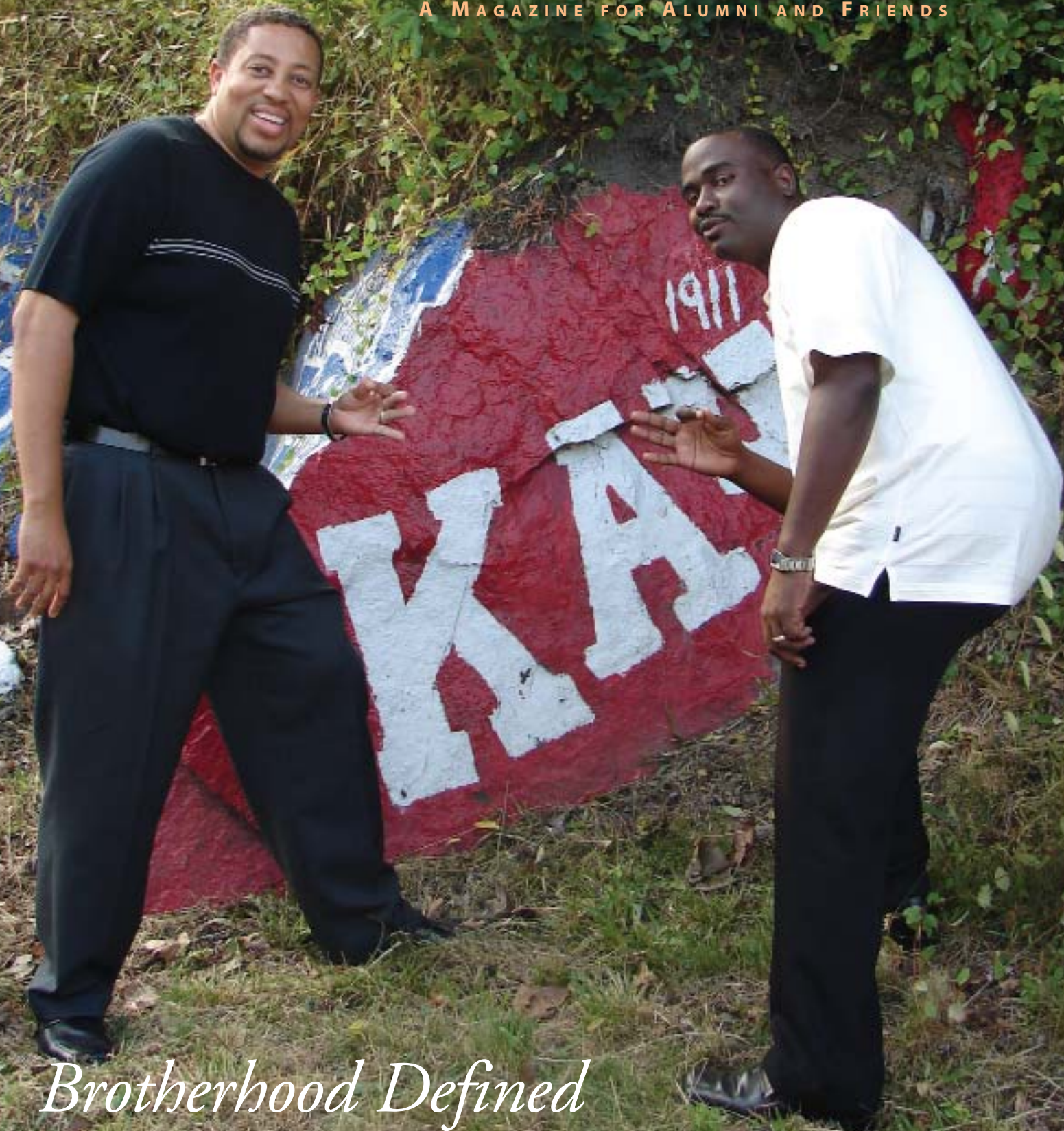


# VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS



*Brotherhood Defined*

## From the Editor

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What is it about Virginia State University that draws people so closely together? The last issue of this magazine featured several couples who, after meeting “on the hill”, were joined in the bonds of matrimony. Inside this issue, we meet two young men, strangers upon matriculating, united through the brotherhood of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. and then bonded for life through a precious gift.

Also inside, we salute alumni, staff and friends of the University, who expressed their commitment by generously donating, so others can follow their dreams. These individuals, corporations, even municipalities, understand the uniqueness of the VSU experience. By establishing scholarships, increasing the school’s endowment, even creating opportunities for students to globalize their education, these individuals bring honor to themselves, while honoring their beloved Alma Mater.

This past Spring, VSU graduated nearly 600 seniors. These new alumni will soon feel the bond. As they enter the professional world, they’ll understand the pride upon meeting fellow alumni, returning for Homecoming and witnessing the changing campus. Today’s alumni return to a sparkling, library, the nerve center of campus; a newly renovated Rogers Stadium; and a construction site that will soon be home to a state-of-the-art Engineering and Science Building. What will tomorrow’s alumni see? Who will step forward to continue the unparalleled progress of the past 12 years?

The administration of President Eddie N. Moore, Jr., led by the VSU Board of Visitors, has set a course for the future. The University’s 20/20 Vision Plan lays out a roadmap to navigate VSU to unprecedented heights (to view the Plan online, please go to <http://www.vsu.edu/docs/2020VisionPlan.pdf>). The Plan is bold, but the needs are great. Our success is incumbent upon the continued support of our Loyal Sons and Daughters.

Through VSU Magazine, we aim to share with you the many success stories that abound on campus. Through our Alumni News, we highlight your successes as well.

Along the way, we hope to confirm, and in some cases, renew, the bond between alumni and school. By successfully accomplishing this task, both grow stronger.

Thomas Reed  
Editor

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Jamie Fleece

#### Contributing Photographers

Jamie Fleece

Rudolph Powell

Thomas Reed

#### Design and Printing

Commonwealth of Virginia

Department of General Services

Office of Graphic Communications

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#### Editor

Virginia State University Magazine

P.O. Box 9085

Petersburg, VA 23806

(804) 524-5045

tereed@vsu.edu

Visit VSU on the web at [www.vsu.edu](http://www.vsu.edu)

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### Alumni

Send your news to

Alumni in News

PO Box 9027

Petersburg, VA 23806

acollins@vsu.edu

## NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION AWARDS \$2.5 MILLION FOR MINORITIES IN SCIENCES PROGRAM

The National Science Foundation has awarded Virginia State University a five-year, \$2.5 million grant in support of a program to increase the number of minorities in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The University, through the School of Engineering, Science and Technology will use the funds to increase the number of graduates in these fields from an average of 70 to more than 105 per year by the end of the grant. The Trojan Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (T-STEM) program will implement new programs that provide access to science and technology and opportunities that will remove existing barriers for competing and participating in all science areas.

The project will be carried out in four phases over the course of the grant. Phase One attract, prepare and give interested high school students an opportunity to explore, learn and experience several STEM disciplines. The next phase aims to improve student skills and retention through course and curriculum enhancement, along with new teaching technology.

Phase Three will provide students and faculty opportunities to enhance knowledge and research skills through specially designed learning activities. Finally, Phase Four will ensure a smooth transition

Strategies for ensuring the program's success include learning with technology, not about technology; emphasizing content and pedagogy, not just hardware; giving attention to professional development in the technology context; and promoting interdisciplinary scientific research.

According to VSU Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. W. Eric Thomas, the implementation of this program "will have a significant, positive impact on VSU's strategies for improvement of the quality of science and mathematics education and will enhance the institutional capability to move toward (SACS) Level 6 institution status."

## GROUND BROKEN FOR ENGINEERING BUILDING



*Participating in the groundbreaking for VSU's new Engineering and Technology Building were (L to R): Petersburg Mayor and VSU alumnus Annie Mickens; SGA President Roberto Golfe; VSU Provost Dr. W. Eric Thomas; 63rd District Representative and VSU alumnus Rosalyn Dance; VSU Board Member Vesharn N. Scales; and Dean of VSU's School of Engineering, Science and Technology Dr. M. Hadi Moadab.*

VSU recently broke ground for the University's new Engineering and Technology Building, scheduled for completion by Fall Semester 2006. The University's newest academic building will be a three story, 77,000 square-foot, classroom and research laboratory facility to support the mechanical and electronic engineering technology, computer engineering and manufacturing engineering programs. The building's design will respect the historic traditions of the campus, while providing a showcase to draw students to these emerging technologies.



The building will contain mechanical, manufacturing, computer and electronics labs, multimedia classrooms, faculty offices, dean's suite and a state-of-the-art auditorium. The 125-seat, tiered auditorium will be equipped with power and data ports at each seat as well as audio and video projection of attendee participation.

# VSU Student Scores Perfect on Teacher Praxis Exam

Test taking for many students can be a nightmare. Whether they studied weeks in advance or crammed the night before, panic sets in at test time. But for May 2005 graduate, Barbara Maurer, it doesn't matter what type- multiple choice, true-or-false or essay- it's all a piece of cake. Barbara's test-taking proficiency recently placed her among the nation's elite. She earned a perfect score on the Teacher Praxis exam.

The exam, designed to be one of the final hurdles in a student's educational career before graduating and entering the teaching profession, proved to be a breeze for Barbara.

Like most standardized test, each student's score was compared and ranked to others who tested at the same time. But for Barbara, there was no comparison to her perfect score.

For as long as Barbara can remember, she has always been a pro at test taking. "It's never been difficult for me to do well on tests nor do I get nervous during an exam," says Barbara said. "Testing is actually one of my strengths. Giving a speech in front of a large group of people, now that's another thing. Public speaking gives me butterflies."

Upon receiving her score, Barbara was stunned. "I didn't believe it at first. I thought it might have been a mistake. When I realized it was correct, that I did indeed receive a perfect score, I was overwhelmed."

According to the Educational Testing Service, the organization that administers the exam, less than two percent of test takers earn the highest score possible. So this was truly an accomplishment for Barbara.

Outside of being a naturally good test taker, what is her secret? Was it a lucky rabbit's foot? Eating a well-balanced breakfast?

Well Barbara let the cat out of the bag and offered her study tips as advice for other students. Her test preparation secret: she studied.

While sounding simple enough, the key was that Barbara saved notes from all of her courses, freshman through senior year.

"Old notes and books that teachers tell students to buy their freshman year are important even in their senior year," she says. "My advice: don't throw out old notes or sell back books



*Barbara Maurer consults with her mentor and professor Dr. Rodger Doss.*

from courses in your major. They come in handy during comprehensive tests."

Aside from using notes from past courses, Barbara credited VSU's Liberal Arts and Education faculty members. "Dr. (Rodger) Doss, my advisor, along with many others in the department, gave me tons of guidance as a student. That made a huge difference."

Now that Barbara has aced the Praxis exam, the test taking genius intends to share her knowledge in the classroom. The Colonial Heights resident plans to teach high school in the Tri-cities area.

Specifically, she would like to teach English. "I have always loved to read and write," she says. "Teaching English allows

*continued on page 6...*

*VSU STUDENT SCORES PERFECT, continued...*

me to do what I enjoy and I can help students learn to appreciate literature as well."

Thinking back on her proudest memory as a student teacher at Thomas Dale High School, Barbara spoke about a student who transformed before her eyes. The student, who had a learning disability, started the semester very uninterested in English and in some ways, school in general.

"It was rewarding for me to see her enjoy the book I had assigned, *The Great Gatsby*," Barbara says proudly. "At the end of the class, she received a B on the final exam."

Not only was this one student impacted by Barbara's teaching and love of literature, but for the semester, the class collectively received higher grades and test scores. It is safe to say that her personal test-taking skills influenced those students.

While completing her bachelor's degree, Barbara started courses toward her master's degree and hopes to begin graduate studies in English at VSU in the spring of 2006.

Her plans don't stop there. Barbara also intends to work on a career as a writer in her spare time. It appears this conscientious student has prepared well to ace every test life throws her way.

## ARROTT'S GROUNDBREAKING MAGNETICS RESEARCH GARNERS RECOGNITION

An article in the April 22, 2005 issue of the journal *Science*, "Toward a Universal Memory," discusses in detail a design for magnetoresistive random access memory (MRAM) for computers that was designed by Dr. Anthony S. Arrott, Distinguished Senior Research Professor of Physics at VSU. His design is being used in a system developed by Cypress Semiconductor, Inc. MRAM is a universal memory in applications that require nonvolatile storage, high performance and low power consumption, such as wireless communications, PDAs, handheld equipment, industrial controls and consumer electronic equipment. This design has the potential to revolutionize the computer industry by providing exceptional speed, power, ease-of-use and non-volatility.

## SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOCUSES ON TERRORISM AND DEMOCRACY

Virginia State University held its second international conference, "The USA/New European Democracies Partnership: Through Cooperation Toward Prosperity, Democracy and Reforms" in April. This conference featured ambassadors and U.S. representatives



from and to Moldova, Romania and Ukraine, along with distinguished experts on public policy and the private sector. Ukraine recently held highly contentious national elections in which pro-Western Viktor Yushchenko prevailed in a vote heralded by many around the globe as a victory for democracy.

VSU Eminent Scholar Dr. Ceslav Ciobanu moderated the conference. Dr. Ciobanu is an Associate Professor of Economics and the former Ambassador to the United States from Moldova. "This is a very relevant conference, especially because of the elections that just occurred," he said. "This area of the world is of vital strategic importance to the United States."

## VSU UNVEILS NEW JOHNSTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

In Spring 2005, VSU unveiled a new Johnston Memorial Library, which had undergone a two-year \$10.8 million facelift.

The renovation project, which began in the Fall of 2002, expanded the library to 103,190 square feet and improved the library's aesthetic quality and made the building a state-of-the-art learning facility.



*continued on opposite page*

# Civil War Conference Offers Glimpse of African American Experience

Perhaps the grossest understatement a Civil War historian can make is to claim that Americans are interested in the Civil War. Ignoring the museums, preserved battlefields, television documentaries and hordes of re-enactors, the output of academia alone would feed the American demand for information on the defining event of American history. A cursory estimate shows that more than 4,000 books on the Civil War have appeared in the last four years (nearly 50 on the Battle of Gettysburg alone). What drives the outpouring of intellectual effort is that the Civil War still produces subjects and viewpoints that remain unheeded, and the accounts of African Americans in the Civil War are among them. Despite the attention given to such notable projects as the movie *Glory* (Columbia Pictures, 1990), the contribution of African Americans to the Civil War and discussions of how the Civil War affected America's slave and free Black population remain a developing but still largely under explored narrative.

This Conference on African Americans and the Civil War (CAACW), sponsored by Virginia State University, helped to redress this oversight by the historical community and to reveal the fullness of the Civil War experience from another viewpoint.

The CAACW showcased recent Civil War scholarship, demonstrating the region's commitment to educational and cultural advancement. By inviting the nation's top scholars (both established historians and new scholars presenting cutting-edge research), CAACW provided a unique opportunity to experience how contemporary historians interpret the events so vital to the history of Virginia and the nation. Through future projects associated with the conference, CAACW will affect how Americans view the African American experience in the Civil War. These potential future projects include a published collection of essays

presented at the conference, a photographic history of the African American Civil War experience and an educational support packet of information gleaned from the conference targeted at elementary and secondary schools in Virginia.

The conference attracted attention to central Virginia generally and the Petersburg area specifically. By bringing media attention (through coverage of the event by BET, C-Span, PBS, the History Channel and New Millennium Studios,



*Narratives and folklore expressions were integral to the CAACW's effort to fully explore the experiences of African Americans during the Civil War.*



among others), CAACW displayed the area's historical and cultural assets on a national stage. Considering its unique relationship to the Civil War, Petersburg was the ideal location for this conference. The city combines a historical setting with a minimal urban impact, a well-documented history of the slaves and freedmen in the region and the presence of one of the most important battlefield sites of the Civil War in close proximity.

## *VSU Unveils New Johnston Memorial Library, continued from previous page*

The architects who worked on the improvements, Norfolk-based Livas Group and Richmond-based Glave & Holmes Associates, implemented innovative ideas to upgrade the library, making it an inviting and user-friendly environment with high-tech computer and multi-media technologies.

Erected in 1958, Johnston Memorial Library now offers a 24-hour computer lab, 25 private study rooms, four group study rooms and a CyberCafé located in the basement. The

additions also include a Training Center with 40 computer stations and a Media Center.

Johnston Memorial houses 303,757 books, 11,000 electronic books, 2,452 periodicals and newspapers, 746,608 microform pieces and 185,561 government documents.

The bonds of brotherhood among Virginia State University Greeks are hardy; forged through common trials and strengthened by shared service to fraternity, school and community.

Often though, these bonds are strained with the passing of time or graduation. Careers and families separate best friends. Oftentimes the only contact between "brothers" is at Homecoming or by chance meetings.

Such is not the case for the brothers of VSU's Alpha Phi Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. Theirs is a close-knit family, in which 90 percent of the members might show up for a reunion.

No two brothers symbolize this camaraderie more than Anthony Whitney and Scott Johnson. These two Kappas, best friends on The Hill, share a bond stronger than many blood relatives.

In December 2004, with Anthony in dire need, Scott donated a kidney to his ailing friend. No questions. No second thoughts. No big deal.

"People ask me why I did it" Scott says. "I say 'because he needed it.' Why wouldn't you?"

Scott, a 1994 graduate in administrative systems management, pledged Kappa in 1991.

Anthony, a '97 engineering technology alum, pledged the next year. "He was with us all the time anyway," Scott explains, "so pledging was natural."

The two stayed in close contact after graduation, both living in the Richmond area. Through his career as a financial analyst, including life insurance, Scott knew about organ donation. He understood the importance of family discussions, but never imagined the subject would strike so close to home. Anthony, on the other hand, had never really thought about donation. That soon changed.

Shortly before his 30th birthday, Anthony began feeling dizzy at work. He knew something was wrong. Through his mother, Anthony learned about a family history of diabetes. Understanding the seriousness of this disease, he underwent a blood test. The results were stunning. The tests came back clean for diabetes, but his blood pressure was out of control and had caused significant kidney damage.



For Anthony Whitney (l) and Scott Johnson, the bonds of brotherhood extend far beyond their allegiance to Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

# Brotherhood

*"I knew God would bring me through it."*

Over the next three years, drugs failed to contain the damage. Anthony's creatine level, a measure of kidney health, rocketed to a count of nearly 15. Healthy kidneys record a count around 1.5. In December 2003, he was put on the national registry for kidney transplants. By the following April, Anthony's kidneys had deteriorated to the point that his doctor recommended immediate dialysis treatment. The news stunned Anthony.

"Here I am, 30-something, going through all this and asking 'why';" he says. "I went to the living room and told God 'if you're with me, I'll get through it. I give it to you.' I knew God would bring me through it."

Scott saw the ravages of kidney disease on his best friend and was convinced to help. Scott stood beside Anthony in the spirit of brotherhood. First, he moved in to care for his stricken friend.





One afternoon, after having taken Anthony to a dialysis treatment, Scott went to the doctor and asked to be tested to learn if his kidney would be a compatible match. Anthony's sister had been tested, but incompatibilities caused doctors to reject her as a potential donor.

Scott, on the other hand, a brother to Anthony through friendship, fraternity and shared life experiences, was a perfect match. "I never told Anthony I got tested," Scott says. "I knew he'd say 'I don't want you to do that.'"

By then, Scott had been married two years. Anthony served as a groomsman in the wedding. Scott discussed the issue with his wife, but there was never a doubt about the decision. "She said 'I know if it comes to that, you'll give him a kidney,'" Scott says.

Once it was determined that Scott's kidney matched perfectly, surgery was immediately scheduled. This was the first time Anthony learned of this gift of true brotherly love. "It was brotherhood in its truest form," Anthony says.

*According to the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), there are nearly 89,000 people in the United States waiting for an organ transplant. Of these, nearly 28,000 are African American. In Virginia, 2,400 are waiting, of which 1,050 are African American. Of the more than 1,700 Virginians waiting for a kidney transplant, 54 percent are African American. For information on how to become an organ donor, call (804) 782-4920 or visit [www.donatelife.net](http://www.donatelife.net).*

The surgery was conducted in December 2004. "Everybody looked at us and thought I was the one who got the transplant," Scott says. "Really, his body had a healthy kidney and was immediately moving in one direction, while mine was taking some time getting used to just having had a kidney removed."

Today, life for these virtual blood brothers has returned to normal. Anthony's creatine level is "perfect" and Scott has gone back to his financial planning business in Clinton, MD. In April 2005, Anthony married his fiancé, Christina, who had endured the ordeal and grew closer in the process. "She's been a soldier," Anthony says. "After I told her about my condition, I didn't know if she'd shy away, but she pulled toward me."

The "new" Anthony was readily apparent at his wedding, in which Scott – who else – served as Best Man. "Everyone had seen how sluggish he'd been," Scott said. "But at the wedding, he danced and danced. People said to me 'see what you did, that's the Anthony we know.' I said 'no, that's what the Lord did.' It sure was a good sight to see."

Anthony and Scott, brought together by chance at VSU, now closer than most "real" brothers, share a special bond – physical, of course – but also emotional and spiritual. "Just recently, I felt my side and told my wife, 'I got Scott's kidney inside me!' It was like, oh man!" Anthony says. "When you meet someone, you never know what a major part they'll play in your life. God brought Scott into my life for a reason."

# Defined



# VSU ATHLETICS

## Athletic Awards

Hampton, VA.....Virginia State University's **Merrill Morgan** has earned the Baseball Coach Of The Year for 2005. The V.S.U. Trojans finished their regular season in third place and finished as runners-up to Elizabeth City State University in the championship game.

**Leslie Young** of Virginia State University was selected as the Men's Outdoor Track and Field Coach Of The Year. Coach Young guided the Trojans from a 3rd place finish in the 2004 championship meet, to 2nd place this year with only 105 points behind the championship slot.

Virginia State University's **Andra Colbert** was selected to the 2005 CIAA Commissioner's All-Academic 1st Team. Ms. Colbert is a member of V.S.U.'s Department of Athletics 3.0 Club and has held a 3.0 GPA or better for the past four years. She has been a strong contributor on the Lady Trojans' Volleyball Team and a member of V.S.U.'s Student Athlete Advisor Committee(SAAC).



**Jermaine Lafate** who is a member of the Trojans' Football Team, earned Honorable Mention honors on the 2005 CIAA Commissioner's All-Academic Team. Mr. Lafate is a two-year starter on the Trojans' offensive line. He has also been a member of V.S.U.'s Department of Athletics 3.0 Club for the past two years.



## Basketball Attendance Tops in D-II

According to the NCAA News, Virginia State University led all NCAA Division II schools in attendance for the 2004-05 men's basketball season. The Trojans drew 48,597 over a 14-game schedule, averaging 3,471 per game. VSU and Winston-Salem State University (#3) were the only two CIAA teams among Division II's top 10.

## Collins Sees Return to Basics as Key to Success

Promising a return to fundamentals and discipline, new Trojan men's basketball coach Tony Collins seeks to continue the success he helped achieve as an assistant at Austin Peay University.

Collins, a 1979 VSU alumnus, was an assistant at Austin Peay for 15 years. During that time, the school accomplished 12 straight winning seasons and reached the NCAA Tournament twice. During that span, the Governors were known as a fundamentally sound team that relied on defense to control a game. Collins expects to bring these traits to Daniel Gymnasium.

"It's all business," he said. "It's not complicated. Do the small things, the fundamentals, and we'll win."

Collins played for the Trojans under Coach Harold Deane in the late 1970s. In addition to his time as assistant men's coach at Austin Peay, Collins' resume includes stints as that school's women's assistant, men's assistant at Fayetteville State University, women's assistant at Miami (Ohio) University and men's graduate assistant at Friends University. He began his coaching career as a student assistant for VSU's women's team in 1979.



## Founder's Day Honors Those Who Came Before



Former Virginia legislator and noted attorney Jean W. Cunningham of Richmond headlined Virginia State University's Founder's Day observance in March. This year marked the 123rd anniversary of the founding of VSU.

Mrs. Cunningham received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English from Virginia State University in 1968. She served as a member of the Virginia House of Delegates from January 1986 to January 1998 representing parts of the City of Richmond and Henrico County. As a Delegate, she served on the following committees: Appropriations; Health, Welfare and Institutions; Courts of Justice; Labor and Commerce; Militia and Police; Finance; and Claims.

Mrs. Cunningham has served on several state and local boards, including the Virginia Bar Association, the Richmond Industrial Development Commission and the Richmond YWCA Board of Directors. She served on the Board of Social Services for the Commonwealth of Virginia from 1980 to 1984; Leadership Metro Richmond, Class of 1982; and as former president of the Virginia State University National Alumni Association. From June 1984 to January 1986 she served on the Board of Visitors of Virginia State University.

Alfred W. Harris founded present-day Virginia State University in 1882. It was then known as Virginia Normal and Collegiate Institute and represented the nation's first fully state-assisted college or university for blacks.

# ALUMNI PROFILE

## Alumnus Claims Fellowship and Friendship Last Beyond College Years

By Jamie L. Fleece

It is said that the friendships and experiences you have in college will stay with you for a lifetime. This is certainly true for **Mrs. Edith Stanley**, 2005 VSU Alumnus of the Year. The friendships and good times with fellow Trojans have continued well beyond her college days.

A proud member and officer of the Tidewater Alumni Chapter for nearly 25 years, Stanley '51 was honored to be named 2005 Alumnus of the Year. "I was very excited to learn that I had been selected," she says humbly. "I love VSU and it feels good to be acknowledged by the Alumni Association."

Stanley remembered coming to VSU in 1949 as a transfer student and two things came to mind: food and fellowship.

"We used to have family-style meals in the dining hall. We would sit at our assigned seats, dim the lights and say the blessing," says Stanley. "The waiters would bring the food to the table and we passed it around. If someone were really hungry at your table, he or she would take a huge helping. But there was always enough to go around."

In the evenings, Stanley recalled, students enjoyed a game of pinochle or participated in sing-a-longs at Virginia Hall. During the sing-a-longs, the words to a particular song would be placed on a screen and everyone would join in and sing together.

After receiving her B.S. in Elementary Education, Mrs. Stanley worked 31 years as a schoolteacher for the Norfolk School System before retiring in 1985.



One constant to Stanley's VSU relationships has been that same "family style combination of fellowship and food.

As president, Stanley would give elderly members rides to chapter meetings. "I would pack people in my car for our meetings, where we would discuss different things about VSU over dinner," she says.

Stanley regularly organized trips to Homecoming every year. "Some years we needed a 44 passenger bus to get everyone down for Homecoming," she says. "We couldn't miss the parade and vendors, the football game and the chance be together. It is so good to see old faces at Alumni/ Commencement Weekend and catch up with one another."

This love for her alma mater inspired Stanley to recruit other area graduates to join the alumni chapter. In 1986, she launched a letter writing campaign to contact VSU graduates. This recruitment effort was supplemented by making phone calls and face-to-face contacts as well. As a result, the chapter reached its goal of 120 members and received a Membership Award.

This devoted alumnus is committed to recruitment and fund-raising initiatives for VSU and those efforts have been rewarded in her most recent accolade. But the real reward, says Stanley, "is the friends and memories gained throughout the years."

# A Labor of Love

Celebrating their 50th and 40th year class reunion could have been reason enough for the classes of 1955 and 1965 to reconnect with their classmates. But for these inspired class years, their reunion provided an opportunity to give back.

Using basic resources, such as mailings, phone calls and word-of-mouth, to contact their classmates, the committees representing these classes worked tirelessly to reach their endowment goal.

Dr. Robert Bracey '55 served as committee chair for his class and inspired the group with the slogan, "failure is not an option."

"He [Bracey] was dedicated to reaching the \$50,000 goal," says Ernestine Smith '55. "We didn't have any money in our endowment before and we knew that 'failure is not an option' was the mindset we needed to have."

What did it take to reach this seemingly impossible goal? According to Smith, the answer was hard work along with a heavy dose of interaction and correspondence with fellow classmates.



*Class of 1965*

"We got the class list from the Alumni Office, updated the information and sent out letters letting everyone know about the goal. Then we followed up with phone calls," Smith explains. "It was so much fun. We didn't just talk about raising money. We would get on the phone, catch up with friends we hadn't spoken with in years and laugh. It was a pleasure."



*Class of 1955*

## Class of '55, '65 Reach Endowment Goal and Reconnect With Classmates

Evelyn Edwards '65 defined her experience as a 'labor of love.' "It was hard work. Yes, it was. But it was a labor of love for us," she says. "We simply let our class know how important it is give back to VSU. Just about everyone agrees that what we gained from VSU was priceless. Our giving is going to make an education possible for the up and coming VSU students. We feel good about giving to that cause."

That love and dedication helped the class of '65 raise \$30,000.

Striving toward the common goal of giving money while rekindling old friendships made this reunion year rewarding for Annie Pollard '65. "The fund raising effort was a thrill for me," she says. "It feels good to give back. The thanks you's from the University and from our class for leading the committee meant so much."

This was such a positive experience for the two classes. The committees challenged their classmates with a goal and the class answered the call.

However, the effort didn't end after the reunion. According to Naomi Brooks '55 this year's goals will only set the groundwork for future efforts. "We don't want to wait another five years to raise money or contact one another," she says. "We plan on keeping in touch regularly. Hopefully if we keep it in our minds to give a little every year, we won't have to wait five years to catch up on lost time."

Within the classes of '55 and '65 burns a fire for VSU. This year's gifts, while helping future generations, should serve to inspire and encourage other classes to make theirs a legacy of love for VSU.

# Commencement Draws SRO



## Speaker Applauds, Encourages Continued Education

Speaking before a standing-room-only crowd of nearly 10,000, Dr. Mary Hatwood Futrell, Dean of the Graduate School of Education and Human Development at George Washington University in Washington, DC, told graduating VSU seniors that their education was a life-long experience.

"You'll be studying for the rest of your life," she said.

The career educator continuously touched on her love of learning. "We must do a better job of educating our people. There is no greater cause than public education."

Dr. Futrell earned her BA in 1962 from Virginia State University. A former president of the National Education Association, Dr. Futrell has been dean of the Graduate School of Education and Human Development since 1995. She is also a professor of education and director of GW's Institute for Curriculum, Standards and Technology and



# Crowd to Siegel Center

president of Education An international speaker, lecturer, author, activist and recipient of more than 20 honorary degrees, she specializes in education reform policy, professional development, and diversity.

Renovations to Rogers Stadium and Daniel Gymnasium caused this year's Commencement to move to Richmond's Siegel Center, on the VCU campus. Graduates, family and friends poured into the 7,500 seat facility, sometimes six or seven deep.

Along with awarding diplomas to nearly 600 graduates, VSU presented the following awards: 2005 Alumnus of the Year Award to Mrs. Edith T. Stanley of Norfolk; Certificates of Merit to Ms. Linda Fitzgerald of Petersburg and Ms. Evelyn Jemison of Ettrick; and Friend of the University Awards to Mrs. Joyce Henderson of Ellicott City, MD and Mr. Larry Saunders of Richmond.

Also during Commencement, two retiring faculty members were recognized. They are Dr. Lorenza Lyons, retired Dean of the School of Agriculture, Faculty Emeritus; and Mr. Muddappa Rangappa, Department of Agricultural Research, Faculty Emeritus.



# ALUMNI NEWS

## VSUAA Chapter and Class Endowments



Thank you to everyone who contributed toward their Class and Chapter endowments. Your contributions help to keep the Trojan legacy alive!

Additional contributions can be mailed directly to:

Virginia State University  
Foundation  
PO Box 9071  
Petersburg, VA 23806

### Chapter Endowments

CHAPTER	NEW GIFTS 07/01/04 THRU 6/28/05	ENDOWMENT STATUS (Original)	NEW TOTAL
Agriculture Alumni	\$7,030.00	\$70,000.00	\$77,030.00
VSU Alphas	\$525.00	\$9,145.00	\$9,670.00
Baltimore Metro	\$2,175.00	\$5,800.00	\$7,975.00
Chicago Area	\$5,000.00	\$16,250.00	\$21,250.00
Columbia	\$1,000.00	\$3,549.02	\$4,549.02
Military	\$9,000.00	\$56,170.00	\$65,170.00
Greater New York	\$7,500.00	\$3,791.33	\$11,291.33
Peninsula Chapter	\$6,325.00	\$5,276.00	\$11,601.00
Greater Petersburg Area	\$5,000.00	\$39,000.00	\$44,000.00
Philadelphia	\$0.00	\$10,300.00	\$10,300.00
Northern VA Area	\$6,000.00	\$35,250.00	\$41,250.00
Richmond	\$1,500.00	\$25,581.83	\$27,081.83
Tidewater Area	\$8,200.00	\$53,680.41	\$61,880.41
Washington DC-Metro	\$14,500.00	\$17,000.00	\$31,500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>73,755.00</b>	<b>350,793.59</b>	<b>\$424,548.59</b>



## *Class Endowments*

CLASS YEAR	NEW GIFTS 07/01/04 THRU 6/28/05	ENDOWMENT STATUS (Original)	NEW TOTAL	CLASS YEAR	NEW GIFTS 07/01/04 THRU 6/28/05	ENDOWMENT STATUS (Original)	NEW TOTAL
1940	\$1,775.00	\$4,384.32	\$6,159.32	1957	\$3,316.00	\$39,290.00	\$42,606.00
1941	\$- 0	\$8,650.00	\$8,650.00	1958	\$100.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,600.00
1942	\$- 0	\$7,845.00	\$7,845.00	1959	\$50.00	\$27,350.00	\$27,400.00
1943	\$- 0	\$8,760.00	\$8,760.00	1960	\$6,300.00	\$100.00	\$6,400.00
1945	\$4,300.00	\$10,900.00	\$15,200.00	1961	\$200.00	\$13,376.80	\$13,576.80
1946	\$- 0	\$5,450.00	\$5,450.00	1962	\$4,088.68	\$18,085.48	\$22,174.16
1947	\$1,000.00	\$20,344.00	\$21,344.00	1963	\$- 0	\$4,300.00	\$4,300.00
1948	\$- 0	\$35,602.00	\$35,602.00	1964	\$1,000.00	\$- 0	\$1,000.00
1949	\$2,000.00	\$38,740.00	\$40,740.00	1965	\$25,877.50	\$4,632.36	\$30,509.86
1950	\$12,235.00	\$10,782.50	\$23,017.50	1966	\$- 0	\$9,519.00	\$9,519.00
1951	\$2,600.00	\$45,245.00	\$47,845.00	1968	\$- 0	\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00
1952	\$650.00	\$49,565.00	\$50,215.00	1970	\$8,017.50	\$- 0	\$8,017.50
1953	\$- 0	\$10,400.00	\$10,400.00	1975	\$3,350.00	\$6,800.00	\$10,150.00
1954	\$900.00	\$34,950.00	\$35,850.00	1977	\$- 0	\$4,554.00	\$4,554.00
1955	\$50,095.00	\$- 0	\$50,095.00	1980	\$2,140.00	\$- 0	\$2,140.00
1956	\$17,600.00	\$149,254.00	\$166,854.00	2000	<u>\$225.00</u>	<u>\$- 0</u>	<u>\$225.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>\$147,819.68</b>	<b>\$571,629.46</b>	<b>\$719,449.14</b>

# ALUMNI NEWS

## Chapter Contacts

Interested in staying connected to Virginia State University? Join a VSUAA Alumni Chapter near you!

Don't see an alumni chapter in your area? Maybe you would like to start one...Contact the Virginia State University Alumni Relations Office at (804) 524-6935 or [alumni@vsu.edu](mailto:alumni@vsu.edu) or the VSU Alumni Association at (804) 722-0040.

**Alumni Relations has a new e-mail address? Contact us for questions or information. [alumni@vsu.edu](mailto:alumni@vsu.edu) or (804) 524-6935**

Chapter	Name	Phone (home)	e-mail
Agriculture	Gladys Holland	(804)526-5815	
Amelia-Nottoway, VA	Clinton Jackson	(804)561-5241	
Baltimore Metro	Lee R. Pitts	(410)792-0759	
Buckingham, VA	James Ayres	(804)9833418	
Caroline County, VA	Lou Harper	(804)633-6845	
Central VA	Thomas Mayfield	(434)392-5194	
Charles City, VA	Arlene J. Jones	(804)966-5516	
Charlotte, NC	Jeff Hill	(704)948-1769	
Chicago	Charles Jones	630-293-4713	
Columbia, MD	Beverly Everson-Jones	(301)317-1111	
Columbia, SC	Carla Gatling	(803)419-1112	dcdjg57@aol.com
Dinwiddie County, VA	Thelma Jones	(804)733-3357	
Fayetteville, NC	Maurice A. Wingfield	(910)822-0130	Mwingfield@uncfsu.edu
Fredericksburg, VA	Charlyne Jackson-Fields	(540)710-1349	CEJ102269@aol.com
Greensville-Emporia, VA	McKinley Tucker	(804)634-4920	
Hanover, VA	Robert Bracey	(804)266-4581	RABracey3@aol.com
Human Ecology	Linda J. Cole	804-526-8185	
Louisa, VA	Gracie Quarles	(540)967-9261	qrquarles@aol.com
Lunenburg, VA	Cicily G. Marsh	(804)676-8821	cgm30@hotmail.com
Mecklenburg-Brunswick, VA	Leroy Davis	434-372-4118	
Metro Atlanta	Christy Walker	770)473-6614	
Middle Pen			
Military	Wilbert Dean	(804)520-1810	ilogan@vsu.edu
New York	Howard Dabney	(718)453-3593	HRDabney123@aol.com
Northern VA	Paul Garner	(703)222-8361	pgarn2@aol.com
Peninsula, VA	Norris E. Lamb	(757)827-6667	
Petersburg, VA	Starrie Jordan	(804)520-8622	deanandassociates@netzero.com
Philadelphia	Mildred Johnson	(215)224-4086	
Prince Edward, VA	Erenest E. Miller	(434)392-9929	eemiller@pec.ps.k12.va.us
Prince William, VA	Etta Salley	(703)368-4486	
Rappahannock, VA	Laura Brown		
Richmond, VA	Carole Long	(804)321-2388	
Surry/Prince George/Sussex, VA	Jean Grim	(804)732-3912	rjg041@central.dss.state.va.us
Tidewater, VA	Bryan Frazier	(757)487-5307	
VSU Alphas	Ernest Morse	(804)447-3859	
VSU Deltas	Nardos King	(703)913-5573	nking0284@aol.com
Washington DC	David Meyers	(240)604-4228	dam295@hotmail.com
Williamsburg, VA	Ethell B. Hill	(757)220-0966	ebh813@widomaker.com
Woo Woos	Robin M. Gray	(804)862-2555	
VSU National Alumni Association		804-722-0040	vsuaa@vsu.edu

## Through Pain, Coach Inspired Champions

It was a story straight out of Hollywood. The small school basketball team, perhaps undersized, but never out-hearted, led by a beloved coach, scrapping its way to a state championship. But this year's Surry County boys basketball team had something else. It had Joe Ellis at the helm.

Throughout the season, Joseph Alphonso Ellis, Sr. coached through the pain of inoperable colon cancer. His fight made national news as Surry County fought its way to its eventual, and perhaps inevitable, state title, the first in Ellis' more than 20 years of coaching and the only one in Surry County's history.

Weak from pain, Ellis manned the bench for all but one of the Cougars' games. By March, the beloved coach had lost nearly 60 pounds and could barely stand, gained strength from an abiding faith in God and a team on a mission.

In honor of both his leadership and the results produced by his inspiration, both the Associated Press and Virginia High School League (VHSL) named Ellis Virginia's Group A Coach of the Year. He was to lead the East All-stars in the VHSL's East/West game in July.

Ellis lost his battle on May 14, but his legacy will touch lives for many future generations.

A prodigious man, Ellis stood 6'4" and weighed nearly 250 pound in his prime. He was a feared softball player, one of the best ever in Southside and Central Virginia. He played basketball for the Trojans under Coach Harold Deane and earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees from VSU.



*Coach Joe Ellis focuses on the task at hand before the state championship game at Richmond's Siegel Center. He is joined by his wife Doris (behind) and surrounded by family.*

Ellis is survived by his wife of 31 years, Doris, also a VSU alumna; three children, Kimberly, Keisha and Joseph, Jr.; three grandchildren; and many beloved family members and friends.

## Alumni Help Honor Jazz Great Billy Taylor



Pianist Billy Taylor '43, considered by many to be "the world's foremost spokesman for jazz" retired from nearly 70 years of entertaining with a farewell concert at Washington, DC's Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Taylor witnessed the birth of Bebop as a musician in Harlem in the 1940s. His contemporaries included Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Dizzy Gillespie and he took his rightful place as a peer among these icons of the era.

In honor of his retirement, Jordan Kitt's Music Recital Hall in Vienna, VA held a special reception, featuring the CD, Taylor Made at the Kennedy Center, a compilation featuring Taylor's personal performances and others performing his compositions.

Attending the reception were VSU alumni (L to R) Frances Ball, Taylor, Shirley Alexander and Gladys Fitzhugh-Pemberton.

# ALUMNI NEWS

## Presidential Scholars Golf Tournament Set for Homecoming Weekend

The 11th Annual Presidential Scholars Golf Tournament will be held Friday, Oct. 7 at the Highland's Golfers Club in Chesterfield, VA. Registration begins at 7 a.m. with a shotgun start at 8 a.m. The tournament will be held rain or shine. Trophies for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in two flights will be awarded. Come out for a day of fun to benefit VSU's Presidential Scholars Fund. Last year, the tournament raised nearly \$35,000. This year's goal is a sell-out (144 players) and to raise at least \$50,000 for scholarships. Your support helps VSU stay competitive in attracting top caliber students. For more information, contact the Office of Development at (804) 524-6986.



## Tribute to Mrs. Mary Black Banks '28, '36

*Evelyn P. Ragland, Secretary, Caroline County Chapter VSU Alumni Association*



*“For thou has been a shelter for me  
and a strong tower from the enemy.  
I will abide in thy tabernacle  
forever. I will trust in the covert  
of thy wings.”*

Psalm 61, Verses 3 & 4

The Lord was Mrs. Banks shelter. She was like a mother to me. I've known her all my life. When I think about her and my life I remember the days when I was "yea high" when she gave me my first red and white sweater to symbolize Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. She was also a religious person maintaining active membership at Shiloh Baptist Church, Bowling Green, VA. Mrs. Banks was truly a community person who touched many. She was active in the NAACP, was a Home Economics instructor in Caroline County for many years, served as President of the Richmond Virginia Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, active in the Petersburg Alumnae Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, served as President for our Caroline County Chapter of the Virginia State University Alumni Association and served as Worthy Matron Welcome Chapter #129, Order of the Eastern Star.

In the Caroline County Chapter Virginia State University Alumni Association we give scholarships to students attending Virginia State University. Mrs. Banks was a strong sponsor of the scholarship honoring her late husband, Mr. A. McKee Banks.

Mrs. Banks was like a mother because she taught me cooking at school and often gave motherly advice. I remember the days when she and my mother, the late Mrs. Celestine C. Ragland would work tirelessly in our Community Cannery. She was my sister in two ways. I remember the days of NHA (New Homemakers of America) and FHA (Future Homemakers of America) when students would visit the summer camp (JR Thomas Camp) and go to the State Fair in the fall.

I will surely miss her. We will all miss her. She lived a good life. Let us think about the good times we had with her. She has left her temporary shelter of 95 years and is now in a better place to rejoin (after over 28 years), her late husband, Mr. A. McKee Banks, other close friends and associates.

We shall all miss her smiling face and kind heart. Let us bid farewell.

The Caroline County Chapter Virginia State University Alumni Association desires you think of her and of a deserving student and donate funds to the A. M. Banks Scholarship Fund in her memory.

## VSU Agriculture Alumni Chapter Documents Histories

The Virginia State University Agriculture Alumni Chapter has begun the process of documenting the role of African-Americans in the development of Agriculture in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Although there have been some attempts to record the history of the role African-Americans played in the development of the industry, the record is incomplete, and painfully sparse.

The VSU Agriculture Alumni Chapter was formed in 1982. The major purposes of this group have been the promoting, recruiting, retaining and providing scholarships for the Agriculture Department of the University. Members strive to promote the purposes of the organization. This project is one deemed worthy of the organization's efforts and support, so that history will accurately record the many and/or varied contributions made by African-Americans to the Agricultural Industry in the Commonwealth.

The first interviews were conducted during the summer of 2004 at the homes of several of the oldest subjects. The remaining interviews were conducted at VSU's Randolph Farm during October 2004 and February 2005. Each subject was interviewed, videotaped, and photographed.

The list of persons interviewed includes Dr. Clarence Gray, Mr. Milton C. Harding, Dr. Cornelius C. Lewis, Mr. Irving Peoples, Dr. Freddie Nicholas, Mrs. Gladys Holland, Dr. B.B. Archer, Mr. Sam Smith, Mr. Clarence Stith, Mr. Kenton Gardner, Dr. Harvey Shelton, Mr. Ernest Claud, Mr. Ernest Morse, Mr. Andrew Farrar, Mrs. Wilhelmina Baughan, Mrs. Ernestine Jeffries, Mr. Thomas Mayfield, Mrs. Hattie West, Mrs. Sarah Jean Walden, Mr. Ben Lee, Mr. Stanley McMullen and Mr. Herman Maclin.

A presentation highlighting some of the oral histories was made at the annual meeting of the Virginia State University Agriculture Alumni Chapter on Saturday, April 30, 2005. The videotaped interviews and photographs will become a part of the Virginia University Archives. Further plans include a television documentary and the collection of memorabilia.

We would like to acknowledge the contributions of the following individuals to this project: VSU Agriculture Alumni, Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Virginia Department of Historical Resources, and Colonial Farm Credit.

## Kappas Celebrate 70 Years

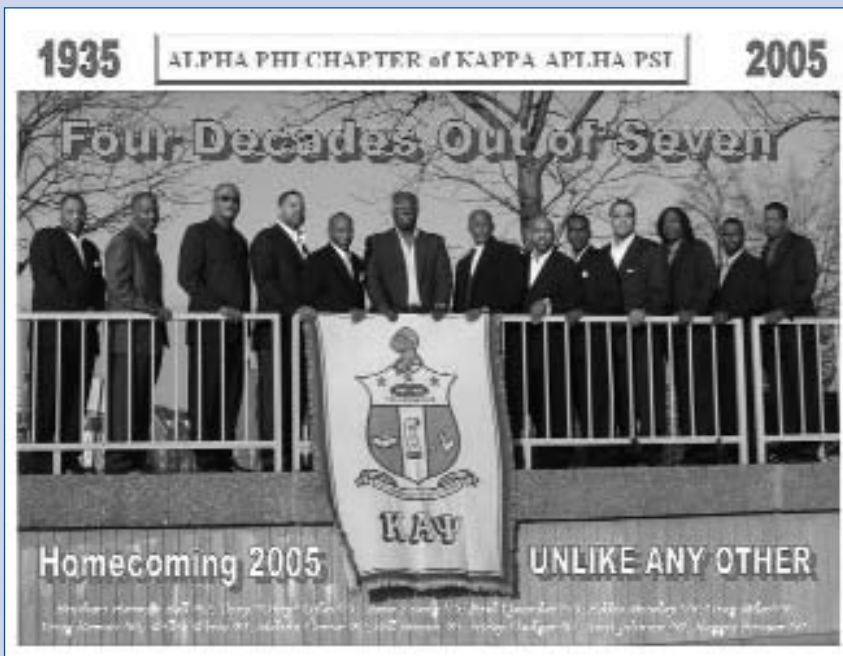
Recently, four decades of men that pledged Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity at Virginia State (Alpha Phi Chapter) came together to discuss Homecoming at VSU and a goal of getting or attracting all of those Brothers that joined Kappa Alpha Psi while they were at State to come back to Homecoming on October 8, 2005. It's rare, but great that four decades of VSU Alumni can come together, and it not be for a funeral.

This year is special because its the 70th Anniversary of the Alpha Phi Chapter (VSU) of Kappa Alpha Psi.

The names of the Brothers and the year they pledged at VSU in the photo are, from left to right:

Greg Barrett '80, Tony Giles '75, Steve Young '75, Greg Miles '79, Eddie Moseley '78, Herman Bell '62, Paul Quander '75, Willie White '81, Melvin Carter '82, Bill Brown III '83, Ricky Gudger '87, Scott Johnson '91 and Reggie Pasteur '91.

The Kappas hope to attract as many brothers as possible back to homecoming this year for our 70th Anniversary.



# ALUMNI NOTES

Hopewell city schools recently recognized **Thelma B. Jones '55** with the Distinguished Service Award. Ms. Jones taught in Hopewell schools for 28 years. She has also been named 1991 Woman of the Year, 1998 Virginia State Distinguished Honoree, 2002 Woman of the Year, 2004 Outstanding VSU Alumnus and was the first African-American and female appointee to the Dinwiddie County Board of Zoning Appeals. She is active in many community organizations and boards and serves as the president for the Dinwiddie Chapter of the VSUAA.

**Claudia B. Rollins '68** retired from the District of Columbia government after 20 years of service. Mrs. Rollins held many positions with the Metropolitan Police Department, including Civilian Manager, Management Liaison Officer of the Information Services Division, Manager of Equipment & Supplies Branch, Deputy Director of the Identification & Records Division and Acting Director of the Business Services Division. She is a member of the Caroline County VSU Alumni Chapter.

**The Hon. Joel C. Cunningham '70** was recently honored by Halifax County, VA for outstanding contributions to the community. Cunningham, a judge in the county's General District Court, has been involved in numerous community organizations as a board member or officer.

**Marvin Curtis Jones '70** of Mechanicsville recently received two honors. He was recognized for 20 years of service at Bon Secours St. Mary's Hospital in Richmond, VA and was also named "Father of the Year" at Third Street Bethel AME Church in Richmond.



**Dr. Charles Johnson '71** recently returned from duty in Kosovo, where he served in a dental unit providing services to NATO troops, contractors and civilians. Dr. Johnson, a colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves, was called to active duty in June 2004 and served in Kosovo from October 2004 to January 2005.

Governor Mark R. Warner has appointed Virginia Department of Transportation Inspector General **Gregory A. Whirley '74** to serve as VDOT's Interim Commissioner. Whirley, a Certified Public Accountant, 17-year VDOT veteran and Inspector General since September 2000, will succeed Philip A. Shucet, who resigned effective July 1.



"Greg Whirley brings experience and fiscal integrity to the position of Interim Commissioner, and his appointment should signal to everyone that we remain committed to the successful reforms we have implemented at VDOT," Governor Warner said. "Greg has the leadership experience to insist on public accountability and individual responsibility within VDOT as we continue to improve VDOT's on-time and on-budget performance."

The Richmond Economic Development Corporation (REDC) has named **Tanner A. Collins, Jr. '74, '76** as its Deputy Director of Lending. Collins had previously been with Consolidated Bank & Trust Co. as a vice president for commercial lending. In his new position, Collins will be responsible for REDC's lending program.

**Gwyndolyn Lomax '75** of Hampton was recently selected as the WalMart State Teacher of the Year. Ms. Lomax, the science instructional lead teacher at Francis Mallory Elementary School, was selected for the Virginia honor from among 150 nominees.



**Michael Thomas '77** has been named head of the George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academy, Inc. in Montgomery County, MD. As principal on special assignment, Thomas will direct the 10 academies, also known as "Saturday Schools." About 2,000 students attend these sessions. Thomas has been a principal and teacher in several Montgomery County schools, most recently principal at Westbrook Elementary School.

**Julian Jones '81** has been appointed as Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court Judge effective April 1, 2005. He was appointed as presiding Judge in the Stafford, VA Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. From 1994- 2005 he owned his own firm where he practiced law in the areas of bankruptcy, criminal/traffic defense, and family law.

**James T. Evans, III '83** a Certified Financial Planner candidate and President of Advancement Enterprises I, Inc recently celebrated the 20th anniversary of his financial services and insurance firm. The firm is located in Central New Jersey and has a client base of over 5,000. The web site of the firm is [www.aeiinsurance.com](http://www.aeiinsurance.com).

Former Petersburg Mayor **Rosalyn Dance '86** won a special election to fill the vacancy in the House of Delegates 63rd District of the Virginia General Assembly. She will run for a permanent seat in the legislature in November.





**Kimberly King '86** was named Executive Director of Lawyers for Children America (LFCA) in April. LFCA has offices in Florida, Connecticut and national headquarters in Washington, DC.

King, former Executive Director of the historic Anthony Bowen Branch for the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington, was also Quality

Assurance Coordinator for the YMCA's child care programs, advisor to the child care service teams and served on the organization's strategic planning team. While serving as Executive Director, she was responsible for the renovation of two sites, worked with a Board of Directors to raise the annual fundraising goal, and received numerous awards for budget and facility management.

She was awarded a Certificate of Merit from the District of Columbia, with a day named in her honor.

**Sherry Meachem Alexander '93** was recently named Teacher of the Year by Henderson Independent High School in Salisbury, NC. Ms. Alexander has served on the Advisory Council for the state superintendent of public instruction. She serves on the School Improvement Team and has been a delegate to the National Education Association convention for the past four years.

**Teresa Lindberg, MA '00**, was recently named a finalist for the National Agriscience Teacher of the Year Award. She was the first woman from Virginia to compete for the prize. Ms. Lindberg is a teacher in Greensville Co., VA.

It is with great pleasure that The Greater New York Chapter proudly recognizes and congratulates **James Lamar Richardson '03**. Since relocating to the area he has been a strong supporter of our chapter and has attended virtually all meetings, despite the fact he lives in New Jersey, is a full-time graduate student and is also employed part-time. James has also recruited other recent VSU graduates and served on the Homecoming Committee. While many of our young graduates are out "doing their thing" James has dedicated himself to the causes of his alma mater through the chapter.

Second Lieutenant **Dwayne W. Bowden '04** recently completed the U.S. Army's Signal Officers Basic Course in Fort Gordon, GA. Bowden is a native of Amelia County, VA.

## Chapter News:

The Caroline County Chapter hosted a scholarship benefit concert on October 23, 2004. The concert featured the R&B group Bak-N-Da-Day. VSU alumnus **Russell Bennett** is a member of the group. Each year, the chapter gives two scholarships to students from the local community who are enrolled at Virginia State.

The Hanover Chapter held its annual Fellowship Banquet on Sunday April 17. The theme of the banquet was "Advocating and Promoting Student Assistance for Higher Education." The speaker for the event was VSU alumnus **Reverend Earl Hall, Sr.** The chapter awarded three scholarships to local students.

The Prince Edward County Chapter held its first scholarship banquet on Saturday, May 21 in Farmville, VA. **Dr. Eric Thomas**, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs at Virginia State University was guest speaker.

The Prince George-Sussex Alumni Chapter held its annual Spring Fling Dance on April 1 in Disputanta, VA. The annual dance is the biggest fundraiser for the chapter's scholarship fund. They would like to thank the VSUAA Greater Petersburg Area Chapter, The VSUAA Tidewater Chapter and The VSUAA Peninsula Chapter for their support.

The Washington, DC Chapter held its annual Scholarship Dinner Dance on April 22 at Martin's Crosswinds, Greenbelt, MD. This event is the Chapter's largest and most celebrated fundraising event, this year generating over \$8,000 in scholarship funding to assist deserving students in both the short- and long-term. The tuition assistance scholarships are given to deserving students in and around the Washington, DC Metropolitan area who are currently enrolled and/or aspiring to enroll at VSU. Over 250 patrons attended this year's affair, which featured an exquisite buffet dinner, seven-piece band and the fellowship of renewing old acquaintances and making new Trojan friends.

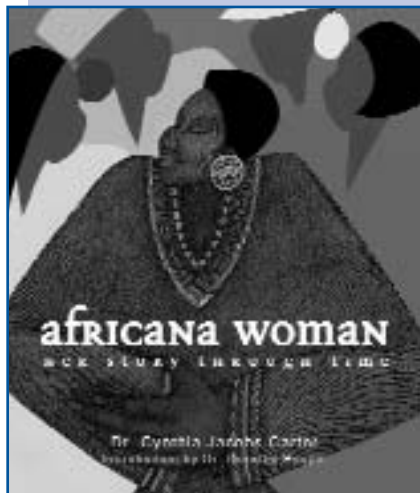
## Corrections:

The Goochland Educators Hall of Fame recently inducted **Patricia R. Keel '84, '91**. She is currently an educator in the Arlington Public School System. The name was reported incorrectly in the last issue.

**Taneisha Brown BA '96, MS '98** has been named Associate Vice President for Student Affairs at Shaw University in North Carolina. Previously, she worked with the City of Richmond as a compliance specialist/administrator. Brown is the youngest Associate Vice President ever appointed at Shaw. Her graduation years were reported incorrectly in the last issue.

# BOOKS

VSU alumni authored three recently published books.



The indomitable spirit, strength and courage of black women is celebrated in *Africana Woman: Her Story Through Time*, by noted historian and professor Cynthia Jacobs Carter '73. This one-of-a-kind volume from National Geographic traces the voices of women of African descent around the world, from ancient times to the present. This lavishly illustrated book tells the stories of remarkable women who, through the ages, have triumphed over adversity and greatly influenced the political, social and cultural structures of the societies in which they lived. From queens of antiquity to modern politicians, these daughters of Africa have inspired awe worldwide.

*Story Fest* is a collection of children's stories written and illustrated by Alveta V. Green '56. Ms. Green, a Norfolk, VA native, was the 1998 VSU Alumnus of the Year. She is a retired early childhood education teacher and freelance writer. She has received the Mary Hatwood Futrell Award for motivating students to appreciate the values of all cultures. Ms. Green calls *Story Fest* represents a "combining of forms denoting a festive occasion."



Having traveled more than a million miles in his automobile, Michael Dantley '82 felt qualified to author *The Unwritten Rules of the Road*. This book offers a common sense approach to navigating America's highways. Dantley's humorous, practical approach says what we all have felt at one time or another while behind the wheel.



# DEVELOPMENT NEWS

## Annual Fund Tops Previous Year

June 30, 2005 marked the end of the 2004 - 05 Annual Fund Drive. Gifts and pledges to this year's drive exceeded the previous fiscal year by over 39 percent, raising nearly \$240,000. During the five-week phonathon, over 40 volunteers and seven paid, student workers contacted thousands of alumni and friends to reconnect them with VSU, locate lost alumni to update our records and to raise additional support for the Annual Fund. Here is a list of frequently asked questions and answers about the Annual Fund:

### *What is the Annual Fund?*

The Annual Fund provides unrestricted gifts that support every aspect of the Virginia State University educational experience, including scholarships and financial aid, academic enhancement, faculty development and athletics. The VSU Annual Fund Drive runs from July 1 to June 30 each year.

### *Why should I give?*

A healthy Annual Fund is critically important for the University. In addition to the invaluable support provided for scholarships, athletics, academic enhancements and faculty development, the VSU Annual Fund is also viewed as a barometer of the state of the University. Many foundations and other grant-making organizations consider size of the annual fund and the percent of alumni participation as a

means of measuring a university's stature and stability. College and university guidebooks and recruiting organizations see the annual fund as an indicator of alumni satisfaction. A gift to the VSU Annual Fund is the most effective way alumni and friends can demonstrate their belief in the mission of Virginia State University.

### *How are the funds disbursed?*

Gifts to the VSU Annual Fund are collected and disbursed through the Office of Development. The majority of the funds are used for scholarship support.

### *I give through my chapter?*

Great! It is important for VSU to have a strong and viable alumni association and individual chapters. However, we ask that you do both. Your individual support of the VSU Annual Fund benefits the University directly and immediately. It also enables VSU to track and report individual giving and participation. VSU currently has over 16,000 living alumni and friends. However, only 8 percent of our alumni currently give back to the University. An individual gift is the only way to increase our participation rates.

### *What amount should I give?*

Every dollar counts! Your individual gift, when combined with the gifts of other alumni, parents and friends, makes an immediate impact at the University. Every dollar raised is available for immediate use by VSU.

## McKee Scholarship Honors Beloved Son



*L to R: Col. and Mrs. Jona McKee and Mrs. Anne Taylor, Vice Chair, Cameron Foundation.*

Retired Lt. Col. Jona W. H. McKee '74 departed this life on October 18, 2004. Winfield, as his parents, Lt. Col. (Ret.) Jona '53 and Iris '52, affectionately called him, was a dedicated service man, engineer, motivational speaker, coach and loving son. Inspired by their son's enthusiasm for life and learning, Jona and Iris found strength by working to establish the *Jona W.H. McKee Scholarship at VSU*. This Endowment will honor Winfield's memory into perpetuity, establishing a legacy that will always be a part of Virginia State University, while also helping deserving students realize their dream for a college education. To date, nearly \$12,000 has been raised. For more information on endowed memorial scholarships or other planned gift arrangements, please contact Michelle Packer, Development Officer, (804) 524-5667 or [mpacker@vsu.edu](mailto:mpacker@vsu.edu).



## Universal Leaf Donation Endows Engineering Chair

Universal Leaf Foundation has awarded Virginia State University \$100,000 to establish an Endowed Chair in the School of Engineering, Science and, Technology (SEST). The Endowment will provide funding for faculty and curriculum development, faculty travel and research, and faculty salary supplements. This is the second SEST endowment Universal Leaf has established at VSU in as many years: In May 2003, they established the Universal Leaf Foundation Manufacturing Engineering Scholarship Fund.

## Bennett Center Will Personalize International Relations

Through a gift of \$100,000 from the estate of Dr. George H. Bennett, Virginia State University will establish the G.H. Bennett Center for International Education. The Center will include research on the world's diverse populations, globalization of the academic experience and financial support for VSU students to engage in international study and travel.



Dr. Bennett, a life member of both the VSU National Alumni Association and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., enjoyed a distinguished career in academia and international affairs, primarily under the auspices of the United Nations.

As a founder of the United States – South African Leader Exchange Program, Dr. Bennett facilitated the

exchange of leadership expertise and ideas regarding racial integration between these two countries at a time when segregation was the official policy in South Africa.

It is this legacy of intellectual exchange that the Bennett Center will foster, according to Dr. Bennett's widow, Mrs. Jessie Davis Bennett. "It seemed important for the future, especially with the world getting smaller and smaller," she says. "By exchanging faculty and staff with various countries, they can learn from our experiences and can give knowledge of their experiences."



Mrs. Jessie Bennett

Mrs. Bennett says the Center will be grounded in the liberal arts, providing a humanistic understanding of other cultures. "This is a very important area that's been overlooked in liberal arts," she says.

She explains that one important aspect of this education would be to teach young adults the unique customs and social mores prevalent around the globe. "Through 24 years of travel with my husband, I discovered that many cultures consider Americans to be unrefined," she says. Perhaps someone at the Center could be in contact with the White House or State Department to better prepare students on the cultures of the countries they might visit."

## Cameron Foundation Awards \$200,000 for Teacher Education

Petersburg's Cameron Foundation has awarded Virginia State University a two-year, \$200,000 grant in support of a Regional Educational Reform Program.

The University, through the School of Liberal Arts and Education's Professional Education Programs Unit, will use the funds to stem the attrition of area teachers, while increasing the number of effective, qualified teachers entering the job market. To accomplish this task, VSU will establish Praxis and Virginia Reading Assessment (VRA) testing institutes.

The purpose of these institutes is to assist provisionally licensed teachers in the localities immediately neighboring VSU with passing the Praxis and the VRA tests. Before a teacher is fully licensed, they must pass these tests.

To help excellent teachers increase their income without leaving the classroom fully or partially to assume administrative responsibilities, VSU will establish a Pre-National Board Certification Program. This will create an avenue by which teachers can enhance teaching skills and remain in the classroom as nationally recognized "master teachers."

The Cameron Foundation was created by the sale of Southside Regional Medical Center (SRMC). It is committed to honoring

## Bank of America presents \$100,000 check to VSU



Mr. Victor Branch, senior vice president at Bank of America (c), recently presented a \$100,000 check to Virginia State University to fund a Center for Banking Research in VSU's School of Business. Accepting the gift is Assistant Vice President for Development Joandra C. Haliburton (l) and VSU President Eddie N. Moore, Jr. The Center will provide students with professional accounting and financial skills using research and technology tools appropriate for the hiring needs of funding institutions. The Center's program will include Financial Literacy Education, Community Outreach and Summer Internships for Students and Faculty.

the spirit of public service developed by SRMC and serves to benefit and improve the quality of life of the residents of Petersburg and surrounding areas.

# Top Donors Honored at Inaugural Awards Dinner

Special guests walked the red carpet at a VIP Reception in Foster Hall this April. Held in conjunction with the Donor Appreciation Awards Dinner, the reception featured walking tours of Johnston Memorial Library. Alumnus James "Saxsmo" Gates on alto sax and Dr. Weldon Hill, Dean, School of Liberal Arts & Education, on piano provided music at both events. At the Dinner, bassist Carl Lester-El and drummer Stacy Lamont Sydnor blended in for a perfect quartet. Top donors from July 1, 2003 - April 15, 2005 were presented Donor of the Year Awards in eight categories:

ALUMNI — Mrs. Jessie Bennett, in loving memory  
of Dr. George H. Bennett  
BOARD OF VISITORS - Dr. Daryl C. Dance  
CORPORATE - Universal Leaf  
FACULTY/STAFF - Dr. Emmett L. Ridley  
FOUNDATION - The Cameron Foundation  
GOVERNMENT - Chesterfield County  
LOCAL BUSINESS - Larry C. Tucker, Petersburg Motors  
RELIGIOUS/CIVIC -TIE: Commonwealth Chapter of the Links  
and First Baptist Church of Hampton

Pewter loving cups were presented to Legacy Award recipients, Mrs. Antoinette L. Toppin, on behalf of the late Dr. Edgar Toppin and President Eddie N. Moore, Jr. as Top Powell Society donors. The Powell Society includes those who have made provisions for VSU in a will, life insurance policy, retirement plan or other planned gift arrangement.

The next Donor Appreciation Awards Dinner will be held in the fall of 2006 to recognize Top Donors from April 16, 2005 through June 30, 2006.





**ALUMNI WEEKEND 2005**

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