready for the competition," says Johnson, the team leader. "I don't think for a minute we second-guessed ourselves. We're just as smart as students at big schools. Besides, we put a lot of time into our design."

Teams were challenged to design a human-powered still to clean polluted water in one hour. Under the direction of Drs. Sandeep Ahuja and Robert Prins, the VSU contingent worked diligently to craft their entry.

"Joseph and I did a large part of the calculation in the fall," says Franklin. "We determined the fine details like the gear and pulley size and how many volts it would take to heat the water."

From January to March, the team worked on building the apparatus. "Dr. Ahuja provided the bike we used," says Patel. "Darius and I went on to design the bike stand. It was a lot of fun. Darius cut the metal and welded the stand. The project was hard work, but we enjoyed it."

The contest rules prohibited the use of electricity or fire to heat the water. So a primitive method had to be implemented.

"We wanted our design to be original," says Brooks. "We came up with the idea to use a bicycle to power a generator to

create electricity. That electricity would then heat an element to boil water."

The prize-winning design required more than brainpower from the group. It also required physical energy.

"The basis of the design is to use manmade energy to power the generator," laughs Johnson. "Yes, we had to ride the bike for an hour. The faster we peddled the hotter the water would get."

To prepare, we went to the fitness center and rode the exercise bike. It was a good thing we could take turns."

Their solution was judged first place. They received certificates, a trophy and a spot in the national competition in

**We Knew
We Could
Do It!**

Team leader Joseph Johnson pedals the winning VSU entry in the ASME regional competition.



NASCAR Comes to VSU

The heat and the noise leave them unmoved. With ear plugs and water in tow, Virginia State University students waste no time making their way into Richmond International Raceway (RIR). The environment is hectic and overwhelming, but the students are old pros. This is their second site visit to RIR to get a hands-on feel of what makes this \$2 billion enterprise the fastest growing sport in America. They are eager to get down to business, debating the finer points of last night's race and, of course, the crash.

Under the direction of Dr. Leon Bey and the Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Department (HPERD), Virginia State University is the first school in the nation to offer the class, Business and Marketing of NASCAR.

This was the first year HPERD offered this specialized course, designed to provide students with the inner workings of NASCAR, coupled with standard sports management and marketing practices and media analysis.

The course fits soundly with NASCAR's new, three-year diversity program.

Officials have been working hard to bring minorities into the

sport, including behind the wheel, in the front office and down pit road.

The instructor is Keith Green, Public Relations Director at RIR. He could not be happier with the students' performance, both in the classroom and on-site at the track. "Our students are phenomenal," says Green. "They hit the ground running with NASCAR and continue to impress everybody with their knowledge and enthusiasm about the sport."

The course is not all fast cars and bright lights. In the classroom, students are routinely visited by sports professionals such as Ben Hamlin of NBC-12 news and USA Today's lead motor sports writer Nate Ryan, to discuss the business and media side of the racing industry.

The success of the course has the campus buzzing with excitement. "I wasn't into anything related to NASCAR before I started this class," says Khadijah Muhammed, a senior, sports management major. "But the more I learn, the more interested I become in everything about NASCAR. It's exciting and definitely something I will keep up with after the class is over."

Our students are on the fast track to becoming true NASCAR enthusiasts. See you at the race!



NASCAR official Kenneth Scott (l) discusses the sport with senior, sports management major Frederick Custis as part of VSU's Business and Marketing of NASCAR class.

Seattle in November. Less tangible, but perhaps as satisfactory to the win were bragging rights.

"Our hard work is validated with this win," says Brooks. "We proved what we knew all along—that we are just as good as anyone else. Now we can brag a little about it."

Another VSU student, Shelton Tate, won a poster competition that depicted the performance from a diesel engine operated on biodiesel fuel.

For Johnson, it doesn't stop there. "Now that outsiders know we are contenders, we hope our classmates recognize it too. We have to believe in ourselves before anyone else will."

Virginia State University is in the final construction stages of a new, \$20 million, three-story, 77,000-square-foot engineering building. According to Dr. Keith Williamson, chair of the engineering and technology department, the ASME is icing on the cake.

"There is a lot to be proud of," Williamson says. "We have intelligent students who work hard and enjoy learning. They are truly passionate about this field. I love their energy and dedication to learning. They worked hard for this win."

What everyone can learn from the story of VSU versus the Goliaths is that a school's best resource isn't reputation, accolades or even money; the best resource is its students.

Gen. Via Highlights Milestone Founders Day

Speaking to a Founders Day audience of nearly 800 in Anderson-Turner Auditorium, Brig. Gen. Dennis Via '80 reflected both on the importance of his alma mater, personally and among America's institutions of higher education.



Speaking of the impact of VSU on him, Via recounted that he met the most important person in his life, his wife Linda '82, on "The Hill."

"I didn't do too many smart things there," he quipped, "but that was one."

Brig. Gen. Via recalled the man who mentored him in high school, challenging him to work toward college. "There are 1000s more Dennis Vias out there," he said. "They only want an opportunity to succeed and, as in my life, one person can make a difference."

On the occasion of VSU's 125th Anniversary, Via commended the vision of the school's founder, Alfred W. Harris.

"His was a bold vision – to many, radical," he said. "No other state had conceived, much less considered, such a notion."

He harkened to the feelings of those first students, entering college so soon after the abolition of slavery. "We can only imagine the pride, the hope, the dreams of African-Americans, when they learned of a school high above the Appomattox," he said.

Brig. Gen. Via pointed to the statistic that VSU boasts three alumni who have reached the Army rank of General – the most of any HBCU – as evidence of the University's excellence and continued relevance.

While recalling the past on this momentous anniversary, Brig. Gen. Via told his audience that work remains.

"As we honor the past, we must commit ourselves to shaping the future," he said. "We must ensure that future generations benefit from the opportunities afforded through higher education."

Brig. Gen. Via said initiatives such as the 2020 Vision Plan have put VSU "on a path to excel."

He reminded those in attendance that this excellence can only be achieved by the commitment of all with a stake in the school's continued growth.

"We all have the responsibility to take up the torch," he said. "It's evident we have much work to do. Loyal Sons and Daughters, this is our mission. This is our destiny."

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Congress, General Assembly Laud VSU's 125th Anniversary

On March 6, 2007, the exact date of Virginia State University's 125th Anniversary, Virginia Congressmen Randy Forbes and Bobby Scott stood before the United States Congress and offered resolutions in support of the University's founding.

In the Virginia General Assembly, Senator Benjamin Lambert and Representative Rosalyn Dance also



sponsored resolutions honoring VSU. Sen. Lambert and Rep. Dance were joined by many of their esteemed colleagues in presenting framed copies of the resolutions to President Moore; Board of Visitors Rector Dr. Harold T. Green, Jr.; and SGA President Wesley Harris in the chambers of both bodies.



Upward Bound Program Grant

Congressman J. Randy Forbes (VA-04) announced that Virginia State University has been awarded \$391,311 in federal grant funding from the U.S. Department of Education under the Upward Bound Program, which provides support to participants in their preparation for college entrance.

"This program offers vital opportunities and much-needed guidance for students who might not otherwise have an opportunity to attend college," Forbes said. "I'm pleased that the Department of Education has awarded funding for VSU to continue this important program."

The program provides academic and guidance services to participants in localities neighboring VSU in order to enhance participant skills and grades to succeed in pre-college performance and in higher education pursuits. VSU Upward Bound Program participants are provided tutorial services, academic, financial, personal and career counseling, and also are exposed to various cultural events. Upward Bound serves high school students from



low-income families, high school students from families in which neither parent holds a bachelor's degree, and low-income, first-generation military veterans who are preparing to enter post-secondary education.

The VSU Upward Bound Program serves the following County School Districts in Southside Virginia: Dinwiddie, Greensville, Prince George, Sussex, Surry, the Matoaca Magisterial District of Chesterfield County and the cities of Hopewell and Petersburg. For more information, visit www.vsu.edu/pages/1394.asp.

Spring 2007 Commencement



Ambassador Bridgewater Highlights “Commencement of Firsts”

In a Commencement ceremony replete with firsts, U.S. Ambassador to Ghana Pamela Bridgewater '68 reminded graduates that “to whom much is given, much is expected.”

This year’s Commencement, in which the University’s 125th Anniversary was prominently celebrated, was held for the first time at the Richmond Coliseum. More than 10,000 friends and family members joined approximately 600 graduates. The combined numbers of Spring and Fall commencements made the 2006-07 academic year one of the largest in recent VSU history, with more than 1,000 graduates.

Amb. Bridgewater drew upon her VSU experiences as the basis for her success and told the assembled that, as an alumnus, she felt a special bond with the graduates. “As a VSU graduate myself, I share your pride and joy at this memorable occasion,” she said.



As befitting her role on the world stage, Amb. Bridgewater spoke in global terms. She encouraged graduates to respect other cultures and opinions. “Borders are a thing of the past,” she said. “Realities are vastly different, but we live in a world filled with unlimited opportunities.”

She told graduates that, because they hold degrees, they are considered throughout the world as the “educational elite.” With this status, she said, comes responsibility. “Use the tools you’ve been given to empower and enlighten,” she said. “The ability to have a vision, to plan it, then to execute it, is what separates those who make a difference.”

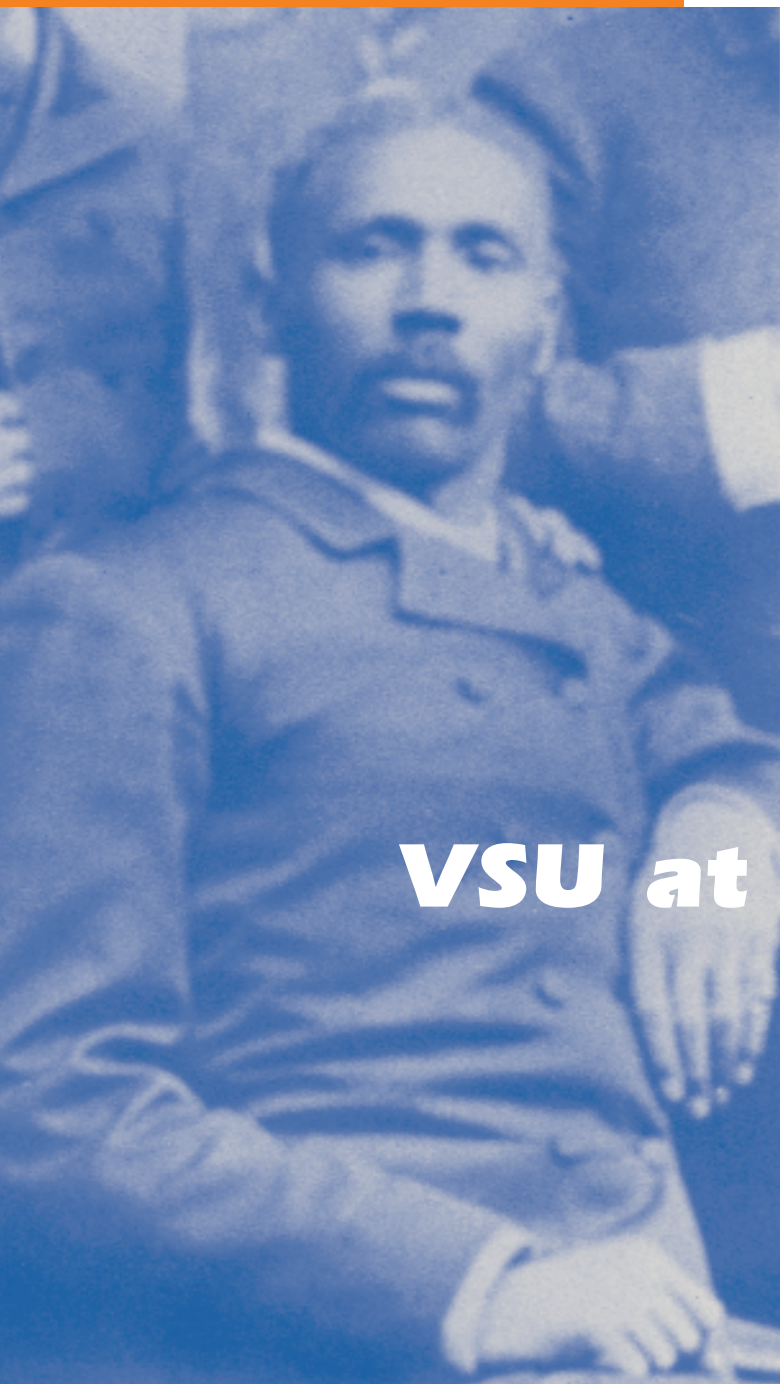
The value of a degree is increased by practicing what she called “the three ‘c’s’: civility, compassion and consideration.”

This year’s Commencement saw a number of historical firsts. The University graduated its first students in both nursing and in the sports management master’s degree program. While the first doctoral degree was awarded last fall, Spring Commencement saw many among the schools’ first doctoral cohort receive their Ph.D’s.

Also at the ceremony, VSU presented an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree to The Hon. Edward Robinson, Jr. of Philadelphia; Alumnus of the Year to Mr. Emmett Smith of Richmond; a Certificate of Merit to Dr. Raymond Griffin of Ettrick, VA; Professor Emeritus to Dr. Winfrey Clarke of Richmond; Faculty Emeritus to Mr. John Kirby of Richmond; and Friend of the University to Mrs. Brenda Dabney-Nichols of Richmond.

Spring 2007 Alumni Weekend





VSU at

It was an audacious request before a dubious group. Alfred Harris, though, knew he held the cards and the party needed him – and the votes he could bring – as much as he needed them. Now, a state hospital was one thing – the Virginia legislature could agree to this and appear compassionate – but Harris was asking for a college. Harris’ request would create a school to teach newly freed blacks the classics, science, mathematics.

125 Years:

**A Vision
Fulfilled.**

**A Vision
Renewed.**

To the surprise of many, the proposal was passed. Virginia Normal and Collegiate Institute was born. In the ensuing years, the history of this school “high above the Appomattox,” has mirrored that of the United States.

VSU at 125 Years

Through struggle and growth, stripped of its mission early on and then threatened with merger, or worse, Virginia State University has persevered in its singular mission to provide a quality education to all those who seek it.

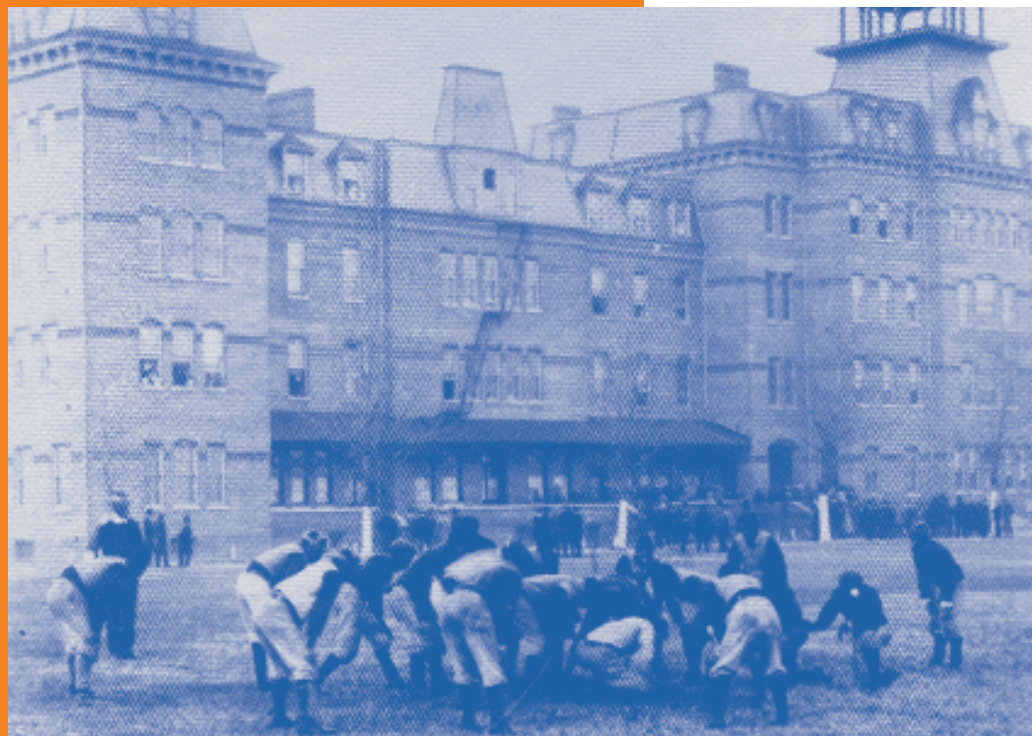
Only a few, short years after its founding, the school felt the sting of Jim Crow. Though forced to give up its college mission and bear the indignity of a name change, Virginia Normal and Industrial Institute remained an oasis for its black students - a place to which thousands came in the hope of acquiring the skills needed to uplift themselves and their race.

President John Gandy convinced the school's Board to restore the collegiate program in 1922. With the change, came another name, the Virginia State College for Negroes, which, in 1946, was shortened to Virginia State College to reflect the changing times and growing sentiment against racial segregation.

After World War II, enrollment at Virginia State College grew sharply - so fast, in fact, that it had to turn away students. The school lacked the space to house them and the faculty to teach all of the returning veterans who wanted to attend.

In the 1950s, with America at the height of the Baby Boom, Virginia State College experienced a "boom" of its own. Only this was a building boom. Under the leadership of President Robert Prentiss Daniel, Virginia State coped with the increased demand for its programs and housing by constructing several dormitories, a campus hospital, a new stadium and Foster Hall. This golden age at Virginia State College lasted well into the next decade.

As Virginia's colleges became increasingly integrated, some questioned the need for Virginia State. The school once again survived and, in 1979, reached the pinnacle of





higher education. Virginia State College became Virginia State University.

It took nearly 100 years, but the school on the hill could finally stop looking over its shoulder. While secure, VSU continued to face adversity: a series of short-term presidential administrations; questionable finances; and greater competition for students were but a few of the problems that confronted the school until the early 1990s.

It was in the last decade of the 20th Century when Virginia State University turned the corner and could look beyond the here-and-now, to plot a course for the future.

Under the leadership of President Eddie N. Moore, Jr. VSU has stabilized its finances, undertaken perhaps the second largest period of construction in the institution's history and shored up academics— by adding programs and enhancing existing disciplines through review and specialized accreditation.



As Virginia State University celebrates its 125th Anniversary, we proudly look back in awe at what our predecessors overcame, in spite of obstacle after obstacle placed before them. We also look to the future with a sense of obligation; to continue the work of Gandy, Foster, Laws and, of course, our founder, Alfred W. Harris.

It was Harris who so eloquently spoke of the need for this institution. In arguing for his school, Harris laid out his vision. The vision guides today, 125 years later, as Virginia State University plots a course for greatness on a global scale.

“We do not desire to simply become a race of teachers; we have ambitions for the different learned professions, for business, and some of us want the classical and scientific instruction which the college will give,” Harris said. “I want a place where all our blacks, girls and boys, may go and drink from the fountain of knowledge until their ambition is satiated, and then step into the world prepared as good and upright citizens to meet its responsibilities.”



125th Anniversary Gala





Continued on the back cover

Alumnus of the Year

Emmett Smith '76

More than 31 years ago, Emmett Smith received his bachelor's degree in electronic engineering. There were a total of 12 students in the School of Engineering and five in his graduating class. This past May, nearly 150 students received degrees in his discipline.

For Smith, 2007 Alumnus of the Year, the growth of his department was not only one the University celebrated, but also one that personally made him proud.

"Minorities are under-represented in science and technology fields," says Smith. "Knowing that more minorities are receiving degrees in these fields is a huge achievement."

Smith is a corporate engineering specialist for E.I. DuPont in Richmond, VA and has held several positions at the company over his 30-year career.

Upon entering Virginia State in the early 70s, Smith saw the emergence of technology and engineering jobs, which piqued his interest.

"I came in as a political science major," he recalls. "I changed to electronic engineering my sophomore year after realizing the importance of technology. I knew it would shape the world. More importantly, I recognized the need for minorities to have careers in the field."

This realization led Smith to develop educational programs for minorities, using DuPont as a resource.

"In 1997, I helped create an internship program at DuPont that would hire students from local HBCUs and train them in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) fields. The program has helped prepare 84 students since its inception. Thirty-eight of them have been VSU students." In 1995, he helped create a pre-college math and science summer program sponsored by DuPont and other companies to increase the number of high school students who will enter college with a STEM major. The program is a partnership between Richmond and Petersburg Public Schools and Virginia State University.

Smith has made preparing minorities to work in science and technology a personal mission and is overwhelmed by the progress his University is making in this area.

"Virginia State is under what I call 'visionary leadership,'" says Smith. "President Moore, the administration and faculty are truly committed to this cause. I was glad when VSU broke ground on the new engineering building and am even more excited to see it near completion."

In Smith's opinion, Virginia State is making great strides in fulfilling his mission. "We are making monumental steps in educating and preparing minorities in technology. So many changes have happened since I was a student. I don't want to say we have arrived, because we have so much work to do. We can't lose our momentum. But we can pat ourselves on the back from time to time."



ALUMNI NOTES

Viola J. Taliaferro '47 is among five Indiana University alumni named as recipients of the 2007 Distinguished Alumni Service Award.



The award is the university's highest honor reserved solely for IU alumni and provides recognition for outstanding career achievements and significant contributions benefiting the recipient's community, state and nation or IU.

A passionate advocate and a wise and resolute judge, Taliaferro has devoted her life to strengthening families and protecting children. After earning a degree at Virginia State College, she began her career as a social worker and teacher. She earned her law degree from the IU School of Law-Bloomington in 1977. Taliaferro established a national reputation as an advocate for children. She served as a juvenile justice consultant to former Attorney General Janet Reno and as a member of the National Research Council on Juvenile Crime.

Ms. Genera White, '49 reached a milestone in April 2007 when she celebrated her 80th birthday. Members of the Washington, DC Chapter shared with her on this special occasion during a surprise birthday party held by her family. Ms. White is a stalwart member of the Chapter and has been an active member for over 40 years under the leadership of 15 chapter presidents.



Carl L. Perkins '54 continues to be actively involved in community service throughout Louisa County. He was recently recognized by the Louisa County Board of Supervisors for allowing his property to be used as a voting precinct for citizens of the Patrick Henry District for the past 15 years. Before that, the *Central Virginian* recognized him for heroism in the military. A detailed account of his military services appeared in a special edition, describing him as a World War II Hero.

Ceola Morton Wright '55 of Louisa has been nominated by the International Society of Poets for the 2007 Poet of the Year award. Her winning poem, entitled "Glimpses of Gladness," has been published in *Timeless Voices* by the International Library of Poetry of Owings Mills, MD. This is the second year that she has been named for this literary honor. She has also been invited to read her poem at the 2007 Poets Convention in Las Vegas.

Deloris Gregory Jordan '69, '73 was recently appointed to the Chesterfield County's Youth Services Citizen's Board. Mrs. Jordan represents the Matoaca District. The goal of the board is to serve as an advocate for the county youth and encourage measures that will enhance their quality of life.

Darnell Crewe Wise Lightbourn '70 led a 60 voice choir as part of Jamestown's 400th Anniversary celebration. Her audience included elected officials and dignitaries including James Earl Jones. Ms. Wise Lightbourn is a music educator at Jamestown Elementary School in Arlington, VA. She has been nominated twice as Teacher of the Year in the Arlington School District.



Larry E. Lewis '71, Associate Minister of First Baptist Church in Louisa, earned his Master of Divinity Degree in Ministry from Virginia Union University School of Theology in Richmond, VA in May 2007. He hopes to extend his ministry by serving as the pastor of a church.

Brig. Gen. Sheila Baxter '78 was recently inducted in the CIAA Hall of Fame. Brig. Gen. Baxter was a four-time All-CIAA team member and, in 1976, was named the CIAA Tournament Most Valuable Player. She was the first VSU woman to amass 1,000 points in a career and was named to the Muhammed Ali Women's Collegiate All-American Team. She is the first woman in the history of the U.S. Army's Medical Services Corps to achieve the rank of General (see Winter 2004 *VSU Magazine*).



Bill McGee's '78 third solo, smooth jazz CD, *Chase the Sunset*, ranked in the Top 40 among releases receiving air play on jazz stations across the country. Smooth Jazz.com says of the album "Bill McGee has done it again! *Chase The Sunset*, is another solid collection of great tunes, including five top-notch originals and seven classics from the world of R&B and Soul. Once again, Mr. McGee...has shown us that he definitely still has his jazz chops nearly 20 years later. *Chase The Sunset*...has all the right ingredients to make it a chart-topping Smooth Jazz hit." *Chase The Sunset* and McGee's previous CDs are available at www.804jazz.com.



Regina D. Walker '78 was recently awarded the 2007 Leadership Memphis Distinguished Alumnus of the Year. Ms. Walker is Senior Vice President for Community Impact at the United Way of the Mid-South.

Gracie Brooks Quarles '80 has been recognized, for the second time in three years, as the Louisa County Middle School Educator of the Year. A veteran teacher of 27 years, she continues to lead students in her Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) chapter. She

ALUMNI NOTES

recently received special recognition for six years of service on the FCCLA State STAR Events Management Team (a series of competitive events). For 2007-2008, she is serving as a FCCLA State Executive Council Adviser for one of her gifted students who under her guidance was elected as State Vice-President of STAR Events.

Nancy Wright Beasley '81 of Richmond was named by the Richmond YWCA as one of 10 Outstanding Women in Central Virginia. Beasley was named as the recipient of the award in Communications. Beasley's 30-year journalism career has spanned newspapers, magazines, columns, advertising and public relations. Her book, *Izzy's Fire*, the story of a Catholic farm family that risked their lives to save 13 Jews during the Holocaust, was a finalist for the James River Writers and Library of Virginia's People's Choice Awards.



Stefanie Pitts, '85 has opened her first of four Zero's Subs Restaurants at 10219 Southpoint Pkwy. in Fredericksburg, VA. Stefanie is Zero's Franchisee and Territorial Director for Northern Virginia; Washington, DC; and Delaware.



Eddie Bailey, Jr. '86 of Petersburg recently accepted a position as a recreational therapist at Gateway Homes.

Lacy Ward '87 is Executive Director of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Central Virginia. CASA is a nationwide nonprofit organization that offers volunteer services to the court system to help abused and neglected children. CASA of Central Virginia serves the counties of Amherst, Bedford, Campbell and Nelson and the city of Lynchburg.

Lt. Col. Willie Harris '86, '97 has been promoted to Chief of Command Information for the United States Army Reserve. He has direct oversight of the Army Reserve magazine and input to the Army Reserve website. The quarterly *Army Reserve* magazine has a readership of 100,000 subscribers.



Maj. Gen. Montague Winfield was interviewed by the *New York Times*' "The Boss" profile. "The Boss" profiles read as a first-person account of significant lessons learned in life. In Maj. Gen. Winfield's case, the story is one of leadership in the face of a crisis and conveyed the value of being an officer.



Chad Evans '96 & Derrick Rivers '97

The Bridge was one of 122 films screened at the Eighth Annual Hollywood Black Film Festival (HBFF) in Beverly Hills, CA. Evans is the film's writer and producer and Rivers is its executive producer. This is Evans' third screenplay.



LaTara Thompson Meyers, '96, '97 was recognized as "Teacher of the Year" by the D.C. Ward 7 Educational Council. This award is given based on the recommendation of the school's administration and peers. LaTara is a Business Education teacher at H.D. Woodson Senior High School in Washington, DC.



Marlon Walker '98 has been named Assistant Vice President and Program Coordinator of Supplier Diversity at KeyBank. Before his most recent appointment, Walker recruited and retained Fortune 500 companies in Northeast Ohio. Keybank is one of Diversity Inc.'s 25 Noteworthy Companies of 2006.

Danielle Williams '99 has been named Community College Liaison at Norfolk State University. She had been an event planner for Intercom Broadcasting LLC.



Rev. Angel E. White '00 of Petersburg has published *A Woman of Worth*, a book that deals with "the social, sexual and spiritual" struggles facing women. Rev. White is associate pastor at Good Shepherd Baptist Church in Petersburg and founder of Faithful Rebuilders of Eternal Excellence, or FREE. For information on her book, please contact Rev. White at (804) 733-1777 or by email at womanofworth@mail.com.

Toshiba L. Traynham '01 recently earned a Ph.D. in food science and technology from Iowa State University. Dr. Traynham completed her studies in the area of protein technology and performed a series of projects involving the use of specialty soybean flours. She works as a scientist for Kraft Foods North America in Madison, WI.

1st Lt. Dwayne E. Bowden '04 of Amelia has been awarded the Army Commendation Medal for supporting the mission of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The medal is awarded to soldiers who have distinguished themselves by acts of heroism, meritorious achievement or meritorious service.

James Cook '06 (M.Ed.) of Westmoreland County, VA was named principal at Washington District Elementary School in that county. He is a native of Westmoreland and his parents also reside there.

CHAPTER NEWS

The **Agriculture Alumni Chapter**, founded in 1981, exceeded its goal in April of reaching \$100,000 in the VSU Foundation to be distributed as scholarships to agriculture students. The results of the chapter election were: President Clinton Turner, Vice-President Michael Percy, Secretary Pamela A. Thomas-Buchanan and Treasurer Richard Booker.

More than 120 alumni and friends joined the **Baltimore-Metro Alumni Chapter** for its Annual Scholarship Fundraiser Bus Trip to the Midway Slots and Simulcast in Harrington, DE. The event supported the chapter's scholarship fund, which provides financial support to students from the Baltimore area who attend VSU.

In January 2007, the IRS recognized The Baltimore-Metro Chapter of VSU as exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

In March, the **Louisa County Chapter** sponsored its annual Black History Celebration at First Baptist Church in Louisa. Focusing on the theme "Celebrating Our Glorious Heritage," the group presented a joint Gospel concert, featuring some of Louisa's finest performers. Thanks to the excellent attendance and a long list of generous supporters, the program was both a spiritual and a financial success. All proceeds benefited the chapter's scholarship fund, which provides awards to local students who choose to attend VSU.

The **Columbia, MD Chapter** celebrated Founder's Day by recognizing one of its founding members, Christine Chambers Crable, Class of 1954. Chris, as she is known, presented an overview of her career as an educator and as the wife of an army officer whose duties yielded extensive travel. One of Chris' loves is poetry, both reading and writing. She shared several poems that are of particular significance to her and some that she had written. She has been, and continues to be, an ardent supporter of the Columbia chapter as well as the University.

The chapter was very pleased to recognize chapter member Joyce E. (Wooden) Henderson, Class of 1965, for her great support of VSU. Of particular note and pride was the work that Joyce did in the conceptualization, planning and management of the construction of University Apartments at Ettrick. It was noted that Joyce has been tapped to manage the construction of the University's new student housing project now underway.

The chapter's March meeting was particularly interesting and significant: Joyce A. (Scott) Harris, Class of 1967, presented a spectacular, intriguing and spell-binding portrayal of Harriet Tubman and her daring exploits to

bring slaves out of bondage. Joyce has perfected this characterization and is widely known for its presentation. Doris Graves McCray, Class of 1966 presented an expansive overview of the history and allied information regarding the University's 125th anniversary.

Members of the **Charles City Chapter** attended a Spring Gala sponsored by the Scholarship Committee of the St. John's Baptist Church in Charles City County in March. The gala was held in support of a rebuilding fund. The church was destroyed three years ago as a result of a fire. President Eddie N. Moore, Jr. was the keynote speaker.

The **Greater Petersburg Chapter** held its first Golden Breakfast Award Program in April. The program recognized eight VSU graduates who were 90-years-old or older who have made valuable contributions to VSU and the surrounding communities. The honorees were Roger Perry, Ernestine Batts, Willie Powell, Mary Quarles, Samuel Madden, William "Pete" Bennett, Edna Staxx and Alice Jones.

The **Washington, DC Chapter** completed yet another successful year, which included great meetings, the celebration of Virginia State University's 125th Anniversary, five successful chapter events, continued exposure of our Chapter efforts, increased active participation by our younger alumni, the University's endorsement of a new fundraising initiative and the means to provide perpetual scholarship support to our beloved Alma Mater. This year, the chapter awarded a gift of \$12,500 to the University via the Chapter's two established endowment funds. The Chapter recently held its Midnight Moonlight Cruise on the Spirit of Washington. Over 250 alumni and friends supported the event and had a great time "Partying on the Potomac." To see pictures from this event, and the other events held by the Chapter this year, please visit <http://photos.vsuadc.com>. Be on the look out for the Chapter's website coming soon.

Class Reunion: Team 1957

On Your Mark, Get Set, Go

Classmates. Friends. Teammates. All would describe the Class of 1957. They are classmates who share memories as students at Virginia State. They are friends who have kept in touch through their adult years. And, most recently, they have become teammates on a mission to raise money for their class reunion gift.

As with any team, the captains help motivate the team to success. The captains on the Class of '57 team are Shirley Alexander, Al Britt, J. Corene Elam, Robert Mills and Francis Suggs. These class coordinators worked tirelessly to push their classmates to their \$100,000 goal.



“We started our endowment during our 40th reunion year in 1997,” says Elam. “At that time, we wanted enough to start an endowment. We met that goal and raised more than the \$10,000 needed. For the 45th reunion our contributions totaled roughly \$23,000. Once we saw how well we could do, we set the bar a little higher.”

How much higher did this team set their goal? By its 50th anniversary, Team 1957 wanted to have \$100,000 in their endowment.

“I am quite competitive,” admits Alexander. “I wanted our class to do well and succeed beyond the others. That was a motivating force for me.”

This friendly competition inspired the coordinators to try every possible method to reach their classmates and express the need to give back.

“We sent letters. We blasted e-mails. We rang phones,” says Alexander. “We did it all. We were on a mission for success and we weren’t going to stop until we got there.”

According to Elam, the important elements for their success were common, attainable goals, dedicated leadership and support of the entire group.

“We set levels of giving and encouraged every classmate to give what he or she could,” says Elam. “It is important that everyone give their best. What impressed me is some people offered to give more than their pledged amount to ensure that we reached the goal.”

That sacrifice for the team helped the class raise \$11,000 beyond its goal. Their reunion gift totaled more than \$111,000 in the Class of 1957 endowment.

“It was all worthwhile,” says Mills, when thinking of the hard work he and the

other coordinators put into raising money for their 50th year anniversary gift.

“We encouraged our classmates to send in their pledges and it worked. Everyone stepped up to the plate and some went above and beyond.”

Reaching a goal is satisfying and rewarding. For this class, the competition was fun and the work was hard, but the most satisfaction came from learning the fruits of their labor.

“We put a lot of work into contacting our classmates,” admits Mills. “But it was all worthwhile when I learned that two students received scholarship money from our endowment fund.”

This class still has a mark to reach. For its 55th reunion, they plan to have \$200,000 in their endowment. This team has proven they are ready for the challenge.

“We have the second highest endowment among the classes,” Elam boasts. “The Class of 1956 did an outstanding job. We are eager to become the best and grow our endowment.”

The Trojans on Team 1957 are working hard for their alma mater. They might not stop at the goal. They may just show off and go a few steps further.

CLASS GIFTS - CHAPTER GIFTS

Class Gifts

CLASS YEAR	NEW GIFTS 07/01/06 THRU 06/14/07	ENDOWMENT STATUS (Original) 6/30/06	NEW TOTAL
1937		\$2,337.22	\$2,337.22
1939		\$1,460.00	\$1,460.00
1940	\$200.00	\$7,160.40	\$7,360.40
1941		\$8,650.00	\$8,650.00
1942		\$7,845.00	\$7,845.00
1943		\$8,760.00	\$8,760.00
1945		\$16,380.00	\$16,380.00
1946		\$12,025.00	\$12,025.00
1947	\$10,700.00	\$21,344.00	\$32,044.00
1948	\$100.00	\$35,602.40	\$35,702.40
1949		\$42,740.00	\$42,740.00
1950		\$23,437.50	\$23,437.50
1951	\$2,250.00	\$65,980.35	\$68,230.35
1952	\$19,510.00	\$50,915.00	\$70,425.00
1953		\$10,600.00	\$10,600.00
1954	\$3,000.00	\$35,850.00	\$38,850.00
1955	\$6,685.00	\$62,175.00	\$68,860.00
1956	\$1,350.00	\$225,157.09	\$226,507.09
1957	\$63,669.00	\$47,956.00	\$111,625.00
1958	\$200.00	\$2,142.59	\$2,342.59
1959	\$1,700.00	\$27,400.00	\$29,100.00
1960		\$7,802.84	\$7,802.84
1961	\$725.00	\$32,526.80	\$33,251.80
1962	\$20,692.02	\$29,823.32	\$50,515.34
1963		\$4,676.32	\$4,676.32

CLASS YEAR	NEW GIFTS 07/01/06 THRU 06/14/07	ENDOWMENT STATUS (Original) 6/30/06	NEW TOTAL
1964		\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
1965	\$575.00	\$36,423.59	\$36,998.59
1966	\$850.00	\$28,639.35	\$29,489.35
1967	\$11,050.00		\$11,050.00
1968	\$3,750.00	\$1,285.50	\$5,035.50
1970	\$10.00	\$8,047.50	\$8,057.50
1971		\$7,530.00	\$7,530.00
1972	\$5,375.00		\$5,375.00
1975		\$10,150.00	\$10,150.00
1976	\$600.00	\$7,575.00	\$8,175.00
1977	\$1,600.00	\$5,052.54	\$6,652.54
1980		\$2,140.00	\$2,140.00
1981		\$2,200.00	\$2,200.00
1982	\$9,037.50		\$9,037.50
1986			
1987			
1991		\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00
1992	\$1,650.00		\$1,650.00
1996		\$575.00	\$575.00
1997	\$375.00		\$375.00
2000		\$225.00	\$225.00
2001		\$550.00	\$550.00
2002			
TOTAL	\$165,653.52	\$903,890.31	\$1,069,543.83

Chapter Gifts

CHAPTER	NEW GIFTS 07/01/06 THRU 06/14/07	ENDOWMENT STATUS (Original)	NEW TOTAL
Agriculture Alumni	\$12,170.00	\$90,105.00	\$102,275.00
VSU Alphas	\$1,215.00	\$10,040.00	\$11,255.00
Baltimore Metro	\$2,200.00	\$11,300.00	\$13,500.00
Chicago Area		\$21,250.00	\$21,250.00
Columbia, MD		\$4,869.00	\$4,869.00
Military	\$6,375.00	\$72,145.00	\$78,520.00
Robert Hendrick			
Greater New York	\$4,500.00	\$11,790.61	\$16,290.61
Peninsula	\$1,310.00	\$13,151.00	\$14,461.00
Greater Petersburg Area	\$2,500.00	\$50,000.00	\$52,500.00
Philadelphia	\$1,150.00	\$10,300.00	\$11,450.00
Northern Virginia	\$1,750.00	\$42,500.00	\$44,250.00
Richmond	\$2,000.00	\$29,301.83	\$31,301.83
Tidewater Area	\$3,820.00	\$72,215.00	\$76,035.00
Washington DC-Metro	\$4,000.00	\$35,500.00	\$39,500.00
TOTAL	\$42,990.00	\$474,467.44	\$517,457.44

Thank you Chapters for your independent recruitment efforts and direct scholarship programs that benefit VSU students!

YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS OUR THIRD ANNUAL

"Jazz on the Hill"

Taking place Homecoming Weekend, Friday, October 26 from 7-10p.m on the front lawn of Virginia Hall. Join us under the stars as we bring back, by popular demand, James "Saxsno" Gates & Friends.

For more information go to the Alumni page at www.vsu.edu or contact the Office of Alumni Relations at alumni@vsu.edu or (804) 524-6935.

Tickets go on sale in September. Get your tickets early. Limited seating will be available. You don't want to miss it!

ATHLETICS

FOUR VSU BASKETBALL PLAYERS EARN ALL-CIAA HONORS

AVIS WYATT NAMED CIAA DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR



Four student-athletes from the Virginia state University men's and women's basketball teams have earned all-CIAA honors for their performances during the 2006-07 season.

Seniors Avis Wyatt and Michael Askew were named to the men's All-CIAA team, with Wyatt in the front court and Askew in the back court. Wyatt averaged 16.8 points and 7.3 rebounds per game this season and scored his 1,000th career point in January.

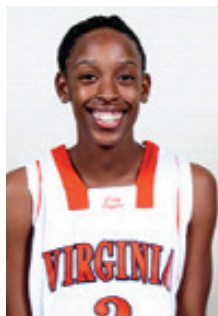
Wyatt was also named CIAA Defensive Player of the Year. He led the CIAA in blocked shots with a 3.2 block per game average.

Askew averaged 14.5 points and 5.8 rebounds per game in 2006-07. He also scored his 1,000th career point in January.



Sophomore Katania Walker of the Lady Trojans was named to the All-CIAA women's team in the back court. The 2006 CIAA Rookie of the Year averaged 14.5 point per game for VSU and scored a career-high 33 points in VSU's upset of Fayetteville State.

Freshman Trey Mines from the VSU men's basketball team rounded out the awards by being named to the CIAA All-Rookie team. The Colonial Heights, Va., native averaged 9.2 points per game for the Trojans with a high of 25 points



THREE TROJANS EARN CIAA ACADEMIC HONORS

Three Virginia State University student-athletes have been named to the CIAA Commissioner's All-Academic Team for 2007.

Mercedes Bell, a junior on the women's tennis team from Hanover, VA, was named to the First Team. Bell, a biology major, has a 3.84 grade point average and was 10-5 last season in singles matches for the Lady Trojans.

Jermaine LaFate, a senior football player, was named to the All-Academic Second Team. LaFate, who was the CIAA Scholar-Athlete of the Year in 2006, is carrying a grade point average of 3.88 in Mass Communications. LaFate, from Wilmington, DE, was an offensive lineman on the Trojans football team.

Charles Monroe, a senior infielder on the CIAA Champion VSU baseball team, earned Honorable Mention honors. Monroe helped lead the Trojans to their first-ever appearance in the NCAA Division II Baseball Tournament and was second on the team with 49 runs scored. Monroe, who is from Warsaw, Va., is majoring in accounting and carries a grade point average of 3.64.

VSU BASEBALL LANDS THREE ON ALL-CIAA SQUADS

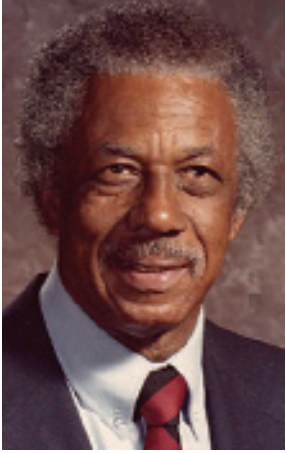
GIBSON, MONROE NAMED ALL-CIAA, HOLT NAMED ALL-ROOKIE

Virginia State University's David Gibson and Chuck Monroe were named to the 2007 All-CIAA Baseball Team, while freshman third baseman Andrew Holt was named to the 2007 CIAA All-Rookie Team, the CIAA announced on Monday.

Gibson, a sophomore pitcher from Philadelphia, Pa., registered a 1.74 earned run average in 43 innings pitched this season for the Trojans. He was named to the All-CIAA list as a left-handed pitcher.

Monroe, a senior second baseman from Warsaw, Va., tied as VSU team leader with 45 runs scored.

Holt, who hails from Colonial Heights, Va., tied for the team lead with 13 doubles and was third on the team with 43 hits. Holt made the All-Rookie Team as a third baseman.



VSU LEGEND BENNETT DIES AT 91

William M. "Pete" Bennett, a member of the Virginia State and CIAA halls of fame, died on June 7 at the Dunlop Home for Assisted Living in Colonial Heights. He was 91.

Bennett was born in Richmond and grew up in Portsmouth. He was a two-time all-state selection in football and track and field at I.C. Norcom High School. At Virginia State, he was a two-time All-America selection in both sports and was selected to play in the 1941 NFL College All-Star Game. He was a member of the Trojans' CIAA championship team in 1938 and ran a leg of the mile relay team that finished first in

the Penn Relays that year.

Bennett served in World War II and the Korean War as a member of the U.S. Army. He received his master's degree in education from Columbia University, where he met his wife, the former Katherine Howard of Elizabeth City, N.C.

After teaching and coaching at Phenix High School in Hampton, Bennett returned to Virginia State in 1953 as professor of physical education and coach of the football and track and field teams. He coached nearly 50 All-Americans in his 30-year career. He led the Trojans to 10 CIAA track championships and was named conference coach of the year five times.

His career at VSU spanned six decades.

Bennett was inducted into the CIAA Hall of Fame in 1982, the Virginia State University Hall of Fame in 1989 and the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame in 2002.

VSU'S PEGGY DAVIS NAMED CIAA ATHLETIC DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

Peggy Davis, the Athletic Director at Virginia State University, has been named the CIAA Athletic Director of the Year.

Davis, a 1985 graduate of Howard Payne University, has been the athletic director at VSU since 2003, and was the women's basketball coach before that.

During her four-year tenure as VSU's athletic director, Virginia State has seen a resurgence in its athletic program. The Trojans baseball team won the CIAA tournament this year and appeared in the NCAA Baseball Tournament for the first time in the school's history. It was VSU's 21st baseball title.

Davis also hired Anthony Collins as the head men's basketball coach two seasons ago. This year, the Trojans won 20 games for the first time since 1991 and Collins was named the CIAA Men's Basketball Coach of the Year.

Davis was also instrumental in the naming of Torrie Lashley as the women's softball coach. Under Lashley, the Lady Trojans made it to the championship game of the CIAA Softball Tournament.

Davis also hired James Hill, Jr., as head women's basketball coach, Tomorrow Lofton as Senior Woman



Administrator, Tonnie Villanes as the Trojan Compliance Officer and Jim Junot as Sports Information Director.

Under Davis, VSU's student-athletes have made great strides academically. Last season Jermaine LaFate of the VSU football team was named CIAA Men's Student-Athlete of the Year while 23 student-athletes qualified for the CIAA Commissioner's All-Academic Team this year.

VSU's student-athlete graduation rate has risen to 41% during Davis' tenure.

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

VSU Online Community Debuts

The Office of Development launched a new interactive website in July! The VSU Online Community provides alumni and friends secure access to information about other alumni, events, and relevant areas of interest from anywhere at anytime. Alumni have the ability to communicate with fellow alumni and the University, as well as create personalized web pages. Online services include email for life, secure and searchable directories, discussion groups, e-newsletters, online event registration, and advanced online giving options. Access is available from either the Alumni Relations or Development webpage at www.vsu.edu. The first 125 registrants will receive a signed, limited edition VSU 125th Anniversary poster, and a beautiful 125th Anniversary logo pin. Logon now!



Second Annual VSU Scholarship Luncheon

The feeling of gratitude means to take nothing for granted, but to always seek out and value the kind that will stand behind the action. Nothing that is done for you is a matter

of course. Everything originates in a will for the good, which is directed at you. Train yourself never to put off the word or action for the expression of gratitude.

—Dr. Albert Schweitzer

Over the past 125 years, Virginia State University has been through five name changes, 12 presidents, numerous additions to our academic offerings, exponential growth in the student body and an evolving campus landscape. However, one thing that has remained constant is the commitment to our mission: to create and sustain a vibrant academic environment that fosters life-long learning and prepares future generations of knowledgeable, perceptive and humane citizens.

Donors champion this cause through generous support and lead us to new heights of excellence. As well, our students serve as an inspiration. Their choice to

attend VSU demonstrates great confidence in this historic institution and advances the future of the University.

The above quote from humanitarian, physician and Nobel Peace Prize recipient, Dr. Albert Schweitzer expresses the sentiment conveyed to both donors and student recipients at our Second Annual Scholarship Luncheon in April. Attended by more than 60 students and over 50 donors, the Annual Luncheon is an opportunity for benefactors and recipients to meet and share their gratitude and stories.



President Eddie N. Moore, Jr. presents outgoing Board member **Dr. Daryl C. Dance** with

a replica of a plaque honoring her cumulative gift of \$50,000 to VSU. Dr. Dance is one of many donors who now have plaques throughout campus. Plaques of varying sizes, representing cumulative gifts of \$50,000 and \$100,000 hang in a place of the donor's choosing or in Foster Hall. As with Dr. Dance, donors receive a bronze replica of their plaque.

Thompson Hospitality Services, LLC Scholarship Fund

Thompson Hospitality Services, LLC has donated \$10,000 to establish a permanent general scholarship fund at Virginia State University. Thompson Hospitality/Compass Group became the food service provider for VSU on July 1, 2005. They provide food service for the faculty, staff and students in the dining halls, and in the convenience stores and vending machines on campus. They are also responsible for catering events on campus. Thompson Hospitality is committed to providing quality food and excellent service. By its generous support, Thompson has demonstrated a strong commitment to VSU students. Call the Thompson Talk Back 24-hour, 7-days-a-week customer care hotline at 1-866-TH

CARES (866-842-2737), with questions, concerns or compliments.

Rev. Christine P. Thomasson Endowed Scholarship Fund

Christine P. Thomasson received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Home Economics from Virginia State University in 1953. She enjoyed a long and distinguished career as a teacher in the Louisa County Public Schools and retired in 1987. She currently is engaged in the ministry at First Baptist Church. Rev. Thomasson generously donated \$10,000 in October 2006 to establish the Reverend Christine P. Thomasson Endowed Scholarship Fund, a permanent endowment benefiting VSU students majoring in Human Ecology.

More New Endowments 2006-07

125th Anniversary Gala Endowed Scholarship Fund – \$125,000

I. Russell Berkness, P.E. Endowed Scholarship Fund – \$10,000

William E. and Audrey W. Brooks Endowed Fund – \$10,000

Dr. Valarie K. Brown CPA Endowed Scholarship Fund – \$10,000

Viola Hopson Clark Scholarship Fund for Education – \$12,690

Arnetta Thompson Jones Endowed Scholarship Fund – \$10,000

The Lipman Foundation Endowed Scholarship Fund – \$10,000

Lucille Virginia Olds Endowment Scholarship – \$27,300

Petersburg Breakfast Rotary Club Scholarship Endowment Fund – \$20,000

Alonzo E. Short, Jr. Endowed Scholarship Fund — \$50,000

Robert and Evelyn B. Spence Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund — \$50,000

James H. & Sandra L. Starkey Endowed Scholarship — \$10,618

Ruth L. and Spencer L. Timm Endowed Scholarship Fund – \$25,000

VSU Board of Visitors Endowment Fund – \$19,500

Leon & Goldie B. Walker Endowment – \$10,004

VSU Pianist Releases Classical CD

David Shaffer-Gottschalk, professor of piano at Virginia State University, released a two-disc set of classical piano compositions titled *24 Negro Melodies, Opus 59*.

The collection is by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, an English composer and conductor of African descent who composed music at the turn of the 20th century. The music represents the first significant compositions of solo classical music to incorporate melodies from Africa and negro spirituals.

Coleridge-Taylor's collection has been under-recognized for nearly a century. However, Dr. Shaffer-Gottschalk hopes his release will draw attention to Coleridge-Taylor's important contributions to classical music.

Dr. Shaffer-Gottschalk first learned and performed the compositions of Coleridge-Taylor seven years ago. Since then, Dr. Shaffer-Gottschalk has devoted himself to helping Coleridge-Taylor's visionary work find its rightful place within the standard western musical canon alongside compositions by Beethoven, Mozart and Brahms. *24 Negro Melodies* includes 16, well-known spirituals such as *Sometimes I Feel Like A Motherless Child* and *Wade in the Water*.

"The compositions by Coleridge-Taylor are of immense historical significance in recognizing black contributions to classical music," said Dr. Shaffer-Gottschalk.

"They deserve to take their rightful place in the standard repertoire of pianists, not merely because of ethnic or historical interest, but because they represent the highest quality of piano music – artistically conceived, well written and immediately

accessible to listeners, the importance of the pieces transcends their historical work."

He hopes the CD will make Coleridge-Taylor's music more widely known and appreciated, and that other pianists will be motivated to play the composer's pieces.

The CD set costs \$21 and is available for purchase in the VSU Office of Development. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the CDs will be used to support a music endowed scholarship at VSU. For information on how to purchase the CD, call (804) 524-6986.



Tuition Assistance Fund Keeps Students in School!

Since its inception, Virginia State University has remained steadfast in its commitment to providing a quality education to all who come eager to work hard and study rigorously. At the beginning of the 2006-07 academic year, many freshmen from low-income households were provisionally accepted to VSU. The University's Administration worked diligently to raise funds for financial aid that would allow all eligible students to remain. Unfortunately, some of these students were sent home, merely for lack of resources.

You can help prevent students from being turned away this fall by giving to the 2007-2008 Tuition Assistance Fund Drive. This fund provides direct aid to help students stay in school, which is why your support is crucial to our efforts to raise \$50,000 by September 15, 2007. Every gift to the Tuition Assistance Fund, regardless of the size, is truly appreciated and will help more students achieve their dream of a college education.

Higher education remains the passport to the American Dream. At VSU, we are proud to be the vehicle that will transport our students into the future with confidence, a quality education and a sense of mission.

With your help, we can make a difference! Please give to the Tuition Assistance Fund. To make a Tuition Assistance Fund gift, please call the VSU Development Office at (804) 524-6986 or send a check to: VSU Office of Development; P.O. Box 9027; Petersburg, VA 23806

Establish an Endowment at VSU

Virginia State University encourages our Friends to secure their investment by establishing an endowment with VSU or the VSU Foundation. We are most appreciative of the abundant generosity, forethought and affection for Virginia State that is clearly demonstrated through this type of gift. Endowments provide continuous support of Virginia State University, into perpetuity.

The minimum obligation required to establish an endowed fund is \$10,000 and must be fulfilled in two years. Awards cannot be made from the endowment until it has been fully established and has earnings, after having been invested for one year. The name of the fund and the restrictions are established with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which must be approved by the VSU Board of Visitors or the VSU Foundation Board of Trustees once the minimum establishment amount has been received.

Building the University's endowments is a top priority of President Eddie N. Moore, Jr. Endowments at Virginia State University help achieve our educational mission more effectively. As well, VSU receives a dollar-for-dollar match from the Department of Education, Title III Endowment Challenge Program on any new dollars contributed to endowments.

Administrative Fee

The VSU Board of Visitors passed a resolution to authorize the application and collection of Administrative Fees on locally held University funds, as well as a one-time, set-up fee applied to gifts to endowments effective January 1, 2003. The annual administrative fee consists of 1% of the total fund balance of locally held accounts, including endowments. The one-time, set-up fee for gifts that establish or add to an endowment is 2.5% for gifts received in fiscal year 2004, and 1% for gifts received thereafter, and collected at the close of the first 12 months following receipt of the gift. All fees are collected before earnings are distributed.

For more information on Endowments at Virginia State University, please contact Joy Haliburton, Assistant VP for Development, at (804) 524-6986 or by email @ jhalibur@vsu.edu.

PLANNED GIVING

Why Write a Will?

The planning and writing of a will is both a family obligation and a personal privilege.

We live in a nation of laws. During our lifetime, different laws apply to us. When born, our birth is registered as required by law. During life, we comply with legal requirements in purchasing a home, in paying taxes, in securing a passport and in many more of life's activities. When we die, our life's passing is noted in securing a death certificate and in the probate process. In all of life's activities, the law is there.

One of the most important legal opportunities each of us faces pertains to the future ownership of our possessions. Before we die, a will, properly prepared and executed, determines who receives our estate.

In the event a will does not exist, the court or others will decide how an estate is allocated, often ignoring our important preferences. Deciding to not write a will suggests a lack of civic responsibility and is a lost opportunity to demonstrate our love to those we cherish.

Every person has the legal right to make a will. Details of a will include the naming of an executor, deciding who will serve as guardians of minor children, providing guidelines concerning their raising, determining the use of accumulated wealth and expressing gratitude for all of life's blessings by giving to the charity or charities of your choice.

Life involves many choices. The most important choices we make involve the use and disposition of what we have. This is called stewardship, the management of our resources.

Acts during a lifetime become a statement of faith. Our last act, a will, serves as a final testimony of our faith journey in life. We exercise a spiritual privilege with a will.

A bequest in your will to Virginia State University provides an ultimate gift and perpetuates your life interest and influence into the future. A bequest is a provision in one's last will and testament where a gift or property is transferred from your estate to a charitable organization. If you already have a will, a bequest to VSU can be made simply by adding a codicil that includes the following language:

I hereby give, devise and bequeath to Virginia State University...

SPECIFIC BEQUEST: the sum of \$ _____ (or, the property described as _____), or; RESIDUAL BEQUEST of assets remaining after all other bequests have been satisfied: a.) the rest, remainder, and residue of my estate, or; b.) ___% of the rest, remainder, and residue of my estate. CONTINGENT BEQUEST to take effect only if those named as primary beneficiaries predecease you: If any or all of the above-named beneficiaries do not survive me, then I hereby give the share that otherwise would be (his/hers/theirs) to Virginia State University; or GENERAL BEQUEST — the sum of \$ _____, or _____% (fractional interest) of my estate.

For additional assistance, you may want to contact an attorney. If you need an estate planning attorney, we can assist with a suggested list of professionals with whom we have worked. We can also provide helpful printed material on making a will and, if you like, supply information on additional ways to include charitable giving in your estate plans.

While you will still need to meet with a professional advisor for expert counsel, an advance meeting or two with a Development Office representative will prove useful and could save costs by helping you make the best use of your professional advisor's time. Our services are available to you with no obligation whatsoever. You may contact the Office of Development by calling (804) 524-6986 or by email develop@vsu.edu.

Caring for the disposition of your assets is too important to delay. It's important for you, for your loved ones and for your dear Alma Mater.

(PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS REPLY FORM.)

Dear VSU Planned Giving Representative,

I have already provided a bequest for Virginia State University in my will.

Please send me free literature about making a will.

Please contact me to arrange for a personal visit.

Name: _____ Class Year _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Email: _____

Mail this form to: **Planned Giving Officer, VSU- Office of Development
P.O. Box 9027, Petersburg, VA 23806**

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