



*This newsletter constitutes a celebration of the College's reaffirmation of accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.*

The Fall Semester in Pictures — 2, 3

County Government — 3

Senator Kaine Celebrates a Launch — 4

Pitch Perfect — 4

Spiders — 5

Altria — 5

More Pictures — 5

Graduation in their own words! — 6

Worth a Thousand Words — 6

Back Home on the Hill — 6

Something New — 6

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

New and Sort of New — 7

Career Launch Clean — 7

Reaffirmation of Accreditation — 8

Yet More Pictures — 9

His Excellency — 10

Back in the Building — 11

Special Guests — 11

Message from the Dean — 11

### GREATER!

*"Few announcements make me as proud as accreditation. Accreditation and reaffirmation is the ultimate compliment."*

Dr. Makola M. Abdullah, President

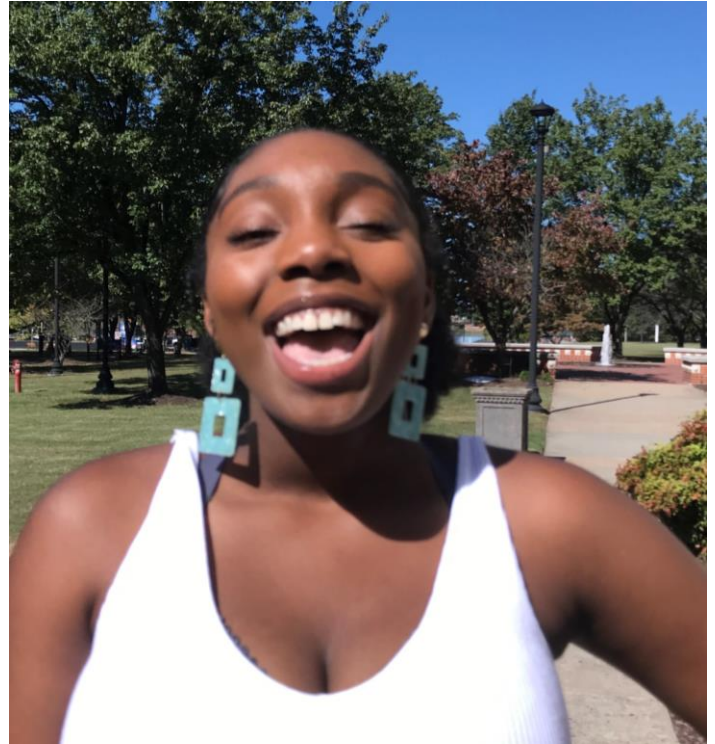
*"To earn reaffirmation of accreditation is never easy but to do it in the middle of a global pandemic is something extraordinary."*

Dr. Donald Palm, Provost

*"I want to thank our guests from AACSB for their professionalism, demand for excellence, and unwavering commitment to academic achievement."*

Dr. Emmanuel Omojokun, Dean

## 2021: THE FALL SEMESTER IN PICTURES



Janay Samuel is a top performer in the College in every regard as is Aeriya Johnson. Janay is rather reserved while Aeriya is a big extravert.



Kendra Carter from C&F Bank visited with Kyla Best and Namiah Wallen.



CJ Epperson is a leader in the College of Business.



Sierra Robinson shows off the VSU Multipurpose/Spectra background.



Emanuel Harris is among our most precocious, Triston Martin and Janay Samuel are most studious, and Destiny Henderson is a top performer. Above.

Debi Girvin guest taught; Amaya, Emanuel, and Janay visited with John Emery at Bon Secours; and Stephanie, Jaycee, and Kyle attended Pitch Virginia. Below.



Alex, Abraham, Shannon, Jahla, Michael, Christine, and Kayla are all high achievers. Below.



## County Government

Perhaps because of their training, business students instinctively think about career opportunities in the private sector but this semester Henrico County Manager John Vithoukask visited campus to teach and to remind undergraduates that because his budget exceeds \$1.4 billion a year, he has all kinds of opportunities. To cement the point, Vithoukask and Deputy Administrator Monica Smith-Callahan brought with them a team of two dozen staff for a Henrico County Career Day. Since then, Emanuel Harris (Marketing major) and Nigel Stewart (Accounting major) earned spring internships with the County.



## Senator Kaine Celebrates a Launch

To celebrate the launch of the brand new Minority Small Business Launch Center, Senator Tim Kaine visited the Reginald F. Lewis College of Business at Virginia State University. Hosted by President Makola Abdullah along with The Center Director Dr. Patrice Perry-Rivers, Kaine spent time interfacing with students, addressing undergrads' questions, listening to concerns, and guest teaching in an entrepreneurship class. The Reginald F. Lewis College of Business is grateful to Senator Kaine for not only his support of entrepreneurship initiatives but for everything he does for the University!

Awarded a \$453,000 grant by Go Virginia to spur economic development, The Minority Small Business Launch Center had a very active 2021! The Center trained more than seventy entrepreneurs, provided over 1,200 training contact hours, hosted pitch competitions, facilitated a K-12 undergraduate bridge program, and partnered with leading organizations and businesses in the region.



Senator Kaine listens attentively to Kyle, Scott, and Nigel; participates in remarks with President Abdullah; and is welcomed by Dr. Perry-Rivers.

## Pitch Perfect

Students in The Reginald F. Lewis College of Business at Virginia State University are increasingly participating in pitch competitions for an opportunity to win prize money. Often related to intercollegiate contests but not limited to collegiate events, students in the College are accruing a lot of accolades, wins, and monies. From the College's own Minority Small Business Launch Center to The Thurgood Marshall College Fund, to The Future Business Leaders of America to The Tom Tom Festival, undergrads are pitching ideas, companies, brands, etc. Even when not participating as a contestant, students are attending events and networking with students at other institutions of higher learning along with business leaders and venture capitalists. For example, this semester Jaycee Lowe (Marketing major) and Stephanie Rouse (Management major) attended the Activation Capital Pitch Virginia competition held at Virginia Commonwealth University and spent time interfacing with a team from Georgetown that won the event for their pitch pertinent to clean-air technology tools. Jaycee said of the event, *"I was so impressed with all of the companies that pitched and I was proud to fly the VSU flag."* Stephanie added *"I found value in learning from other students and just in being on another college campus to benefit from the VCU culture."* Up next, 2022 stands to be an even bigger year for pitch opportunities as limitations relevant to COVID diminish.

## Spiders

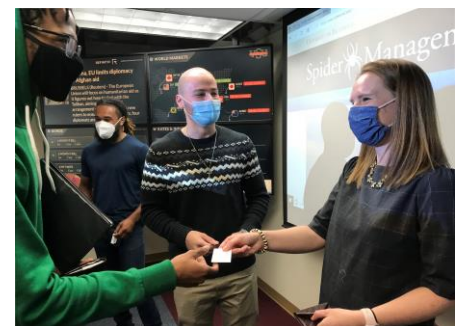
The College for a few years now has collaborated with the University of Richmond including e.g. students attending the C-Suite Series and dinners at the Robins School of Business and teaming with University of Richmond faculty. This semester the collaboration increased to include partnering with Spider Management. A university-owned investment firm, Spider Management has long helped manage the finances for the University's endowment and this semester Spider Management staff guest taught, facilitated business presentations for students, and afforded undergrads internship opportunities. Also of note, the company invested in the College's Minority Small Business Launch Center.

## Altria

The College's student organizations this semester received a \$7,500 donation from Fortune 500 Altria to support programming. Benefiting from the monies will be the College's National Association of Black Accountants, Student Advisory Board, Black Data Processing Association, and the American Marketing Association collegiate chapters. The student groups will use the funds to host academic events and to sponsor students to attend off-campus programming.

## More Pictures





## Graduation, In their own words

Already an accomplished professional, Armand Pierre (Management major) can now count among his successes a degree from the The Reginald F. Lewis College of Business at Virginia State University. Said Armand, *“I am grateful to the College for affording me a terrific experience.”* Dionna Lang (Marketing major) added, *“I am proud of earning my degree and am ready to start my next chapter.”* In a resumption of normalcy, the Virginia State University commencement exercises were again held indoors at the Multipurpose Center. Pierre shared, *“It was fitting to turn the page and celebrate something new while honoring something from the past.”* Congratulations to all!!!!



### Worth a Thousand Words

To celebrate students back in the building in force and because a picture is worth a thousand words, the College hosted Sharone Reid’s Focus & Fabulous 360 degree photo booth. Students particularly enjoyed the money gun!!

### Back Home on the Hill

After a year hiatus because of COVID, it was terrific to again host alumni in Singleton to celebrate homecoming!!

## Something New

Adiana Brittle and Jade Chapman (Marketing majors) celebrated this semester the launch of a new tagline for the University, i.e. Greater Happens Here. The impetus for their celebration regarded that they participated in a a team led by Gwen Dandridge (VP for Communications) to create what now adorns every means of communication at VSU.



## New and Sort of New

The College welcomed Dr. Simran Dhillon (Assistant Professor of Management Information Systems) this semester and welcomed back after a few years while at The College of Charleston Dr. David Coss (Associate Professor of Accounting and Finance). Already both are among student favorites!

## Career Launch Clean

Every semester, students in the Career Launch curriculum conclude their coursework by giving back. Often, that means tutoring and visiting with elementary students but because of the limitations relevant to COVID, students instead led a cleanup in Ettrick. Armed with trash pickers, bags, and safety reflective vests; students removed all kinds of debris. Said Janay Samuel (Marketing major), *“It felt really good to give back and to make my community a little bit better of a place because of my colleagues and my efforts.”*



## Reaffirmation of Accreditation

The Reginald F. Lewis College of Business at Virginia State University announced that it was awarded reaffirmation of accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, International (AACSB). The reaffirmation of accreditation for the College of Business affirms the hard work done by students, faculty, staff, alumni, and industry. Less than 10% of the world's business schools earn this hallmark of excellence. The term of accreditation is five years and is now the third time that the College has been reaccredited after the initial accreditation by AACSB in 2006.

In announcing the reaffirmation, Dr. Emmanuel Omojokun (Dean) shared, *"I am eternally grateful to our stakeholders. Without the extraordinary hard work and contributions along with sacrifices by our outstanding students, exceptional faculty & staff, beloved alumni, generous industry, and committed University leadership, the College would be unable to celebrate this achievement reserved for the best of the best business schools."* Sierra Robinson (Marketing major and Chair of the College's Student Advisory Board) added, *"I chose to attend the Reginald F. Lewis College of Business at Virginia State University because of the prestigious AACSB accreditation so I am along with my colleagues thrilled for reaffirmation."* Dr. Donald Palm (Provost) said, *"I am so proud of the faculty in the College. I could not ask for a more committed, collegial, and caring faculty. They deserve a lot of credit for their perseverance these last couple of years during COVID. To earn reaffirmation of accreditation is never easy but to do it in the middle of a global pandemic is something extraordinary."* Dr. Makola Abdullah (President) conveyed a similar sentiment, *"In my capacity as President of an institution of higher learning known for Greater Happens Here, few announcements make me as proud as accreditation. Accreditation and reaffirmation is the ultimate compliment for any school and/or program. It says to everyone from prospective students to alumni to industry that the College of Business is highly regarded by its peers around the country and even the world. It is very gratifying that the Reginald F. Lewis College of Business achieved this important recognition in a time of national and even global hardship. That is a testament to the College and to Dean Emmanuel Omojokun who is steadfast in his advocacy for his students and faculty & staff."* The Reginald F. Lewis College of Business at Virginia State University hosted a peer review team from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business in the fall and afforded the AACSB representatives unfiltered access to students, faculty and staff, alumni, industry, and University leadership. Dr. Emmanuel Omojokun (Dean) said, *"I want to thank our guests from AACSB for their professionalism, demand for excellence, and unwavering commitment to academic achievement."* The Reginald F. Lewis College of Business at Virginia is comprised of six hundred undergraduates pursuing degrees in accounting, management, marketing, and management information systems. The College's namesake was the first African-American to own and operate a billion dollar business in the United States.

"AACSB International (AACSB), a global nonprofit association, connects educators, students, and business to achieve a common goal: to create the next generation of great leaders. Synonymous with the highest standards of excellence since 1916, AACSB provides quality assurance, business education intelligence, and learning and development services to over 1,700 member organizations and more than 900 accredited business schools worldwide" – [www.aacsb.edu](http://www.aacsb.edu).



## Yet More Pictures



Reem Idris and Aeshia Brown are superstars in the College. Above.

Ron Chamblis is a proud champion of The Reginald F. Lewis College of Business. Below.

## His Excellency

The Reginald F. Lewis College of Business at Virginia State University this semester had an opportunity to host then candidate, now Governor, Glenn Youngkin to guest teach. A former CEO at The Carlyle Group, Youngkin conveyed some of his experience in running a company with \$293 billion in assets but invested most of his time with students to lead a conversation pertinent to what elements make for a successful business.

Connecting the dots, Youngkin invited the business students to think of the Commonwealth of Virginia like a business and to identify what variables account for a strong state. Comprised of an auditorium full of undergrads, the classroom exercise prompted students to leverage their training to provide answers like a strong workforce, regulatory environment, taxes and access to capital, education, culture, etc. in response to Youngkin's queries.

Both before and after the classroom session, Glenn Youngkin took the time to talk individually with students and to listen and learn about their priorities. From interests in opening businesses to attending graduate school to securing internships to mentoring children, as always The Reginald F. Lewis College of Business was well represented in the conversation(s) with Governor Glenn Youngkin. It should be noted, that already the Governor's team has reached out to the College regarding his interest in guest teaching again!!



## Back in the Building

After a year and a half away from Singleton, industry this semester was back in the building! Though not back to pre-pandemic levels, still 122 company representatives guest taught this semester and more than 150 companies altogether visited with students in Singleton Hall. As always, the objectives regarded refining soft skills, augmenting career awareness, and developing real-world skills.



## Special Guests

The Reginald F. Lewis College of Business this semester hosted representatives of the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) for a re-accreditation visit and opportunity to meet with faculty, staff, students, alumni, and industry.



## Message from the Dean

It was great to get back face-to-face teaching modality in fall 2021. The kind of camaraderie that is synonymous with The College of Business meant that laughter could be heard again in the hallways, greetings could be exchanged again in the classrooms, and impromptu conversations could be initiated in the offices. It is that camaraderie that makes special things happen and indeed what made for a terrific semester in The Reginald F. Lewis College of Business at Virginia State University.

Students accrued internships along with job offers and scholarships. They participated in and won intercollegiate competitions, they gave back to their community, started businesses, and networked with scores of companies. Faculty led our curriculum, published journal articles, presented at conferences, and submitted grant proposals. Alumni donated resources, guest taught in the classroom, and advocated for our needs. Industry afforded opportunities, coached students, and collaborated on projects. It was a team effort!

We hosted our peer-review team from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). As mentioned earlier in this newsletter, we are so happy to hear great news from AACSB. Again, I am indeed very thankful to the VSU Administration, students, faculty, staff, Alumni Advisory Board, Industry Advisory Council, and the rest of the stakeholders for the roles each group played in the reaffirmation of our accreditation!

Sincerely,

Dr. Emmanuel Omojokun, Dean

