

# VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

**Commencement  
caps whirlwind year!**

## From the President

---



I am pleased to thank each one of you for our success at Virginia State University this academic year. These many achievements are a direct result of working together toward a common goal. VSU has been tremendously successful in higher education for many years; however, this is a special time. Our pursuit of excellence is greater than ever. My commitment to our pursuit is firm.

In the next year, a couple of our priorities will be to: 1) Facilitate individual and organizational learning, and 2) Foster an environment that values cooperation, but also encourages risk taking and initiative.

We had a great 2010-11 academic year. Our successes were a result of team efforts. Increases in student retention rates and in the number of transfer students, as well as additional public/private partnerships, are just a few of our advances. There were many more during this academic year.

I am delighted to mention a few of these tremendous accomplishments. Some examples include:

- The ROTC department commissioned 23 VSU graduates into the U.S. Army, continuing to lead all HBCUs in commissioning Cadets to Second Lieutenants;
- The School of Engineering, Science and Technology students for their volunteerism and academic success; Two psychology students, Darnell Barrington and Reginald Stroble, were selected as part of a class of 25-30 students from colleges and universities throughout the country to participate in the 19th Annual Multicultural Academic Opportunities Program Summer Research Internship Program at Virginia Tech;
- The School of Business for being the first HBCU in the country to provide a curriculum that is predominantly delivered in a digital format, and student Ashley Vines as the first VSU student to ever receive the high honor of being named an International Business Council Scholar;
- The School of Agriculture for their partnership with Farm Credit for Virginians to provide students with experiential learning opportunities as well as for their many other partnerships throughout the Commonwealth;
- The department of health, physical education, recreation and dance in the School of Liberal Arts and Education for arranging a unique agreement between VSU and Minor League Baseball;
- VSU becoming a founding partner in the Commonwealth Center for Advanced Manufacturing, that will apply research conducted in VSU labs to the manufacturing floor of such illustrious companies as Rolls Royce and Newport News Shipbuilding.

Again, this is just a small snapshot of the wonderful milestones our campus community has recently produced. I look forward to sharing many more in the future. Thank you for your ongoing support of Virginia State University.

Dr. Keith T. Miller  
*President, Virginia State University*

## Features

- 6 *Grant Spurs Internationalism*
- 8 *Thompson Hospitality donate \$1 million*
- 8 *VSU a Leader in "Game Changing" Manufacturing Initiative*
- 10 *Commencement Caps President's Whirlwind Inaugural Year*

## Departments

- 4 *News from University Avenue*
- 14 *Alumni News*
- 23 *Development News*
- 27 *Athletics*

### Board of Visitors

**Rector**

Mr. Felix Davis

**Vice Rector**

Ms. Katherine Busser

**Secretary**

Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Al Cade

**Members**

Mr. George K. Anas, II  
 Mr. Jerry B. Bias  
 Mr. Harry Black  
 Mr. Allyn Carnam  
 Mrs. Catherine Gillespie  
 Mr. Terone B. Green  
 Mrs. Maureen Denlea Massey  
 Mr. E. Ray Murphy  
 Mrs. Daphne Maxwell Reid  
 Mr. James H. Starkey  
 Ms. Barbara Steverson  
 Mr. Spencer L. Timm

**Student Representative**

Ms. LaJessica Stringfellow

**Faculty Representative**

Dr. Ben Nwoke

### University Administration

**President**

Dr. Keith T. Miller

**Vice President for Development and University Relations**

Robert L. Turner, Jr., Esq.

**Editor/Director of University Relations**

Thomas E. Reed

**Contributing Writers**

Osita Iroegbu  
 Nancy L. Jones  
 Latryce Noel  
 Jason Pompey  
 Danielle Watkins  
 Andrea Tatum

**Contributing Photographers**

Jason Pompey  
Rudolph Powell

**Design and Printing**

Saxman Photography  
Progress Printing, Inc.

Virginia State University Magazine is published twice annually for alumni, parents, faculty, staff and friends. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. Please send them to:

**Editor**

Virginia State University Magazine  
P.O. Box 9085  
VSU, VA 23806

(804) 524-5045  
tered@vsu.edu

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

copyright © 2011 by Virginia State University

**Alumni**

Send your news to:  
Alumni in News  
PO Box 9027  
VSU, VA 23806  
atatum@vsu.edu



## VSU Effort Vital for World's Newest Country

Virginia State University has been awarded a \$1.47 million grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development to share the University's Cooperative Extension mission with two universities in Southern Sudan. VSU will partner with Virginia Tech to bring the schools' land-grant model to the University of Juba and the Catholic University of Sudan.

VSU and Virginia Tech faculty will work with the Sudanese schools to establish research programs on ma-

JOR food crops of Southern Sudan, help the universities build basic and applied research capabilities in agriculture, assist in training laboratory and field research personnel, build an outreach program that transfers research-based technology to farms and integrate research with graduate programs.

Southern Sudan became an independent country in July 2011 after its citizens overwhelmingly voted to secede from Sudan.

The VSU portion of the five-year program is led by Dr. Wondi Mersie and Dr. Laban Rutto. Dr. Mersie said rebuilding Southern Sudan's agriculture is vital to the fledgling country's hopes. "By bringing to the country our land grant system of integrated education, research and extension, we will be establishing a great model for establishing a firm foundation in agriculture."

**Get Connected to VSU!**



VSU is developing a comprehensive social media network to stay connected to alumni and friends. You can keep abreast of university events and news by following Virginia State on Twitter at [twitter.com/VSUTrojans](https://twitter.com/VSUTrojans) or by regularly visiting our Facebook page [facebook.com/VirginiaStateUniversity](https://facebook.com/VirginiaStateUniversity). You can also update your VSU NetCommunity information by visiting the "Alumni" tab at [www.vsu.edu](http://www.vsu.edu) to receive our latest mailings via e-mail, including VSU's new electronic newsletter and calendar.

**Please visit our new sites and Get Connected to Virginia State!**

## Students Participate in Model African Union

Virginia State University participated in the Ninth Annual Model African Union Conference at Howard University in Washington, DC. A student delegation represented the country of Comoros during the simulated proceedings of the African Union, an organization of 53 member nations working collaboratively to address economic, social, and political-security issues, as well as other concerns that impact the continent. The experience gave students an opportunity to study the role, structure and activities of the African Union as it worked to resolve these issues. Each participating college and university represented one or more of the member nations. In preparation for the proceedings, students developed their research and critical thinking skills as they learned the complexities of international diplomacy.

Members of the VSU delegation were Kevin Ealy, a senior psychology major; Janet Imobisa, a senior

sociology major; Afua Riverson, a junior political science major; Shadé Smith, a senior sociology major; Meagan Whiten, a junior mass communications major; and YI'yahkim Yisra'yil, a senior HPERD major. Dr. Joyce M. Edwards, Associate Professor of Sociology, served as the Delegate Faculty Advisor. The simulation was augmented by briefings at African Embassies in Washington, through which students gained a better understanding of the factors that shape the domestic and foreign policies of African countries, as well as the patterns of cooperation and conflict that characterize intra-African diplomacy.

Along with the African Union Mission in Washington and Member State Embassies, Howard University sponsors the simulation each year. In 2002 the African Union replaced the Organization of African Unity, established in 1963.

## Gateway Dining and Event Center serves up

# Culinary excellence

VSU officially opened the \$7 million Gateway Dining & Event Center in Spring 2011. The 40,800-square-foot facility can seat 1,250 people at capacity on two levels. Downstairs, 600 students experience state-of-the-art dining, including made-to-order omelets, multiple entree stations and flat-screen TVs to enhance the atmosphere. The second level includes dining for 650 guests in an open room that can be portioned into smaller areas for conferences.



▲ *Sophomore, hospitality management major Bryana Simms (L) and freshman, hospitality management major Lauren Purvis enjoy made-to-order omelets on the new Dining Center's opening day.*

▲ *Dawn Matthews, a senior, sociology major enjoys one of the first meals served in the new facility*



# Grant Spurs Internationalism

Virginia State University is one of seven institutions selected by the American Council on Education (ACE) to its new *Creating Global Citizens: Exploring Internationalization at HBCUs* (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) project, funded in part by the U.S. Department of Education. The other institutions are Dillard University (LA), Howard University (DC), Lincoln University (MO), North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, Savannah State University (GA) and Tuskegee University (AL).

The institutions will work with an ACE project team over the next two years to advance campus internationalization. They will conduct an audit of their international activities and consider strategies to ensure their graduates have opportunities for global learning. These strategies might range from infusing international content into academic programs to developing strategic partnerships with institutions in other countries. The project also includes a research component to identify the factors that enhance and impede internationalization at HBCUs.

"If we don't better prepare our graduates to join the global workforce here in the 21st century, we're in danger of falling behind. That is why the Department of Education's support for this effort and the work of these institutions is so critical," said ACE President Molly Corbett Broad. "I congratulate these seven colleges and universities, which were selected after a very rigorous application process."

"This grant is one of several efforts we are undertaking to give HBCUs, minority-serving institutions and other schools the tools they need to educate students for success in our global society," said Eduardo Ochoa, assistant secretary for postsecondary education at the U.S. Department of Education. "We look forward to the outcomes of ACE's work and hope the results will serve as a model for other HBCUs and schools that serve students who are underrepresented in international education."

"Historically Black Colleges and Universities are committed to ensuring the students they serve are prepared for our global society, not just through study abroad but

through curricular advances. A holistic focus on internationalization at these institutions will help ensure that happens," said ACE Senior Vice President Shirley Pippins. "ACE has a long history of supporting greater access and success for all students, and we are pleased to partner with HBCUs in this effort."

The project is overseen by an advisory group of representatives from the Council for Opportunity in Education, the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Education, the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, the United Negro College Fund (UNCF), UNCF-Special Programs, and leaders from within the HBCU community.

Applications to the project were open in fall 2010 to all four-year accredited HBCUs with undergraduate student bodies. The seven awardees were chosen through a competitive review process of applicants.

Creating Global Citizens is funded by a U.S. Department of Education International Studies and Research Grant award (\$357,976) with an ACE match of 35 percent (\$191,479).



## Ettrick Revitalization

VSU President Keith Miller joined Chesterfield County Supervisor Marleen Durfee in announcing a project to revitalize the Village of Ettrick. The project includes new landscaping and streetscaping and promises to promote a more "college town" feel to the area. The effort, a partnership between VSU and Chesterfield, is in keeping with VSU's plans to expand its campus and assist the county in developing a mixed use retail/residential corridor along Chesterfield Avenue. VSU was recently heralded by Jacksonville (FL).com as one of the Top 10 schools in the country in turning around its neighboring community.

## VSU Signs Agreement with Minor League Baseball

### Virginia State University

(VSU) has entered into a landmark Letter of Cooperation with Minor League Baseball (MiLB) to benefit VSU's students across various disciplines through the support of and/or participation in Speaker's Series, Presentations, Projects, Workshops, Seminars and other events that will benefit the University's students.

The agreement is in keeping with MiLB's initiatives to increase diversity throughout its organization and to provide outreach in the communities it serves. One of the goals of MiLB's diversity initiative is to provide students with networking and educational opportunities

through a series of student-directed classroom, seminar, speaking engagements, practical experiences and internship projects.

VSU President Keith T. Miller, Ph.D. said the agreement represents a tremendous opportunity for both Virginia State and Minor League Baseball. "We are delighted about entering into this relationship," he said. "Virtually any discipline can find a place in Minor League Baseball. This is an organization with a commitment to social responsibility and the highest ethical standards."

MiLB President Pat O'Conner said VSU fit the profile of schools with which his organization devel-



ops associations. "Minor League Baseball couldn't be happier," he said. "This agreement ties into so many things we're doing. We're looking for trailblazers, and VSU is certainly a trailblazer."

## VSU Professor Awarded Fulbright Grant

The J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, the Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State and the Council for International Exchange of Scholars have selected VSU languages and literature Professor Sheikh Umarr Kamarah, Ph.D. for a Summer 2011



Fulbright Specialist grant in Applied Linguistics/TEFL at Fourah Bay College University of Sierra Leone, Sierra Leone.

As a Fulbright Scholar, Dr. Kamarah will be joining the ranks of distinguished scholars and pro-

fessionals worldwide who are leaders in the educational, political, economic, social and cultural lives of their countries. Dr. Kamarah was selected, in part, because he demonstrated the qualities of excellence and leadership that have been the hallmarks of this respected international academic

exchange program founded in 1946 by the U.S. Government.

As a Forensic Linguistics Specialist in the Department of Language Studies at Fourah Bay College University, Dr. Kamarah will present lectures at graduate and

undergraduate levels, take part in specialized academic programs and conferences and develop and/or assess academic curricula or educational materials

The purpose of his project is to strengthen the Linguistics Unit in order for it to achieve institutional synergy, curriculum diversity, and expansion at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels as a way of enhancing the provision of job opportunities for its beneficiaries and partners in education and training. The ultimate goal of Dr. Kamarah's program is to create more qualified postgraduate students with experience in legal circles as court clerks or bailiffs, prospective police recruits or possibly as future parliamentarians and Justices of the Peace.



## Thompson Hospitality donates \$1 million to VSU

### Gift is school's second-largest in 128-year history

Thompson Hospitality has donated \$1 million to Virginia State University. The gift represents the second-largest gift in the school's 128-year history.

Thompson Hospitality is the largest, minority-owned food service company in the United States. The company, based in Herndon, VA, has over 3,200 employees and provides meals and facilities management at businesses and institutions in 45 states and four foreign countries. Ruby and Fred Thompson, Sr., parents of current company leaders Benita Thompson-Byas, Senior Vice President; Fred Thompson, Jr., Chief Administration Officer; and Warren Thompson, Chairman and President, both earned degrees from Virginia State.

Warren Thompson said VSU was a natural beneficiary of the company's success. "The foundation started at VSU," he said. "We wanted to make a statement of support for education in Virginia. What better place than VSU?"

Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell joined VSU President Keith T. Miller in accepting the Thompson gift. Governor McDonnell said the company exemplifies the private support necessary to help advance higher education. "Thompson Hospitality represents 30 years of successful entrepreneurship," he said. "We're thrilled they're headquartered in Virginia."

Virginia State University received its first gift of \$1 million or more in May 2010 from the Reginald F. Lewis Foundation.

Virginia State University has joined with Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell and the presidents of the University of Virginia and Virginia Tech, along with executives from some of the world's biggest manufacturing companies to form the Commonwealth Center for Advanced Manufacturing (CCAM), a unique collaborative research facility in Prince George County, VA. The CCAM promises to accelerate the transfer of laboratory innovations to manufacturing production lines, where they can improve efficiencies, products and profits.

"With a turn of the dirt today, Virginia is preparing a new foundation for manufacturing in the Commonwealth and in the nation," said Gov. McDonnell at the groundbreaking. "Global dynamics will always influence where products are made, and CCAM's collaborative, creative approach to advanced manufacturing techniques gives the Commonwealth a leadership role in determining how the world's most advanced products are made."

The groundbreaking puts in motion construction of a 50,000 square-foot, state-of-the-art facility. Under its roof, best-in-class manufacturers will collaborate with accomplished faculty and students from Virginia's top research and teaching institutions to perform advanced manufacturing research in two priority areas: surface engineering and manufacturing systems.

When complete in 2012, the facility will house computational and large-scale production labs, as well as open production space for heavy equipment and surface coating processes, including a thermal



spraying machine, a directed vapor deposition machine, integrated data acquisition systems and a thermal conductivity measurements system.

CCAM is a research collaboration between Virginia State University, the University of Virginia and Virginia Tech, and manufacturing companies worldwide. Manufacturers join CCAM as members and guide research with university faculty. CCAM's facility is adjacent to Rolls-Royce's new jet engine components plant.

"CCAM represents a synergy between the needs of industry and education," said VSU President Keith T. Miller. "It is a model relationship that will be emulated around the world."

"CCAM is a game changer for manufacturing operations in this country and around the world," said David Lohr, the newly appointed President and Executive Director of CCAM. "Its collaborative model joins academic



research with manufacturing's drive for competitive advantage and it promises new, valuable innovations faster than ever before."

CCAM is the only collaboration of its kind in North America and it promises its member companies significant benefits. By pooling resources to pursue university research authorized by member companies, CCAM increases the

## VSU Partners with Global Manufacturing Leaders and Top Virginia Universities on New Research Collaboration

*The Commonwealth Center for Advanced Manufacturing Breaks Ground in Prince George County, VA*

value of the R&D dollar. R&D risks and costs are shared by members – away from live production floors – and research results are shared with all members, allowing them to capitalize on new, breakthrough developments that emerge from CCAM research.

In addition to breaking ground for the research facility, CCAM also announced the founding companies that will anchor the CCAM facility and its initial research operations. They are: Canon Virginia Inc.; Chromalloy; Newport News Shipbuilding; Rolls-Royce; Sandvik Coromant; and Siemens.

As Organizing Industry Members, these companies will play a significant leadership role in CCAM. Company officials will join representatives from the university organizing members (VSU, UVA and VT) on CCAM's board of directors to oversee the facility's development, its research priorities and its outreach to additional prospective member companies.

"By joining CCAM, these companies demonstrate confidence in its ability to transform manufacturing research," said Lohr. "It will improve

products and profits through research – and it will change how global business and industry perceive central Virginia."

For Prince George County and the Petersburg and Richmond regions, CCAM and its manufacturing members represent a powerful economic development engine that promises to bring additional businesses, new jobs and a global reputation for excellence in advanced manufacturing research. Additionally, Rolls-Royce has begun producing jet engine parts at its new plant, a development that also promises further economic activity in the region as suppliers and other support businesses start.

Other regions in Virginia will see benefits from CCAM. With financial assistance to build CCAM from Virginia's Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission, CCAM will invest in new workforce development programs in Southside Virginia that will re-tool Virginians to meet the demands of advanced manufacturers.

"CCAM is true to VSU's core ethic of service to the Commonwealth," said President Miller. "This partnership is the epitome of engagement."

Journalist and activist **Susan L. Taylor** urged a record VSU graduating class to find love in themselves and forego material possessions for the self-awareness only service can provide.

"There's enough 'stuff' in the world," she said. "Stuff won't make you happy. Money won't make you happy. Service will make you happy."

Like charity, Taylor said service begins at home. "Serve yourself first," she said. "Love yourself first. Give others the love you give yourself."

Taylor, Founder & CEO, National CARES Mentoring Movement and Editor-in-Chief Emeritus of *Essence* Magazine told the assembled 600-plus graduates and nearly 10,000 guests in the Richmond Coliseum that her generation reaped the benefits of the Civil Rights Movement, but along the way often "forgot what was sacrificed."

She implored the assembled to not "confuse the symbols of the dream for the dream itself; To keep the dream alive in their hearts."

It is up to this generation, she said, to reverse this pattern of neglect. "At a time we should be advancing, we're losing ground in every measure we need to move forward," she said.

College education, she said, has prepared the class to step into the world "prepared to build upon the foundation others have laid."

True to her commitment to mentoring and assisting the less fortunate, Taylor urged the Class of 2011 to maintain modesty, while acknowledging their blessings. "The only time you should look down on someone," she explained, "is when you're offering a hand to lift them up."



VSU honored Taylor, along with Lt. Gen. Dennis L. Via with Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees and recognized Mr. Charles Augustus Brockett of Chesapeake as Alumnus of the Year and Friend of the University.



Taylor's message of love inspires record graduating class  
**Commencement caps whirlwind year!**





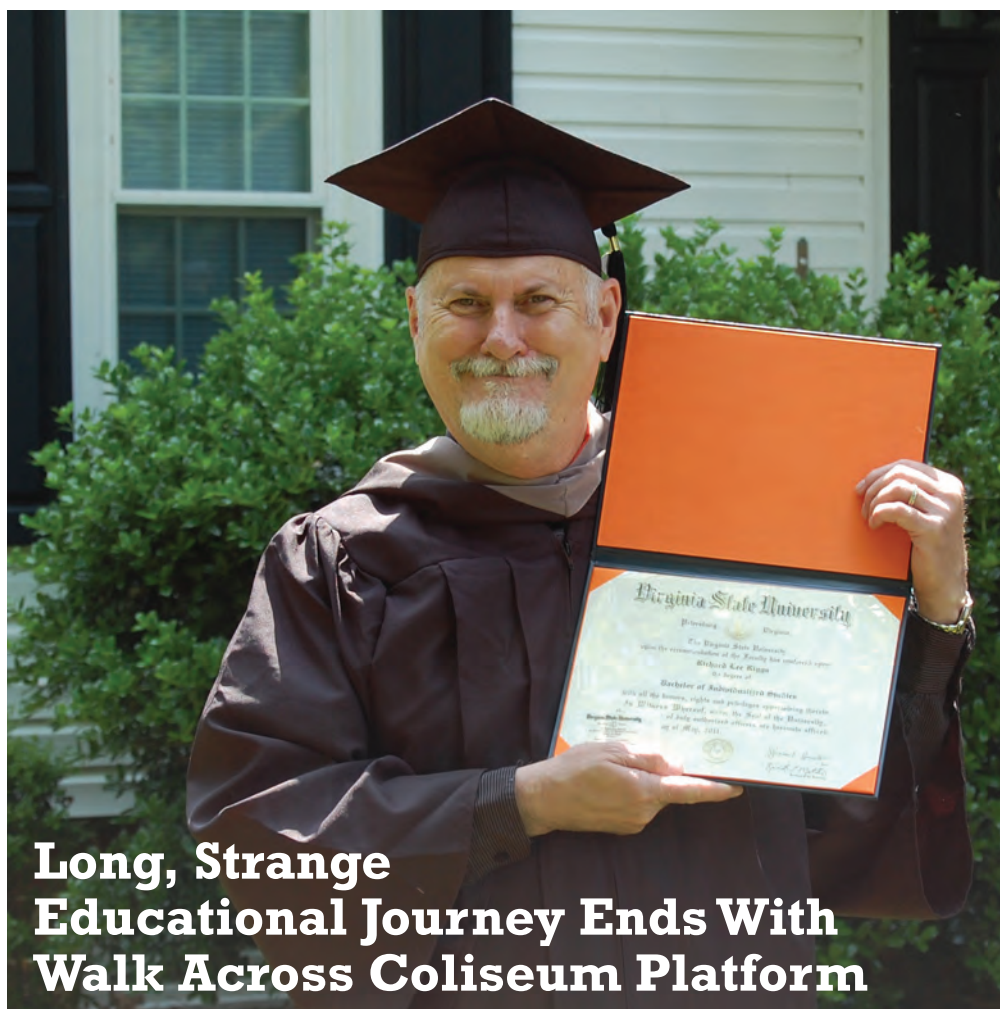
# Spring Commencement 2011



**Richard Riggs** was more than surprised to hear a small group of about 20 spectators applaud as he walked across the Richmond Coliseum stage at Virginia State University's spring Commencement. Outside of his brother, those cheering were complete strangers who had just recently heard his inspiring story of dedication and determination.

Riggs graduated from Petersburg High School in 1966 and had planned to attend college and earn his degree. Life, it seems, had different plans. That same year, he entered the U.S. Air Force and one year later found himself in war-torn Vietnam, refueling B-52 bombers. He completed his tour in 1970 and began working at Sears, and other odd jobs, to help make ends meet. To help advance his career, Riggs enrolled at John Tyler Community College, receiving his Associate's degree in 1975.

Riggs still wanted more for his life. He decided to transfer his Associate's degree credits to VSU and pursue a degree in Business Management. Eight years of classes and working full time finally paid off, and he completed 130 credit hours in 1983. With a full-time job offer in front of him and a family to support, Riggs went to work for a Richmond mortgage company as a portfolio manager. The education he received at VSU continued to propel him in his career. He moved to Florida with his company and, most recently, to North Carolina, where he now helps oversee a lending center. But something was still missing from his life. He had not yet received his degree from VSU. "I wanted my degree, but didn't know how to go about getting it," Riggs said. "I felt like not having it was holding me back."



## Long, Strange Educational Journey Ends With Walk Across Coliseum Platform

The University no longer offered his major and, because it had been more than 20 years since his last class, it was unclear if his credits were still valid and if they would translate into a current degree. Riggs began a pursuit working with VSU and the State Council of Higher Education. Through this effort, he encountered four dedicated people who would eventually change his life: Drs. James Hunter, Douglas Fiore, Wayne Jones and Ms. Nedra Jones. This group worked tirelessly to investigate Riggs' academic record and to determine whether or not he could receive a degree. In 2010, Riggs was notified that he had completed all requirements necessary to receive a Bachelor of Individualized Studies.

He did so in the Richmond Coliseum on Sunday, May 15, 2011.

Riggs has always had a special affinity for VSU, but it has now grown beyond what he even thought was possible. "This would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of Drs. Hunter, Fiore, Jones and Ms. Jones," he said. "[My time at VSU] was a good experience from 1975 to 1983 and an even better experience now."

Walking through campus before Commencement, the 36 years since Riggs first matriculated to The Hill seemed to evaporate. To the dedicated Riggs, "it felt like I was back home again."

**Gwendolyn Allen '52** was selected Richmond Chapter Alumna of the Year. "Gwen," as she is affectionately known and called by most of the chapter members, has worked behind the scenes for almost a decade. She sends cards, makes personal visits, shares condolences and information with Richmond Chapter members. The Chapter is very proud and truly loves Gwen's positive Trojan Spirit of caring about others.

**Irma L. Jenkins '52** of Galloway Township, NJ was recently appointed to the Board of Trustees for the Galloway Community Charter School. She has served on a number of boards, including the Newark (NJ) Mayor's Commission on The Homeless and the New Jersey Catholic Bishop's Welfare Reform Commission.



The Hopewell (VA) School Board honored retiring Board Vice Chair **Juanita Coles Chambers '53** by dedicating the Juanita Coles Chambers Multipurpose Room in the Board's administrative building. Chambers has served 57 years in the Hopewell school system, 22 of those on the School Board. She is a past recipient of the Hopewell NAACP Woman of the Year Award, and the African American Distinguished Service Award from the School Board.



The National Retired Teachers Association presented **William McKinley Cosby '56** with the With Our Youth Excellence Award, the group's highest honor. The award

is one of five presented nationally each year. Recipients of the award, symbolized by a "little red wagon" are selected for a lifetime of service by an independent panel. For more than 20 years, Cosby has directed the Summer Enrichment Program at Zion Baptist Church in Petersburg, VA. Working

with other retirees as teachers, the program reaches about 100 children every year.

**The Hon. William E. Ward '57** was honored at the 15th Annual Implement The King Dream Awards Gala in Norfolk, VA. The gala recognizes persons in the community who promote non-violent social change through community involvement, extend love unselfishly and assist those in need; support programs that advocate personal growth and development and exhibit high self-esteem with dignity and self-motivation and compassion.

**Wilbert Briggs, Sr. '62** was appointed to the Virginia State University Foundation Board.



**Dr. Bert W. Holmes, Jr. M.D. (Brig Gen Ret.) '63, '70** is Executive Director of the Hampton University Proton Therapy Institute (HUPTI). Holmes brings

a spirit of excellence in leadership, with a 30 year distinguished career in the military. He retired as brigadier general in the Virginia Army National Guard, decorated with numerous commendations and awards. Holmes became the first African American state surgeon in the National Guard, where he also served as senior flight surgeon and became the first African American assistant adjutant general. Holmes' military career began when he was commissioned as second lieutenant infantry through the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) Program at VSU, where he earned bachelor's and master's degrees in biology.

**Annette '64 and Malcolm '67 Funn** of Chesapeake Beach, MD were featured as a "Super Couple" by *The Enterprise* newspaper in Lexington Park, MD. The Funnns have been married nearly 44 years after meeting at Virginia State. Annette is a co-founder of Concerned Black Women of Calvert County, a

member of the Calvert County League of Women Voters and the Calvert County NAACP. Malcolm is a member of the Calvert County Planning Commission, the Calvert County NAACP and serves as Chairman of the Chesapeake Beach Board of Elections.

**Darnell Wise Lightbourn '69** was selected as the VSUAA-Northern Virginia Chapter Alumnus of the Year. Mrs. Wise Lightbourn was instrumental in securing Plunky and Oneness and his Band for the chapters annual Scholarship Dance. She displays all of the attributes of "The Trojan Spirit."



**Dr. Joseph F. Johnson, MA '73** has been named Senior Vice President at Virginia Union University. He had previously served as Senior Professor of Educational Leadership at Fayetteville

State University, where he earned his bachelor's degree. He received a doctorate from Virginia Tech.



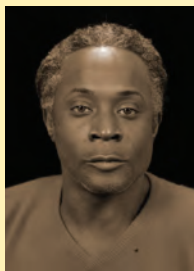
**Jobynia G. Caldwell '75** has been named the Virginia Beach, VA Assistant Superintendent for High School Education. A native of Portsmouth, VA,

Caldwell began her career in education as a junior high school teacher in Fauquier County, VA, in 1975. She taught in Virginia Beach schools from 1977-92 before becoming an administrative assistant at Brandon Middle School and Cox High School in 1992. Her first administrative post came in 1993 when she served as assistant principal at First Colonial High School. In 1997, Caldwell became principal of the Bayside Sixth Grade Campus. In 1999 she became principal at Corporate Landing Middle School, where she stayed until 2001. From 2001 to 2003, Mrs. Caldwell served as principal of Salem High School and from 2003-2009 as principal at Tallwood High School.

Comcast has named **Wayne Rustin '75** of New Fairfield, CT Vice President of Human Resources for the company's Western New England Region. Rustin has over 20 years of human resources experience with companies such as IBM and JC Penney.

**Ronald A. "Ron" Hairston '78** has been named Director of Human Resources at Piedmont Community Services in Martinsville, VA. He will oversee all human resources and public relations for the agency.

**Karen Munden '80** was recently interviewed on "The Game" Radio Show on 102.1 FM in Hampton Roads. Her segment discussed credit and credit issues.



**Brian L. Taylor '94** has written *The Aten*, a novel in which the pagentry, prestige, intrigue, beauty and mystery of the Eighteenth Dynasty of Ancient Egypt comes alive. While at VSU, Taylor was Mr. Trojan, Student Government President, a member of BBS and is a current member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Taylor has also written *Tuesday's Magic Box* in 2007. He wrote, produced, directed and acted in the film, *Water*, along with several other VSU graduates. In 2005 Brian formed Square Deal Media Communications, LLC. *The Aten* is available from Square Deal Media Communications Books, LLC, for \$12.50 plus shipping and handling, on-line at [www.Authorhouse.com](http://www.Authorhouse.com) and at most on-line bookstore retailers.

**Branden Riley '08** is one of the Lynchburg (VA) Vice Mayor's Young Adult Award of Excellence Honorees. He is an engineer for Babcock & Wilcox and volunteers with a number of organizations, including Habitat for Humanity, the Lynchburg Food Bank and Big Brothers and Big Sisters.

**Marvin L. Gilliam, Jr. '05** and **Jennifer M. Tate '07** were united in Holy Matrimony on April 2, 2011 at the Historic Gillfield Baptist Church in Petersburg, VA. Marvin is employed by Richmond Public Schools as a Choral Director and by Union Branch Baptist



Church as a Youth Minister. Jennifer is employed by the Department of Defense - Army Logistics University at Fort Lee as an Instructional Systems Specialist. Mr. & Mrs. Marvin L. Gilliam, Jr. reside in Chester, VA. For more information on this lovely couple, please visit their website at [www.weddingwire.com/jenniferandmarvin4211](http://www.weddingwire.com/jenniferandmarvin4211). While attending VSU, Marvin was a Music major and Jennifer was a Mass Communications major.

**Maurice D. Smith, Jr. '09** was recently inducted into the Virginia Tech Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta Agriculture Honor Society. He is a graduate research assistant at Virginia Tech in the department of agriculture & extension education, working with community viability and local foods.

**Greg Hansard** has been promoted to senior Web resources officer at the Virginia Historical Society. He has been with the society since 2005 as library clerk and worked as assistant editor before taking his new position.

The U.S. Army recently promoted **Glenwood A. Hince** of Richmond to the rank of Colonel. Col. Hince was most recently Officer-In-Charge of eight training centers, four regional training sites – maintenance and two high-tech regional training centers for the 80th Training Command (TASS).

**Fritz Skeeter** was named to the Cypress Borough seat of the Suffolk (VA) Economic Development Authority. He is an electrical engineer at Newport News Shipbuilding.

**Ellen Smith** has been selected for inclusion in the *Biltmore Who's Who Executive and Professional Registry*. She is Owner and President of Conquest Administrative Services LLC. She has more than three decades in her field. Before starting her own company, Smith founded and served as Executive Director of Step Up To Success, Inc, an affordable housing and community development non-profit organization.

**Demeatrice Smith-Reed** was selected one of the Top 12 Teachers of the Year and the 2011 High School Teacher of the Year for Norfolk Public Schools.



**Dr. Jack Thomas M.Ed.** has been named the 11th President of Western Illinois University. He previously served as the school's Provost and Academic Vice President.

**Dr. Jim Thornton** of Clarksville, VA was honored by the Longwood University Alumni Association with the Thomas Jefferson Professional Achievement Alumni Award. Dr. Thornton has been Superintendent of Mecklenburg County schools since July 2010. He previously served as Superintendent of Cumberland County schools for 10 years.

The U.S. Census Bureau awarded the agency's Bronze Medal to **Bridgitte Wyche McGee** of Southfield, MI. She has worked in the Detroit Regional Office for 25 years. The award is given annually to select Census employees who have made exceptional contributions that far exceed the requirements of their position.

## VSUAA CHAPTER NEWS

### TIDEWATER CHAPTER ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

The loyal sons and daughters true to Orange and Blue of the mighty Trojans did it again with their (2011) slogan, "Doing it BIG In the 757." "Hail State! Hail State! Hail, Hail, Hail! Virginia State" echoed through the voices of over 20 alumni and friends of the Tidewater Chapter Alumni Association's Annual Fundraiser in April 2011.

The chapter covers five cities in the Tidewater area; Chesapeake, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach with an estimated membership of 106 active members.

VSU President Dr. Keith T. Miller served as keynote speaker, setting an atmosphere that allowed attendees to preserve the past history of the African-American educational system while encouraging them to embrace the future direction of VSU.

Three distinguished alumni were recognized as Unsung Heroes: Rufus A. Banks, Sr. of Chesapeake, Geraldine Abbott Sessoms of Norfolk and Dr. Louise Walton of Virginia Beach. Chesapeake resident Charles Brockett has been named as VSUAA 2011 Alumnus of the Year.

"We are so proud of all of the accomplishments of our alumni," said Chapter President Pamela L. Munden-Orr. "We have the privilege of being a multi-generational chapter where we have members who graduated or attended VSU from the 1940s all the way through the 2000s."

The event helped raise additional revenue for current enrolled VSU students who are experiencing financial difficulties. "We do not want any student who lives in the Tidewater area to leave Virginia State and not be able to graduate due to financial distress," said Karen Munden.

### PRESIDENT MILLER WELCOMES ATLANTA-AREA ALUMNI TO BATTLE OF THE BANDS

In January, Atlanta-area alumni hosted a reception for President and First Lady Keith and Nicolette Miller. The event was held in conjunction with the Ninth Annual Honda Battle of the Bands Invitational Showcase, presented by The Home Depot in the Atlanta Georgia Dome, in which the VSU Trojan Explosion Marching Band performed for more than 60,000 fans. The Trojan Explosion is the only band to participate in the Battle of the Bands showcase eight consecutive times. Under the direction of Dr. Mark W. Phillips, the VSU Trojan Explosion is composed of approximately 180 members, including instrumentalists, the Essence of Troy Dancers, Satin Divas Flag Corps and the Troy Elegance Majorette Squad.



*Photo caption: From left to right: Dr. Keith T. Miller, VSU President, Dr. Louise M. Walton, '63, Honoree, Mr. Rufus A. Banks, Sr., '57, Honoree, Mrs. Geraldine A. Sessoms, '51, Honoree, Pamela L. Munden-Orr, '87, Tidewater Alumni Chapter President*

### TIDEWATER AND GEICO PARTNER FOR ALUMNI DISCOUNT!

Geico and the Tidewater Chapter of the VSUAA have created a partnership to allow alumni an 8% discount on car insurance. The automobile discount is available in 47 states and Washington, D.C., for VSU graduates or persons who attended the university. (757) 233-0326 or visit: <http://www.vsu.edu>



## RICHMOND CHAPTER

The Richmond Chapter held its Scholarship Dinner Dance in April on campus in Jones Dining Hall. Educators, past and present, who are chapter members, were honored for their outstanding contributions in education. Dr. Delores Greene, Associate Dean, VSU Professional Education Programs, offered the tribute to them. Following the dinner and program, Glenroy Bailey and Company provided music for an evening of dancing and sharing the Trojan Spirit. Pre-Alumni Chapter members served as hosts and hostesses.



## THE LEGENDS OF TROY HOST THE FIRST HOMECOMING "OLD SCHOOL GYM JAM" SCHOLARSHIP PARTY

The Legends of Troy will host the first Homecoming "Old School" Scholarship Party Saturday, October 29, from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. at the Gateway Dining & Events Center on campus. Remember those "Gym Jams"? The Legends of Troy, using their "college-born friendships", have come together to support VSU by hosting a series of events throughout the year and donating a portion of the proceeds for scholarships.

The Legends of Troy, LLC was formed by Tammy "The Jazz Diva" Greene, Kevin Smith, Lorenzo "Ice Tea" Thomas and Darryl E. Kelson. The group is dedicated to the rekindling and preservation of old and new friendships and their common bond which is Virginia State University. The Legends of Troy promise to continue to facilitate events that bring us all together in the true Trojan Spirit.

The inaugural event was a Meet & Greet in 2006 during the CIAA

tournament in Charlotte. Due to its overwhelming success it has morphed into the signature event of CIAA weekend with Alumni and friends attending from around the county.

For the last three years, The Legends of Troy have also sponsored two events for Homecoming at the Holiday Inn Colonial Heights. During the 2010 Homecoming weekend, The Legends of Troy started a Memorial Endowment Fund in remembrance of fellow classmates who passed at an early age. During the Saturday Homecoming event, Darryl "DJ Darryl Krush" Kelson did a live radio broadcast on his weekly internet radio show, "The Wax Museum". Over \$2000 was raised and contributions are continuously coming in. As a result of the success of the 2010 CIAA event, The Legends of Troy presented the



*From left to right: Darryl "DJ Darryl Krush" Kelson '85, Tammy "The Jazz Diva" Greene '90, Lorenzo "Ice Tea" Thomas, Kevin "Kel" Smith '88*

University with a check for another \$2500 toward The Legends of Troy 80's Crew Memorial Endowment.

The Legends of Troy also organized and held the first Return to the Glory Days flag football game (in Ettrick Park) with two teams from 1980s era. "The Turfs" and "Tri State" squared off for a fun-filled "grudge match." Based on the previous successes, the Old School Gym Jam Scholarship Party should become a Homecoming favorite for years to come!

For more information, visit The Legends of Troy on Facebook.

# Sisters' gracious lives affect the community and the world!

Theresa Greene Reed and Gwendolyn Greene are more than just Virginia State alumnae. They are two outstanding and inspiring sisters who committed their lives to success and empathy for human suffering. Through the education they received at VSU, both women strived to better the world in which they lived and did so with incredible vigor and grace.

The sisters were born to William James Greene, Jr. and Theresa Anderson Greene Evans in Buffalo, New York. Gwendolyn, the elder sibling was born on April 4, 1922 and Theresa was born nearly two years later on December 9, 1923. Their home was one of educational as well as creative nurturing. Gwendolyn was an avid seamstress and would make elaborate clothing for she and her mother while Theresa was an accomplished musician serving as the assistant organist at her church and lifelong member of various choral groups. Both would incorporate these hobbies into their life after Virginia State.

## Theresa Greene Reed

Theresa graduated cum laude from Virginia State in 1945 with a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry and then enrolled in Meharry Medical College. "I initially became interested [in medicine] during World War II. My fiancé was a medical student and as a result of my close interaction with him, it sparked my interest". She only intended to stay at Meharry for one year, but after her engagement to the fellow Trojans was cancelled, she decided to continue her studies

and graduated from medical school in 1949. Now Dr. Reed, she joined Homer G. Phillips Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri renowned, at that time, for educating more than 50% of the African American physicians in the country. She quickly ascended the ranks over the next 18 years practicing internal medicine and then becoming the assistant director of the hospital's outpatient department and an instructor in the School of Nursing.

Two years later she earned a fellowship to Johns Hopkins University in the field of Preventative Medicine specializing in infectious disease epidemiology. Upon completion of her Master's in Public Health, she moved to Washington, D.C. where she would spend the next 25 years as the medical officer/Group Leader at the Food and Drug Administration's Division of Anti-Infective Drug Products of the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. Dr. Reed and her team were responsible for major prescription drug classes which could have significant safety concerns for the public.

Dr. Reed also gave her time to others in many different ways. Understanding the importance of a strong education, she taught as an Associate Professor of Community Medicine at Howard University's College of Medicine. Her hope today for Virginia State is that they continue to educate students so that they can achieve their full potential.

In addition to her work, Dr. Reed was the founder and first president



Theresa Greene Reed

Gwendolyn Greene

of the first black female medical society in 1963 and one of the first black members of the St. Louis Medical Society. She is a member of the Delta Omega Honorary Public Health Society at Johns Hopkins University, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and is the recipient of the 1991 Public Health Service Superior Service Award for leadership and accomplishment in the Food and Drug Administration, the 1992 Community Service Award of the American Medical Women's Association and the National Medical Association's Council on Concerns of Women 2010 Award.

## Gwendolyn Greene

In 1939, Gwendolyn entered Virginia State College and graduate four years later with a degree in sociology and psychology. She remained in Virginia after graduation and became a faculty member with the University's Dean of Women for several years and then went on to work for the Buffalo Urban League, an organization which served as the foundation of her Master's in Social Work thesis which she complete in 1952.

With the empowerment of children and young adults at the heart of her life, Greene joined the Child Care Center of the Children's Aid

and Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children as a resident counselor specializing in the needs of emotionally disturbed children. By 1961, less than 20 years after graduating from VSU, Greene was appointed as youth director of the Y.W.C.A of Buffalo and Erie County and was one of eight women selected nationwide by the National Board to represent the United States in the Y.W.C.A.'s Latin-American-U.S.A exchange program of community leaders. In 1972, she was named Director of Services to Military Families and Veterans in the Greater Buffalo Regional Chapter of the American National Red Cross.

Upon retirement, Gwen remained active with the Red Cross and continued to serve young children until the time of her death in 2010. She received numerous accolades and was a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, the National Association of Social Workers and the American Association of University Women.

One lasting honor Greene received stemmed from her skills as a seamstress. While in Bolivia with the Y.W.C.A, Greene was impressed by her host who was waving an American flag to salute her upon arrival. Recognizing that her agency could not extend the same gesture to visitors at home because they lacked flags other than their own, Gwen sewed 34 colorful flags for the nations that had a Y.W.C.A program. To this day, the Y.W.C.A's World Fellowship committee still uses these flags to welcome foreign visitors.

## Yale Lewis collection adds to VSU Jazz Library

When Bernard Reese '62 first met him, Yale Lewis was already a legend in the Washington, D.C. jazz community. The "Ebony Godfather", Lewis was renowned as one of the nation's jazz programming pioneers. His Jazz Plus show on Washington's WETA radio featured interviews with such luminaries as Dizzy Gillespie, Duke Ellington and VSU's own Dr. Billy Taylor. Lewis would also play rare albums in their entirety. This is what first caught Reese's attention.

"I used to listen to Lewis' show, and this particular night, he played an album that had never been released. It was Miles Davis in Tokyo," Reese remembers. "I tape recorded the program. My wife and I decided to invite him to dinner."

Thus began a long friendship between the radio legend and a fan 35 years his junior. "I imagine he'd never talked to anyone my age as musically indoctrinated," Reese says.

Lewis introduced the young Reese to countless musicians at concerts, nightclubs, and even his home. "He knew everyone," Reese reminisces. "I got to know hundreds of musicians as a result of knowing Yale Lewis. I cultivated a 30-year relationship with Miles Davis through him."

Upon Lewis' passing, Reese recognized that a treasure trove of material—years of interviews and rare albums—were at risk of being lost. He met with Lewis' widow, Marie, and asked if she would be interested in donating the collection



to his alma mater, Virginia State University. Knowing VSU had a long jazz legacy through Dr. Taylor and others, she agreed.

"A group from VSU came up and saw the collection," he says. "They were very excited."

VSU now hosts as its own the Yale Lewis collection; enriching a jazz repository made legendary with the acquisition last year of Dr. Billy Taylor's personal collection. The Lewis gift entails hours of interviews and rare albums. To preserve the integrity of the tapes and albums, VSU is in the process of digitizing the collection. Once complete, the Lewis material will be another source of research for jazz scholars and aficionados.

To Lewis, jazz is akin to the finest classical music. "He called it 'American Classical Music,'" says Marie Lewis. "He wanted it treated with the same responsibility as European classical music."

As the most recent addition to VSU's burgeoning jazz library, Lewis' collection of American Classical Music is preserved to inspire future generations.

## VSU Foundation Class Contributions | July 1, 2010- May 11, 2011

CLASS YEAR	NEW GIFTS	BEGINNING BALANCE	NEW TOTAL
1940	\$100	\$6,515	\$6,615
1945	\$50	\$23,080	\$23,130
1946	\$100	\$12,125	\$12,225
1949	\$300	\$60,455	\$60,755
1951	\$15,600	\$71,730	\$87,330
1953	\$75	\$23,500	\$23,575
1954	\$1,000	\$45,560	\$46,560
1955	\$850	\$86,335	\$87,185
1956	\$39,543	\$234,163	\$273,706
1957	\$11,800	\$134,035	\$145,835
1958	\$100	\$67,740	\$67,840
1959	\$4,470	\$107,090	\$111,560
1960	\$5,210	\$38,952	\$44,162
1961	\$19,450	\$37,227	\$56,677
1962	\$4,250	\$63,165	\$67,415
1963	\$1,750	\$31,516	\$33,266
1964	\$1,100	\$18,950	\$20,050
1965	\$2,550	\$57,384	\$59,934
1966	\$3,100	\$30,589	\$33,689
1967	\$700	\$16,490	\$17,190
1968	\$6,400	\$56,687	\$63,087
1969	\$1,000	\$2,700	\$3,700
1970	\$540	\$11,977	\$12,517
1971	\$310	\$7,901	\$8,211
1972	\$315	\$5,925	\$6,240
1975	\$550	\$20,675	\$21,225
1976	\$200	\$8,200	\$8,400
1977	\$40	\$9,074	\$9,114
1979	\$1,550	\$3,025	\$4,575
1980	\$150	\$4,540	\$4,690
1996	\$425	\$575	\$1,000
2000	\$1,900	\$5,829	\$7,729
All Other Classes	\$0	\$336,676	\$1,765,865
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$125,478</b>	<b>\$1,640,387</b>	<b>\$1,765,865</b>

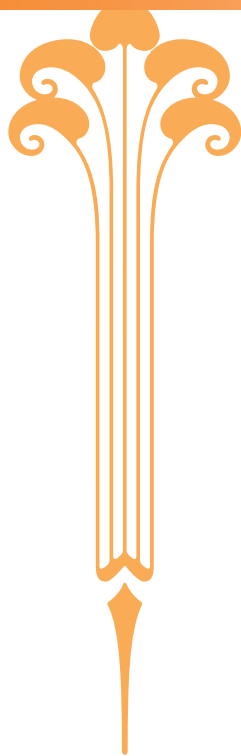
*Additional contributions can be mailed directly to: VSU Foundation; P.O. Box 9071; VSU, VA 23806*

## VSUAA Chapter Endowments | July 1, 2010- May 11, 2011

CHAPTER	NEW GIFTS	BEGINNING BALANCE	NEW TOTAL
Agriculture Alumni	\$6,715	\$108,118	\$114,833
Baltimore Metro	\$5,000	\$18,650	\$23,650
Central Virginia	\$0	\$650	\$650
Chicago Area	\$0	\$22,250	\$22,250
Columbia, MD	\$0	\$10,251	\$10,251
Mecklenburg/Brunswick	\$2,000	\$2,100	\$4,100
Military - Robert Hendrick	\$19,459	\$181,395	\$200,854
Greater New York	\$0	\$26,492	\$26,492
Hanover	\$5,839	\$12,500	\$18,339
Peninsula	\$5,075	\$33,464	\$38,539
Greater Petersburg Area	\$0	\$57,500	\$57,500
Philadelphia	\$0	\$11,950	\$11,950
Northern Va. Area	\$7,000	\$60,000	\$67,000
Nu Psi Chapter/Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.	\$2,450	\$32,946	\$35,396
Richmond	\$7,050	\$43,952	\$51,002
Tidewater Area	\$3,220	\$105,825	\$109,045
VSU Alphas	\$5,725	\$24,030	\$29,755
Washington, DC Metro	\$0	\$50,500	\$50,500
Williamsburg	\$6,750	\$3,250	\$10,000
VSUAA, Inc. - Helen V. Games Endowment	\$0	\$125,000	\$125,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$76,283</b>	<b>\$930,822</b>	<b>\$1,007,106</b>

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

## ALUMNI PASSINGS



Name	Graduation Date	Hometown
Vera J. Allen	1935/1945	Farmville, VA
Clyde L. Anderson	1950	Ashland, VA
Ruby Batts Archie	1956	Danville, VA
Martha Anderson Banks	N/A	Roanoke, VA
Lenora Barnes	N/A	Suffolk, VA
Jerome E. Bartow	1951	Heathsville, VA
James A. Batts	1960	Virginia Beach, VA
Charlene Ann Brannon	1995	Charlotte, NC
Derrick L. Brown	N/A	Charlotte, NC
Elizabeth Dandridge Brown Lewis	1938	Winston-Salem, NC
Roy Chambliss, Jr.	1954	Petersburg, VA
Charles O. Christian	1949	Suffolk, VA
Lettye Dillard Clark	N/A	Goldsboro, NC
Edgar Cylde Colley	N/A	Cedar Bluff, VA
Georgia Cook	N/A	Lafayette, IN
Ida L. Crittendon	N/A	Richmond, VA
James R. Curry	N/A	Baltimore, MD
Bethany L. Davenport	N/A	
Pearly M. H. Edwards	1946	Chesapeake, VA
Willie J. Edwards	1960	Orange, NJ
Hermanze E. Fautleroy	1954	Petersburg, VA
Charles G. "Jack" Ferguson	N/A	Colonial Heights, VA
Wilfred John Daniel Foster	N/A	Roanoke, VA
Calvin C. Green	1956	Newport News, VA
Virginia A. Pretlow Harrell	1944	Franklin, VA
Emma Smith Harrison	1948	Dumfries, VA
Milton Irvin	N/A	Newark, NJ
Lloyd B. Jackson, Sr.	1954	Chesapeake, VA
Anna M.B. Jarratt	1942	Petersburg, VA
Audrey Virginia Jones	N/A	Charlottesville, VA
James Earl Jones	1969	Roanoke, VA
Adolphus King	N/A	Franklin, VA
Johnnie Knight	N/A	Suffolk, VA
Robert G. Lankford, Sr.	1972	Richmond, VA
James W. Ledbetter, Sr.	1961	Suffolk, VA
Laura Johnston Lee	1958	Philadelphia, PA
Lena Beatrice Lockett	1961	Montgomery Village, MD
Gary Runyun Maben	N/A	Lynchburg, VA
Ernest L. Moody	1959	Temple Hills, MD
Dewey T. Oakley, Jr.	N/A	Colonial Heights, VA
John McClellon Perry	1975	Franklin, VA
Charles E. Perry, Jr.	N/A	Chesapeake, VA
Dorothy Manning Peterson	1963	Denver, CO
Benjamin W. Robertson, Sr.	1962	Richmond, VA
Edward C. Sheets	1976	Mount Sidney, VA
Sallie Washington Squire	N/A	Richmond, VA
Margaret Yvonne Stemley	N/A	Drakes Branch, VA
Thelma Storms	N/A	Brooklyn, NY
Carla D. Streeter	1988	Mt. Juliet, TN
Sidney A. Swann	1961	Washington, DC
Edith V. W. Walls	1982/1992	Baltimore, MD
Joyce D. Washington	1949	Durham, NC
Gladys Shepperson Watson	1952	Roanoke, VA
Arnold A. Westbrook, Sr.	1961	Petersburg, VA
Peggy H. Wilkins	N/A	Greensboro, NC
David Lee "Dave" Williams	N/A	Richmond, VA
Lillian J. Williams	1942	Neptune, NJ
Lottie L. H. Williams	1951	Ettrick, VA
Parker Word	1941	St. Louis, MO
James C. Wright	N/A	Chase City, VA

A planned gift of \$477,162 from Mr. Elmer T. Myers '48, '52 and Mrs. Alda W. Myers, has established the **Wilson-Myers Scholarship Memorial Endowment Fund** to benefit students who are graduates of high schools in Dorchester County, MD. This gift represents the largest planned gift the University received for the 2010-2011 fiscal year.

The **TowneBank Foundation**, a nonprofit organization formed by TowneBank, established The TowneBank Foundation Endowed Scholarship Fund at VSU with a gift of \$100,000 to provide scholarships for students from the Tidewater/Hampton Roads area. The gift was presented at a reception welcoming President Keith T. Miller, sponsored by the VSUAA Tidewater Alumni Chapter.



Thanks to the generous donations from alumni, faculty, staff and friends received during the **Tom Joyner Foundation School of the Month** campaign, VSU raised over \$44,000 for immediate student scholarships.

Gifts from the Reginald F. Lewis School of Business alumni and VSU faculty and staff, raised over \$30,000 to create the **Frasier Brickhouse Legacy Fund**, which will allow a classroom in newly-renovated Singleton Hall to be named in honor of well-known accounting professor, Frasier W. Brickhouse, Sr. '57.

**Altria Client Services, Leaf Department**, awarded VSU a grant of \$30,000 to support undergraduate scholarships in the School of Agriculture. This grant will encourage students with good academic records to choose agriculture as a major and pursue careers in the agricultural industry, which accounts for almost \$80 billion annually to the economy of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Since 2008, Altria Client Services, Leaf Department, has provided \$120,000 in scholarship support, enabling VSU to increase enrollment in the School of Agriculture.



Charles A. Brockett '60 established the **Gideon Brockett Endowment Fund** with a contribution of \$25,000 in honor of Mr. Brockett's grandfather. The gift will provide scholarships for students who identify with Mt. Bethel Baptist Church in Virginia Beach, VA.

**Hilton Worldwide** awarded VSU \$10,000 toward scholarships for students in the hospitality management program. The gift was presented during a classroom lecture by Mr. Michael C. Ford, Vice President, Global Diversity, Hilton Worldwide. "Hilton is synonymous with first-class hospitality and their donation attests to their commitment to furthering hospitality education," said Dr. Deanne Williams-Bryant, Associate Professor/Director, Hospitality Management program. "This contribution signifies the start of a longstanding, mutually beneficial relationship between Hilton Worldwide and the VSU hospitality management program. It will make a significant difference to the program, students, University and community-at-large and will serve as a pipeline for the students to embark upon opportunities with Hilton."

Thanks to the generous contributions of VSU alumni and supporters, several endowments were established at \$10,000 or have reached fully-endowed status at the same level or above including the **Cigna "LIFTS" Endowment Scholarship Fund**, the **Clementine B. Everette and Germin F. Cooper Endowment Fund**, the **Williamsburg Alumni Chapter-VSUAA Scholarship Fund**, the **Barbara G. Selden '56 Endowment Fund** (Planned Gift), and the **VSU Deltas Chapter Endowment Fund**.



## Future “VSU Cares” Healthcare Initiative Receives \$15,000 Gift

John Randolph Medical Center of Hopewell, VA, part of the HCA Virginia Health System, awarded VSU a contribution of \$15,000 to support the “VSU Cares” Healthcare Initiative. This effort will provide free medical screenings, dental and vision care to over 1,800 greater Petersburg-area residents in a two-day free healthcare event during the summer of 2012.

Dia Nichols (right), CEO, John Randolph Medical Center presented the gift to VSU President Keith T. Miller, the “VSU Cares” leadership committee and Office of Development staff. “This important and significant financial contribution will empower VSU to bring health professionals together to provide medical assistance to individuals in the Commonwealth of Virginia who need it most,” said Dr. Jewel E. Hairston, Interim Dean, School of Agriculture. Ultimately, HCA’s investment in this project will begin changing the health conditions of Virginia’s residents.”

## Have you considered leaving funds to VSU?

### An Invitation to Join Our Powell Legacy Society

Members of Our Legacy Society have expressed their commitment to Virginia State University by leaving a Planned Gift and naming VSU as the beneficiary either in a Will or Life Insurance Policy. **For more information please contact: Anita Coleman Wynn at 804-524-5397.**







## 2011 Donor of the Year

Friday, February 25, 2011

Jones Dining Hall, VSU Campus

1. **Earnest J. ('61) and Lottie P. Edwards ('62)** (not pictured) – Top VSU Board of Visitors Donor. Mr. Edwards was also presented the resolution from the VSU Board of Visitors for the Lottie P. and Earnest J. Edwards Endowment Fund.
2. **Frankie ('66) and Delores H. Jones ('66)** – Top VSU Foundation Board of Trustees Donor.
3. **Dr. Sandra N. Evans ('86, '97, '99)** – Top VSU Faculty/Staff Donor.
4. **Dr. Sheryl Bailey**, Deputy County Administrator, accepting on behalf of Chesterfield County – Top Local Government Donor.
5. **Charlie E. Agee, III**, Director, Corporate Contributions and Community Relations, Altria Group, Inc. accepting on behalf of Altria Group, Inc. - Top Corporate Donor.
6. **Ms. Beverly A. Cooper**, Vice President, The Reginald F. Lewis Foundation, Inc. and Mr. Anthony S. Fugett accepting on behalf of The Reginald F. Lewis Foundation, Inc. – Top Foundation Donor.
7. **Charles A. ('60) and Annette L. Brockett ('64)** – Top Alumnus Donors. The Brocketts also received a replica plaque in honor of the couple reaching \$50,000 in donations to VSU. A permanent plaque was hung in Foster Hall.
8. Special Presentation to President Keith T. Miller from the Trojan Explosion Fund for reaching over \$17,000 in contributions.
9. **Petersburg Chapter The Links, Inc.** - Top Civic Organization Donor.

## DEVELOPMENT SPECIAL EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS

## Athletic Golf Tournament Raises Over \$37,000 in Scholarships

In keeping with VSU President Dr. Keith T. Miller's initiative to reach out into the surrounding community, VSU held its Seventh Annual Athletic Scholarship Golf Tournament at Dogwood Trace Golf Course in Petersburg in May. For the second year, the Tournament was held in conjunction with VSU's Alumni Weekend and 114 players participated.

This year's Tournament recognized VSU alumnus, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. brother and loyal athletics booster, Capt. (Ret.) Willie J. "Bremo" Bradley, Jr. ('50, '73).

### Tournament sponsors included:

Clark-Nexsen and Disco Sports

Brown Management, Inc.

the U.S. Coast Guard

W.M. Jordan Company

Pepsi, Wawa and Pangaea 100% Artesian Spring Water  
(Snack and Beverage Sponsors)

Professional Sports and Event Photography  
(Trophies and Pictures Sponsor)

### Hole sponsors:

Stith Solutions, LLC/Zambezi Group, LLC

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Petersburg Chapter

Dean and Associates

Moseley Architects

Peggy and Thomas Davis

The Nightengale Family

Colonial Orthopedics

Riddell Company

Baskervill Architects

Mr. Russell Bland

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.

ROTC Cadets/ Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Alfred J. Cade.

## Scholarship Luncheon brings together donors and students

VSU's Annual Scholarship Luncheon was held in the new Gateway Dining and Event Center with over 180 attendees. The Honorable Rosalyn R. Dance (D-63rd District-Virginia) was the guest speaker and spoke on the passage of Virginia House Bill 2510: "Preparing for the Top Jobs of the 21st Century: The Virginia Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2011."

Ms. Christina Crawford ('11), a Presidential Scholar and member of the VSU Honors Program, spoke on how the generous support of VSU donors enabled her to complete her college education. Also at the luncheon, Dr. James E. Hunter, VSU Associate Provost, was presented a resolution from the VSU Board of Visitors for the James E. and Wilma G. Hunter Endowed Scholarship Fund. Dr. Valarie K. Brown ('78), member of the VSU Foundation Board of Trustees, accepted the award for Top Religious Organization Donor – Keys to the Kingdom.

## Dominion Foundation

The Dominion Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Dominion Resources, awarded VSU a grant of \$40,000 to assist VSU's School of Engineering, Science and Technology with a service learning project. In partnership with Elder Homes and Rebuilding Together Petersburg, students are performing energy audits at a home in Petersburg, Virginia. The project will enable homeowners to potentially reduce their heating and cooling costs by upwards of 30 percent per month.



VSU students Ronell Jefferson, Beverly Coleman and Michael Albert perform an energy audit as part of Dominion's Service Learning Grant.

## ***Woo-Woo legend Johnson inducted into CIAA Hall of Fame***

Virginia State University's former head cheerleading coach, Dr. Paulette Johnson was a member of the 2011 class of the John B. McLendon, Jr. Hall of Fame, announced by the CIAA.

Dr. Paulette Walker Johnson spent 30 years coaching the nationally recognized Virginia State University "Woo-Woos" Cheering Squad. Setting the standard for HBCU cheering programs, the Woo Woos and Dr. Johnson have been featured on the BET television network, Urban Sports Network, ESPN and have had numerous appearances on local television stations. In the 1990s the squad performed at a boxing match staged by the legendary promoter Don King. In 1999, the Mayor of the City of Petersburg established "Dr. Paulette Walker Johnson Day." Johnson is noted as the first female athletic director in VSU history and coached the VSU softball team to its first CIAA Softball Championship. In the conference she was the first president and founder of the CIAA Cheerleader Coaches' Association. She is a 2003 inductee of the VSU Wall of Fame.



## ***VSU Names Darryl Jacobs Men's Basketball Coach***



Virginia State University has named Darryl Jacobs as the school's 19th men's basketball coach. Jacobs comes to VSU from Clark Atlanta University, where he served in the same capacity.

In addition to Clark Atlanta, Jacobs has head coaching experience at Felician College (NJ), Lehman College (NY) and Montclair State University (NJ). He brings more than 20 years of coaching experience to his position at Virginia State.

"Darryl will be a great leader to the Virginia State University men's basketball program," said VSU Athletic Director Peggy Davis. "He is among the most promising coaches today and we look forward to him building a championship team."

At Clark Atlanta, Jacobs led his team to the 2009-10 Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference regular season title, the school's first in 14 years. This past season, his team finished 22-9, earning a second straight berth to the NCAA Division II Regional Tournament.

The Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference named Jacobs the 2009-10 Coach-of-the-Year. He also earned that honor in 2009-10 from the Atlanta Tip-off Club.

Calling himself highly organized and detail-oriented, Jacobs said of his new position, "I'm excited about the opportunity and the possibilities, both athletically and institutionally. I'm looking forward to elevating the VSU men's basketball program to the upper echelons of the CIAA, arguably the best conference in Division II."



### **Parker's Accomplishments for the Year:**

- *Presidential Scholar*
- *CIAA Scholar*
- *2011 CIAA Special Teams Player of the Year*
- *CIAA Specialty Player of the Week (twice)*
- *2010 Virginia College division Football All-State First Team*
- *2010 Pre-Season Offensive Honorable Mention by the Consensus Draft Services*
- *2011 CIAA Golf Championships*
- *2011 Div. II PGA Minority Collegiate Golf Championship*

## ***Justin Parker named CIAA Scholar Athlete of the Year***

Virginia State University's Justin Parker is the 2011 CIAA Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year. Parker is a senior Health, Physical Education and Recreation major from Chesterfield, VA (Matoaca HS). He was a member of the Trojan football and golf teams and kicked for the Richmond Revolution of the professional Indoor Football League.

Parker led the CIAA's Field Goal category for the 2010 season; finished a perfect 8 for 8 in field goals, with a long of 40 yards and ranked second in PATs making 32-34 for 94 percent. He graduated in May 2011 with a 3.769 GPA. Parker also serves his community, having volunteered for the Rudy Johnson Foundation, Habitat for Humanity and participated in a breast cancer walk.

## VSU Golfers take National Minority Championship



Virginia State University's golf team won their first-ever Division II Title at the 25th PGA Minority Collegiate Golf Championship at Port St. Lucia, FL in May.

On the final day of competition, VSU pulled away from Lincoln University (MO) by eight strokes to win, shooting a 305 to Lincoln's 313. Virginia State head coach Jeff Hamilton was pleased with his team's performance. "This came all the way down to the wire and my kids played well enough to win," said the fifth-year coach. "It is always a battle with teams like Fayetteville State University and Lincoln University. It will be a battle next year, too."

## *Peggy Davis named Athletic Director of the Year*

VSU's Athletic Director, Peggy Davis was named the Division II Southeast Region Under Armour SE Region Athletics Director of the Year for 2010-11. Mrs. Davis was recognized at the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics' (NACDA) 46th Annual Convention. NACDA Executive Director Mike Cleary said the ADOY Award is essential because it highlights the efforts of athletics directors at all levels for their commitment and positive contributions to campuses and their surrounding communities.

Mrs. Davis previously received the 2011 CIAA Athletic Director of the Year Award. Davis and VSU's athletic department participated in several community service events during the 2010-11 year: Trojans "Stuff the Bus" in August; Walk for Breast Cancer in October; Walk Against Hunger and Thanksgiving Baskets for families in Petersburg, both in November; and teamed up to help build the community, partnering with Habitat for Humanity in a year-long project. This was Davis' fourth CIAA Athletic Director of the Year Award in five years.



## 2011-2012 Trojan Football Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
Sept. 3	Norfolk State University	Norfolk, VA	6:00 pm
Sept. 10	West Virginia State University	Institute, WV	1:00 pm
Sept. 17	Johnson C. Smith University	Charlotte, NC	4:00 pm
Sept. 24	Chowan University (Military, Faculty, & Staff Appreciation Day)	Ettrick, VA	6:00 pm
Oct. 1	Bowie State University (Take a Kid to the Game Day)	Ettrick, VA	6:00 pm
Oct. 8	Fayetteville State University (Televised Game)	Fayetteville, NC	1:00 pm
Oct. 15	Elizabeth City State University	Elizabeth City, NC	1:30 pm
Oct. 22	Lincoln University	Lincoln, PA	1:30 pm
Oct. 29	Virginia Union University (HOMECOMING)	Ettrick, VA	1:30 pm
Nov. 5	TBA	Ettrick, VA	1:30 pm
Nov. 12	CIAA Championship	Durham, NC	TBA

**2011 TROJAN HOMECOMING GAME**

**OCTOBER 29th**

**VS**

**VIRGINIA UNION**

**FOR TICKETS**

**CALL 804-524-5030**

# VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

## "VSU STATE OF MIND" SCHEDULE OF EVENTS Oct. 22-29



# HOMECOMING 2011

[WWW.VSUHOMECOMING.NET](http://WWW.VSUHOMECOMING.NET)



- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Saturday, October 22 - Kings' and Queens' Ball</b><br>Daniel Gymnasium 7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.                   | <b>Pep Rally- Rogers Stadium</b><br>1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.   |
| <b>Sunday, October 23 - Gospel Concert</b><br>Daniel Gymnasium 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.                               | <b>Concert - Daniel Gymnasium</b><br>8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.   |
| <b>Monday, October 24 - Scavenger Hunt</b><br>Noon – 4:00 p.m.   | <b>Jazz on the Hill</b><br>Front Lawn, Virginia Hall 7:00 p.m.                                      |
| <b>3-on-3 Basketball Tournament</b><br>Outside Basketball Courts, Noon – 4:00 p.m.                                 | <b>Saturday, October 29 - Parade</b><br>Downtown Petersburg<br>9:00 a.m.                            |
| <b>Faculty, Staff and Alumni Revue - Daniel Gymnasium</b><br>7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.                                | <b>Alumni Welcome Tent</b><br>Outside Basketball Courts<br>9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.                    |
| <b>Tuesday, October 25 - Comedy Show</b><br>Daniel Gymnasium 8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.                                | <b>Vendors Bazaar University Avenue</b><br>10:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.                                  |
| <b>Wednesday, October 26 - Student Organization Bazaar &amp; Parade</b><br>University Avenue 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. | <b>Hospitality Rooms, Foster Hall and Other Designated Areas on Campus</b><br>8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. |
| <b>Talent Show</b><br>Anderson-Turner Auditorium, Virginia Hall<br>8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.                          | <b>Homecoming Football Game - VSU vs. VUJ</b><br>Rogers Stadium 1:30 p.m.                           |
| <b>Thursday, October 27 - Carnival</b><br>Foster Hall Back Lawn Noon – 4:00 p.m.                                   | <b>Steppin' Around the Campus After Football Game</b>   |
| <b>Soiree Under the Tent, Front Lawn, Virginia Hall</b><br>8:00 p.m. – 1:00 a.m.                                   | <b>Alumni Step Show, Daniel Gymnasium</b><br>6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.                                  |
| <b>Friday, October 28 - Presidential Scholarship Golf Tournament</b><br>Country Club of Petersburg 9:00 a.m.       | <b>"Legends of Troy" Gateway Dining Center</b><br>10:00 p.m. – 1:00 a.m.                            |
| <b>Vendors Bazaar University Avenue</b><br>Noon – 6:00 p.m.  | <b>ALL EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE</b>   |

Virginia State University  
Development/University Advancement  
Alumni Relations  
P.O. Box 9027  
VSU, VA 23806

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage PAID  
Permit No. 6  
VSU, VA



# Alumni Weekend 2011