

VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS



**Extension's Helping Hands
Bridge the Commonwealth**

From the Editor

In 1920, with the transfer of status from Hampton Institute, the Virginia Normal and Industrial Institute became the Commonwealth's "black" land-grant college. A decade later, the school had a new name — Virginia State College — and a new program — Cooperative Extension. In the years to follow, perhaps no component of VSU has affected more people than the university's extension mission. Today, Extension programs focus not only on small farmers, but also new home buyers; childcare providers; young leaders (through 4-H and Leadership Development); and budding, rural entrepreneurs. Hundreds of thousands of Virginians have been touched by the research and programs of VSU's Cooperative Extension program.

Alas, the program may also be one of the least recognized among those students and alumni who do not, or did not, major in agriculture. This issue of VSU Magazine strives to not only rectify this oversight, but provide a glimpse into how Extension positively impacts the economy, dignity and culture of the people and communities it serves. Inside are features on High Tunnel growing techniques that allow small, rural farmers to not only produce in-demand crops, but to carve out a market niche that other producers may not be able to fill. You'll also read about Extension's efforts to develop residential gardens in inner-city Petersburg. By providing material and moral support, the gardens offer a healthier diet, along with a dose of confidence. Lest one believe Extension's efforts are only focused locally, VSU specialists ventured more than 300 miles west, to the coalfield community of Grundy, where they developed a Folklife Festival designed to not only educate on alternative crops that could benefit a struggling economy, but to promote and celebrate the region's unique culture and way-of-life.

While the university's extension mission has served to touch countless lives, so too has VSU's primary goal of education. This year, the university graduated nearly 500 students. The assembled graduates, family and friends heard Civil Rights icon Dr. Julian Bond encourage the new alumni to find a purpose for their education. The graduates could look no further than Dr. Mildred Johnson for guidance. Her purpose has always been to return the gifts she has been given — a sentiment shared by this year's Golden Anniversary Class of 1959.

This fall promises to be one of great beginnings and bright lights. On Thursday, Oct. 15, the national spotlight will shine on Rogers Stadium as a national CBSC television audience will tune in to watch the Trojans battle rival Virginia Union. This event marks the first time VSU has appeared on a nationally televised football game. In November, new men's basketball coach George White will begin a new season and era as this year's Trojans men's and women's basketball teams challenge for CIAA championships. Both squads can already put up a huge check in the victory column, as both were cited by the CIAA for having the highest GPA among all conference schools. The conference also recognized the overall men's program as the best in the conference. As meaningful as wins on the field and court may be, graduating outstanding young men and women is the mark and mission of a championship-caliber university.

For over 127 years, Virginia State University has served its students, and the Commonwealth of Virginia, like a true champion.

Thomas Reed
Editor

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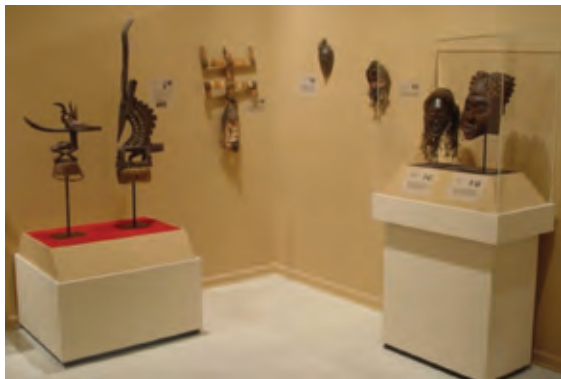
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Professor Promotes Cultural Understanding through *Art of Africa Exhibition*



For those who had never traveled to Africa, VSU art and design Associate Professor Brenda Mveng-Whitted brought portions of the continent to campus. In an effort to heighten understanding of African culture, art and history, Mveng-Whitted worked tirelessly to organize the Art of Africa: Objects from the Collection of Warren Robbins Art Exhibition to VSU.

Mveng-Whitted, the director and curator for the exhibit, made a promise to Warren Robbins, one of her former mentors, that she would bring the exhibition to VSU. Through support by a grant from the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts, Mveng-Whitted kept her word.

Unfortunately, Robbins, who had planned to attend the opening of the exhibit, passed away two months before the exhibition at the age of 85. Mveng-Whitted says the exhibition continued his legacy of bridging cultural gaps through art. Over the past two years, Robbins' Art of Africa traveling exhibition

has been viewed in museums nationwide. Virginia State University was the only historically black institution to host the exhibition.

After leaving the State Department in 1962, Robbins established an interdisciplinary educational institute, the Center for Cross Cultural Communications, out of his Washington, DC home. A year later, Robbins purchased the Washington home of abolitionist Frederick Douglas, where he opened the Museum of African Art. This was the first museum in the United States devoted exclusively to the rich, creative heritage of Africa.

During the VSU showing of the exhibit, Mveng-Whitted educated campus and off-campus viewers

VSU Website Ranked Among World's Best

An international research organization has ranked Virginia State University's (VSU) website, www.vsu.edu, among the top 15 percent in the world. VSU's global ranking of 2,376, out of more than 16,000 institutions reviewed, places the university at number 869 in the United States, among the top 42 percent in the country. VSU is the 13th highest-ranked Historically Black College or University.

President Eddie N. Moore, Jr. said the ranking represents a tangible measure of VSU's commitment to technological excellence. "This high

global ranking recognizes the importance we place on maximizing every available technology," he said, "to not only communicate with current and prospective students, but to showcase the scholarship and research that has made VSU a very highly regarded national and global institution."

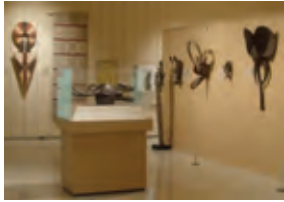
For the past two years, U.S. News & World Report has ranked VSU as the nation's top public, master's level HBCU. A measure of that publication's ranking is Faculty Resources, including available web resources.

The World Universities' Ranking on the Web is published by the Cybermetrics Lab, part of the National Research Council, the largest public research body in Spain. This rank-

ing has the largest coverage, with more than 16,000 Higher Education Institutions worldwide listed in the Directory. Web presence measures the activity and visibility of institutions and is a good indicator of the impact and prestige of universities.

Rank summarizes the global performance of a university, provides information for candidate students and scholars and reflects the commitment to the dissemination of scientific knowledge.

The World Universities' Ranking on the Web report is available at www.webometrics.info/.



about the philosophy and religious belief that serve as the foundation for traditional African art and its role in African societies.

Through the exhibition, visitors experienced the essence of the African Diaspora through traditional African artifacts, including masks, jewelry, headdresses and symbolic textiles that told stories of the unique traditions of several African countries including Cote d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Ghana, South Africa, Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Zimbabwe.

The exhibition featured 80 pieces from the private collection of Robbins, founder and former director of the National Museum of African Art, now a branch of the Smithsonian Institution, and represented the creativity and diversity of artistic expression of nearly 30 cultures in Africa.



The Trojan Explosion marching band was selected to participate in the Honda Battle of the Bands in Atlanta for the sixth consecutive year.

Virginia State University Awarded USAID-Funded Partnership in Africa-U.S. Higher Education Initiative Grant Competition

VSU to Help Build Sudan's Agricultural Sector

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and Higher Education for Development (HED) recently announced that a partnership application including Virginia State University (VSU) was selected as a winner of the Africa-U.S. Higher Education Initiative Planning Grant Competition. Nearly 300 applications were submitted for capacity-building partnerships between U.S. colleges and universities and higher education institutions in Sub-Saharan African nations. Virginia State University will be included in a partnership with Virginia Tech, the Catholic University of Sudan and the University of Juba in Sudan. The partnership will develop a plan that enhances Sudan's agricultural sector and will be funded by a planning grant from USAID of \$50,000.

"This competition is an important opportunity to build the kind of higher education capacity critical to the development of Africa," said Alonzo Fulgham, Acting Administrator of USAID. "This initiative was proposed during the Higher Education Summit for Global Development and subsequent regional summit held in Rwanda last year. We are delighted to see this effort moving forward and expect great results from these planning grants."

These paired institutions will use the grants to develop plans to address regional and national economic development priorities such as engineering, health, agriculture, environment and natural resources, science and technology, education and teacher training/preparation, and business, management and economics.

Virginia State University and the other partner institutions will use the grant to develop a plan that allows for long-term university collaboration and which builds Sudan's agricultural sector to respond to major food security needs of post-conflict Southern Sudan. In addition, the partnership will strengthen Virginia State University's commitment to internationalizing their teaching, research, and extension programs.

VSU's Logistic Technology Program

Fort Lee's expansion was the catalyst for the Virginia State University Logistics Technology Program. The Logistics Program is the only one of its kind in Virginia and one of few on the east coast. The principal focus of the program regards technological application to the supply chain in improving efficiency. The program was developed with support from Fort Lee and the Army Logistics Management College.

Initiated in fall 2008, the VSU Industrial and Logistics Technology Program is the only one of its kind in Virginia and one of few on the east coast with a principal focus on distribution systems' technological functions. Rather than the traditional supply chain program in a School of Business, the VSU

Logistics Program is a technology program located here in the School of Engineering, Science, and Technology. Offering a 120 credit Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree, the curriculum concentrates on the installation, maintenance, operation, and management of supply chain technologies. Students learn to implement technological solutions that integrate supply chain management for warehousing and transportation and current discussions include integration of SAP throughout all courses with VSU Logistics invited to participate in the SAP University Alliance.

Designed to ready graduates for careers in supply chain management, warehouse management, logistics, customer service, industrial purchasing, and project and technical management; program objectives include improving supply chain

accuracy, reliability, and customer service. Emphasized skills include project management, applications and analysis, technology, logistics integration, oral and written communication, design, and productivity management.

Approved by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV), the program will seek accreditation through the National Association for Industrial Technology (NAIT). Approximately 65 students are already participating in the new degree with enrollment projected to reach 140 by 2013. The program consists of 7 Ph.D. instructors with classes available both in-person and on-line. The objective is for 100% of the program's courses to be available over the computer. In addition, courses are available at nearby Fort Lee for soldiers and Army personnel.

Constituting a collaborative partnership with the Army, the program's origins regard the Base Closure and Realignment Commission's (BRAC) decision to significantly increase Army Quartermaster and Logistics operations at Fort Lee. In fact, the program's curriculum was developed in consultation with the Army Logistics Management College (ALMC) at Fort Lee. The program will benefit from access to Army Logistics expertise and experience; and soldiers at Fort Lee will be afforded an opportunity to pursue a B.S. degree to complement the training and instruction received through the Army. In that 100 percent of the program's courses will be available online, soldiers will be able to continue their degree irrespective of where they are transferred.

THURGOOD MARSHALL FUND HONORS ROTC PROGRAM

The Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCf) recently presented Virginia State University's Trojan Battalion ROTC program the Thurgood Marshall Outstanding ROTC Program Award. This honor is presented to ROTC Programs that embody the commitment to service and leadership inspired by the late Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall.

This distinguished honor was presented to President Eddie N. Moore Jr and Professor of Military Science LTC Jeff Garland at the TMCf's "Salute to Diversity" reception in Washington, D.C. at the GALLUP World Headquarters. The Virginia State University ROTC program received this award for exceeding its commission mission and for producing more officers than all other HBCU's in 2008.

The Thurgood Marshall College Fund acknowledges outstanding ROTC programs at its member universities each year at this ceremony.

Gardens Cultivate Produce and Spirit

As a self-professed product of the “concrete jungle of New York City,” the only vegetables Ron Thompson had seen before last year were lined up along grocery store shelves or wrapped in cellophane. Now, through a partnership of VSU’s Cooperative Extension Service; the City of Petersburg; and Pathways, a faith-based community development corporation, Thompson cultivates a backyard oasis of tomatoes, squash, peppers and other vegetables and produce at his Petersburg home.

Extension Specialist Andy Hankins secured a grant to purchase the cellular garden plots. Each plot, approximately 20’ x 10’, contains individual cells that, when filled with a growing medium, can grow a variety of produce.

Hankins and Dr. Alice Joyner, also from VSU’s School of Agriculture, approached Petersburg Mayor Annie Mickens and City Manager David Canada about how best to utilize the concept throughout the city. Hankins said the joint project filled a long-held desire within the Ag School to work with Petersburg.

“We have this Ag School, with so much to offer,” he says. “We were trying to find a way to interact with Petersburg. We really can’t talk about goats or fish, but this lets us encourage inner-city gardening.”

Mayor Mickens and Mr. Canada, both VSU alumni, pointed Hankins to Pathways. Through job training, education, youth development and other efforts, Pathways serves as a catalyst in the spiritual, social and economic revitalization of Petersburg.

According to Pathways Executive Director Dwala Ferrell, the VSU initiative fit well with the organization’s goals of self-reliance, while providing real-world experience and benefits to volunteers who helped build the gardens and to the residents who tend them.

“This fits in great with our mission,” she says. “We’re very excited about the opportunity to bring fresh, local foods to the community. It was also a good, and new, experience for our students to taste vegetables right off the vine.”

Pathways identified residents who might like a garden. VSU secured the materials and shared the labor of building the plots with Pathways volunteers. According to Ms. Ferrell, more than 120 individuals were involved with planting, tending and harvesting. More than 70 percent of the participants, she said, qualify as low-income.

In addition to building 28 gardens in residences throughout Petersburg, Hankins worked with Pathways’ Frank Brown to plant a garden on the roof of the Pathways Building. On the roof, Pathways grows tomatoes, peas, watermelon, spinach, squash, potatoes, peppers and a variety of herbs and other produce.

While very labor intensive – Hankins recalls with a wry smile the effort of hauling soil, fertilizer and the cells themselves to the roof of



building – as befits the mission of the Extension Service, he sees more far-reaching implications.

“The rooftop is ideal for this type of garden,” he says. “If we can get some irrigation and fertilization issues solved, we may be able to provide these types of gardens to other public assisted housing buildings.”

Hankins and Brown meet periodically with the local gardeners to discuss issues and share information. By-and-large, Hankins is pleased with the results. “These are some of the most productive I’ve ever seen,” he says. “Because of the cells, there are no weeds and, once you get the crops in, there’s very little work.”

Down the road, Ms. Ferrell envisions a market stocked with produce grown from these experimental gardens and run by Pathways volunteers. She sees the goal as a way to offer fresh produce to a community in which this commodity is far too rare.

Ron Thompson can attest to the difference between what’s found in the store versus what’s growing in his back yard. Far removed from the concrete jungle, he’s now an urban farmer with a veritable salad bar growing in his back yard. With pride, he gestures to the bounty laid out in tidy cells before him and says “now, when we want a salad, we just go out back and pick it.”

VSU Agricultural Department Aims to Put Farmers on Cutting Edge

Chris Mullins and Dr. Reza Rafie, Cooperative Extension specialists at Virginia State University, stroll along VSU's Randolph Farm, pointing out a startling difference between Sprite melons growing in the field and those being grown inside a high tunnel, or a hoop-house, as they're commonly known.

In the field, melons that were planted weeks ago are slowly growing, with leaves sprouting about two inches. The ones planted inside a plastic, 50-foot-long, and 20-foot-wide high tunnel constructed with metal frames are nearly ready for harvesting.

"By using the high tunnels, we are able to manipulate growing conditions," says Mullins, greenhouse manager at the Farm. "This type of structure will help put area farmers ahead of the pack."

High tunnels are unheated greenhouses that allow farmers to grow crops off-season, control growing conditions and yield more crops compared to growing them in a field. It is an important tool, Mullins and Rafie say, that will put small, Virginia farmers on the cutting edge of agriculture and give them a boost in a struggling economy. The two are experimenting in the high tunnels with raspberries, blackberries, ginger roots, guava and a few other exotic specialty fruits and vegetables that are considered niche crops with very good market potential.



Extension Specialists Chris Mullins (l) and Dr. Reza Rafie tend a high-tunnel raspberry crop at VSU's Randolph Farm.

"The important question used to be, can you grow blackberries when nobody else can grow them in the field," Rafie says. "The answer is now yes, using a high tunnel and some pruning techniques."

With Mullins and Rafie at the helm, Virginia State University's School of Agriculture has taken the lead in high tunnel work aimed at arming small, Virginia farmers with the best methods and practices that would help them maximize profit potential. They believe the resourceful farming tool will also help brand Virginia farmers.

Earlier this year, VSU hosted the Second Annual Virginia Berry Production and Marketing Conference, designed to educate farmers about production and marketing of berry crops. 250 people from all over Virginia participated.

Fruits and vegetables such as strawberries, blackberries and Sprite melons can grow in these high tunnels off season, allowing farmers the opportunity to extend their growing season and, in turn, increase their marketability.

Health benefits of many berry crops have sharply increased their market demand. According to a report by the United States Department of Agriculture, raspberries, blueberries and blackberries are among the top 10 foods with a high level of antioxidants, Rafie says.

Consequently, as the demand for berry crops increases, the use of high tunnels will increase the volume of berries farmers can grow throughout the year. While the berry season typically begins during the summer and languishes until the frosts of October, high

tunnels extend both the beginning and end of the season for months.

"We were still harvesting raspberries through the 15th of December," Rafie says. "You can't do that in the field."

He said VSU extension specialists work with growers who want to be successful at growing berries by assisting them with the production and marketing aspects of these crops and also helping them create a grower's network.

"Just like the Hanover Tomato, we want to help brand the Virginia Berry," Mullins says.

He says the use of this tool will expand production for Virginia farmers by allowing them to grow several different crops for an extended period and have a greater quantity of quality crops to market. Otherwise, he added area supermarkets and restaurants will look to purchase the crops from outside the state.

This newly discovered farming tool is becoming more popular with growers because of its simplicity, effectiveness and low cost, Rafie says.

"The nature of fresh fruits and vegetables in the market is becoming very competitive," he says. "Farmers today have to be on the cutting edge and the use of high tunnel, combined with growing crops with market demand, is one way that will help put them there."

The cost effectiveness of using a high tunnel far outweighs the use of a regular greenhouse, Mullins says. Unlike regular greenhouses, high tunnels do not require heaters and are not vulnerable to many pests and diseases typically common for growing crops in the open field.

"We work with small farmers that don't have the \$10 per square foot to construct a normal greenhouse," Mullins says, adding that farmers pay about \$3 per square foot to construct a high tunnel.

"This is appealing to a lot of growers," he says. "It's becoming an

important, inexpensive way for farmers to grow crops."

VSU extension specialists have been experimenting with the high tunnel for about three years and have worked in collaboration with agencies such as the United States Department of Agriculture.

Rafie says the innovative tool has created excitement within the agricultural community. Crops grown at VSU Randolph Farm are test marketed to area supermarkets to determine which have true market potential. The results of this marketing are shared with growers via the Cooperative Extension Educational Programs conducted at VSU.

The high tunnel-grown produce is already reaping benefits. Sales of the test marketed produce are funneled into a scholarship fund to support agriculture majors at VSU.

The important question used to be, can you grow blackberries when nobody else can grow them in the field. The answer is now yes, using a high tunnel and some pruning techniques.



Alumni on the Move to Improve Virginia's Latino Communities

The revolving door of the Commonwealth of Virginia's position of Latino Liaison has welcomed its second Virginia State University alum. Luisa Soaterna '04, was appointed by Governor Timothy Kaine in April to fill the role after Sindy Benavides '02 left the position to serve as Director of Community Outreach and Voting for the Democratic National Committee. The Governor's Latino Liaison serves as the point-of-contact between the Governor's Office and Latino communities across the state and interacts with Latino communities and organizations to ensure effective communication between the office and the state's growing Latino population.

Luisa Soaterna



When Luisa Soaterna graduated from Virginia State University in 2004 with a double major

in physics and mathematics, she had no idea the problems she would solve would be of a grassroots nature and not scientific or mathematical.

After graduating from VSU, Soaterna entered a doctoral biophysics program at Johns Hopkins University on a full scholarship. Soon after, the Colombian-borne Soaterna dove into community service work within Latino communities and at a local school. She became so enamored with this work that she left her graduate science program, and, in the summer of 2006, began teaching at a bilingual charter school in Washington, DC, where she helped

develop a math and science curriculum for a multicultural group of preschool children.

"I knew the math and science concepts but it wasn't aligned to what my heart was telling me to do," Soaterna says. "I'm that person who loves to work with people and loves to be hands-on. Although I could do research, it wasn't something that I felt would immediately help people. That's when I pursued teaching and opportunities that would allow me to work closely with other people."

Before joining the Virginia Governor's Office as its Latino Liaison, Soaterna worked in the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth where she focused on authentications and constituent services. Her work there included certifying public documents for companies wanting to establish work abroad and for Virginia families who wanted to adopt children from other countries, Soaterna says.

Now serving as the governor's eyes and ears, Soaterna says she is enjoying her new, fast-paced role, which often keeps her in the midst of dialogue involving statewide Latino issues where she rubs shoulders with grassroots organizers, elected officials and community leaders. Soaterna also serves as the Governor's representative to the Virginia Latino Advisory Board which advocates for Latino interests. According to the latest U.S. Census, Latinos makes up nearly seven percent of Virginia's population.

"My role is to serve as the contact person for the Latino community and to advise the governor on is-

sues involving the Latino community," Soaterna says. "Whenever these groups have an issue or concern, it is my responsibility to communicate that to the governor."

As a child, Soaterna witnessed the language and cultural barriers that her own parents faced after moving to the United States from Colombia. She says her parents, who she described as hard working, struggled with English upon moving to the United States.

"I can relate to a lot of what many Latinos are experiencing," Soaterna says. "I know what it was like to be undocumented and face language barriers. I had to translate for my parents at stores or at the hospital. I know what it is like to go to college and try to achieve and make yourself a better person. I know what the struggle is like."

Those life experiences mixed with her fervor to impact people's lives have equipped Soaterna with the tools to succeed in her new role, she says.

"I know that I can offer a lot to this office and to the community," she says. "I'm loving it."

Sindy Benavides



As she watched the swearing in of President Obama, Sindy Benavides, a 2003 graduate of Virginia State University

declared she would become a part of the history-making team.

And she has. Benavides recently became the Democratic National Committee's Director of Voting and Community Outreach, leaving her position as Latino Liaison in the

Coalfields Folklife Festival

In Buchanan, Wise and Dickenson counties in far-Western Virginia, coal mining remains a vital part of that region's culture and economy.

Because most of the farmers in the area operate small farms with limited resources, Virginia State University Cooperative Extension lent a hand to assist the area's underserved, rural communities celebrate the cultural heritage and natural resources of Virginia's coal mining region through a three-day Coalfields Folklife Festival.

Governor's office, a post she'd held since 2006. She continues to work under her old boss, Governor Timothy Kaine, who was named by President Obama as Chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

It has been a dream come true for Benavides to be able to oversee the community outreach efforts of the Democratic Party. Benavides, who served as the immediate past president and founder of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Council of Richmond, says people's stories, wisdom and desire to contribute to society serve as her motivation.

"We still face many challenges and have much work to do," she says, "yet I am filled with a sense of hope that as we move forward, we will continue to listen while acknowledging our heritage and tradition as a nation."

Since the region was first settled, mountains have served as a geographical barrier between the region and the outside world. In isolation, a unique Appalachian culture became established and preserved. The Coalfields Folklife Festival was organized to enlighten people about the cultural beauty of the region and to build appreciation for the vital, natural resources it harbors.

The Festival, which took place in June in the Buchanan County town of Grundy, not only celebrated the rich coal-mining tradition of the region, but also provided education on the history of coal-mining and the importance of the agriculture and logging industry to the region. The Festival was cosponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture.

Festival speakers discussed the variety of produce grown in the mountainous region, including mushroom, American ginseng, goldenseal and medicinal herbs. Participants also learned about the raising of pastured poultry and meat goats, participated in bird walks along local nature trails and hiked through the forest. A variety of local foods, stories, arts and crafts were also on hand.

"The primary goal of Cooperative Extension at Virginia State University is to serve small, part-time and limited resource farmers in Virginia," says Andy Hankins, VSU alternative agriculture extension specialist. "All of the farms in the coalfield counties are small. There are many low income landowners in this region and there is a great deal of unem-



ployment in these rural, mountain communities. It is important that VSU is actively involved in the economic development of these counties. We see tremendous potential for development of tourism in Wise, Dickenson and Buchanan Counties."

Brad Mullins, a small farmer, gave a presentation at the Festival titled, "Heirloom Vegetable Varieties Grown in the Coalfield Counties of Virginia." Mullins, whose family has been saving garden vegetable seeds every year for several generations, discussed the advantages of growing different varieties of green beans such as White Hastings, blue tip, purple tip, nickel bean, turkey crow, big greasies and little greasies.

"They taste great, have excellent disease resistance and are perfect for canning," Hankins said. "None of these open-pollinated varieties can be purchased from garden centers or from seed catalogs. Most of the gardeners in Virginia grow hybrid varieties that look fine but may not be as flavorful as these heirlooms. This is just one example of the unique cultural heritage found in these Southern mountains."

President Moore Honored in 2009 Strong Men & Women program



Dominion has named Virginia State University President Eddie N. Moore, Jr. as a 2009 honoree in the company's Strong Men & Women: Excellence in Leadership series. President Moore joins eight other notable African-American leaders as this year's honorees.

Strong Men & Women is a unique program by Dominion to provide youth with positive role models, African-American men and women whose accomplishments and determination demonstrate true excellence in leadership.

For the past 19 years, Dominion has honored the accomplishments of selected African-American role models and turned their life stories into curriculum sets that are distributed through schools and libraries during Black History Month. The *Strong Men & Women* materials provide our youth with inspiring examples of real people who have converted obstacles into opportunities and achieved leadership status in their chosen fields

VSU Responds to the Call to Replenish Food Bank

Faculty and staff in Virginia State University's School of Agriculture and Office of Human Resources recently responded to a request from the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to assist in replenishing food bank shelves with peanut butter. Food banks had been experiencing shortages due to concerns about contamination. (Pictured) Dr. Dianna Edlow, VSU family financial management extension specialist, spearheaded the humanitarian effort that resulted in 106 jars of peanut butter and 10 jars of jelly being collected and donated to the Central Virginia Food Bank. "Peanut butter is a staple because it's nutritious, protein-rich and easy to store," said Edlow. "We hope our contribution goes a long way to help families in need." VSU Photo by Paula McCapes



SPRING COMMENCEMENT 2009



BOND URGES GRADUATES TO CONTINUE FIGHTING TOWARD EQUALITY FOR ALL

Drawing upon a career as one of America's leading Civil Rights activists, Dr. Julian Bond implored VSU's 2009 graduating class to "remember the work of the nameless marchers and protesters who led the Civil Rights Movement and honor the modern founders of democracy and how they fought for equality."

Before the nearly 6,000 assembled family and friends in the Richmond Coliseum, Dr. Bond told the graduates "it is your job and responsibility to make these protections more secure." His life and mission, he said, "attests to the value of an education." Dr. Bond challenged the class to "strive to honor the promise of greater victories."

Dr. Bond, Chairman of the Board of the NAACP likened the graduates' degrees to bread, "where there are hungry minds, you can feed them." He said the value of an education is not in the degree, but what a person does with their knowledge. "When someone asks 'what did you do with your education,'" he said, "be sure you have an answer."

Also at Commencement, VSU recognized Dr. Mildred Fitzgerald Johnson as Alumnus of the Year and bestowed upon Dr. Bond an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters.



SPRING COMMENCEMENT 2009





Athletic Programs Garner Multiple Awards & Championships

The men's athletic program at Virginia State University was awarded the C.H. Williams Trophy by the CIAA. The award is presented annually to the best men's program in the conference. This is the second consecutive year the Trojans have won the award and the sixth time since the award was created in 1978.

The VSU men's and women's basketball team were honored by

the CIAA for having the highest cumulative grade point average (GPA) in the conference this past season.

The Trojan baseball team won it's third CIAA title this past season, while the men's cross-country program won the CIAA title.

The men's tennis team was second in the CIAA Tournament and the VSU golf team finished second in

the CIAA Championship. Both teams went on to the NCAA Tournament.

VSU also sent two men to the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships.

Ernest Moss was named the CIAA cross-country coach of the year while Dr. Linda Person was named the CIAA Women's Tennis Coach of the Year. James Hill was named the Women's Basketball Coach of the Year.

Virginia State University will play in front of a national television audience when CBS College Sports comes to Rogers Stadium for the football game between VSU and Virginia Union University.



The game has been moved to Thursday night, **October 15**, to accommodate the national television audience, and will be shown live on CBSC.

The Trojans will open their season on the road at Livingstone College on **August 29** and then will go to Norfolk State University for the annual Labor Day Classic on September 5.

The Trojans open the home season on **September 12** when VSU faces the Blue Tigers of Lincoln (Mo.) University.

VSU will play a total of five home games, including Elizabeth City State on **October 3**, Saint Paul's College on **October 10** and Bowie State University for Homecoming on **October 31**.

VSU has road games against Saint Augustine's College on **September 19**, Fayetteville State University on **September 26** and against Lincoln (Pa.) University on **October 24**.

2009 Football Schedule

August 29	Away	Livingstone College
September 5	Away	Norfolk State
September 12	Home	Lincoln University
September 19	Away	St. Augustine's College
September 26	Away	Fayetteville State
October 3	Home	Elizabeth City State University
October 10	Home	Saint Paul's College
October 15	Home	Virginia Union University
October 24	Away	Lincoln University
October 31	Home	Bowie State University

White Named Men's Basketball Coach

By Jim Junot

VSU Sports Information Director

George White has been selected to become the 18th head coach of the Virginia State University men's basketball team.

White comes to VSU after spending the past season as an assistant coach with the Colorado 14ers of the NBA Development League. The team recently finished with the best regular-season record in the NBA D-League, winning the Southwest Division with a 34-16 record. The 14ers then won the NBA D-League Championship, sweeping Utah in the championship series.

One of a select group of BCS Conference coaches chosen to coach annually at Fab Frosh All America Camp, the nationally prominent summer camp, White spent the previous two seasons as the Director of External Relations for the men's basketball staff at Stanford University in Stanford, California.

Possessing a significant track record in all aspects of coaching, scouting, game preparation, and player evaluation, White was also heavily involved with the marketing of the program including areas such as ticketing policy and promotion, community relations and all fundraising and cultivation of key constituents. He also oversaw the development and promotion of the Cage Club, 6th Man Club and all special events, as well as on and offline publications and initiatives.



White also coordinated interaction between the athletic and university administration and media and public relations. In addition to initiating the Career Development Program and lecturing at and assisting in the management of summer camps, he was involved with many operational aspects of the Stanford Cardinal men's basketball program.

White came to Stanford from Rider University, where he served as an assistant coach in 2005-06.

Before his stint at Rider, White spent two seasons as an assistant coach at Metropolitan State College in Denver, Colorado, helping guide the Roadrunners to a No. 1 national ranking while reaching the NCAA Division II Final Four in 2004 and Elite Eight in 2005.

White also served as the Head Coach at Ursinus College from 1995 to 2000, where he led the Bears to two consecutive playoff appearances. In his six seasons at the helm, four players scored over 1,000 career points, one earned All-America honors and all of his four-year players graduated.

While at Ursinus, White compiled a 59-86 record, taking the Bear program which was in the doldrums to two consecutive playoff appearances during his final two seasons.

White has worked with the Denver Nuggets organization as Assistant to the President and scouted college players for the team. White also possesses significant management, marketing and finance experience outside of athletics.

A 1983 graduate of Harvard, White was a four-year letterwinner for the Crimson and served as team captain during his senior year. A two-year starter, White was named Harvard's Top Defensive Player.

A native of Philadelphia, Pa., White also served as an assistant coach at St. Joseph's University.

White is married to his wife, Barbara. They have three children, Hannah, Jacob and Dalton.

Alumnus of the Year's Gifts "Keep on Giving"

Dr. Mildred Fitzgerald Johnson believes in the proverb "To whom much is given, much is required." For decades, this Virginia State University Class of 1956 graduate has poured support into her alma mater to continue the VSU legacy for those who follow in her footsteps. That commitment led VSU to name Johnson the 2009 Alumnus of the Year. Johnson received the memorable award during the 2009 Commencement celebration at the Richmond Coliseum on May 17.

Johnson has served as national alumni president, regional representative, Greater Philadelphia Area Chapter president and member of the Board of Directors for the VSU Alumni Association over the past 30 years — with the distinction of 53 uninterrupted years of active service and a life membership. She received the Philadelphia Chapter's Alumnus-of-the-Year Award in 2006.

Johnson credits her parents for hers' and her sibling's success. "Because my parents, the late Mary Price and Wilmer Fitzgerald, did not have an opportunity to get an education beyond third grade, they saw to it that their eight children received a good education," Johnson said. Johnson and four of her siblings attended Virginia State. Two of her three daughters attended VSU. Her daughter, Valerie Johnson, was crowned Miss VSU in 1988.

As the founding chair of the VSU Class of 1956 Scholarship Endowment Fund, Johnson led an effort to organize classmates and keep in contact with over 200 fellow Statesmen all over the world by newsletters, mail and phone. As a result, not only did over 100 alumni from the Class of 1956 return for their 50th Class Reunion, but also presented a check, on behalf of the class, totaling \$225,000 to VSU President Eddie N. Moore, Jr. — the largest ever class gift to the University. "Our class legacy is a gift that will keep on giving and giving," Johnson said.

In addition to her honors, Johnson spends much of her time volunteering. She is a trustee of Zion Baptist



Church in Philadelphia and founding chair of the Late Reverend Dr. Leon Howard Sullivan Humanitarian Legacy Awards program, which commissioned internationally-known sculptor Fred Kreitchet to sculpt the Sullivan Bronze Bust of Honor for Humanity in recognition of Sullivan's humanitarian efforts around the world — especially in Africa. She has traveled to 10 countries with the African-African American Summits which are held biennially in Africa. Johnson called her travels "a transforming experience everyone should have once in a lifetime."

With the support of her husband, Lonnie C. Johnson, vice president of Morehouse national alumni, Johnson said her push for excellence reaches beyond her family and into the lives of today's generation and future ones. "I believe in the Chinese proverb which states: 'If your vision is for one year, plant rice. If your vision is for 10 years, plant a tree. If your vision is for 100 years, educate the children.'"

ALUMNI NOTES

Gloria Crawford Hill '48 was presented with an appreciation plaque for more than 40 years of outstanding service as Treasurer of the Louisa County Chapter, Virginia State University Alumni Association at their annual Black History Celebration held at First Baptist Church on Sunday, March 8, 2009. The honor was conferred by Gracie Brooks Quarles (class of '80), president of the chapter.



Alveta Valentine Green '56, VSU's Alumnus of the Year in 1998, was recently elected the new president of the Tidewater

Chapter of the VSUAA. She served on the Board of Directors for the VSUAA from 1999-2001. She has served the Tidewater Chapter as vice president, president-elect, reporter and scholarship chair. She was part of the Committee of Six which launched the chapter endowment fund. She is also a Life member of the national organization.

Governor Timothy M. Kaine appointed **Judge Joel C. Cunningham '70** to the Tenth Judicial Circuit Court, serving the Counties of Appomattox, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Halifax, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg and Prince Edward. Judge Cunningham has been a General District Court Judge in the Tenth Judicial District since 1997. During his time on the court, he oversaw the development of one of the state's first docket management systems, which reduced waiting time and provided more rapid resolution.

The Virginia Education Association honored Petersburg Mayor **Annie M. Mickens '72**, a long-time math teacher and community leader in the city, with the Mary Hatwood Futrell Award for Distinguished Leadership in Education. Mickens established an in-school tutoring program, using master's degree students from Virginia State University; coordinated a summer enrichment program sponsored by VSU, DuPont and Dominion Power; helped bring The Algebra Project to Petersburg schools; and advocated for the adoption of the SAVY (Supportive Alternatives for our Valued Youth) program in the city. Mickens has also, in the past, been named Petersburg's Citizen of the Year and Educator of the Year.

Rev. William L. Lee '74 delivered the keynote address for Rocky Mount, NC's Seventh Annual Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. breakfast. Rev. Lee is in his 31st year as pastor of Loudon Avenue Christian Church in Roanoke.

Ms. Gwendolyn Howell New-some '75 retired after 28 years of service as a physicist at the Night Vision and Electronic Sensors Directorate. In recognition of her service, the Directorate presented Ms. Newsome with the Achievement Medal for Civilian Service.

The Rho Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. honored **Ms. Joyce Wilson '77** with the Distinguished Service Award for her service to education, her church, the community and the sorority. Ms. Wilson, an educator in Buckingham County, VA is active in many community boards and organizations, including the NAACP and the Buckingham Chapter of the VSU Alumni Association.

Jennifer Funn '80 was hired as Dundalk Renaissance Corporation's new Main Street Manager. Funn also owns a catering business that was featured on the CBS Early Show.



The city of Fayetteville has hired **Jeffery H. Powell '81**, who was an assistant city manager in Chesapeake, Va.,

as new assistant city

manager. Powell's career has seen him progress in municipal experience with the Virginia cities of Richmond, Roanoke and Chesapeake, the release said. He and his wife, Johnette, have four daughters.

The Brevard County (FL) school system has named **Brian Binggeli M.Ed. '89** as the district's Superintendent. Brevard County represents the 43rd largest school district in the United States.

Norfolk, VA Vice Mayor **Anthony L. Burfoot '89** BA, MA was recently hired as the city's Chief Deputy to the Treasurer.

Dr. Felicia D. Dyke '94 was recently appointed as the Director of Middle and High school instruction at the Virginia Department of Education, where she provides instructional leadership and technical assistance with all content specialists to promote quality instruction in a well-articulated educational program for Virginia's Middle and High Schools. Before her service at the Department of Education, she was a Teacher and Administrator with Newport News Public Schools and also served as an Administrator with the York County Schools.

Rev. Wayne M. Weathers '94

received his Doctorate of Ministry Degree from Lutheran Theological Seminary in May. His dissertation was entitled "The Evolution of Urban Ministries in an Urban Church: A Study of Miller Memorial Baptist Church." Rev. Weathers is the pastor of Miller Memorial Baptist Church in Philadelphia and serves on the Political Action Committee with the Black Clergy of Philadelphia and Vicinity.

Tammy L. Smalls Wright '96

and her husband, John, recently opened Anointed Body of Christ Fitness Center & Day Spa in Waldorf, MD. The goal of ABC Fitness Center is to provide a fitness center to individuals, businesses, faith-based organizations and local communities. A second location in Waldorf will be opening soon.

Rev. Dr. Osa S. Dowdy '95

received her Doctoral of Ministry Degree from the Virginia University of Lynchburg, in Lynchburg, VA in May.

Keisha Brown '98 was recently selected as the Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. She manages the agency's operations for southeastern Pennsylvania and provides oversight to 13 field offices and over 50 employees. The agency provides technical and financial assistance to farmers and ranchers for implementation of conservation practices to protect and improve soil, water, animals, plants, and air resources. Keisha has been employed by USDA for 12 years in multiple states and is currently the only African-American female with the agency in Pennsylvania.



Mancino Craig-head '00 will serve as Carlisle School's head football coach next season. Craig-head has been an assistant coach for the Chiefs' football team since the program returned two years ago from a long absence.

Patrick D. McCoy '00 recently conducted a select choral ensemble at a special Inaugural Reception held at the National Press Club in Washington, DC at the invitation of the General President of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Herman Mason, Jr. The reception was hosted by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and in celebration of President Barack Obama. Those attending included The Rev. Jesse Jackson, Judge Glenda Hatchett, Sheryl Underwood, Congressman Robert "Bobby" Scott and Congressman Chakka Fattah. Mr. McCoy is active in the local musical community, and serves as Minister of Music at Takoma Park Baptist Church. On Sunday, September 20, 2009 the Nu Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc will present McCoy in recital at Gillfield Baptist Church in Petersburg, VA.

Kenya Dawson '04 has been promoted to manufacturing engineer and area leader for Owens Corning in Waxahachie, TX.

Kristina Staples MS '05 recently earned a Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from Virginia Commonwealth University. She will be employed by Central Virginia Health Services, Inc.

Dr. Michelle Rich Belle Ed.D. '06 was appointed superintendent of Franklin City Public Schools in Franklin, VA. Dr. Belle earned the first doctoral degree in VSU's history.

Megan Brown '08 was honored as the First-Year Teacher of the Year at Glen Lea Elementary School in Henrico County. She is VSU's first, First Year Teacher of the Year.

Tiffany N Stembridge '08 was recently hired as an in-home counselor with ATIBA Youth Intervention Services in Richmond, VA.

Gloria Giles Berlack was honored by Rubicon, Inc. for 34 years of service. Rubicon is the oldest chemical dependency treatment program in the Richmond, VA area. Ms. Berlack is the supervising counselor for the outpatient program and has held several other positions with the organization.

Danielle Bridgers, a fisheries and wildlife sciences student in the Virginia Tech College of Natural Resources, has been awarded a 2009 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. Bridgers completed her undergraduate degree in biology at VSU.

Benedict College has appointed **Natalie R. Mallory** to the school's Board of Trustees. Ms. Mallory is a retired educator who served more than 35 years in the classroom and as an administrator.

The Arts Center in Orange presented a satellite gallery exhibit of paintings by artist **Lee Nixon, Jr.** in the lobby of Virginia National Bank on Main Street in Orange.



Nixon works primarily in acrylics for their versatility and compatibility with other media. His impressionist paintings reflect a need, care, and

reverence for a serene earth, and the desire to share it with the viewer through color, pattern and texture. A native of Orange County, Nixon teaches at Orange County High School.

Rev. Rick Torrance was installed as the pastor of Gethsemane Baptist Church located in St. Augustine, FL.

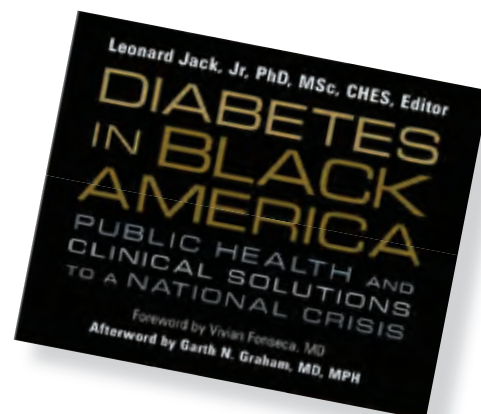
Shannon Wright launched her own campaign and joined the race to become New Jersey's governor. Her main campaign issues will be health care, education and economic development.

Dora Gilliam Wynn was named Brunswick County, VA's Assistant Superintendent. She began working for the Brunswick school system in 1969 as a teacher's aide, bus driver and substitute teacher.

VSU Alumnus edits "most comprehensive" book on diabetes among African Americans

Leonard Jack, Jr, PhD, MSc, CHES; Editor-in-Chief, Health Promotion Practice and Director, Center for Minority Health & Health Disparities: Research and Education at Xavier University of Louisiana's College of Pharmacy is Editor of *Diabetes In Black America: Public Health and Clinical Solutions to a National Health Crisis*. This book has been called "without question, the only and most comprehensively referenced scholarly-authoritative resource on diabetes in the African-American Community."

Authors contributing to the book are among the elite in medicine (endocrinology, urology, oral health, primary care, etc.), nursing, public health (e.g., epidemiology, behavioral and community health, health education, health policy), psychology, social work and education. Dr. Vivian Fonseca, Editor of the American Diabetes Association's Journal, *Diabetes Care* wrote the book's forward. Dr. Garth Graham, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health, Office of



Minority Health, U.S. Health and Human Services, contributed the book's afterword.

The book is published by Hilton Publishing, a company dedicated to improving the health and well-being of minority populations. Hilton provides detailed information regarding the book on its website, www.hiltonpub.com (from the homepage, click: "Shop Publications"). Visitors may purchase the book from the Hilton website in advance of its release. The book is also available for pre-sale on Amazon.com and elsewhere.

Trojan Pride Knows No Boundaries!

MAJ Charles Gatling '94, Support Operations Officer with the 299th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat, 1st Infantry Division displayed his Trojan Pride by adorning the MND-B dining facility in Baghdad, Iraq with a VSU banner.

Maj. Gatling wanted to show others in this theater of operations that a great institution, Virginia State University, has representatives in theater supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom and the global war on terror. "I could not let State go unrepresented," he said, "because it deserves to have its flag flown with any other university being represented in a combat theater.



VSUAA CHAPTER NEWS

Dear Trojan Alums,

VSU is looking for Class Coordinators for the years of 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, and 2005. If you graduated in one of these years and are interested in helping VSU reach its goals and reconnecting your classmates, please contact the VSU Office of Alumni Relations at 804-524-6935 or alumni@vsu.edu .



PENINSULA CHAPTER

VSUAA National President, Charlyne Jackson-Fields was guest speaker at the Peninsula Chapter's May breakfast meeting. Members were inspired and motivated to do more for Virginia State University based upon the presentation by Mrs. Jackson-Fields.



LOUISA CHAPTER

The Louisa County Chapter held its annual Black History Celebration at First Baptist Church in March. Highlights of the program included a presentation of an appreciation plaque to Gloria Crawford Hill '48, for more than 40 years of outstanding service as Treasurer and the presentation small monetary gifts to the 10 Louisa County students enrolled at VSU. The honors were conferred by Gracie Brooks Quarles '80, president of the chapter. The program raised over \$1,400 for scholarships to Louisa County students attending Virginia State University.

The Louisa County Chapter was selected to receive the Small Chapter of the Year Award at the 2008 and 2009 VSUAA Annual Meetings.



HANOVER CHAPTER

Almost 200 guests attended the Hanover Chapter's Annual Fellowship Banquet in April. Dr. Robert Bracey, III, Chapter President, presented a check for \$5,000 to Andrea C. Tatum, Director of Alumni Relations, as the chapter's initial donation toward the establishment of the Chapter's endowment in the VSU Foundation. In addition to the endowment fund contribution, the Chapter awarded three scholarships to students from Hanover, Henrico and King William counties, who plan to attend Virginia State. The recipients of the 2009 Scholarships were recognized during the banquet. They are Ebony R. Barclift, Philip C. Berry and Ayeshah E. Ameen.

Golden Anniversary Class Exceeds Challenge

By January 2009, Virginia State University Class of 1959 had already raised \$55,000, exceeding VSU's class goals of \$50,000.

But Dr. Ada M. Elam and the Class of 1959 Reunion Committee were just beginning.

"We sent a letter in January stating that we needed a real push to reach our real goal of \$100,000. We'd set that amount to help our University and I was determined that we would get there," said Elam, who led the fundraising efforts for the Golden Anniversary Class of 1959.

The group of about 20 alumni from the Class Reunion Committee had established two goals at the start of their campaign to raise \$100,000 for their Golden Anniversary: to support the University to help it weather the tough, economic times and to facilitate a connection between classmates.

They challenged themselves to place among the top class gifts. The class of 1956 had raised \$225,000 for its Golden Anniversary gift and the Class of 1957, about \$111,600.

"We knew if we tried very hard we could exceed my sister J. Corene Elam's Class of 1957," Elam said. "We really didn't think we had a chance of beating the Class of 1956."

By March, the Reunion Committee had reached out to 88 active alumni and the amount climbed to \$70,000. Slowly, but surely, the funds crept toward the goal as more calls were placed to class members, encouraging more generosity. By May, the class had reached its \$100,000 goal and



eventually exceeded it by over \$1,000.

"We accomplished both goals, and I am so very proud of my class," said Elam, a retired educator who taught at Bowie State University, George Washington University and Campus College in Athens, Greece. "We ended up in the top three and that was a great success. Future classes should try to meet the challenge."

Elam said campus festivities during Alumni Weekend were special for her and her college friends. She said some classmates were so adamant about celebrating their Golden Anniversary that one cut short her vacation in an exotic destination.

"We wanted to come back and show our respect for a university that trained us to become good citizens of this country and gave us the foundation to pursue other degrees in all areas. We were so happy to be able to come together after 50 years and share success stories."

Elam said the experience of fellowship with friends from the past,

while simultaneously helping to expand opportunities for current and future VSU students was priceless.

"We were all so excited to be there and were very pleased with the expansion on campus," she said. "This is the institution that gave us a start and we see that VSU is upholding its reputation as being a leading institution not only among Historically Black Colleges and Universities, but all institutions of higher learning. People are still calling and sending notes about it."

The Class' theme was "Our road to success, in retrospect and in prospect"

"Back when we were younger, if VSU and others schools didn't admit us, we probably would not have gotten the education we needed," Elam said. "At that time, blacks were not given the full opportunity to obtain higher education and Virginia State University gave us the chance. We are indebted to Virginia State University. The Class of '59 is continuing the legacy by giving back and promoting education within our community."

Class Gifts

CLASS YEAR	NEW GIFTS 07/01/08 THRU 06/23/09	ENDOWMENT STATUS(Original) 6/30/08	NEW TOTAL
VSU Heritage Fund*		\$35,661.39	\$35,661.39
1940	\$100.00	\$8,410.63	\$8,510.63
1941	\$-	\$8,650.00	\$8,650.00
1942	\$-	\$7,845.00	\$7,845.00
1943	\$100.00	\$15,035.00	\$15,135.00
1944	\$125.00		\$125.00
1945	\$550.00	\$16,880.00	\$17,430.00
1946	\$-	\$12,025.00	\$12,025.00
1947	\$100.00	\$32,194.00	\$32,294.00
1948	\$2,340.00	\$63,682.40	\$66,022.40
1949	\$17,055.00	\$43,340.00	\$60,395.00
1950	\$-	\$23,437.50	\$23,437.50
1951	\$100.00	\$70,230.39	\$70,330.39
1952	\$500.00	\$71,673.32	\$72,173.32
1953	\$1,150.00	\$22,350.00	\$23,500.00
1954	\$5,340.00	\$38,850.00	\$44,190.00
1955	\$4,000.00	\$75,410.00	\$79,410.00
1956	\$1,600.00	\$229,807.09	\$231,407.09
1957	\$7,875.00	\$118,250.00	\$126,125.00
1958	\$800.00	\$66,472.82	\$67,272.82
1959	\$67,880.00	\$33,400.00	\$101,280.00
1960	\$-	\$8,896.85	\$8,896.85
1961	\$900.00	\$34,676.80	\$35,576.80
1962	\$3,850.00	\$54,065.34	\$57,915.34
1963	\$1,300.00	\$27,245.81	\$28,545.81
1964	\$17,350.00	\$1,500.00	\$18,850.00
1965	\$500.00	\$43,975.78	\$44,475.78
1966	\$400.00	\$30,189.35	\$30,589.35
1967	\$1,400.00	\$13,090.00	\$14,490.00
1968	\$4,905.00	\$46,180.22	\$51,085.22

1969	\$2,700.00	\$-	\$2,700.00
1970	\$295.00	\$8,208.50	\$8,503.50
1971	\$100.00	\$7,801.00	\$7,901.00
1972	\$-	\$5,825.00	\$5,825.00
1973	\$1,000.00	\$6,025.00	\$7,025.00
1974	\$1,275.00	\$-	\$1,275.00
1975	\$-	\$13,150.00	\$13,150.00
1976	\$-	\$8,175.00	\$8,175.00
1977	\$-	\$8,873.64	\$8,873.64
1978	\$500.00	\$6,537.50	\$7,037.50
1979	\$2,725.00	\$-	\$2,725.00
1980	\$50.00	\$2,140.00	\$2,190.00
1981	\$-	\$2,200.00	\$2,200.00
1982	\$250.00	\$11,601.50	\$11,851.50
1983	\$-	\$1,150.00	\$1,150.00
1984	\$780.00	\$-	\$780.00
1986	\$5.00	\$-	\$5.00
1987	\$-	\$-	\$-
1988	\$-	\$175.00	\$175.00
1989	\$25.00	\$-	\$25.00
1991	\$-	\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00
1992	\$-	\$1,650.00	\$1,650.00
1993	\$-	\$600.00	\$600.00
1994	\$150.00	\$-	\$150.00
1996	\$-	\$575.00	\$575.00
1997	\$-	\$375.00	\$375.00
1998	\$-	\$400.00	\$400.00
1999	\$100.00	\$-	\$100.00
2000	\$2,080.00	\$225.00	\$2,305.00
2001	\$-	\$550.00	\$550.00
2003	\$-	\$25.00	\$25.00
2004	\$150.00	\$-	\$150.00
TOTAL	\$152,405.00	\$1,340,936.83	\$1,493,341.83

VSU Heritage funds represents all class gifts prior to 1940

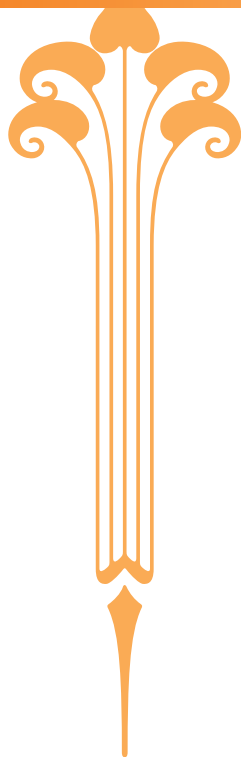
Chapter Gifts

CHAPTER	NEW GIFTS 07/01/08 THRU 06/23/09	ENDOWMENT STATUS(Original)	NEW TOTAL
Agriculture	\$2,500.00	\$105,618.12	\$108,118.12
VSU Alphas	\$6,105.00	\$16,025.00	\$22,130.00
Baltimore Metro	\$2,650.00	\$16,000.00	\$18,650.00
Chicago Area	\$0.00	\$22,250.00	\$22,250.00
Columbia, MD	\$0.00	\$10,084.18	\$10,084.18
Hanover	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
Military	\$51,685.00	\$85,770.00	\$137,455.00
Robert Hendrick			
Greater New York	\$3,000.00	\$22,996.01	\$25,996.01
Peninsula Chapter	\$1,993.00	\$26,561.00	\$28,554.00
Greater Petersburg Area	\$2,500.00	\$55,000.00	\$57,500.00
Philadelphia	\$500.00	\$12,950.00	\$13,450.00
Northern VA Area	\$5,750.00	\$54,250.00	\$60,000.00
Richmond	\$4,600.00	\$35,401.83	\$40,001.83
Tidewater Area	\$16,970.00	\$81,965.41	\$98,935.41
Washington DC-Metro	\$4,000.00	\$50,500.00	\$54,500.00
Total	\$107,253.00	\$595,371.55	\$702,624.55

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



Deceased Alumni Summer 2009



Name	Graduation Date	Hometown
*Blondell Hazel was incorrectly listed as deceased in the Winter 2009 issue		
John W. Ausbon	MA	Capron, VA
Bobby A. Barnes		Franklin, VA
Franklin Cason	1962	Durham, NC
Tarik Cassells		Hampton, VA
Beatrice "Bea" Clark-Booker, PhD	1958	Jetersville, VA
Sandra Delphine Tucker Coleman	1984	Chase City, VA
Samuel N. Cox	1954	Alexandria, VA
Floyd Francis	1950	Newport News, VA
Eleanor Emory Gibson		Southampton, PA
Douglas Eugene Glover	BA, MS	Chesterfield, VA
Carolyn Munford Harris	1956	Lanham, MD
Leslie W. Harrison		Brodnax, VA
Alma Roberta Haywood		Fort Washington, MD
William Granthum "Billy" Hill, Jr.	1977	Hampton, VA
Andre Craig Hunt		Hampton, VA
Elsie Palmer Johnson		Silver Spring, MD
Ulysses S. Johnson		Petersburg, VA
James A. Jones II	1977	Ettrick, VA
Larry Donnell Jones	1974	Surry, VA
Rebecca Ford Piper Jones	1954	Warrenton, VA
Raymond Joyner	1958	New York
Lucille Lanham-Ridley	MS	Petersburg, VA
Monica M. Miles		Christiansburg, VA
Alvin B. Miller		El Paso, TX
Donald Tee Parham	1973	San Diego, CA
Dr. Carlton Irving Phelps		Washington, DC
Marjorie A.R. Ramsch	M.Ed.	Waverly, VA
Valgeanette Reese		Petersburg, VA
Dr. Melvin Simpson	1950	Hampton, VA
Elnora B. Smith	1960	Capitol Heights, MD
Jason K. Tyler	2001	Richmond, VA
William K. Tyler	1957	Willingboro, NJ
Connie Marie Watkins		Virginia Beach
Donald K. Webster	1950	Philadelphia
Jasper "Jackie" Bingham Williamson		Virginia Beach
Etta Mae Wilson		Danville, VA
Susie Russell Wilson	1956, 1968	Virginia Beach, VA
Joseph A. "Sonny" West		Washington, DC

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 this 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 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 30. 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

Scholarship honors Millard "Pete" Stith, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. William H. Goodwin, Jr. of Richmond, VA have pledged \$200,000 to Virginia State University (VSU) to establish a scholarship in honor of Mr. Millard D. "Pete" Stith, Jr..

Stith, Deputy County Administrator of Chesterfield County, VA, is a long-time supporter of VSU. He served on the university's Board of Visitors from 1994-1998 and as Rector of the Board from 1996-1997. He led VSU's first Capital Campaign, which ended in 2001 after having exceeded its goal by more than \$1.5 million. He also has been instrumental in orga-

nizing Chesterfield County's annual Black History Month concerts at VSU.

The Millard D. "Pete" Stith Endowed Scholarship will be awarded to students either attending or matriculating to VSU. Recipients will be chosen based on financial need, leadership and/or sportsmanship and community service. Recipients must have at least a 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 collegiate grading scale. The amount of annual awards, and number of recipients, will be determined from income earned on the endowment's principal.

Mr. and Mrs. Goodwin are known in the Richmond community for their support of educational and other philanthropic organizations. According to VSU President Eddie N. Moore, Jr., the gift represents an investment that "validates VSU's promise and commitment of providing financial resources to future generations of students who might otherwise be unable to obtain a college education."

Family Endows Scholarship to Honor VSU Alumnus and Teacher

The family of Brian Daryl Jones has established a namesake endowed scholarship to honor the memory of the 1995 (B.S. mathematics) and 1997 (M.S) alumnus. A native of East Orange, NJ, Jones is the son of Dr. Audrey G. Jones and the late Benjamin H. Jones.

Education was always a driving force in Jones life. After college, his

career including teaching positions not only at VSU, but also at St. Paul's College, Richard Bland College and J. Sargent Reynolds Community College.

Once fully funded, two awards from the Brian Daryl Jones Endowed Scholarship Fund will be given annually. The first award will provide textbooks to a recipient major-

ing in mathematics who carries at least a 2.5 grade point average (GPA). The other half of the annual award will be provide financial aid to a student majoring in mathematics with at least a 3.0 GPA who demonstrates financial need. The financial aid award is renewable as long as the student maintains the specified GPA.



15th Annual Presidential Scholars Golf Tournament

SAVE THE DATE!

VSU will host the 15th Annual Presidential Scholarship Golf Tournament on Friday, October 30 at Birkdale Golf Course in Chesterfield, VA.

Be on the lookout for registration information, coming soon, or visit the Office of Development page at www.vsu.edu.

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**School of Engineering, Science and
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Advancing Minorities Interest in
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Southern States Cooperative, Inc.

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State Fair of Virginia, Inc.

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Cynthia & Richard Booker
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Chick-fil-A (at Southpark Mall)
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 Ulysses Stuart Billips Jr.
 Russell L. Bland
 Debera & Harrison Bonner III.
 Cynthia & Richard Booker
 Alwyn & Willie J. Bradley Jr.
 Derrick O. Brown
 Helen J. Butler
 Cordell R. Cahill

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 Ellis & Angela Hargress
 Charles H. Harris III.
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 Mary & Ceasar U. Jackson Sr.
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